



# COPLEY

C O N S E R V A T I O N   A R E A

## CONSERVATION AREAS

Conservation Areas are places that Councils recognise to be of special architectural or historic interest. Designating a Conservation Area is a statement of intent by the Council to protect and, if possible, improve upon its special qualities.

A Conservation Area does not mean that there will be no new developments or alterations to existing buildings. We live in a changing world, and the places where we live must be able to adapt to the demands of present-day life. However, the Council has a duty to make sure that all changes increase the attractiveness of the area and do not harm its special character.

This is important, as once unsympathetic changes to buildings and spaces have started to take place, the character of these historic areas can very quickly disappear. If we don't decide now which areas are important to retain and protect because of their historic significance and character, it could well be too late in years to come.

There are a number of special controls and requirements that apply to Conservation Areas in order to protect their character. For example, consent is required to demolish buildings and other structures, and as a

general rule, this will be resisted. New development must normally be built of natural stone, and all new buildings, along with alterations to existing buildings, must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area. If you want to fell or prune a tree, the Council must be notified in advance.

If you are thinking about making any alteration to a property, or undertaking other work, in a Conservation Area, it is advisable to contact the Town Planning Department (tel;Halifax (0422) 357257) to find out if any consents are needed. Practical advice about restoration or alterations and the possible availability of grant-aid can also be obtained from the Department.

The Council hopes that being in a Conservation Area will encourage owners to maintain and restore their buildings in keeping with the area's character. Such action will make an important contribution towards retaining the special character and quality of towns and villages in Calderdale.

Printed on  
Recycled Card  
January 1992



**CALDERDALE**  
COUNCIL  
TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT



# COPLEY

## LOCATION

The village of Copley is situated adjacent to the River Calder off Wakefield Road, on the southern outskirts of Halifax.

## HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Although there has been a settlement at Copley since the 17th century, the Conservation Area comprises a 'model' estate of the 1840's. This was built by Edward Akroyd who was one of the first industrialists to create a company village, putting into practice ideas of housing reform in fashion at that time. Copley was one of the most significant of these developments, serving as an example for successors such as Saltaire and Akroydon. Akroyd inherited the family business at Copley in 1844 and immediately rebuilt the mill. Housing and shops in Railway Terrace and St. Stephen's Street were built in 1849 and a Sunday School, library, canteen and further houses followed. St. Stephen's Church, an outstanding Victorian building, was erected in 1863. Most of the buildings were designed by W.H. Crossland, a local architect, under the influence of architect Sir George Gilbert Scott.

Some of Copley has now been lost, the mill being demolished in 1974 and the Sunday

School in 1980 to make way for new housing. However, the houses, shops and church still exist, together with a bridge and toll house from earlier in the 19th century.

## CHARACTER

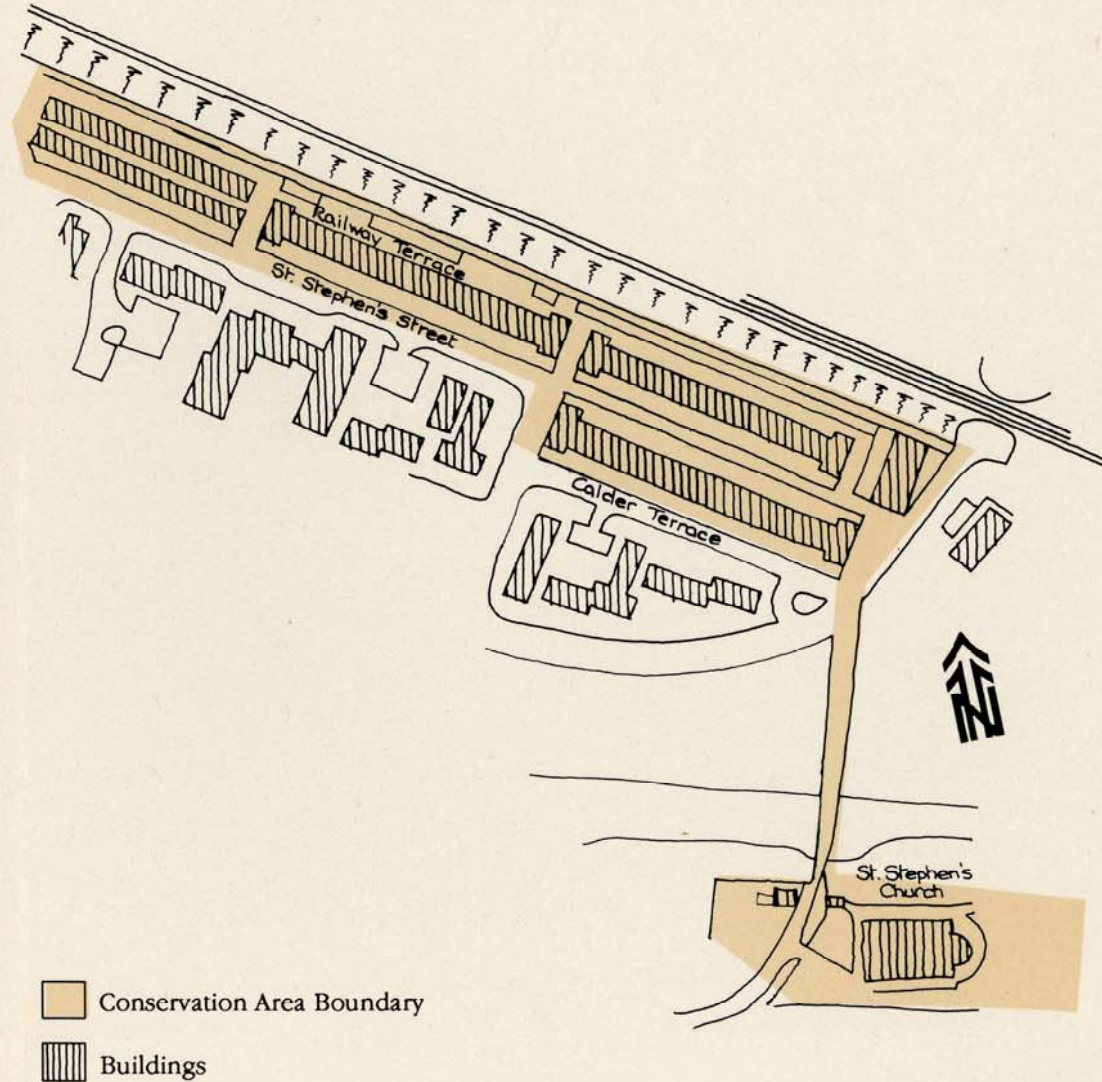
Copley is the earliest company village to demonstrate a conscious architectural style. In 1863 Akroyd described it in 'The Builder' as:

*'A picturesque outline in a modified old English style approximating to the character of many old dwellings in the neighbourhood and also in harmony with the beautiful site'*

The houses incorporate features such as four-centre arched doorways and windows with stone mullions, as seen on local 17th century farmhouses. However, the roofs are very Victorian, with steep pitches in blue slate.

The attractive uniform appearance of the houses and the history of the site are the most important characteristics of the village. The Conservation Area boundary has been drawn to include all that remains of Akroyd's development.

The Copley Conservation Area was designated on the 18th of October 1983.





## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Great care should be taken in preserving or improving Conservation Areas. New development must be designed in sympathy with the character of the area. Many alterations could harm the character of buildings in Copley and work should be carefully considered before proceeding. The drawing opposite shows some of the characteristics of the Conservation Area that it is important to keep, so that it will remain at its most attractive.

Remember that the simplest form of conservation is regular maintenance, as this will retain the original building fabric and reduce the cost of subsequent repairs and renewals. Roofs are particularly important and should be inspected each autumn. Chimneys should also be inspected, checking the condition of the masonry, pointing and pots. Flues should be swept to prevent fire hazards.

Any cast-iron gutters, downpipes and railings should be inspected annually for corrosion and repainted every 5 years. All gutters should be kept clear of leaves and vegetation. Windows and doors should be repaired at the first sign of ill fit or decay, and any renewal should be in a matching style. Ideally, external paintwork should be renewed every 5 years.

Natural materials and traditional methods should be used for all repairs and restoration work.

