

### 3 Central Elland : Past and Present

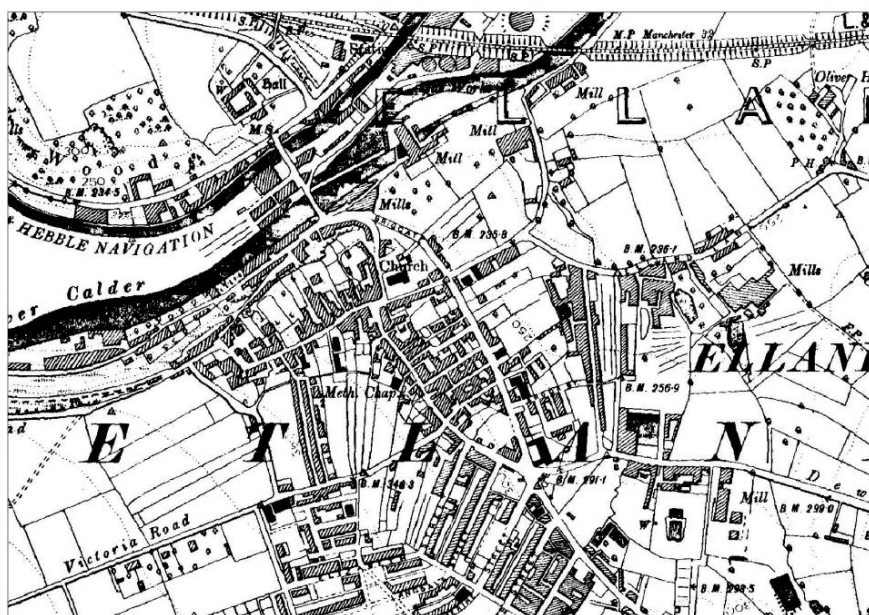
#### Central Elland: Past and Present

- 3.1 The following plans provide an illustration of the way in which Central Elland's built environment has evolved over time. During the 100 years up until the mid twentieth century, the built environment evolved in an incremental fashion. The development of the Town Centre took place within the confines of the evolved street pattern. The town spread rapidly to the south and west.

Picture 2 Plan of Central Elland 1851-1855

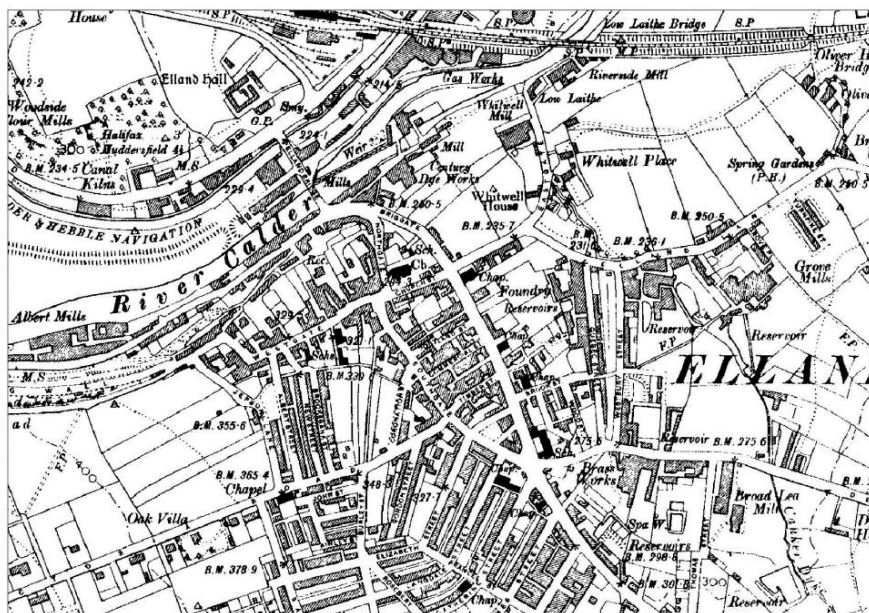


Picture 3 Plan of Central Elland 1894-1896

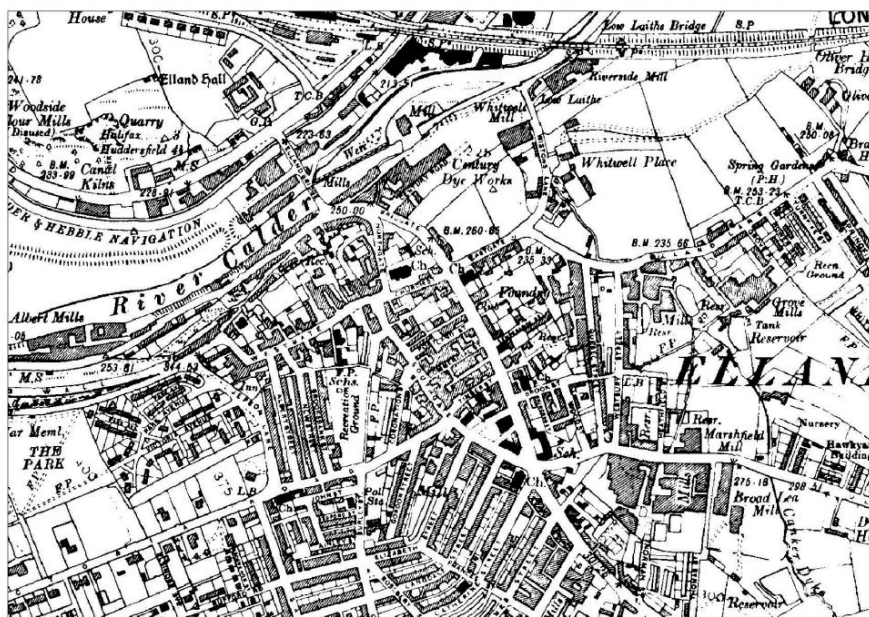




Picture 4 Plan of Central Elland 1908-1912



Picture 5 Plan of Central Elland: 1934-1938



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## 3 . Central Elland : Past and Present

- 3.2** During the 1960s however, much of the evolved street pattern, particularly in the area bounded by Southgate and Huddersfield Road, was destroyed and comprehensively redeveloped. Old street patterns and buildings in the Town Centre were replaced by large, single-use, multi storey blocks planned according to flawed notions of how to create a vibrant and sustainable community. Furthermore, the Elland Riorges link was significantly widened, and a roundabout introduced off Southgate. These developments were accompanied by the increasing use of road borne motor vehicles as a mode of transportation.

Picture 6 Aerial View of Central Elland: 1968



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- 3.3** These developments during the 1960s have left a legacy in Central Elland of poor pedestrian connectivity, over dominance of the motor vehicle, segmentation of the central area, and breaks in the street scene. These effects have hindered the vibrancy and prosperity of Central Elland.



Picture 7 Aerial View of Central Elland Today



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### Some Buildings of Historic and Architectural Interest

The following buildings are highlighted in Figure 2, entitled "Buildings of Historic Interest", at the end of this chapter.

**3.4** This section is intended to provide a brief overview of Elland's built heritage. It is not intended to form a Conservation Area Appraisal, which is a separate study planned by the Council.

1) Britannia Buildings (Grade II listed)

This impressive building is so called because of the majestic figure of Britannia at the top. Built in 1895 for the Halifax and Huddersfield Bank, the building is flanked by two eighteenth century inns, the Malt Shovel and the Bridge Inn. The columns of Aberdeen granite are positioned on either side of the arms of Halifax and arms of Huddersfield.

Picture 8 Britannia House



2) Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin (Grade I listed)

This was the first church to be developed in Elland, and was constructed in 1180 by the same masons who built Kirkstall Abbey in Leeds; the two structures sharing similar features. Various additions have been made over the centuries including the East Window, which was erected in 1490 and depicts the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Picture 9 Image of  
Parish Church of St  
Mary the Virgin



#### 3) Joseph Dobson & Sons, Sweet makers

At the top of Northgate towards 'The Cross' is a collection of buildings occupied by the long established traditional sweet makers, Joseph Dobson & Sons. The business was started in 1850. The passage entrance into the courtyard from Northgate has grooves set in the ground, which were originally intended to help horses get a grip when entering the courtyard. Within the yard are the workshops for making sweets; along with a Tudor, stone-mullioned cottage.

**Picture 10 Dobsons on Northgate**



#### 4) The Rose and Crown (Grade II listed)

Next to Dobsons is an old building previously known as the Rose and Crown, which was built in 1689. This coaching inn has various character features including mullioned windows. The building is presently derelict but has tremendous potential to be converted.

**Picture 11 The Rose and Crown**



#### 5) The Cross

The old town of Elland was centred around this cross roads between Southgate, Westgate, Northgate and Church Street. The Cross forms an intimate streetscape, bound by various buildings of historic and architectural interest, mainly Victorian buildings. The eatery at the corner of Northgate occupies the former Halifax and Huddersfield Union Bank. Opposite is a Barclays Bank; the building was formally the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank, with an elaborate shield to this effect above the door way. The Savile Arms (Grade II listed), built in 1748, depicts the three owls of Savile in various places.



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Picture 12 Former Halifax and Huddersfield Union Bank



Picture 13 View North to the Cross



Picture 14 The Savile Arms



#### 6) Council Offices

This building on Southgate is still known as the Council Offices. Above the door is a shield on which are the dates 1317, when Elland was granted a charter, and 1895 when Elland became an Urban District Council.

Picture 15 Council Offices



#### 7) Swimming Baths

On Huddersfield Road is the swimming baths, built in 1901. On the eastern elevation is a drinking fountain with a plaque to the memory of Joshua Hemingway, who volunteered for and was killed in, the Boer War.

Picture 16 Southern Elevation of Swimming Baths



Picture 17 Eastern Elevation of Swimming Baths



#### 8) Elland Town Hall Buildings (Grade II Listed)

The southern aspect of Southgate is dominated by the Town Hall which, built in a Palladian style, was opened in 1888 by Sir John Savile. At the top of the building is the Savile Arms with the motto "Best Fast".

Picture 18 View of Town Hall



Picture 19 Town Hall Clock Tower



Picture 20 Rear Elevation of Town Hall



The above information was sourced from "Elland: A Town History Trail" (1983), published by Calderdale MBC.



Figure 2 Plan depicting buildings of historic and architectural interest.

