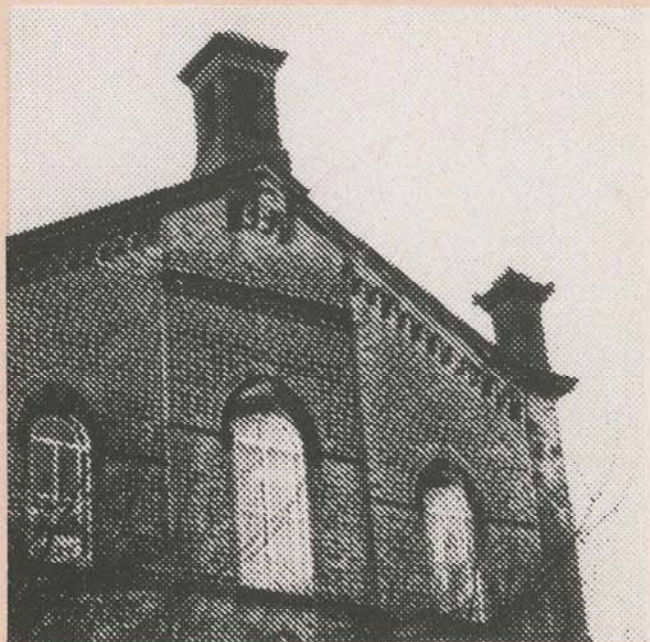




MILL BANK & COTTONSTONES

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.

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CALDERDALE
COUNCIL
TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MILL BANK & COTTONSTONES

LOCATION

Mill Bank village and the hamlet of Cottonstones lie about 2-3 miles south-west of Sowerby Bridge. The settlements sit along the north-western bank of Lumb Clough which flows through a steeply-sided valley. The area is remote and secluded, approached by steep and narrow lanes from the main A58 Sowerby Bridge to Ripponden road.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

As the name Mill Bank implies, the settlements owe their existence to the development of mills originally dependent on water power. In 1275, Soyland Mill, now gone, which was situated at the foot of Mill Bank, was the manorial corn mill belonging to Earl Warren. 1378 saw the development of fulling mills in the area.

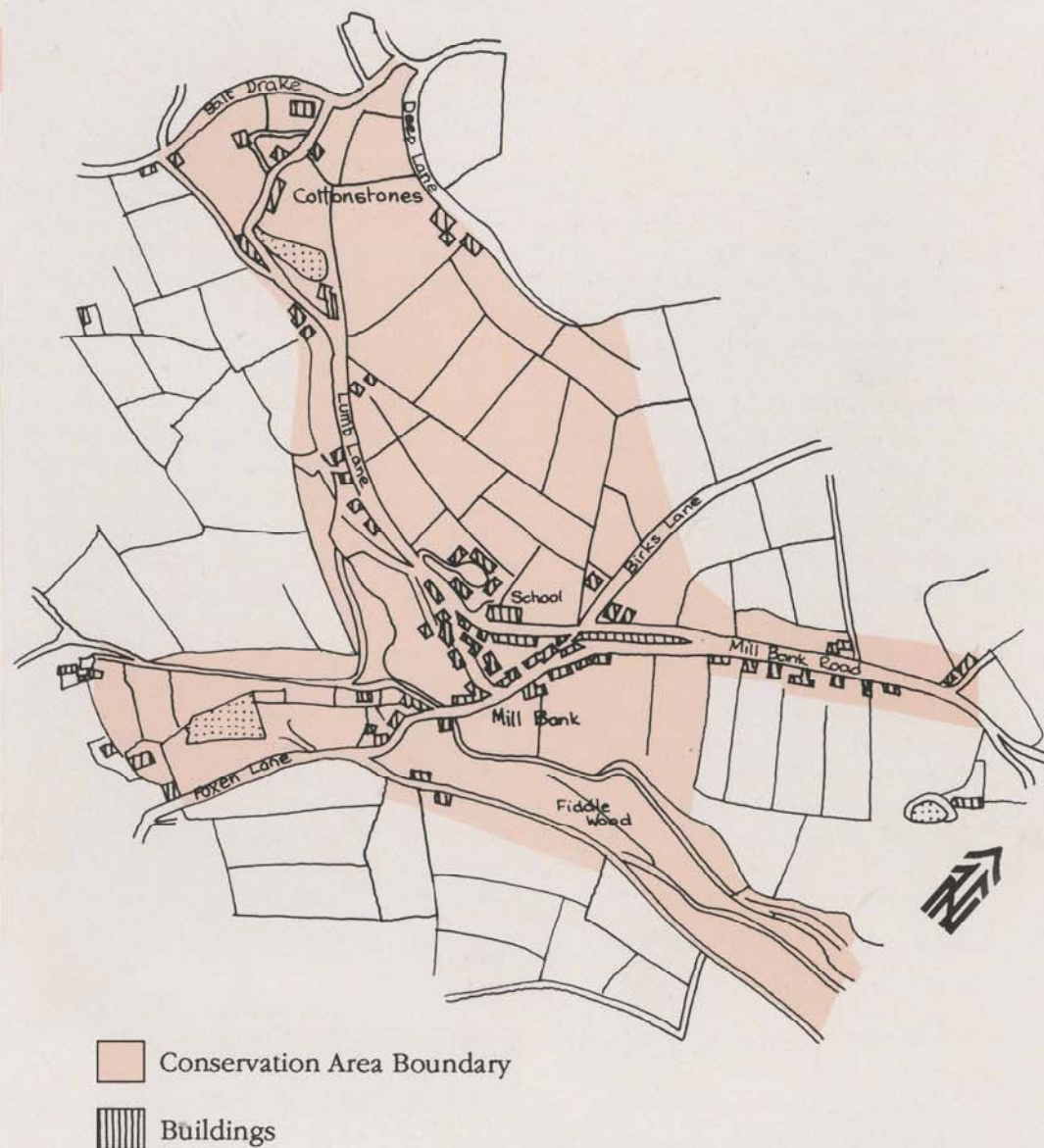
By the end of the 18th century there were nine mills in operation in the immediate vicinity of the two settlements, with a corresponding growth in the population. Mill working ceased in the area in 1973.

CHARACTER

Physically, Mill Bank is a rather dispersed

settlement with dwellings strung out along the roadsides. It is typically Pennine in character with small stone cottages and fine terraces balanced precariously on the hillsides. The hamlet of Cottonstones is physically separate from Mill Bank but there are very long-standing ties linking the two communities. It is particularly attractive, with the church forming a visual focus throughout the area. Several small stone-built cottages and a large listed house are scattered around the area of a former mill dam. The Conservation Area has been designated to protect the character of the settlements, which comprise areas of open space with a scattering of buildings, standing in an upland area of impressive scenery. Areas of open land and woodland complement the fine setting of the two settlements and have been included within the Conservation Area boundary, which has been quite widely drawn.

The Mill Bank and Cottonstones Conservation Area was designated on the 23rd of June 1976.



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 Millbank and Cottonstones 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.