

WARLEY

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.



WARLEY

LOCATION

The village of Warley is situated about 3 miles S.W. of Halifax, on a level shelf half way up the north flank of the Calder Valley. The hillside slopes towards Luddenden Dean to the west, and the area is still secluded and rural despite being close to suburban Halifax.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The origins of Warley lie in the way the land was administered in Saxon times, which was continued in the Manor of the Earls of Warren at the Norman Conquest. As the Earls did not live on this land, no single centre of importance developed. Instead there was a series of little settlements around the various centres of farming. The present village was only one of a number of these, and several unexpanded examples survive within the boundary of the Conservation Area, including Lane Ends, Broom Bank, Warley Edge, Winterburn Hill and Cliff Hill.

Warley remained small until the start of the 18th century. Then the formation of the Cliff Hill Estate into a major landholding, coupled with the establishment of a Congregational Chapel, formed a core around which the village grew. On common land in front of the chapel, cottages were erected for agricultural workers, together with some larger houses for middle-class Halifax businessmen who preferred to live in the country. The village

reached its present form by 1830, one farmstead becoming The Maypole Inn.

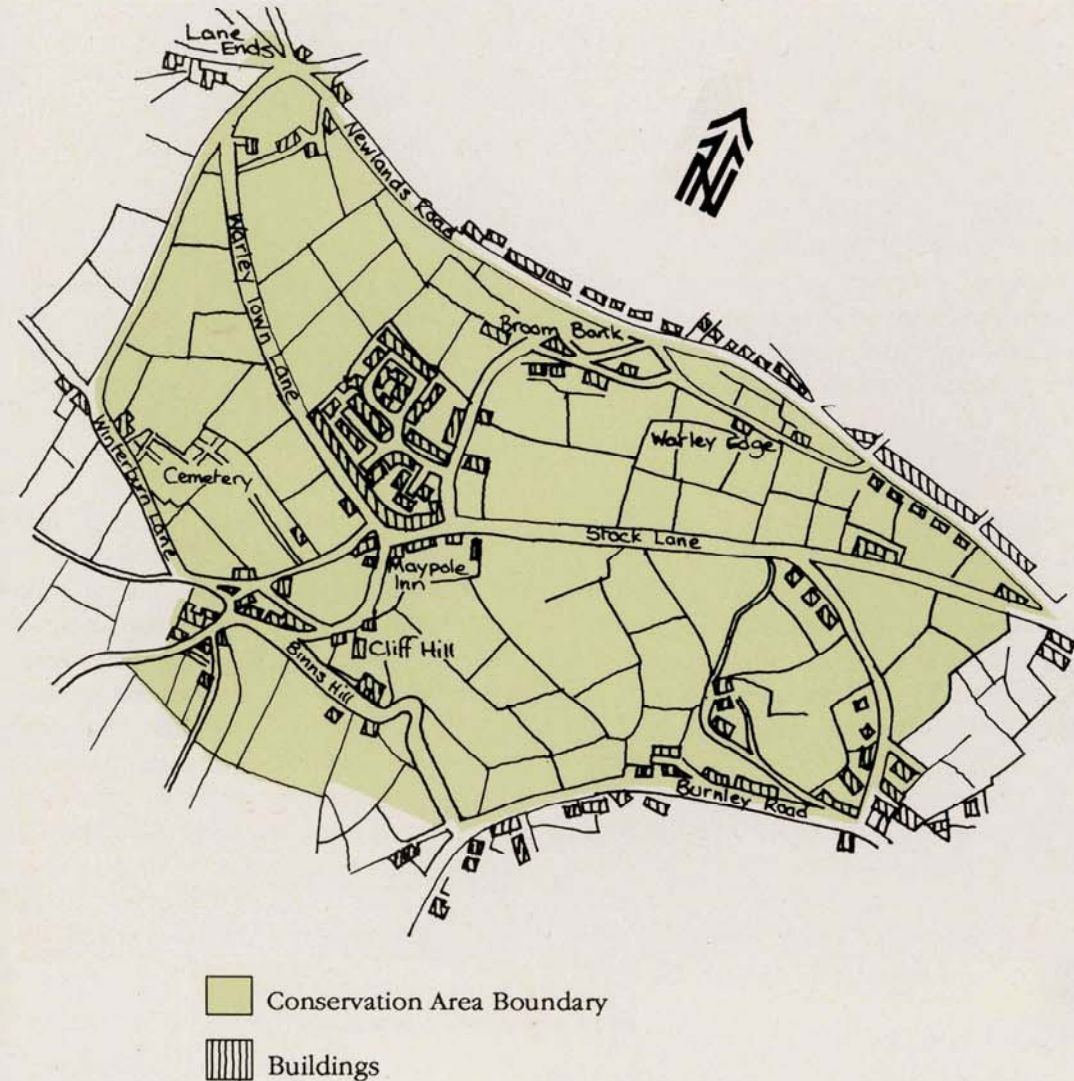
More recently, the role of Warley has changed from an agricultural village to a commuter settlement, though agriculture remains the main land-use in the area.

The Conservation Area boundary is drawn to reflect the historical development of the village. The core of the village consists of a funnel-shaped open space in front of the former Congregational Chapel. This is lined by two-storey stone cottages. The Chapel closes the space on its short side and is the dominant visual feature of the village.

CHARACTER

The character of the village and surrounding settlements is formed from the individual buildings, their grouping and their overall relationship with the surrounding landscape. The core of the village is set on a heavily wooded hillside, upon which there is a series of ancient Pennine farmsteads. The whole still forms a fine pre-industrial pattern of settlement when viewed from the Calder Valley. There are good vistas over the valley from above the village, and so the boundaries of the Conservation Area have been widely drawn to include a large area of the surrounding hillside.

The Warley Conservation Area was designated on the 20th October 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 Warley 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.

