

LUDDENDEN

C O N S E R V A T I O N A R E A

LUDDENDEN

LOCATION

Luddenden stands on the sides of the valley of the Luddenden Brook. The earliest settlement clustered about the ford in the valley bottom but later buildings were built higher up the hillsides.

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The village grew up where the packhorse trail from Halifax into Lancashire came down from the hills into the valley to cross the Luddenden Brook. The fast flowing beck was exploited from early times and corn mills were established in the village by 1284. Before the 15th century the area was mostly agricultural, but during that century handloom weaving was established. Sheep farming and handloom weaving were dominant until the latter part of the 18th century.

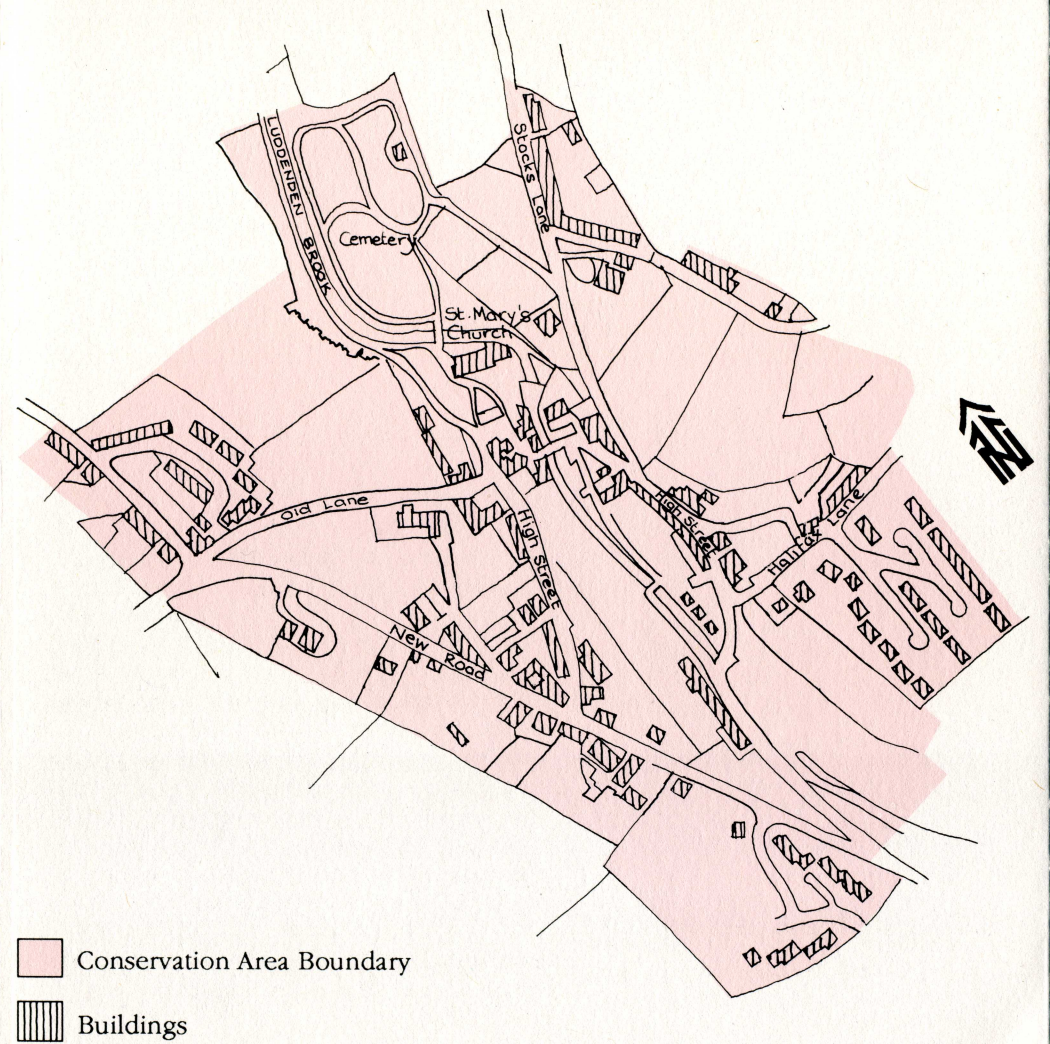
Up to 1800, the village was confined to a small cluster of houses at the bridge and the church. By 1820, four cloth mills were established along the valley and terraces of workers' houses were built against the slopes of the hillside. The Parish Church was rebuilt larger in 1817 and a new school was built in 1825, both indicating the prosperity and growth of the period. In 1842 the first steam-powered mill was established at Oats Royd. The construction of the New Road to take coal from the Calder Valley at Luddenden Foot to

Oats Royd Mill resulted in a ribbon of development alongside it on the upper slopes of the hillside. Above the village, a number of large houses, such as Carr Field, were built by prosperous industrialists. Despite the village's long history, one of the oldest surviving buildings is the early 17th century Lord Nelson Inn, and parts of Box House Farm, on the hill above, are probably contemporary with the Inn. Most of the other old buildings date from between 1780 and 1840.

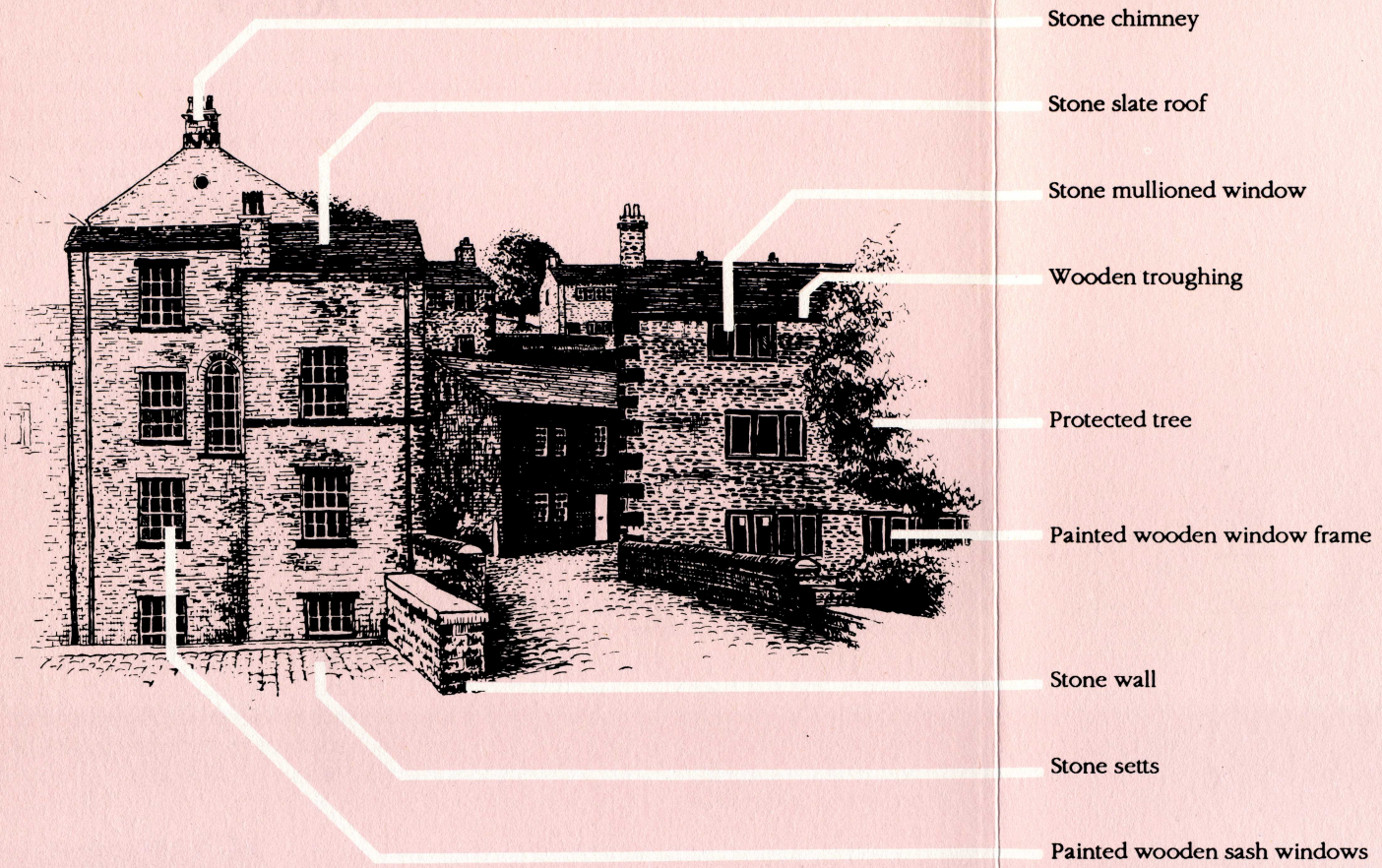
CHARACTER

The early pattern of historical development has created a tightly packed huddle of stone buildings characteristic of Luddenden and many other Pennine villages. The village later spread in a more straggling form up the valley sides. Surrounding this village centre is a series of small settlements based around old farmsteads and the New Road. The houses are simple stone cottages with plainly detailed doors and windows, and stone or slate roofs. They possess rows of square mullioned windows, some of which are weavers windows. The overall character is formed by simple buildings grouped together in a Pennine landscape, to which their materials are closely related.

The Luddenden Conservation Area was designated on the 26th of February 1973.



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 Luddenden 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.

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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