

RIPPONDEN

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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RIPPONDEN

LOCATION

The village of Ripponden is situated in the Ryburn valley, 6 miles S.W. of Halifax on a main route over the Pennines into Lancashire. It occupies a valley bottom position following the road and the course of the River Ryburn, the ancient centre lying on either side of the river.

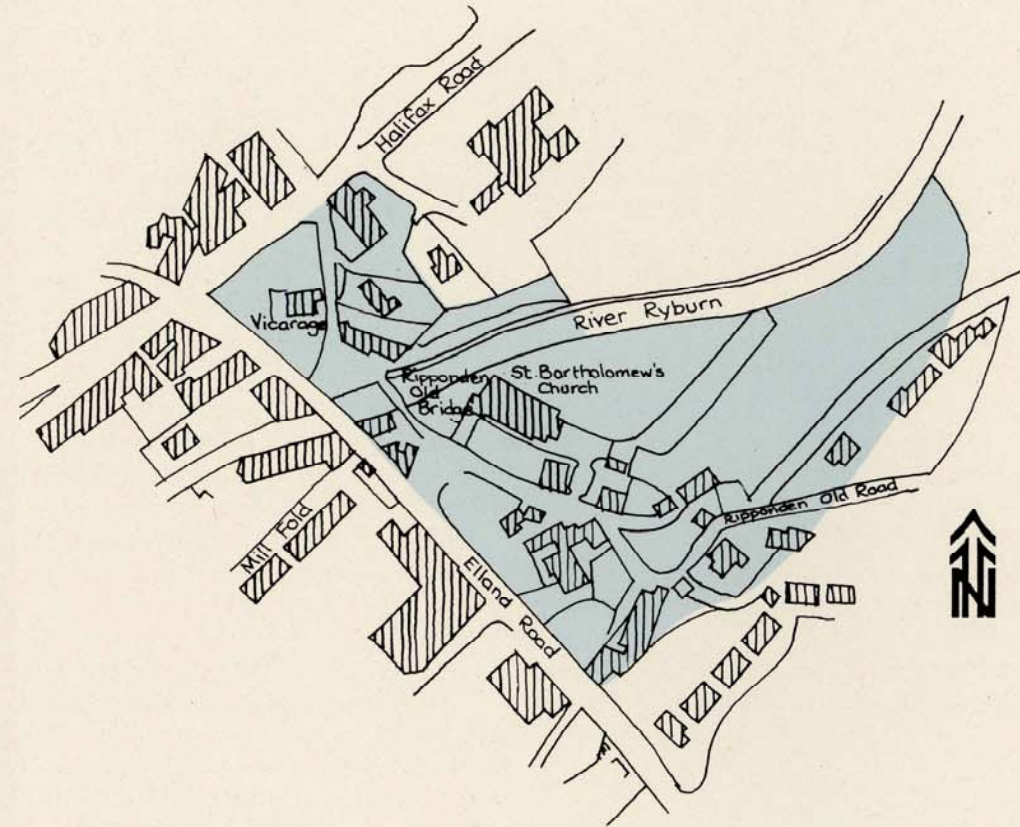
HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

The village developed where the packhorse routes between Elland and Halifax met and then crossed into Lancashire. Originally there was probably a ford over the river, followed later by a timber bridge. In 1533 the first stone bridge was erected, this in turn being replaced in the mid-eighteenth century by the present bridge which we see today. The construction of the Elland turnpike road in 1772 brought an additional bridge. Because of this, the settlement acted as a focus for the activities serving surrounding rural areas, a role which it still fulfills today.

CHARACTER

Ripponden is essentially linear in plan, and the Conservation Area covers its historic core, including the Church of St. Bartholomew and the packhorse bridge over the river. Open countryside lies directly outside this area. The architecture of the Conservation Area represents all phases of the village's history: the vicarage, possibly built by historian John Watson, vicar 1754-1769; the Old Bridge Inn, whose first recorded landlord was John Hurstwood in 1754, though the building itself dates from the 16th century; the church of St. Bartholomew, built in 1868 in the Gothic Revival style, the fourth on the same site, the first by Royal Charter of 1464; and a number of other interesting buildings all built of local stone with stone or slate roofs.

The Ripponden Conservation Area was designated on the 10th of March 1972.



- Conservation Area Boundary
- Buildings



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 Ripponden 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.

