

Ashton-in-Makerfield Conservation Area Appraisal



**Environmental Services Department
Wigan Council
Approved July 2007**



ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD CONSERVATION AREA

List of Contents

Summary definition of special interest

1. Background

- 1.1 Current status of Conservation Area**
- 1.2 Statutory background**
- 1.3 Planning Policy Framework**
- 1.4 Purpose of the Conservation Area appraisal**

2. Location and Setting

- 2.1 Location and population**
- 2.2 Landscape setting**

3. Historic Development

- 3.1 Origins and historic development of settlement**
- 3.2 Archaeological significance**

4. Character and appearance

- 4.1 Identification of Character Areas**
- 4.2 Gerard Street / Warrington Road Character Area**
- 4.3 St Thomas's and St Oswald's Character Area**
- 4.4 Heath Road Character Area**
- 4.5 Summary of Character**

5. Management and enhancement

- 5.1 Identification of issues**
- 5.2 Management recommendations**

Appendices

Relevant conservation policies from UDP/local plan

Listed Building Information

Contact Details

Summary Definition of Special Interest

The town of Ashton-in-Makerfield has a recorded history from medieval times. Its most significant period of growth was during the C18 and C19 which resulted from the local expansion of the coal mines, the cotton mills and the manufacture of metal products. As the economy grew, the town centre developed around the traditional through route with a fine collection of Victorian commercial and public buildings. This area now forms the Conservation Area and includes most of the commercial centre, the two listed historic churches with their surrounding open spaces, and examples of Victorian workers terrace housing.

Of particular note is the large percentage of key buildings and groups that positively contribute to the important heritage townscape of the area. This Conservation Area appraisal identifies the historic townscapes and details that describe the qualities of the three Character Areas.

Three key negative factors are identified: the numerous inappropriate poor quality shopfronts and signage that detract from the heritage buildings; the frequent poor maintenance and use of unsuitable replacement materials; and the impact of the heavy through traffic.

Management and enhancement proposals are described including: changes to the boundary; local listing recommendations; the opportunities for enhancement with controls using technical guidance and a potential Article 4 Direction; and the involvement of the community.

The aim of this Conservation Area Appraisal is to assist the Council to protect and enhance the heritage while enabling the public to recognise the benefits and their own responsibilities.

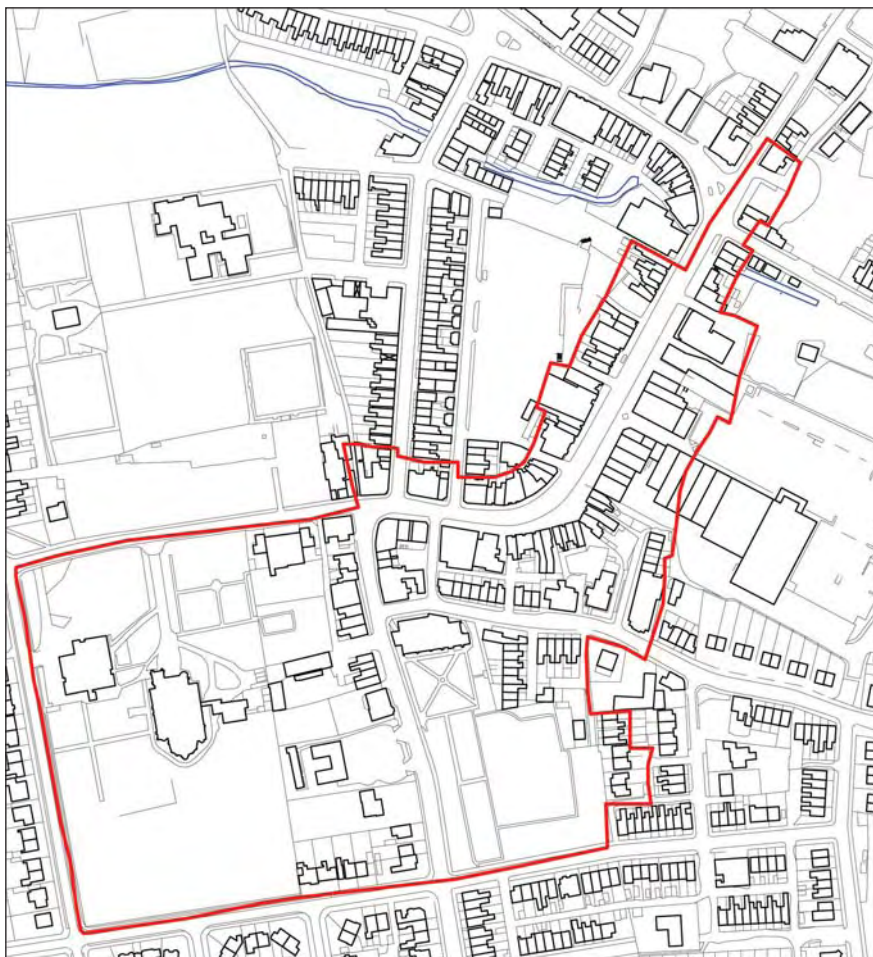


Figure 1: Ashton-in-Makerfield town centre and the Conservation Area boundary.