

Map 19: Saltaire



Salt's Sports Association with the skyline of Saltaire in the background.

New Mill, Saltaire (Grade II Listed).

Cricket Pavilion, Salts Sports Association (key unlisted building).



Map 19: Saltaire



Character of the Area

This fairly straight stretch of the canal has natural unmade grassed banks to either side, while the broad white gravel towpath is flanked by rugged, clean grass verges. The green and semi-rural character of the area is upheld by the open pastoral fields and allotment gardens to the south, while to the north is Salts Sports Association, where the pitches, courts and greens are surrounded by mature trees. The nature of the Sports Association and the activity on the site complement the present-day leisure use of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.

The appearance of the towpath area is badly marred by the corrugated iron boundary which shields the cricket pitch from view. This boundary extends for some distance and is completely out of keeping with the character of the conservation area. Further along, the boundary returns to a traditional stone wall, but this wall has collapsed in several places and for long distances in some instances and therefore forms an inconsistent and poor boundary between the towpath area and the wooded bank down to the Sports Association.

The tower of Saltaire United Reform Church and the chimney of New Mill are visible from some distance away and become increasingly prominent as there is a transition from semi-rural to urban. Past Victoria Road Bridge, the twin elevations of Salts Mill and New Mill create a sense of enclosure which is unique in the district. The loading doors to Salts Mill shows how the canal was an important factor in siting the village.

SALTAIRE CONSERVATION AREA AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Saltaire Conservation Area was designated in 1971 and covers the 19th century model industrial village built by Sir Titus Salt who moved his business and workforce out of Bradford to the outskirts of Shipley at a large rural site which is well served by both the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and the railway. The model village was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 2001 in recognition of its 'outstanding universal value' to human culture. Saltaire is an outstanding and well preserved example of a mid 19th century industrial town, the layout of which influenced the development of the 'garden city' movement. The layout and architecture of Saltaire admirably reflect mid 19th century philanthropic paternalism, as well as the important role played by the textile industry in economic and social development.

As it is not possible for an area to lie within two different conservation areas, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Conservation Area Boundary stops where the boundary of Saltaire Conservation Area begins, namely at the tennis pavilions of Salts Sports Association and the boundary of the allotment gardens to the south of the canal. The Leeds-Liverpool Canal Conservation Area then restarts to the east of Saltaire Conservation Area at the eastern end of the Salts Mill complex. The World Heritage Site boundary is more tightly drawn around the village than the conservation area boundary and is independent from it.

In terms of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Conservation Area, the most important buildings in Saltaire Conservation Area are those which can be seen from the towpath. The domed round columned tower of the Grade I Listed Saltaire United Reform Church is visible from Hirst Lock and the grounds of Salts Sports Association. This attractive feature of the skyline is the first indication that the canal is getting closer to Saltaire. The tower is a landmark as far as Victoria Road Bridge, where there is a stone flagged wharf and walkway from the towpath and into the village.



From Victoria Road, the canal becomes dominated by the tall sandstone masses of Salts Mill to the south (Listed Grade II*) and New Mill to the north (Listed Grade II), which are each 5 storeys in height and are linked by a walkway over the canal. Their massing and proximity to the canal creates an enclosed 'canyon' effect, with the canal and towpath

overlooked on both sides by regular grids of tall industrial windows. The longer and larger Salts Mill directly abuts the canal and its tallest section contains two loading bays which are topped by round broken pediments which break through the entablature. These loading bays allowed boats to be directly loaded or unloaded from the mill complex. New Mill is set back from the canal behind a traditional coped boundary wall which is topped by iron railings. Its Italianate style square chimney with round headed openings and octagonal lantern is modelled on the campanile of the church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Friari in Venice and is a key feature of vistas along this stretch of the canal. To the east of Saltaire the square tapered chimney of Salts Mill is prominent in the skyline.

1. Salts Sports Association: This sports club consists of a football pitch with stands, a cricket pitch, 2 clubhouses, 2 bowling greens and tennis courts with pavilions. It covers a large area between the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and the River Aire and is split between Saltaire Conservation Area and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal Conservation Area.



The edge of the sports club property is lined with trees which enhance the setting of the canal, while the outdoor leisure activities complement the activity along the canal. The greenery of the pitches and greens can be seen in places from the towpath, apart from the cricket pitch which is bounded by an unsightly tall rusted corrugated iron fence. The tennis pavilions lie within Saltaire Conservation Area and the Arts and Crafts architecture of these small buildings is complemented by that of the cricket pavilion. This broad single storey structure has a pavilion roofed polygonal clock tower projecting from the centre of the ridge of its own red clay tile pavilion roof. The tall stone chimneys are octagonal and have darkened to an almost black hue. The walls are dashed rendered and unfortunately the original doors, windows and associated joinery have been replaced with bland alternatives made out of modern materials. This pavilion overlooks the cricket pitch and is visible from some distance away. To its south is a later clubhouse which is of no historic or architectural interest.

Issues

- ▶ The visually poor corrugated iron boundary to the cricket pitch at Salts Sports Association.
- ▶ The incomplete and overgrown boundary wall to the north side of the towpath to the west of Victoria Road.
- ▶ Unsympathetic alterations to some of the unlisted buildings.



Above Left: The 'canyon' between Salts Mill and New Mill.

Left: The dome and lantern of Saltaire United Reform Church.