



Conservation Area Appraisal

Oxenhope

Upper Town



This appraisal reviews the Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area Assessment, which was published in November 2005. The Management Proposals included in this appraisal are based on the outcomes and priorities established by the local community during the public consultation process for the Conservation Area Assessment.

The next appraisal of Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area will be undertaken by May 2014

May 2009

City of Bradford MDC

www.bradford.gov.uk

What is a Conservation Area Appraisal?

A Conservation Area Appraisal describes the character of a conservation area. It also describes the changes that have been happening to the conservation area. The appraisal finishes with management proposals which will help to conserve and enhance the area's special character and improve decision making.

The Government requires that all conservation areas have an up-to-date appraisal. An up-to-date appraisal is one that has been undertaken in the last five years.

The following work has been done to deliver this conservation area appraisal:

- A photographic survey of the buildings in the conservation area
 - The assessment of the level of authenticity of most of the historic buildings
- An assessment of the issues facing the conservation area at present
- The survey and update of map data relating to the conservation area
- A review of the appropriateness of the conservation area boundary
 - An assessment as to whether new development has made a positive, negative or neutral impact on the character of the conservation area
 - The formulation of management proposals for the area

What is a Conservation Area?

A conservation area is an 'area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance' (Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990).

Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area was originally designated in 1980. A review of the boundary was undertaken in 2005 and then adopted in November 2005.

Conservation area designation brings with it extra controls. These controls cover:

- Demolition of buildings
- Minor developments such as extensions, satellite dishes and boundary walls
- Works to trees.

The objective of these measures is to help preserve the special character and appearance of the area and maintain or improve its environmental quality. Whilst it is recognised that conservation areas must be allowed to evolve to meet changing demands it is important that this occurs within a framework of controlled and positive management.

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Listed Buildings:
www.bradford.gov.uk/listedbuildings



Oxenhope was one of the many medieval or post-medieval scattered settlements established in the Pennine uplands. Originally an outlying subordinate of Bradford Manor, there is no mention of Oxenhope Manor in the 1086 Domesday Survey and it was presumably one of the unnamed berewicks of Bradford. There are mentions of an area of land referred to as Hoxenehop, Oxop(e) and Oxenehope from 1191-3 onwards. The name Oxenhope literally means 'valley of oxen', from the Old English term hop meaning valley head and probably refers to the area's original use as summer grazing by cattle brought over from Bradford.

Pre 1086

Oxenhope was originally an outlying part of Bradford Manor and was probably originally used for summer grazing by cattle brought over from Bradford with little by way of permanent inhabitation.

14th Century

Permanent agricultural settlement occurred prior to the division of Haworth Township in the 14th century to form the new Townships of Near Oxenhope and Far Oxenhope. The latter contained Upper Town, Lower Town and Leeming.

16th Century

A major impetus for the increase in the number of farms and therefore population in Oxenhope was the sale of all land owned by Eltoft, Lord of the Manor of Oxenhope between 1589 – 92. Then land was sold to a combination of sitting tenants and a small syndicate.

17th Century

By 1850 there were almost 20 textile mills of varying size in the area. Competition forced the smaller mills out of business while the larger

mills expanded and prospered further through the opening of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in 1867. The railway stimulated the expansion of Upper Town and Lower Town.

18th Century

The building of small worsted mills and the construction of small cottages for textiles works in the area such as Shaw and Upper town marked the beginning of the areas industrialisation between 1792 and 1820.

19th Century

Leeming Reservoir was constructed between 1872 - 78 to compensate the mill owners in the valley for the diversion of water to Bradford using conduits constructed across the moors.

20th Century

Oxenhope retained its industrial function until the latter half of the 20th century and despite later 'infill' developments, has the character and appearance of a group of distinct rural and industrial settlements.

Key Characteristics

The following summarises the key elements of the character of Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area

- 17th, 18th, and early 19th century buildings
- Traditional natural building materials
- Road tightly enclosed by buildings and boundary walls
- A traditional roofscape
- Self contained sense of place
- A mixture of building types from barns to cottages
- Predominantly domestic, rural development and architecture



The path which runs down the side of Brooks Meeting Mills makes a positive contribution to the character of the conservation area



Top: Brooks Meeting Mill (key unlisted) was built in the 1880's and substantially extended in 1910. The older parts of the mill burnt down in 1961 and were not replaced.

Middle: 21 Uppertown (Grade II listed) has the typical detailing of an early 19th century workers cottage in this area although it appears alterations to the door and windows were made in the 1930's.

Above: Original boundary walls are an important characteristic of the area.



Top right: The Old Vicarage (Grade II listed) is a fine example of a mid 19th century villa, which was built for Joseph Brett Grant, the first vicar of Oxenhope Parish. The building retains many of its original features and details.

Top: West Croft House (key unlisted) is a high quality Victorian building which retains its original features and details.
Middle: East View, Hebden Bridge Road (key unlisted) retains its original panelled door and windows which many other properties have lost.

Above: Water features such as this one on Shaw Lane were probably built for horses.

Summary of Important Features and Details

Features and details contribute to the essential character of the conservation area:

- Original / traditional architectural detailing to houses reflecting past architectural styles
- Terraced houses of high group value
- Boundary walls to most buildings
- Stone street surfaces (where these remain in situ)
- Streets and lanes of varying lengths and irregular widths create views and vistas
- Formal building and boundary frontages on primary elevations
- Traditional roofscape of stone slate roofs and chimneys
- Survival of key open spaces and such as fields
- Water features including a mill pond and a stream

Current Condition

AUTHENTICITY 75%

- Each historic building in a conservation area will have originally had features and details which contribute to the character of the conservation area.
- The level of authenticity is based on an assessment of each building to ascertain the level of retention of original features.
- Features assessed are: chimneys, roofs, rainwater goods, walls, windows and doors, boundary walls, porches, bargeboards, bay windows and shopfronts. Not all buildings will have all the above features and the scoring sheet is adjusted to take this into account.
- Only residential, commercial and civic buildings built prior to 1956 are scored.
- 137 properties were assessed for the purpose of the study; this is 93% of all properties within the conservation area.
- The listed buildings had an average authenticity rating of 82%.



A breakdown of the authenticity assessment shows which features and details in particular are being retained and/or maintained and where there are the greatest threats

Strengths

- A significant number of the buildings have retained many of their traditional features and details
- The street pattern has changed very little which is irregular and unique
- Significant areas of traditional streetscape materials are still in situ
- Key open spaces maintain their traditional character
- Traditional roofscape and skyline due to retention of chimneys and original roofing materials
- Traditional views and vistas have been maintained where the gaps between the houses that have not been in filled
- Listed buildings retain an above average number of traditional features and details
- The large majority of the boundary walls are traditional
- Rural village with definite sense of place



- The settlement has a distinctive and unique value
- Mature trees contribute to townscape

2-4 Shaw Lane (key unlisted) is an attractive Victorian property which retains many of its original features and details

Weaknesses

- Inappropriate porches are detracting from the areas character
- Unlisted buildings retain much fewer traditional features and details than listed buildings
- Most traditional windows and doors have been lost
- Alteration and removal of chimneys is harming the skyline
- Houses with large amounts of clutter detract from the street scene



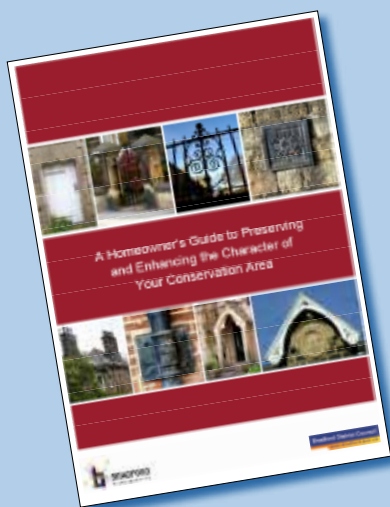
Chimneys should not be lowered as this harms the character of traditional buildings and areas.



The character and appearance of this Grade II listed building has been harmed by the addition of a modern porch.

Opportunities

- Better decisions by all stakeholders (property owners, the Planning Service, Highways) through reference to the Conservation Area Assessment and this review and subsequent workshops and more communication with the Design and Conservation Team.



- The **"Repair and Maintenance Guide"** should help property owners make better informed decisions. This document is available on the Council's website at www.bradford.gov.uk/repairs.
- Enforcement action against unauthorised development and works to trees.
- Bringing vacant and underused buildings and sites back into full use.
- Redevelopment of buildings and sites currently detracting from the character and appearance of the conservation area

Right: Although solar panels are good for the environment they are best located to the rear of buildings in conservation areas, whenever practicable



There is potential to enhance the conservation area by re-developing this site off Shaw Lane

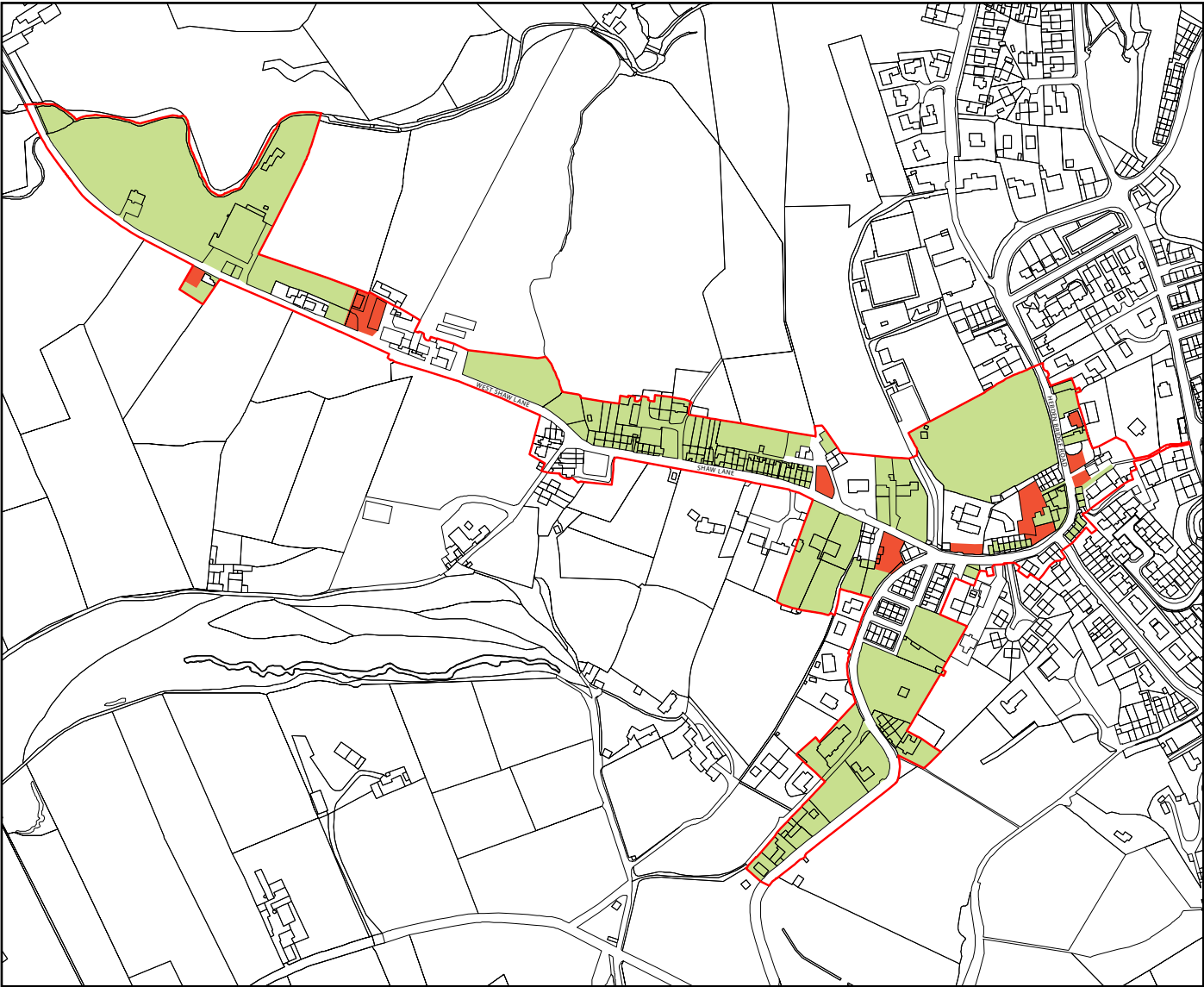
Threats

- Continued removal of traditional features and details from buildings.
- Poor decisions concerning planning applications, enforcement cases, listed buildings, highway management, and trees.
- Development of key open spaces (including private gardens) and loss of mature trees
- Loss of historic street surfaces and traditional character of public realm.
- Continued vacancy and underuse of buildings and sites.



Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area

Character Contributions and Key Views



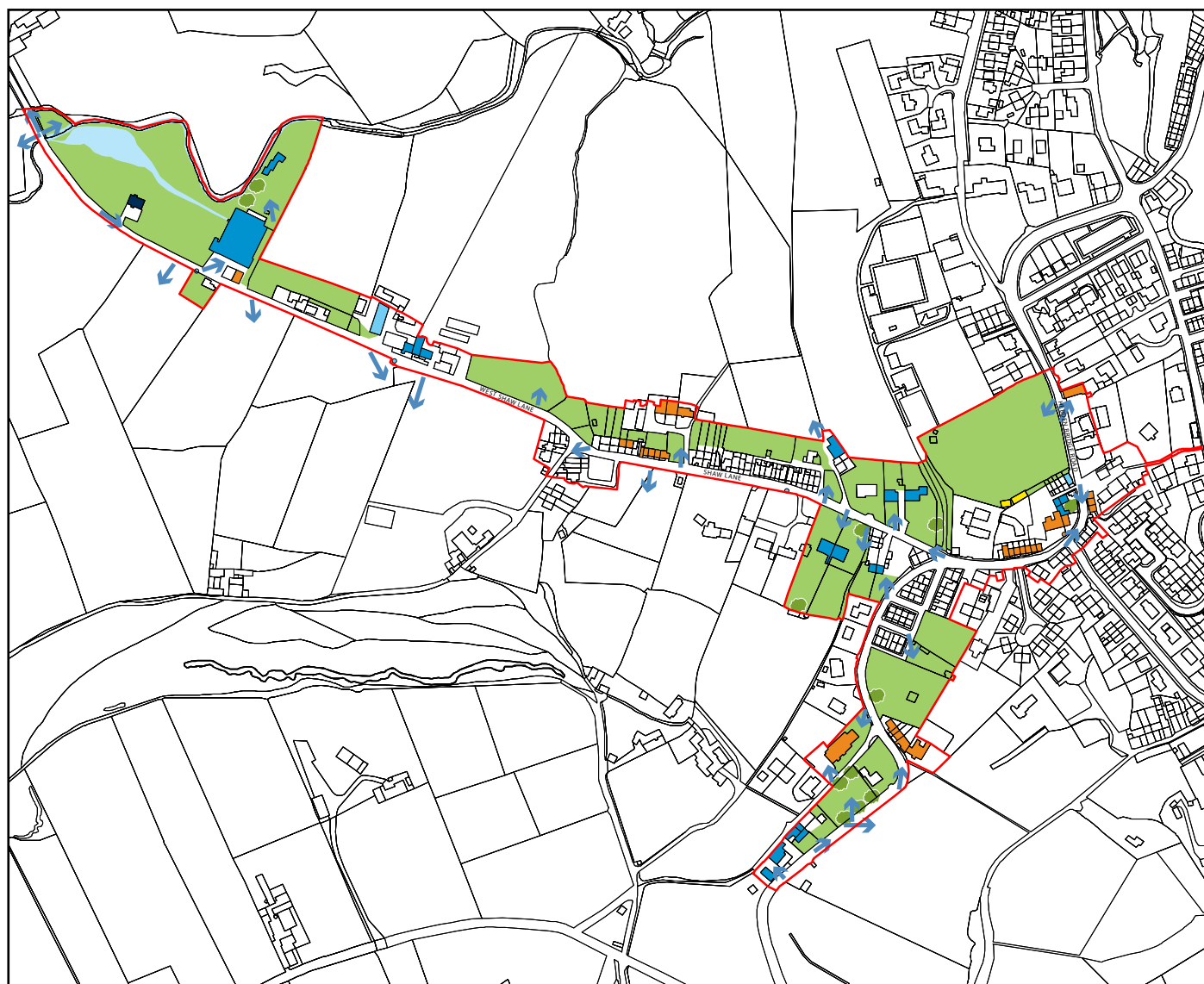
Key

- Conservation Area Boundary
- Areas providing a **positive** contribution to character
- Areas providing a **negative** contribution to character
- Areas providing a **neutral** contribution to character

NB The 'positive', 'negative' and 'neutral' areas relate to the contribution the site/building currently makes to the character of the Conservation Area. The classification in no way means that the site/building has no special architectural, historic or archaeological interest.

Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area

Listed and Key Unlisted Buildings, Open Spaces and Trees



Key

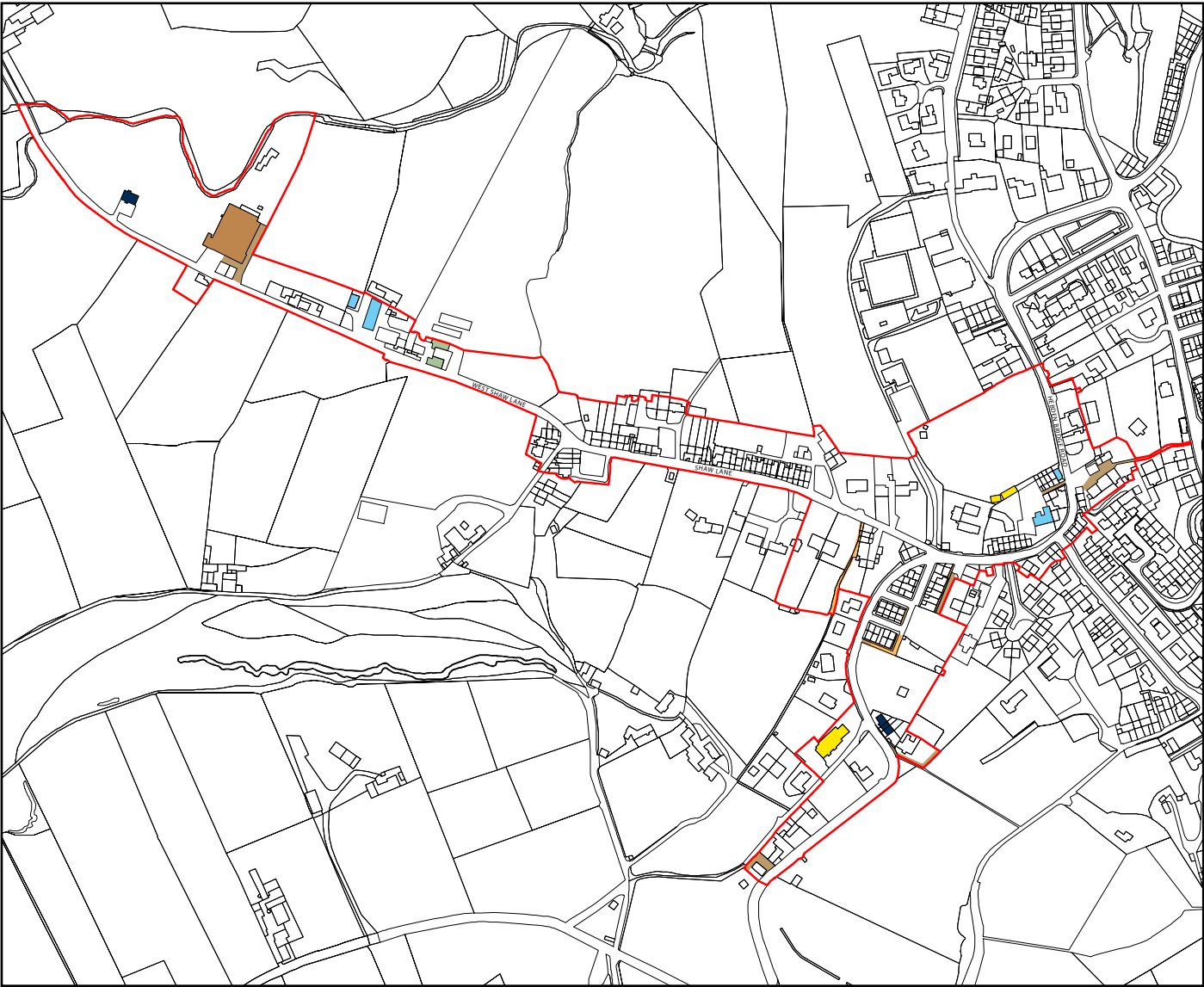
- Conservation Area Boundary
- Listed building
- Key unlisted building
- Key open space
- Water feature

- Important trees
- Key view or vista











NB This map does not identify key trees individually, but merely indicates where there is at least one important tree.

Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area

Land Use and Highway Materials



Key

	Conservation Area Boundary		Agricultural
	Retail / Commercial building		Tarmac / Concrete
	Place of worship/religious		Stone setts / Flags
	Industrial		Un-surfaced / partially surfaced
	Vacant		
	Residential		

Any changes that have had a significant impact on the character or appearance of the conservation area since the previous assessment in 2005 are detailed below.

Changes affecting the Conservation Area

New Development

27 Upper Town received planning permission in 2007 to construct a single storey extension and rebuild existing outbuildings.

NEUTRAL CHANGE



Buildings

The following buildings have become vacant since the publication of the Conservation Area Assessment:

- 14 West Shaw Lane
- 15-13 Hebden Bridge Road

NEGATIVE CHANGE

There are no buildings that still remain vacant since the publication of the Conservation Area Assessment:

POSITIVE CHANGE

Trees & Open Space

No trees of amenity or townscape value have been lost in the conservation area since the publication of the conservation area assessment.

NO CHANGE/POSITIVE



Works to Highways

There have been no major works to highways or replacement of street lighting or street furniture in the conservation area since 2005.

Boundary

The appropriateness of the Oxenhope Upper Town conservation area boundary is deemed to be appropriate at present.

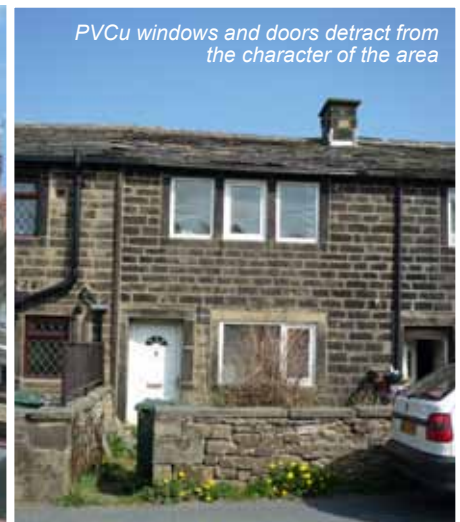
Negative Impacts

As part of the review of the conservation area a number of properties displaying inappropriate alterations and additions have been noted.

Whilst a minority are considered to have a severely negative impact on the character of the conservation area, there are a number of properties displaying relatively minor visual detractors, such as reduced or removed chimneys, inappropriate

rainwater goods, inappropriately pointed elevations and modern windows and doors. The Council will look to ways of mitigating these works and will actively discourage the occurrence of similar situations arising within the conservation area

in the future. Design guidance on the repair and maintenance of historic properties has recently been published and is available on the Council's website at **www.bradford.gov.uk/repairs**.



PVCu windows and doors detract from the character of the area

The addition of satellite dishes and clutter should be avoided, particularly at the front of houses

Management Proposals

The overall aim of the Conservation Area Management Proposals is to preserve and enhance the character of the Conservation Area, by ensuring that the Council and the community work together to maintain historic features and details and limit the loss of character.

The objectives aim to:

- Improve service delivery
- Raise awareness and understanding about the special character of the conservation area
- Improve decision making so that all repair, development and alteration result in a positive contribution to the character of the place

The objectives of the Management Proposals are based on the issues identified in the Oxenhope and Leeming Conservation Area Assessment and prioritised by members of the community who took part in the Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area Assessment public consultation.

	Objective	Actions	Timescale
1	Design and Conservation Team maintain contact with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly newsletter about conservation • Design and Conservation website to be made as informative, user friendly and up-to-date as possible 	Yearly 2009-2014
2	Improved communication between Council Officers and key partners in the conservation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a conservation area forum • Workshops 	Monthly As required
3	Improve the quality and amenity value of the public realm, open spaces, highway materials and water courses in Oxenhope Upper Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer working relationship between Design and Conservation and other Council Departments • Production of design guidance for the enhancement of the public realm 	Continual As resources permit
4	Maintain footpaths and boundary walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer working between the Design and Conservation Team, property owners, Highways and the Rights of Way Team 	Continual
5	Preserve and enhance features and details that contribute to the character of Oxenhope Upper Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for the repair and maintenance of historic buildings will be published by the Design and Conservation Team in 2007 	Review guidance periodically
6	Promote good quality new development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of guidance on appropriate sympathetic design to suit the character of the conservation area • Production of design briefs were appropriate 	2009-2014 As resources permit
7	Ensure all investment is contributing to the character of the conservation area and its activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of links and discussions between Design and Conservation Team and partners outside of and within the Council 	Continual
8	Monitor Planning Applications to add value to the historic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Conservation Team to work more effectively within the wider planning service 	Continual
9	Address illegal works to listed buildings and unauthorised development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between Design and Conservation Team and Planning Enforcement Team 	Continual
10	Retain important trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison between Design and Conservation Team and Trees Team 	Continual
11	Monitor Change loss/gain and feedback to local community and officers working in the conservation area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Conservation Team to review Oxenhope Upper Town Conservation Area every five years in line with Best Value indicators 219a, b and c 	Review by May 2014

