

# Middleton Town Centre *Conservation Area*



ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



## *Middleton Town Centre Conservation Area*

Middleton is a small town of diverse character with an exciting architectural and historical blend of medieval, industrial and modernist styles. The town is overlooked by St Leonard's, an impressive Grade I listed parish church, set on a hill. In the surrounding area is a 'Golden Cluster' of outstanding listed buildings including the 16<sup>th</sup> century Ye Olde Boar's Head public house and the well renovated Old Grammar School.

From a pastoral township along a Roman road, Middleton grew significantly during the industrial revolution as a centre for cotton and silk manufacturing. This rich industrial heritage is still visible in the cottages, 'garrets,' and mills in the conservation area. Samuel Bamford, associated with the 1819 Peterloo Massacre, was an inhabitant of the town and a memorial to him stands in the Old Burial Ground.

The town was home to the famous architect Edgar Wood (1860-1935), who was regarded as the most important avant-garde architect in the north of England. As his reputation grew both nationally and internationally, his practice became more widespread, but Middleton has the best collection of his work including some of the first modern movement buildings in Europe. Middleton has a remarkable architectural and historic legacy, which is essential to conserve for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

More information on the *Middleton Town Centre Conservation Area* can be obtained from the Development Control Service (see back page for details).





## What is a *Conservation Area*?

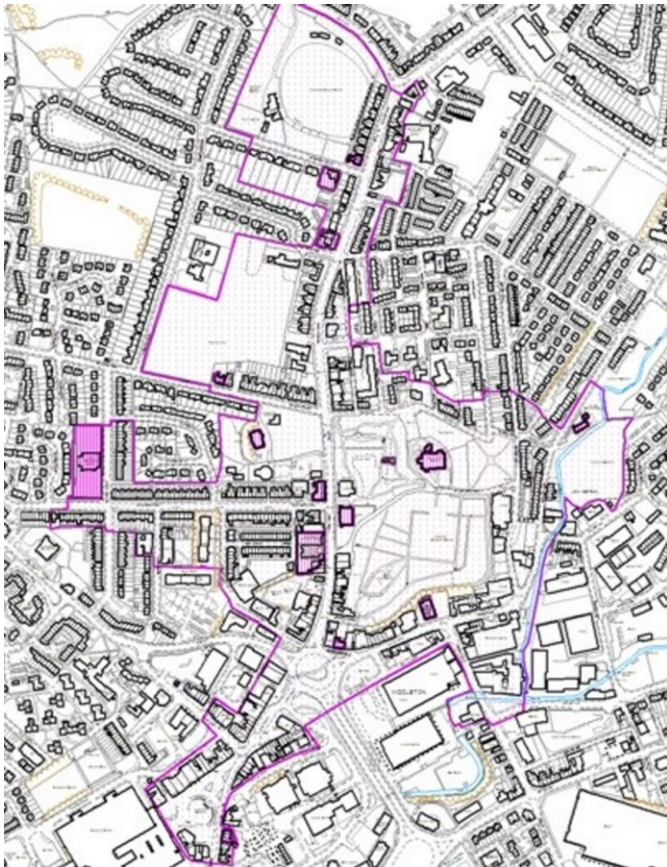
An area of historic or architectural interest can be made a *Conservation Area* to preserve or enhance its character and appearance. This protects the historic buildings, gardens, trees, spaces and views that make it "special". The familiar and cherished scene can then be passed on to future generations, unspoilt by unsympathetic development or demolition.

Thus *Conservation Areas* should be treated with respect to prevent their qualities being eroded. Over time, small harmful alterations can disfigure a beautiful place and "out of character" modern buildings can spoil the historic patina. Losing attractive and interesting features such as iron railings, sash windows, chimney stacks and old shop fronts can damage the beauty and sense of place. The opposite is also true and reintroducing these features, conserving buildings, gardens and trees can improve the appearance of a *Conservation Area*. The Council controls the demolition of buildings and the cutting down of trees and tries to ensure that any new development "fits in".

If you plan to demolish or alter a building, wall or feature or are considering a sign or advertisement, please contact the Development Control Service for advice and to check whether permission is needed. Shops and businesses should be aware that planning permission is needed to install new windows, shop fronts, doors and roller shutters in the majority of situations. External roller shutter boxes and upvc windows and doors are rarely appropriate and unauthorized installations may lead to enforcement action. Planning permission is not needed to alter windows and doors in houses, however.







This leaflet gives outline information only. For further advice or a detailed plan, please contact the Development Control Service on 01706 924352. Alternatively, you can write to:

**Planning & Regulation Services**  
Conservation & Design Team,  
Development Control Service,  
PO Box 32, Telegraph House,  
Baillie Street, Rochdale, OL16  
[development.control@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@rochdale.gov.uk)

