

Aldcliffe Road: Conservation Area Summary

Why is the Aldcliffe Road Conservation Area special?

Aldcliffe Road is an attractive gateway to Lancaster from the south west, which is historically associated with the industrial development of the city in the 19th century. The area first developed with the construction of Lancaster Canal in the late-18th century and the wharves developed along Aldcliffe Road area for boats to unload cargo. The Conservation Area is also significant due to the retention of many buildings and features built for the Lancaster Canal Company, including a smithy, stables, boat repair workshops and towpath along the canal. The later development of the railway running to Lancaster Castle station in the mid-19th century runs over this section of the canal. The area also retains some large Victorian terraced houses along Aldcliffe Road and South Regent Street, associated with the growth of workers in this area.



Canal Bridge adjacent to Aldcliffe Yard

General

- Linear arrangement of buildings along the section of canal from Penny Street Bridge out towards Haverbreaks, with buildings predominantly facing onto the canal
- Historic urban setting of the canal, with some modern infill developments along the wharf and at the rear of Lancaster infirmary, leading south west to more rural setting
- Open green spaces on the south east side of the canal
- Retention of buildings associated with the Lancaster Canal Company
- Prevalent use of sandstone walling for buildings and bridges
- Conversion of former industrial buildings to residential use

Important buildings and features

- Lancaster Canal and towpath – constructed c.1797 and designed by notable engineer John Rennie. Structures and bridges were distinctively designed in local sandstone to fit into the urban and rural context of the local district

- Wharf – area used to unload cargo from boats, this has been negatively impacted by modern large buildings which erode the historic association and context
- Blacksmith (Grade II) - built c.1800 by Lancaster Canal Company to service traffic on the canal, now residential accommodation
- Lancaster Canal Bridge no.98 (Grade II) - only remaining unaltered roving bridge on the Lancaster Canal and is associated with the designs of John Rennie
- Old Boathouse (Grade II) - built for Lancaster Canal Company c.1833 as a repair workshop for fast pack boats, including the 'Waterwitch'
- Terraces and semi-detached houses along Aldcliffe Road
- The Water Witch pub is a converted stable block for horses towing packet boats
- Retention of historic cobbles along some of the towpath

Conservation Area Name

Area (ha)

Designation Date

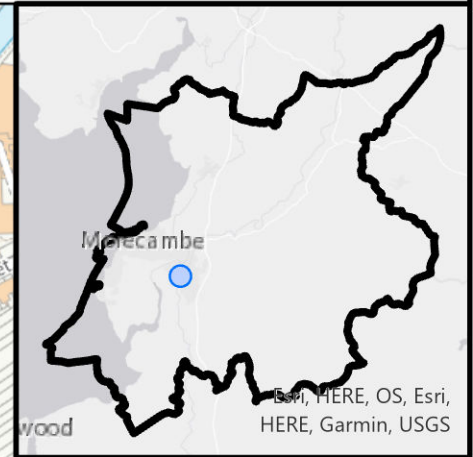
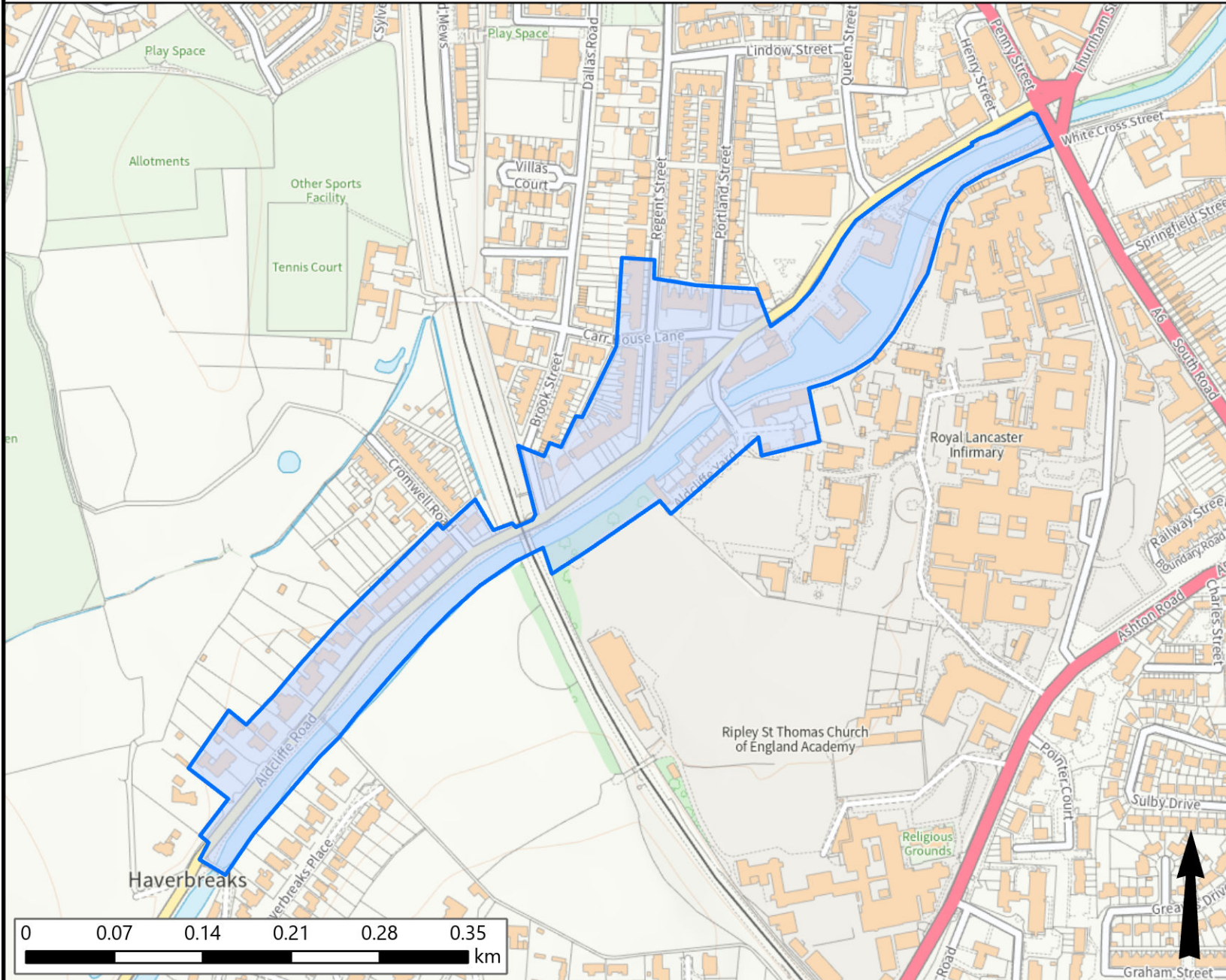


Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Aldcliffe Road, Lancaster

6.44

1993



Legend

-  Conservation Areas
-  Lancaster District Boundary

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