



GMAAS
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Local Heritage Listing Project

Royton,
Oldham

Gazetteer of Validated Candidates

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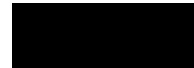
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OLDHAM LOCAL LIST – ROYTON

Historical Overview of Royton

The early history of Royton is linked inextricably with the Byron family, which leased the manor in the mid-13th century from the Lutterells, who remained the lords of the manor until the 1400s. The population of Royton during the Middle Ages comprised a small community of retainers and farmers, most of whom were involved with pasture, but supplemented their incomes by weaving woollens in the domestic system. The area was thinly populated and consisted of several hamlets, including Thorp, Heyside and Royton village itself as the nucleus. It is uncertain precisely when the Byrons were granted the title of the manor officially, although the estate remained in their hands until the 17th century. At the heart of the estate was Royton Hall, which was inhabited by the Byron family for over 350 years.

During the Early Modern period, the weavers of Royton used spinning wheels in makeshift weavers' cottages, but as both the demand for cotton goods increased and the technology of cotton-spinning machinery improved during the early 18th century, the need for larger structures to house larger and more efficient equipment became apparent. Ralph Taylor at Thorp Clough is thought to have established the first water-powered cotton mill in the area, heralding the first generation of textile factories in the late 18th century. The construction of more mills followed, which initiated a process of urbanisation and socioeconomic transformation in the region; the population moved away from farming, adopting employment in the factory system.

The introduction of the factory system led to a tenfold increase of Royton's population in less than a century; from 260 in 1714 to 2,719 in 1810. By 1832, there were 12 steam-powered mills in Royton, of which its former hamlets had begun to agglomerate as a town around the cotton factories, a number of small coalpits and new turnpike road from Oldham to Rochdale, which passed through the town centre. The Manchester, Oldham and Royton Railway and a goods yard was constructed in the 1860s, allowing improved transportation of textile goods and raw materials to and from the township, acting as a catalyst for further industrial growth through the later 19th century.

The Great Depression, and First and Second World Wars each contributed to periods of economic decline in Royton, although 80% of Royton's population was still employed in the textile industry as late the 1950s. As imports of cheaper foreign yarns increased during the mid-20th century, Royton's textile sector declined gradually to a halt; cotton spinning reduced in the 1960s and 1970s, and by the early 1980s only four mills were operational. In spite of efforts to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of its production, the last cotton was spun in the town in 2002.

Candidates for Local Listing in Royton North

Property Name and Photograph	The Greyhound – HER 18839.1.0 
Property Address	1 Elly Clough, Holden Fold Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5ES
Significance	Historic Interest: Situated in the ancient settlement of Holden Fold, this old beer house was licensed in 1832. A full licence was granted in 1837 and the Licensed Victuallers Dinner was held there in 1859. J.W. Lees brewery bought the pub in 1928. Architectural Interest: The Ordnance Survey 1;2500 1st Edition map of 1893 suggests a built form with the larger, almost square plan, public house at the south-western end and two smaller attached cottages. The two-storey element of the existing built form corresponds with this historic plan form and the principal elevation facing clearly exhibits the historic sub-division with the original double-fronted public house with central door and two cottages each with a front door.

	Local Interest: Part of a row of cottages (the first of which was the original beer house) probably built as quarrymen's homes as there were three sandstone quarries in the vicinity. Aesthetic Interest. The public house makes a very positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the streetscape. Social / Communal Value: The pub has served the local community for nearly two centuries and several generations of local residents will have personal association with the building, Landmark interest: The pub occupies a prominent location at the junction of Holden Fold Lane with Cambrian Drive.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Grape Mill – HER 6172.1.0



Property Address	New Coin Street, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6JZ
Significance	Historic Interest: Built in 1905 by the Grape Mill Co. as the No.2 mill to Vine Mill. Ceased production in 1963; later re-opened by Highams Ltd. Architectural Interest: Designed by TW Jenkins. The brick-built spinning mill is five-storeys high and 33 x 5 bays. Pilasters and restrained embellishments. The engine house is attached to the north side. Dust tower to the north-east corner and a tall ornate water tank tower to the south side. Later extensions are lower than the original (to varying extents) and sufficiently modest compared to the host building to enable the original massing and design intent to remain evident. Local Interest: The mill is one of the small number of historic textile factories to survive in Royton, despite the former importance of the industrial to the development of the town. Aesthetic Value: The mill makes an important contribution to the character and aesthetic quality of the historic textile-manufacturing townscape. Social / Community Value: The mill employed several generations of local people and some will have a personal association with the mill, contributing to their sense of place. Group Value: The mill has a strong group value with the nearby mills as key elements of the textile-manufacturing townscape. Landmark Status: The mill is a notable landmark feature on New Coin Street.
Score	11

Property Name and Photograph	Site of Royton Hall – HER 195.1.0 
Property Address	Hall Street, Royton, Oldham
Significance	Historic Interest: The site of Royton's medieval manor house. Royton Hall is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map of 1894, but even by that time it was confined by urban development on its north, east and west sides and reservoirs then open fields to the south. Local Interest: For over four centuries, Royton Hall was home to 12 generations of the Byron family. Relatively little is known about the date of Royton Hall's construction, but it is thought to date back as far as the 13th century. Wattle and daub walls were discovered during the hall's demolition in 1939. Archaeological Interest: Excavation demonstrated that the archaeological remains of Royton Hall were well preserved and date back to the late medieval period. They have been covered up and protected under the public open space.

	Aesthetic Value: A public space with remains of Royton's historic hall laid out and interpreted, being a legacy from a successful community archaeology project 2005-09. Rarity Value: A rare example locally of a medieval hall that has been subject to archaeological excavation. Social/Communal Value: In addition to the public benefit in the green space occupied by the footprint of Royton Hall, the remains of the hall were the focus of a hugely successful community excavation as part of the Royton Lives through the Ages project, in which numerous local residents participated.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph

Former HSBC Bank – HER 18841.1.0



Property Address	2 Oldham Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5PA
Significance	Historic Interest: The Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2,500 map of 1894 shows the site occupied by two, unannotated, properties with a combined rectangular plan form forming a part of continuous street frontages to both highways. This remained the case at the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1922, although it is identified as a bank on later mapping. Architectural Interest: The building appears as an over-scaled single-storey structure designed to express the high internal banking hall. The corner entrance door is similarly over-scaled including by the heavily articulated stone surround with dressed corbels in the form of scrolled brackets. The design is very much associated with the neo-Georgian style often associated with 1920s Revivalism but which has origins before this date and extended beyond the Second World War. Local Interest: The building evidences not only the evolution of the built environment (including suburban areas) but also social change where access to banks and banking ceased to be the sole preserve of the wealthy. Aesthetic Value: The bank makes a highly positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. Group Value: The building has a group value with the former Union Bank of Manchester of 1905 on Oldham Road. Landmark Status: The bank occupies a prominent location on a busy crossroads.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph	Junction Inn – HER 18842.1.0 
Property Address	221 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5RA
Significance	Historic Interest: The building is captured on the 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1893. It is not annotated on the map but is likely to have been a beer house. It is identified as a public house on the Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 map of 1959. Architectural Interest: The building is a detached, two-storey, L-shaped building occupying a prominent location at the junction of Rochdale Lane with Rochdale Road. Despite some of the more recent change the exterior, the building likely retains much original/historic built fabric and overall character and appearance.

	Local Interest: The beer house was known originally as 'Pleasant View'. It was probably bought by the Rochdale and Manor Brewery around 1895, and the name was changed to the Junction Inn shortly after. Aesthetic Value: The building is modest in design and architectural detailing but nevertheless has aesthetic value and makes a positive contribution to the historic character of the streetscape. Social / Community Value: The pub has served the local community for over a century. Landmark Status: The building occupies a prominent location at the junction of Rochdale Lane with Rochdale Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Hope & Anchor – HER 18843.1.0 
Property Address	29 Sandy Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5QP
Significance	Historic Interest: Already established in 1790 and now Royton's oldest surviving pub. A built form of a similar footprint of the existing building is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1894. Architectural Interest: The building is primarily three storey with a two-storey outrigger-type structure and modest single-storey elements. These single-storey elements include an original/historic element to the south (side) elevation with a pitched slate roof and flat-roofed elements to the rear. The three-storey element of the rear elevation is interestingly slate hung in blue slate. The pitched roofs are in slate and two red brick chimneys remain to the main roof, one to each gable. Local Interest: In 1794 the 'Jacobin Library' was transferred here from the Light Horseman and renamed the 'Circulating Library'. The petty sessions were first held at the Hope and Anchor on 24 January 1843 transferred from the Spread Eagle on Croft Head.

	Aesthetic Value: The pub makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area Social / Community Value: The pub has served the local community for over two centuries. Landmark Status: The building occupies a prominent position at the junction of Radcliffe Street and Chapel Street with Sandy Lane.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Park Lane House – HER 18844.1.0

Circa 2018:



Circa 2025:



Property Address	2 Rochdale Lane, Royton, Oldham, OL2 5QP
Significance	Historic Interest: Park Lane House incorporates a datestone of 1812 in the pediment atop the central bay. The house appears to be shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1854 and is certainly featured on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1891. It is shown with the curved boundary wall and pedestrian gateway as still exist on its southern side enclosing a soft landscaped front garden. Architectural Interest: The main house has a square-shaped plan form with a small central rearwards projection into a rear yard. The principal elevation is in red brick with considerable use of stonework to accentuate the pillared front door and window openings (including a single storey canted bay window with Rosemary-tiled pitched roof over), corner quoin stones and a deep eaves/projecting cornice/parapet detail which carries a central panel engraved with the name of the house. Local Interest: Park Lane House may have been associated with the mill immediately to the rear as, for example, the house of the owner or manager. Aesthetic Value: The considerable aesthetic value of the original/historic two-storey built form of Park Lane House remains evident. Landmark Status: The building is located prominently at the fork of Rochdale Lane and Park Lane and is a notable feature of the local streetscape.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Bethesda Baptist Chapel and Sunday School – HER 18845.1.0



Property Address

236 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6UE

Significance	Historic Interest: The site is shown as undeveloped on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1854, but is named 'Bethesda Chapel' on the 1st Edition 1:2500 map of 1893. The chapel was rebuilt in 1893 and the 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1909 shows a large building footprint. A Sunday School was added to the northern side of the chapel in 1911. Architectural Interest: The fabric of the chapel comprises common brick for the walls and pressed hard red brick to form arches over the Gothic arch windows, to surround the rose window (which has stone tracery and stained glass) and to form decorative string courses. Gothic arch doorway decorated with bosses. Roof of Welsh slate with decorative clay ridge tiles. The Sunday School has a part stone/part brickwork door arch. Local Interest: The church houses a local Roll of Honour or Book of Remembrance. Aesthetic Value: The building itself makes a highly positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. Social/Communal Value: The building remains in its original use and has served the local community for over 100 years and can be expected to have communal value. Landmark Status: The chapel occupies a prominent position at the junction of Dogford Road with Rochdale Road.
Score	9

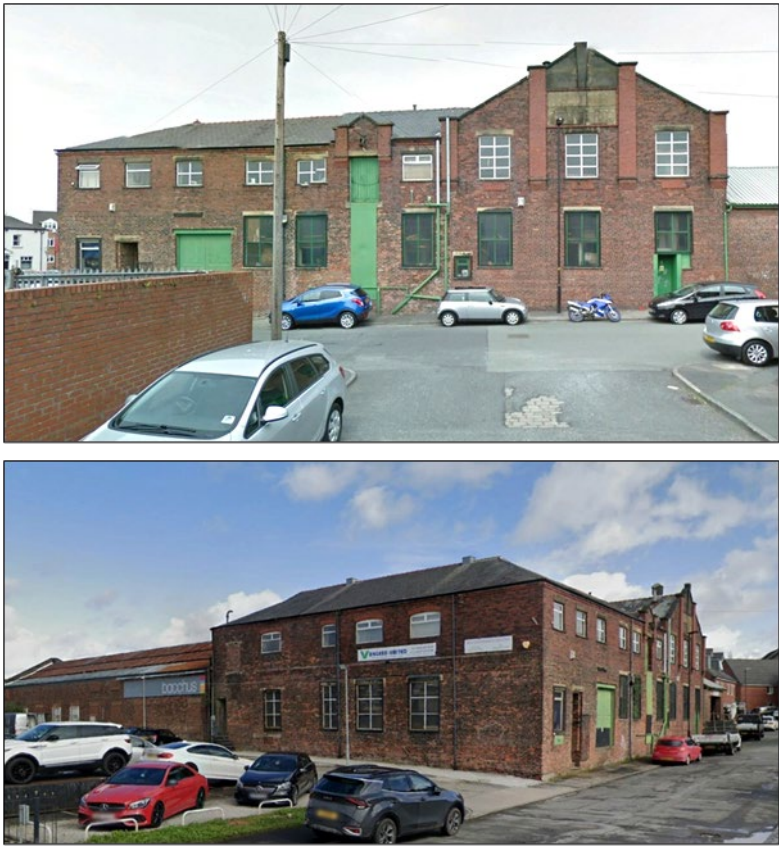
Property Name and Photograph	Royton War Memorial – HER 17456.1.0 
Property Address	Tandle Hills, Royton, Oldham

Significance	Historic Interest: The war memorial was unveiled on 22 October 1921 by the Earl of Derby and stands at the highest point in the park. Architectural Interest: Originally the memorial, which is constructed from Portland stone, bore plaques listing the fallen and a bronze statue. The original plaques were stolen in 1969, and replacements were later installed in the grounds of St Paul's, Royton. Local Interest: The war memorial is of considerable local interest as it commemorates the men of Royton who died during the First World War. Aesthetic Value: The quality of the materials used in the fabric of the memorial and its prominent location afford it considerable aesthetic value. Social/Communal Value: The memorial can be expected to have communal value. Landmark Status: The memorial is a very significant local landmark.
Score	11

Property Name and Photograph	Triangulation Pillar – HER 18850.1.0 
Property Address	Tandle Hill Country Park, Royton, Oldham
Significance	Historic Interest: The process of placing triangulation points on top of prominent hills began in 1935 to assist in the accurate retriangulation of Great Britain. The Ordnance Survey's first triangulation pillar was erected on 18 April 1936 near Cold Ashby, Northamptonshire. The pillars have historic

	interest as they were designed for a specific function that had a very considerable impact on the evolution of mapping. It is uncertain when the triangulation pillar on Tandle Hill was erected. Architectural Interest: A modest feature but intentionally designed for a particular purpose with thought given to the form, materials and function. The pillar comprises a truncated square concrete obelisk that tapers towards the top. On the top a brass plate with three arms and a central depression was used to mount and centre a theodolite. A benchmark is set on the side, together with the reference number of the trig point. Local Interest: The pillar is a cherished feature of Tandle Hill County Park. Aesthetic Value: The pillar has an aesthetic value, albeit limited and arising from the intentional design and use of materials. Social/Communal Value: The triangulation pillar served a wider social purpose to the benefit of the local community and wider society. Landmark Status: By its nature, the pillar is located at a high point in the landscape and so has some landmark value.
Score	9

Candidates for Local Listing in Royton South

Property Name and Photograph	Schofield Street Works – HER 18851.1.0 
Property Address	Schofield Street, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6PT
Significance	Historic Interest: The site is shown as undeveloped on the 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1854, but marked as a tramway depot on the 1st Edition 1:2,500 map of 1893. This appears to have been a short-lived use, as the tram lines had been removed by the time of the 1st Revision 1:2,500 map of

	1909. The building is identified as a bakery on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 of 1954, and as an engineering works on the 1:2,500 map of 1970. Architectural Interest: An industrial works comprising a two-storey linear range. In terms of the exterior, the architectural interest partly derives from the way in which the elevation design would have responded to the intended internal use. It also derives from the intentional design which although modest and somewhat utilitarian uses scale/massing and elevation materials and limited features to good effect to provide a sense of an overall architectural composition. Local Interest: The building was at the heart of Royton's late Victorian public transport system. Aesthetic Value: The building makes a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the historic industrial townscape. Landmark Status: The building is a prominent feature from Rochdale Road, the principal thoroughfare through Royton.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Former Barclays Bank – HER 18854.1.0 
Property Address	2 Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6QF
Significance	Historic Interest: Built originally in 1905 by the Union Bank of Manchester. Architectural Interest: A modestly scaled bank branch, designed to impress and give a sense of solidity and security. The building is mainly an oversized single-storey with three tall windows to each street frontage that would have illuminated the banking hall. The height is accentuated by an exaggerated entablature/parapet above the level of the window heads. A date stone (1905) and separate carved stone carrying a coat of arms are located above the splayed corner doorway. Local Interest: This building evidences the evolution of the built environment and also social change where access to banks and banking ceased to be the sole preserve of the wealthy

	Aesthetic Value: The building makes a highly positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the area. Communal value: The bank served the local community for many years before being converted to a new use and could be expected to have some communal value. Group Value: The building has a group value with the former HSBC bank on the opposite side of Oldham Road. Presumably the two banks were in direct competition, and their design would have been a part of this. Landmark Status: The pub occupies a prominent location at the junction of Middleton Road with Rochdale Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph

Royton Market Hall – HER 18855.1.0



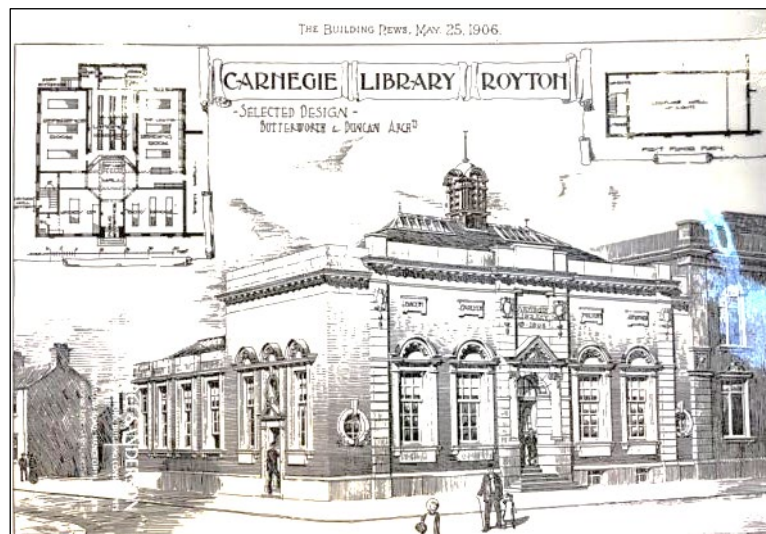
Property Address	Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6QG
Significance	Historic Interest: A market hall built in 1880. Much of the market hall was demolished in 1957, leaving just the façade. The market hall formed part of a complex of civic buildings ranged around the open the Market Place with the adjoining Town Hall and nearby Town's Yard and the public library. Architectural Interest: A shaped arch with a carved keystone set between two ashlar stone pilasters, one of which is incorporated into the corner of the town hall, led the way to the one-time public market. Two further elevation bays separated by further pilasters were each originally occupied by two shop premises as part of the market hall frontage. Each of these bays has a frieze/parapet of decorative brickwork. Local Interest: The retained market hall frontage shop building is an important physical element of the historic continuous library/town hall/market street frontage and contributes to understanding the historic functioning of this group of civic buildings and market place. Aesthetic Value: The frontage has some aesthetic value. Group Value: Some group value with the adjacent Town Hall. Social/Communal Value: The market hall served the local community for many years before being largely demolished, but the retained frontage and shops retain communal value. Landmark Status: The façade is a notable feature of Rochdale Road.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Royton Town Hall – HER 18856.1.0 
Property Address	Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6QG
Significance	Historic Interest: Royton Town Hall was constructed in 1880 as the purpose-built municipal building for the Royton Local Board of Health to manage their affairs. Architectural Interest: The building was designed by William Henry Cooke and is constructed in a free style with Jacobean Revival influences. The most prominent feature is the clock tower, which is topped with a copper cupola. The clock tower has three sides that are inscribed with Latin mottos. Local Interest: The eastern clock face is approximately half the size of the other three, with local legends stating this was done deliberately due to its orientation towards the Church of the Holy Trinity located in the nearby town of Shaw. The Town Hall was damaged following an explosion in the cellar in 1884.

	Aesthetic Value: The building retains considerable aesthetic value despite the replacement windows. Social/Communal Value: The building has provided services for local residents for more than a century and will have a communal value. Group value: The building has group value with the adjoining public library and the adjoining market hall building, cumulatively forming the historic civic centre of Royton. Landmark status: The town hall is a landmark within the Rochdale Road streetscape and local area.
Score	12

Property Name and Photograph

Royton Library – HER 17096.1.0



Property Address

Rochdale Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6QG

Significance	Historic Interest: Royton Library was built in 1906 to designs by Butterworth & Duncan. The library was officially opened by Lord Stanley of Alderley on the 12th of January 1907. Architectural Interest: The library has an oversized single-storey element with a hipped slate roof facing Rochdale Road with a lower rearwards single-storey element consisting of two slate roofed elements with a central glazed lantern light. The Rochdale Road elevation is symmetrical with five elevation bays in a neo-Renaissance style building. It is in red brick with sandstone dressings over a rock-faced sandstone plinth. Local Interest: The library was constructed following a donation from the Scottish businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The library was stocked by collections from various societies and donors including the Industrial Co-operative Society, Thomas K Batley Esq and the Royton Liberal Club. Aesthetic Value: Royton Library is a well-conceived Edwardian civic building of 1906, which sits well with the adjoining town hall. It is of considerable aesthetic value. Social/Communal Value: The building has been at the heart of the local community for over a hundred years. Group value: The building has group value with the adjoining town hall and the nearby remains of the market hall building. Landmark status: The library is a landmark within the Rochdale Road streetscape and local area.
Score	12

Property Name and Photograph	Royton Park – HER 195.3.0 
Property Address	Radcliffe Street, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6RL
Significance	<i>Historic Interest:</i> Royton Park was created from the vestiges of the expansive parkland associated with the late medieval Royton Hall. The medieval park was divided into farms in the early 19th century, and it was dissected subsequently by the Rochdale Road and tracts were subsumed to development. The current park was opened to the public on 22nd June 1911 to celebrate the coronation of George V. The park contained a bandstand and a public fountain, which was presented by the Cooper family but removed in 1960. <i>Local Interest:</i> The park is a rare surviving element of the medieval Royton Hall estate. In 1919, the park was home to a First World War tank that had been presented to the town. <i>Aesthetic Value:</i> The park makes a very significant and positive contribution to the aesthetic quality of the locale.

	<i>Archaeological Value:</i> The park was created on the site of Royton coal pit, which closed due to flooding in 1901. The last remains of the pit were demolished in February 1902, although any foundations of these building could be of some archaeological interest. <i>Social/Communal Value:</i> The green space has been enjoyed by generations of local residents for over a century, many of whom will have strong personal associations with the park. <i>Landmark Status:</i> The park is a notable feature of the local streetscape.
Score	10

Property Name and Photograph	Royton Park Gates - HER 195.3.1 
Property Address	Radcliffe Street, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6RL
Significance	Historic Interest: The cast-iron gate posts and associated rail fence at the entrance to Royton Park, which opened in 1911 on the day of George V's coronation.

	Architectural Interest: The symmetrical entrance feature has two large cast-iron gateposts defining a gateway at its centre. To one side of each of these gateposts is a low roughly dressed stone wall with dressed coping stones carrying decorative metal railings. These walls are angled in plan form and terminate with large stone posts in roughly dressed stone and dressed pyramidal coping stones matching the materials and finish of the low wall. The central decorative pair of metal gates matches the design of the railings. Local Interest: The gates were brought from Kent Mill in Chadderton when it was demolished. Aesthetic Value: The entrance gates make a positive contribution to the aesthetic quality and historic character of the streetscape. Group Value: The gates have a group value with Royton Park. Social/Communal Value: The entrance has communal value both in terms of the use of the gates by generations of local people to access the public park but also the commemorative nature of the park itself. Landmark status: The entrance gates to Royton Park are a notable feature of Radcliffe Street.
Score	9

Property Name and Photograph	Angel Inn – HER 18857.1.0 
Property Address	230 Shaw Road, Royton, Oldham, OL2 6DY
Significance	Historic Interest: The original Angel Inn was built in the early 19th century, although the current building appears to be erected between 1894 and 1909 as a replacement. Architectural Interest: A detached, mostly two-storey (plus attic), double-fronted public house. The building is principally of brick construction with a gable roof finished in slate. The architectural detailing is restrained and largely saved for the principal elevation with a timber bracketed eaves detail, continuous stone band, stone window heads mullions and cills and a robust stone entrance surround of pilasters. Local Interest: Isaac Clegg is recorded as the landlord of the Angel Inn in 1824. A Chief Constable's report of 1890 described the inn as in 'good condition' with accommodation for one traveller with

	capacity to provide refreshment other than drink to ten persons. It is thought to have had a bowling green to the rear, although this had gone by 1907. Aesthetic Value: The pub makes a positive contribution to the historic character and aesthetic quality of the area. Social/Communal Value: The public house has served generations of local residents for over a century. Landmark Status: The building occupies a prominent location at the junction of Oldham Road and Shaw Road, two important historic routes.
Score	9