

SAFEGUARDING CULTURAL HERITAGE

– A U.K. CASE STUDY

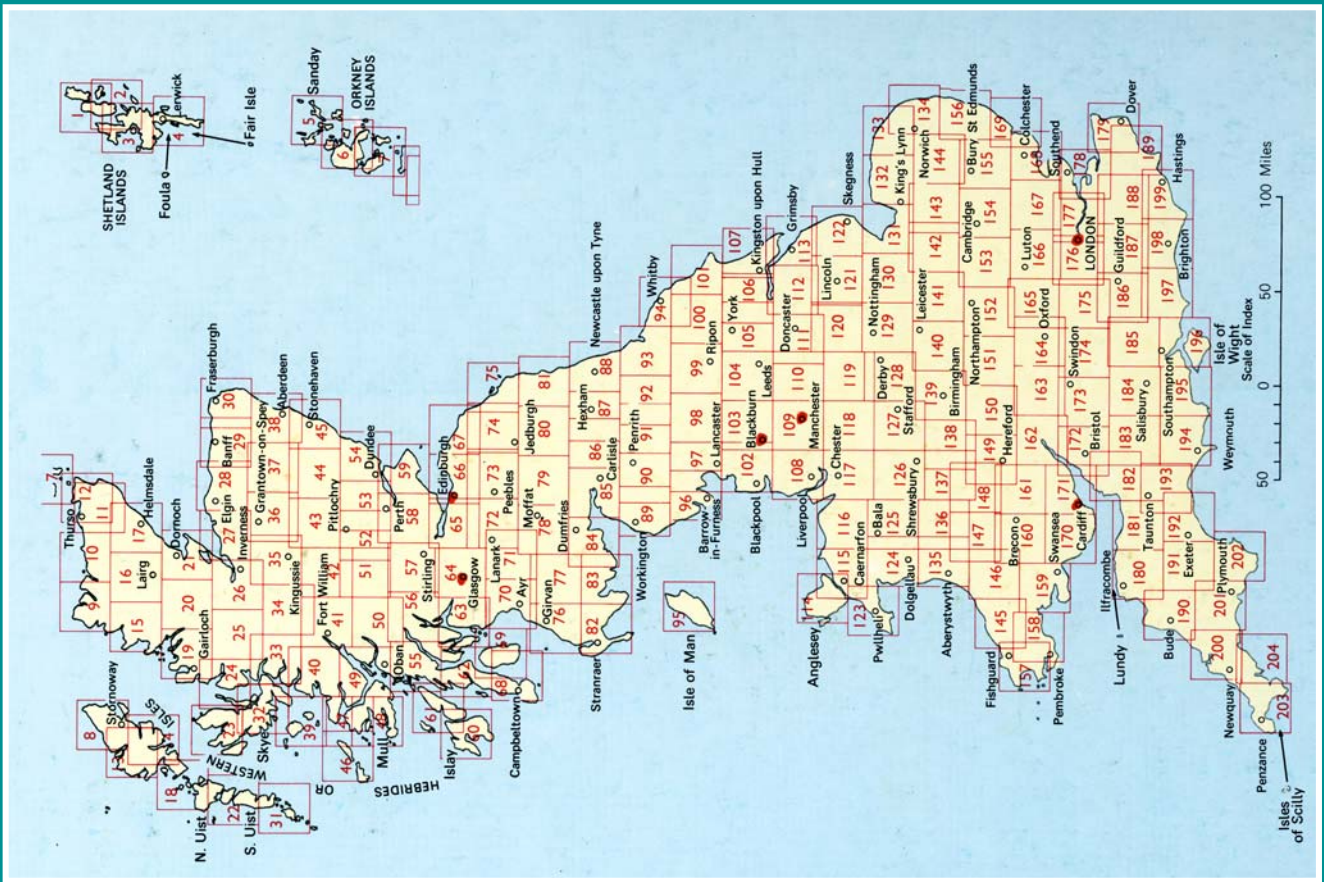
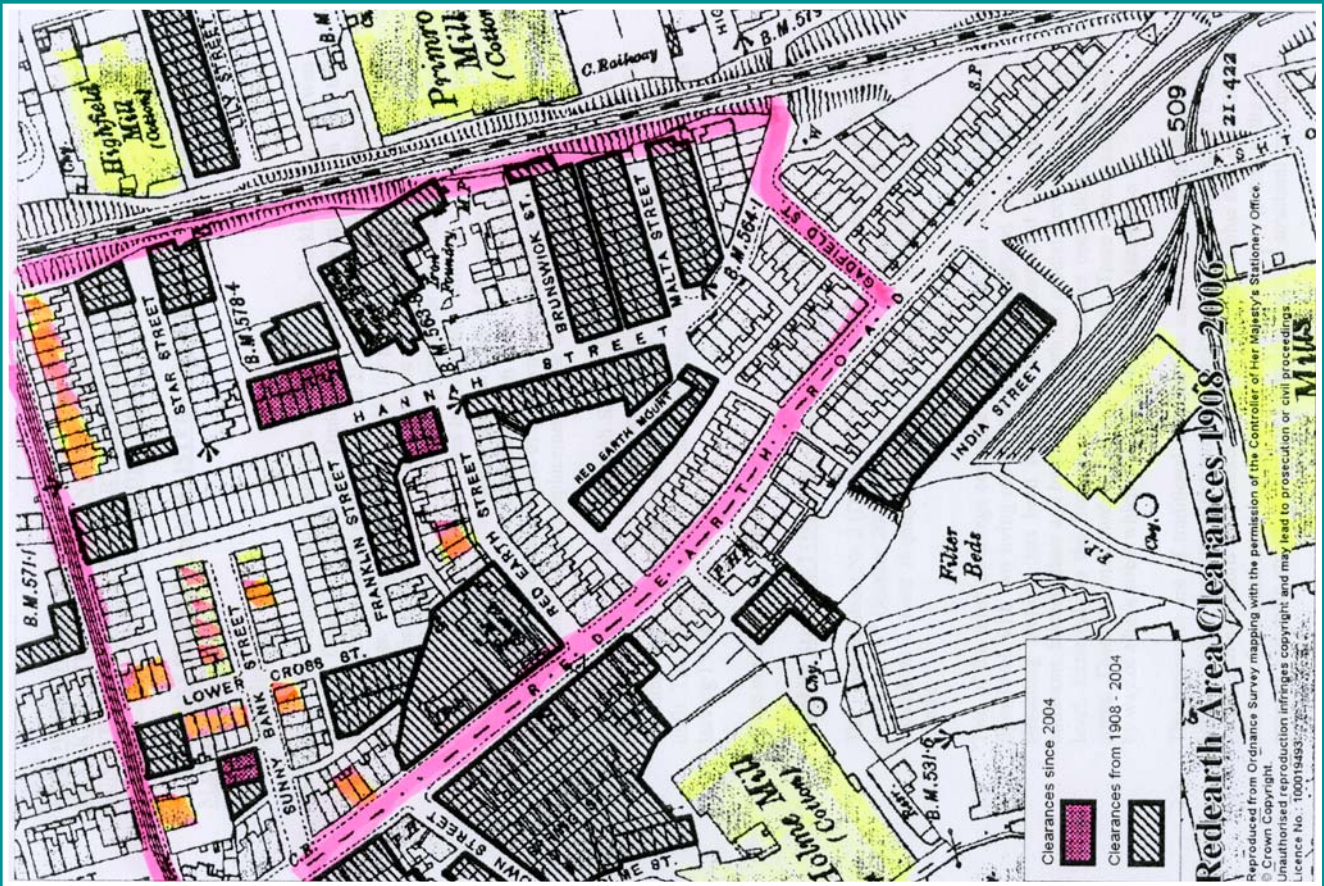
Blackburn with Darwen

**A case study from Darwen, a town to the
north of Manchester in UK.**

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**Retention and Conservation or
Demolition and Modernisation – that
is the question?**

**It is easier to declare property unfit
rather than to compulsory purchase it**

The Redearth Area clearance project
152 domestic dwellings

Blackburn with Darwen

- a town in the countryside



People of Darwen - typically where 152 families lived until 12 months ago





- **The buildings-**
- 150 years old (built circa 1850) - 152 to be cleared
- Dressed natural stone solid walls, dressed stone windows and door surrounds
- Natural slate roofs on traditional timber frameworks
- All renovated in 1960's - new relayed roofs, gutters and rain water goods
 - loft insulation
 - new solid ground floors and damp proofing
 - new drains
 - new plumbing and electrics
- Most properties further improved privately since 1960's



- **The people -**
- **Residents age profile - 90 days to 90 years plus**
- **Some of the oldest residents were bourn in the area**
- **Many young families**
- **Many single people of all ages**
- **Mixed community - no racial problem**

Where they originally worked:-

- India Mill - built 1859
- Biggest cotton mill in the area.
- 300m from the streets
- People walked to work



Old and young mingle in an established community



U.K. domestic property ownership falls primarily into four categories -

- 1) Owner occupied - privately owned houses & flats;**
- 2) Private landlord owned houses and flats let to rent;**
- 3) Local authority owned houses and flats**
- 4) Housing Associations**

19C Mill workers terraced properties -

Advantages -

- **Solidly built & historical value**
- **Compact and can be customised by owners**
- **walking distance of the centre of town**
- **Easy access to shops and other facilities**
- **Properties are cheap - ideal for less well off young couples, the elderly and singles**
- **Long established communities with good social structure**
- **Good community age profile**

Old workers terraced properties -

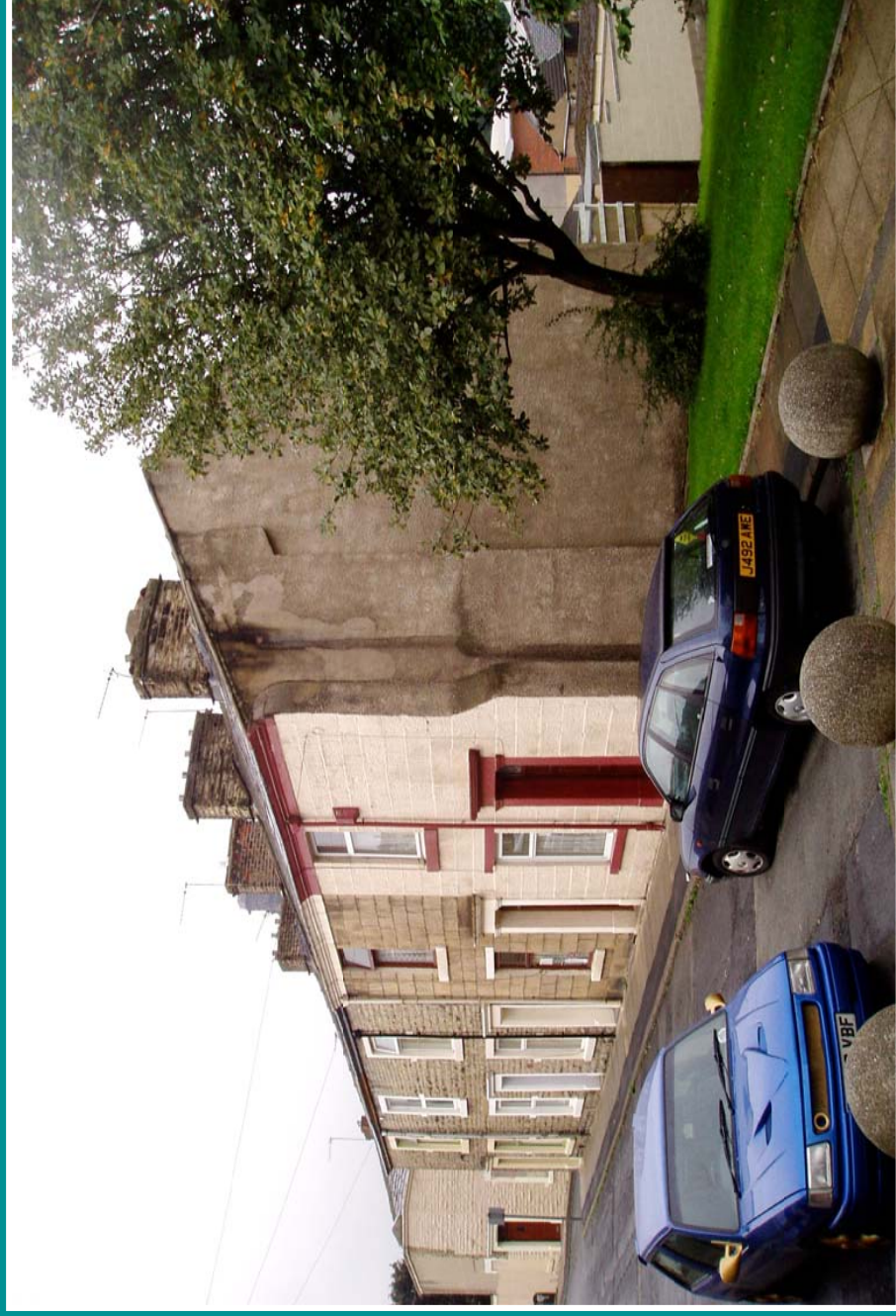
Disadvantages -

- **Streets not designed for car ownership.**
- **Shoppers and business parking**
- **Limited play facilities for children**
- **More than average maintenance required**
- **Older facilities - bathrooms and kitchen**
- **Poor street lighting, road repairs etc.**
- **Economic pressure from commercial interests**

Selective demolition provides green areas



Sympathetic traffic management allows local parking



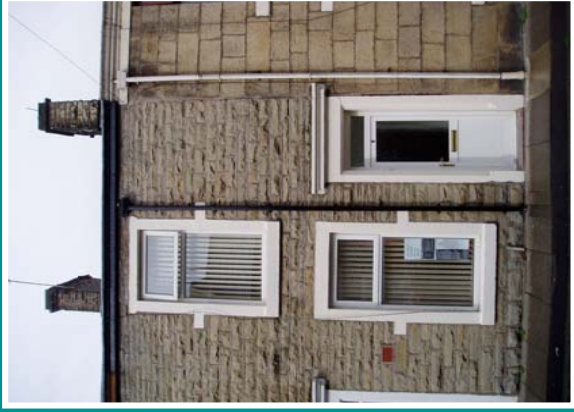
Poor road condition - poor repair by Local Authority



Poor cleaning of public areas at rear of properties by the Local Authority



Proud owners - front doors!



Proud owners - yards backs!



Racial harmony - this was the local corner shop - the Indian owner ran the shop for 25yrs! When he retired he changed his shop to a house because he liked living there.



A hidden gem

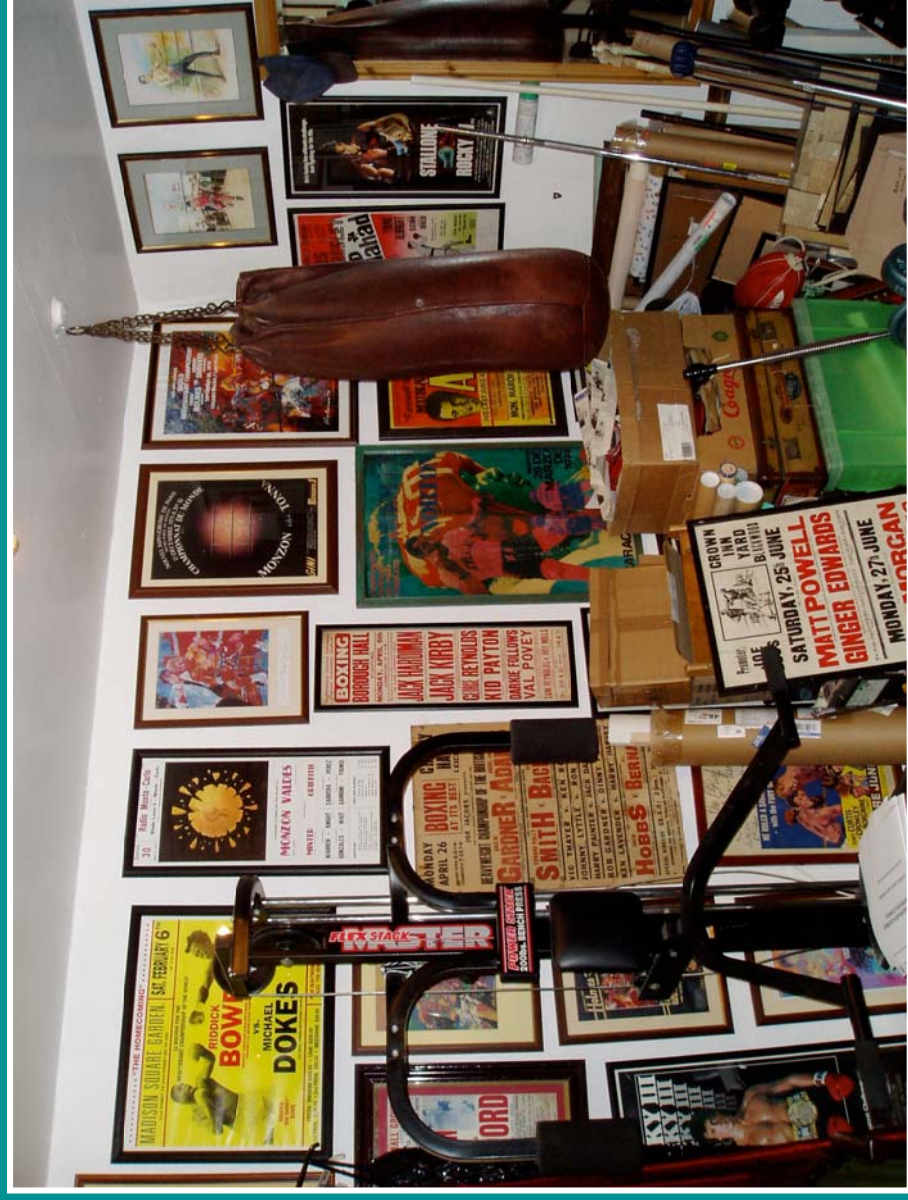


What can be done with real imagination

Mr & Mrs Woods



Mr Woods - A Boxer turned Tattoo Artist



Typical bedroom at the Woods' house



The Woods' kitchen - as good as the very best



High fashion in the Woods' lounge



The Woods' dining room



Remember these proud houses?



What happened to that proud community?



The dirty deed in progress!



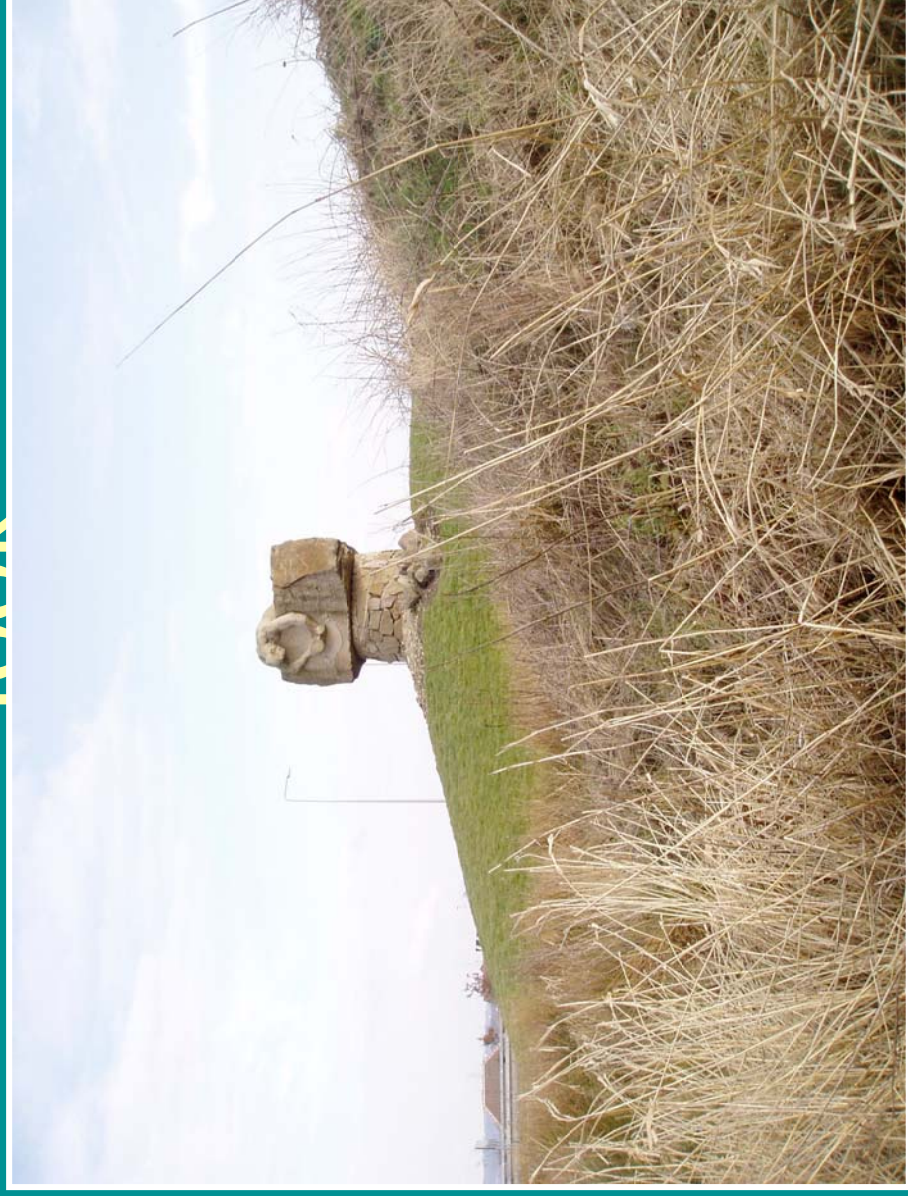
Houses gone - only the lamp-post left



Consequences

- Destroyed community
- Social alienation
- Vandalism
- Criminal activity
- Educational problems
- Family problems
- Loss of heritage
- **No responsibility - only Public Honours for the perpetrators!!**

The monument at the entrance to
the town - let's have a closer
look!



Officials say it's a sculptor working - but some residents
say it's a sacrificial alter
Blackburn without Darwen

