



WILSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2020-2038

Supporting evidence on
Important Views and Vistas



Wilsden Parish Council

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used within this Neighbourhood Plan

CBMDC	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
RUDP	Bradford Revised Unitary Development Plan
SHLAA	Bradford Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide evidence to support the identification of the important views and vistas described in the Wilsden Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England has divided England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history, and cultural and economic activity. The designated area of the Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Yorkshire Southern Pennines Fringe Landscape, of which *the most striking aspect of the landscape is the mingling of predominantly ‘gritstone’ industrial towns and villages with the strong valley forms and pastoral agriculture of the Pennine*

*foothills*¹. The parish boundary is approximately 3.5 km from the South Pennine Special Protection Area.

As part of the development of the CBMDC Local Plan a series of Landscape Character Area Assessments were prepared. The majority of the designated area and described in this document is included within the Wilsden Landscape Character Assessment. A portion of the designated area is covered by the Thornton Landscape Character Assessment.

These studies identified the special nature of the landscape in Wilsden which is described as being *“characterised by a gently rolling, open elongated bowl-shaped valley sloping in a north easterly direction towards the Aire Valley”*².

It also highlighted the following landscape features as being especially important to the Parish and the wider area:

- Rolling, concave plateau landform.
- Improved grasslands extensively farmed and managed.
- Strong field pattern with stone wall boundaries.
- Significant woodland cover including mixed plantations.
- The principal settlement of Wilsden and the hamlets of Harecroft and Hallas Bridge.

This Study also highlighted the strength and importance of this landscape, its sensitivity to change and development, and that development would require careful siting.

The findings of the Study have been reinforced by other reports and studies.

Identification of potential important views and vistas

During the development of the Wilsden Neighbourhood Plan the Steering Group undertook a number of community consultations through both meetings and drop-in sessions and through a questionnaire that was delivered to every household. Through these events it is clear that the panoramic views of the countryside around Wilsden were important to residents. The results of these consultations established that while there were a number of points where residents had favourite views and vistas there were five locations which commanded the panoramic views that were most valued. All these locations were either on the public highway, on a public footpath or bridleway or in a publicly accessible open space such as the Wilsden Recreation Ground. Two of these vantage points commanded more than one panoramic views. The Steering Group carried out a desk top exercise based upon OS maps and site visits to establish the key factors that made these particular viewing points so important.

¹ National Character Area Profile – 37 Yorkshire South Pennine Fringe – Natural England

² Bradford Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document – Vol 9 Wilsden

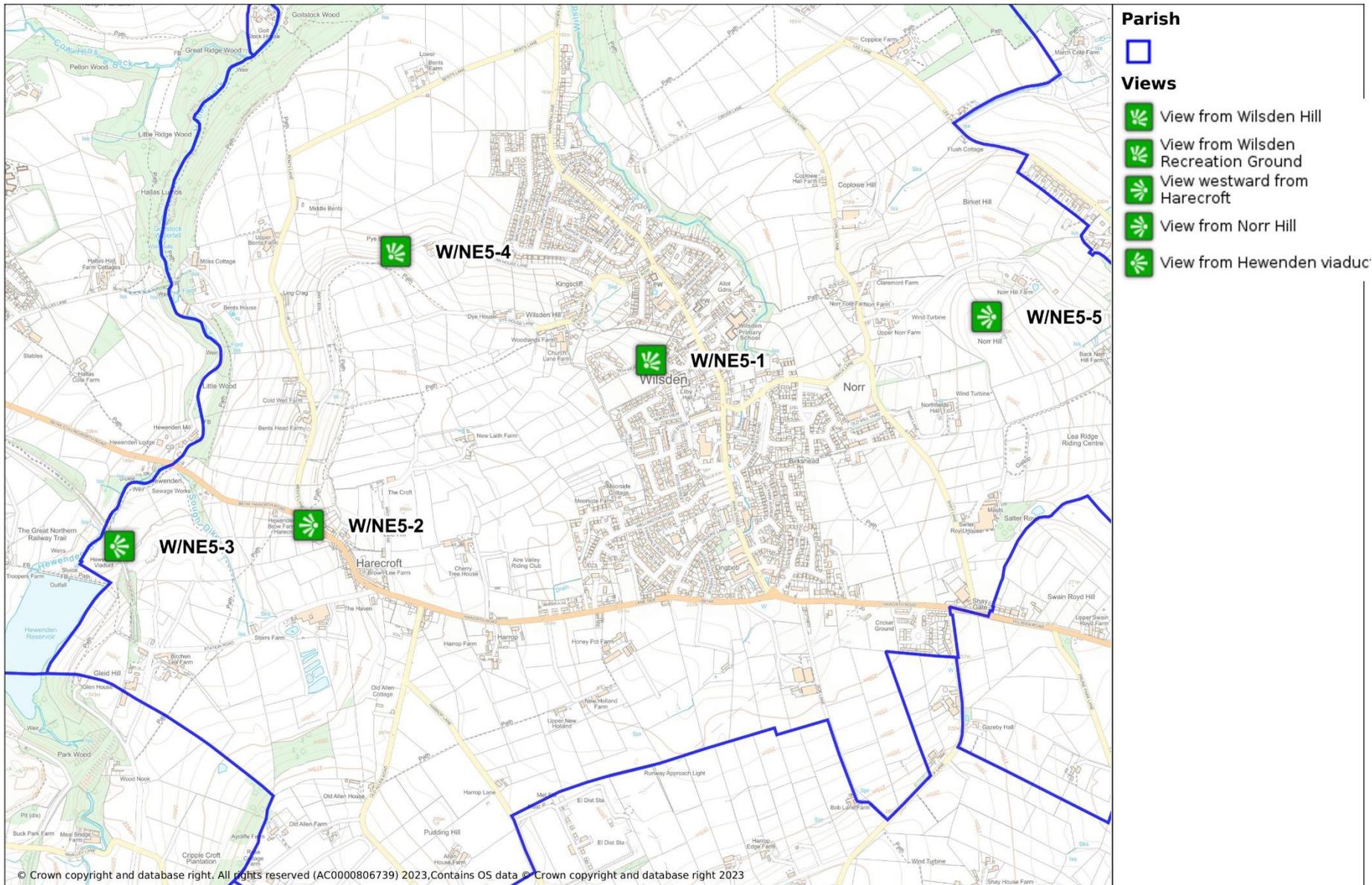
Conclusions

The process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan identified many important views and vistas from, into and across the Parish. These are important to residents and visitors of the Parish, especially those views that punctuate the street scene in the village of Wilsden and/or offer panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. It was clear that the majority of the key characteristics that were felt to be important were those identified in the Wilsden Landscape Character Assessment. It was also clear that views of the Hewenden Viaduct, a listed structure that is an important part of the legacy of the industrial heritage of the area were valued.

The following views have been identified as being especially important:

- The panoramic view from Wilsden Recreation Ground looking east and north that encapsulates the character of the Wilsden area, showing the wooded valleys running up to the Wilsden, Harden and Cullingworth.
- The view southwest from Harecroft towards the Hewenden Viaduct of the wooded incline leading into the wooded valley, which runs across the mixed upland pasture.
- The view northeast from Hewenden Viaduct towards Harecroft shows the quarries where the stone was taken to build the viaduct in the foreground. This illustrates how the settlement merges into the mixed upland pasture and the patchwork of stone walls.
- The views from Wilsden Hill looking north and east show how the settlements are separated by the mixed upland pasture. The view north illustrates the separation between Harden and Wilsden and the dominance of the field pattern in the landscape, where the patchwork of stone walls stands out on the gently sloping terrain. The view east shows the village in the foreground with a mix of more modern housing blending with the core of the Victorian mill village.
- The views from Norr Hill looking north and west show the settlement of the Norr in the foreground with the main village nestling in the valley bottom and settlement of Wilsden Hill in the middle distance. Beyond Wilsden Hill there are views of Cullingworth and the far distance Haworth Moor.

The principal location for these views is illustrated on the map below although the best position can vary for some individual views. For instance, the views from Norr Hill shows different points on the footpath. Detailed assessments for each individual view are given below.



Ref	W/NE5-1
Location	Panoramic view from Wilsden Recreation Ground
Description	From the Wilsden Recreation Ground the views eastward are of the village, the Wilsden beck valley and towards Norr Hill with views of Baildon Moor in the distance. This illustrates the way the village has developed along the valley.



Ref	W/NE5-1
Location	Looking northeast from Wilsden Recreation Ground
Description	From the Wilsden Recreation Ground the views in the foreground are of the important local green space bordered by the Grade 2 listed Walled Footpaths. Beyond this the views are of the village, the Wilsden beck valley and towards Harden and the wooded parkland of the St Ives estate. This illustrates the way the village has developed along the valley.



Ref	W/NE5-1
Location	Looking east from Wilsden Recreation Ground
Description	From the Wilsden Recreation Ground the views eastward are of the village, the Wilsden beck valley and towards Norr Hill and the Norr. This illustrates the way the village has developed along the valley and shows how the Norr, as one of the original agricultural settlements, has retained a separate identity from the main village.



Ref	W/NE5-2
Location	Looking southwest from Harecroft
Description	The view is dominated by the Grade 2 listed Hewenden viaduct that used to carry the Great Northern Railway to Wilsden Station. The viaduct now carries the Great Northern Railway Trail. This shows the wooded valley of Harden Beck and the characteristic field pattern and dry stone walls of the mixed upland pasture.



Ref	W/NE5-3
Location	Looking northeast from the Hewenden viaduct
Description	The view from the Great Northern Railway Trail shows the quarry from which the stone for the Hewenden viaduct was taken in the foreground. This shows how Harecroft fits within the characteristic field pattern and dry stone walls of the mixed upland pasture.



Ref	W/NE5-4
Location	Panoramic views from Wilsden Hill
Description	The panorama from Wilsden Hill shows how the settlement has developed within the characteristic field pattern and dry stone walls of the mixed upland pasture.



Ref	W/NE5-4
Location	Looking north from Wilsden Hill
Description	The north boundary of the village is clearly visible with the open fields towards the Goit Stock woods and Harden Beck emphasising the separation between the settlements of Harden and Wilsden. This again illustrates the mixed upland pasture and dry stone walls that are characteristic of the area and represent a link to the pre Industrial Revolution agricultural heritage. The view is little changed from the time when Charlotte Bronte walked to Wilsden from Haworth through Hallas Bridge and over Wilsden Hill



Ref	W/NE5-4
Location	Looking east from Wilsden Hill
Description	The view east from Wilsden Hill shows the village in the foreground with a mix of more modern housing blending with the traditional housing of the Victorian mill village that is the core of the Wilsden Conservation Area. In the centre of the picture is Providence Mill, now converted into flats, one of the seven former mills that are part of the Conservation Area. Beyond the wooded valley of Wilsden Beck is a view of the characteristic mixed upland pasture and drystone walls rising towards Norr Hill.



Ref	W/NE5-5
Location	Looking west from Norr Hill
Description	This view from the footpath on Norr Hill shows the settlement of the Norr in the foreground with the main village nestling in the valley bottom and the settlement of Wilsden Hill in the middle distance. Beyond Wilsden Hill there are views of Cullingworth and in the far distance Haworth Moors.



Ref	W/NE5-5
Location	Looking northwest from Norr Hill
Description	<p>This view from a different point on the footpath on Norr Hill shows the northerly settlement boundary of Wilsden. The line of trees along Harden Beck which delineate the parish council boundary is clearly visible beyond the open fields towards the Goit Stock woods and Hallas Bridge.</p> <p>In the distance there are views of Cullingworth and Catstones Moor.</p>

