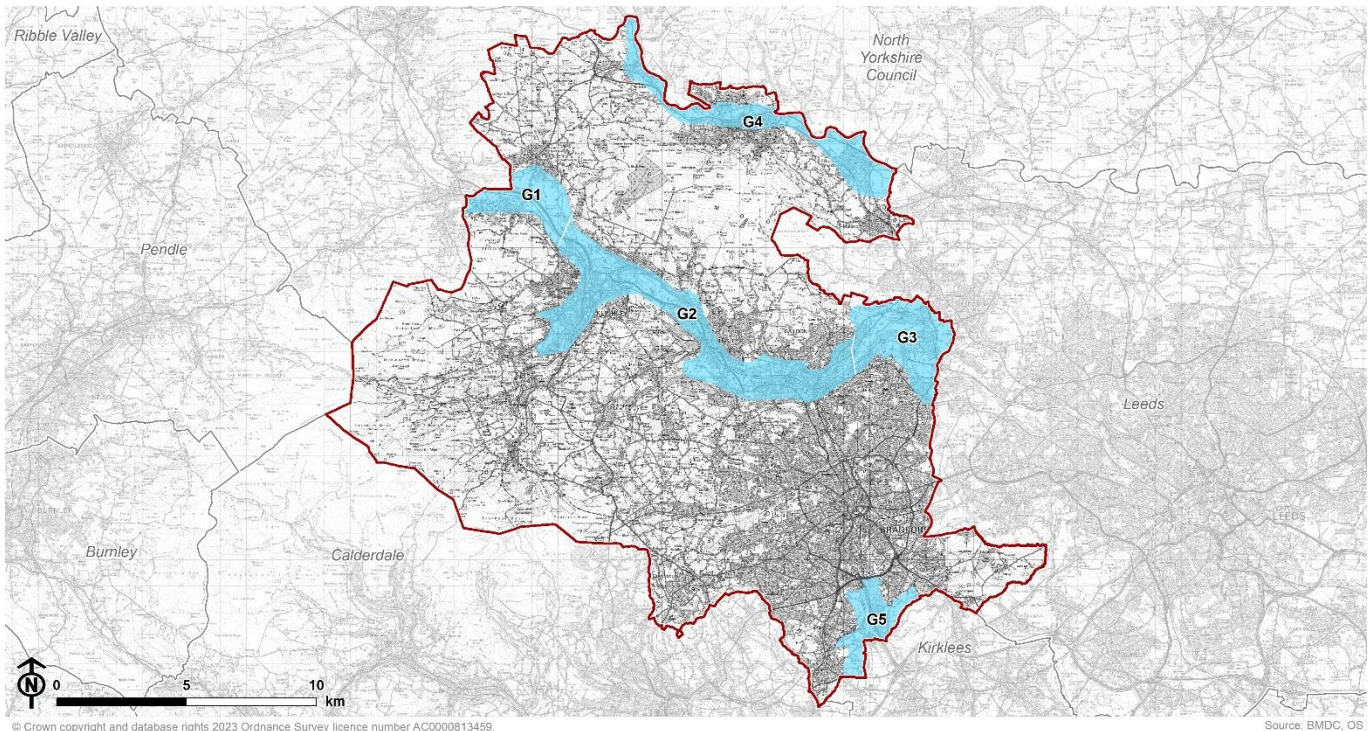


Landscape Character Type G: Settled Valley Floor

Figure 3.135: Location of the Settled Valley Floor



LCT G Overview

The Settled Valley Floor landscape character type consists of the valley floors and gently sloping lower slopes of the low-lying valleys which contain the major rivers of the district – the River Aire and River Wharfe. Primarily extending east-west across the district, the valley floor landscapes are dominated by built up areas in close proximity to the river floodplains. While Airedale is heavily influenced by and connected to its industrial past (presence of mills, chimneys, sewage works and industrial units), Wharfedale contains the spa town of Ilkley and retains a more rural feel. Where the risk of flooding has restricted development, open grazed pastoral fields and wetland habitats play a number of important roles including retaining gaps between settlements and supporting a diversity of habitats and species. Trees are key in defining the meandering watercourses within the landscape and, as well as woodland, provide screening of built development/infrastructure. Transport corridors, including railway lines, the Leeds and Liverpool canal and major roads are prominent linear features on the valley floor.

There are five LCAs within this LCT:

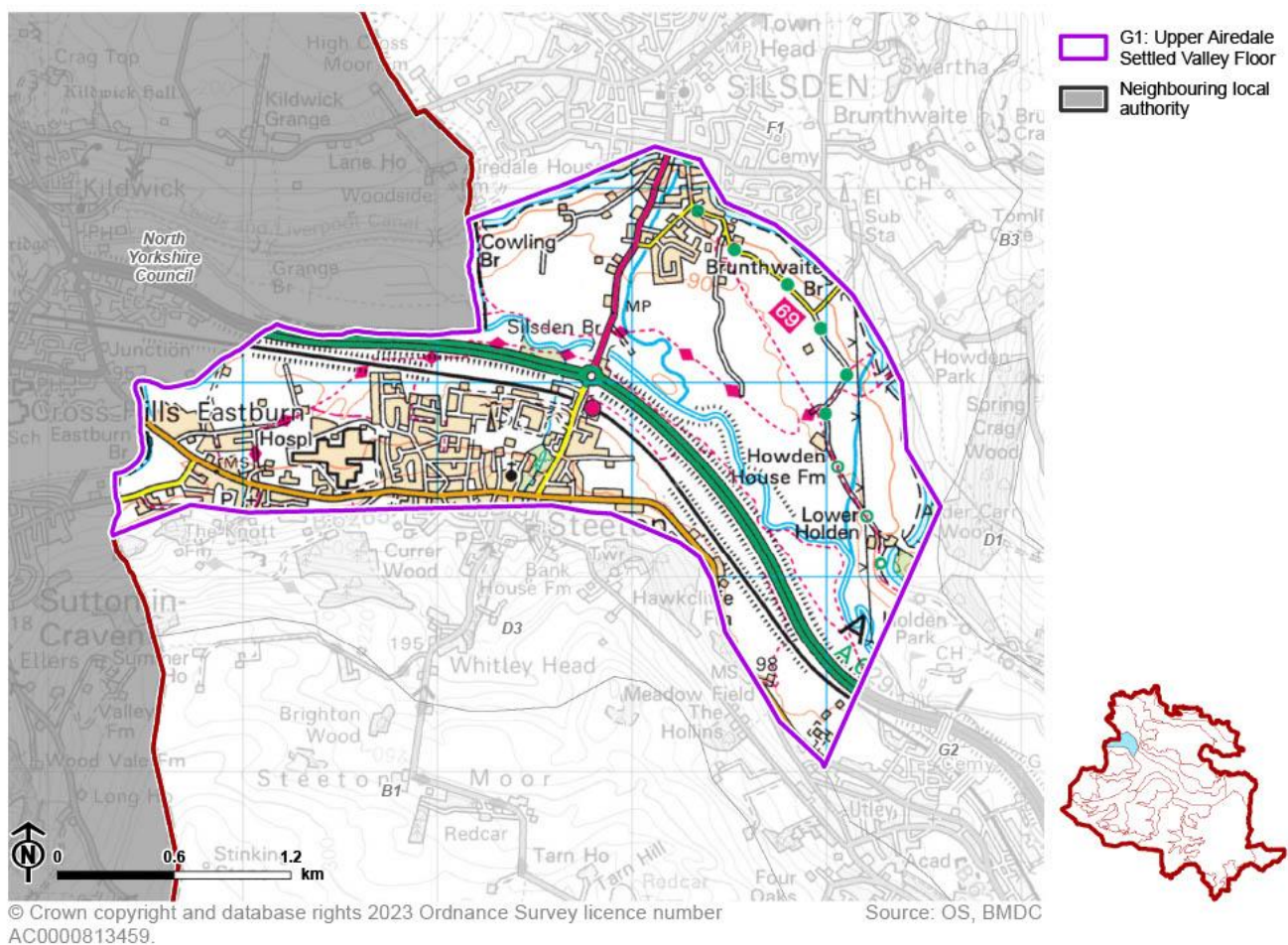
- G1: Upper Airedale Settled Valley Floor
- G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor
- G3: Esholt Settled Valley Floor
- G4: Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor
- G5: South Bradford Settled Valley Floor

G1. Upper Airedale Settled Valley Floor

Location, Context and Summary

The Upper Airedale Settled Valley Floor is located on the north western edge of Bradford District. It includes part of the low-lying valley floor of the Airedale Valley between Silsden and Steeton. Here the valley of the River Aire broadens, comprising a wider undeveloped floodplain which contrasts with the narrower more developed valley floor to the south east (LCA G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor). To the north west Airedale continues into Craven District. The boundaries of this wide area of valley floor are defined to the north and south by the rising landform of the valley sides (LCA F1: Silsden Bowl Rolling Enclosed Pasture and LCA D3: Hollins Bank Steep Valley Sides) where the settlements of Silsden and Steeton are located above the floodplain. To the north and east the boundary of this LCA is also defined by the route of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.

Figure 3.136: Location of LCA G1



Key Characteristics

- An open, wide, flat, expanse of floodplain with valley sides rising gently to the north and south. Carved out by glacial activity and fluvial erosion which cuts through the carboniferous Millstone Grit bedrock geology. Overlain by superficial deposits including alluvial fan deposits and river terrace.
- Dissected by the meandering course of the River Aire with tributaries including Silsden Beck, Holden Beck and Steeton Beck. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal forms the northern boundary of the LCA.
- Floodplain soils are loamy and naturally wet. Further from the river and towards settlements soils become more acidic.
- A simple, open, pastoral floodplain landscape retaining piecemeal enclosure with small to medium regular and irregular fields bounded by hedgerows and some larger regular fields of later enclosure bounded by drystone walls.
- The floodplain is identified as part of the coastal and floodplain grazing marsh priority habitat, with ditches especially rich in plants and invertebrates.
- Trees and waterside vegetation define the meandering course of the River Aire and its tributaries. Trees also occur frequently along field boundaries and occasionally in fields.
- The pastoral floodplain landscape, grazed for many centuries, provides historic continuity. The Leeds and Liverpool Canal provides a reminder of the area's industrial past.
- Linear features of the A629 and railway line dissect the valley floor and the valley contains some large industrial units on settlement edges.
- Important views across the open valley floor between settlements located above the floodplain, and from the valley floor across open and wooded valley sides.

Figure 3.137: Example photos from LCA G1



Gently rising valley slopes retain occasional views across industrial features set within the valley floor.



Pastoral floodplains along the River Aire.



Grazed floodplains retain strong visual connections to surrounding upland moors.



Cricket ground at Steeton enclosed by wooded slopes.



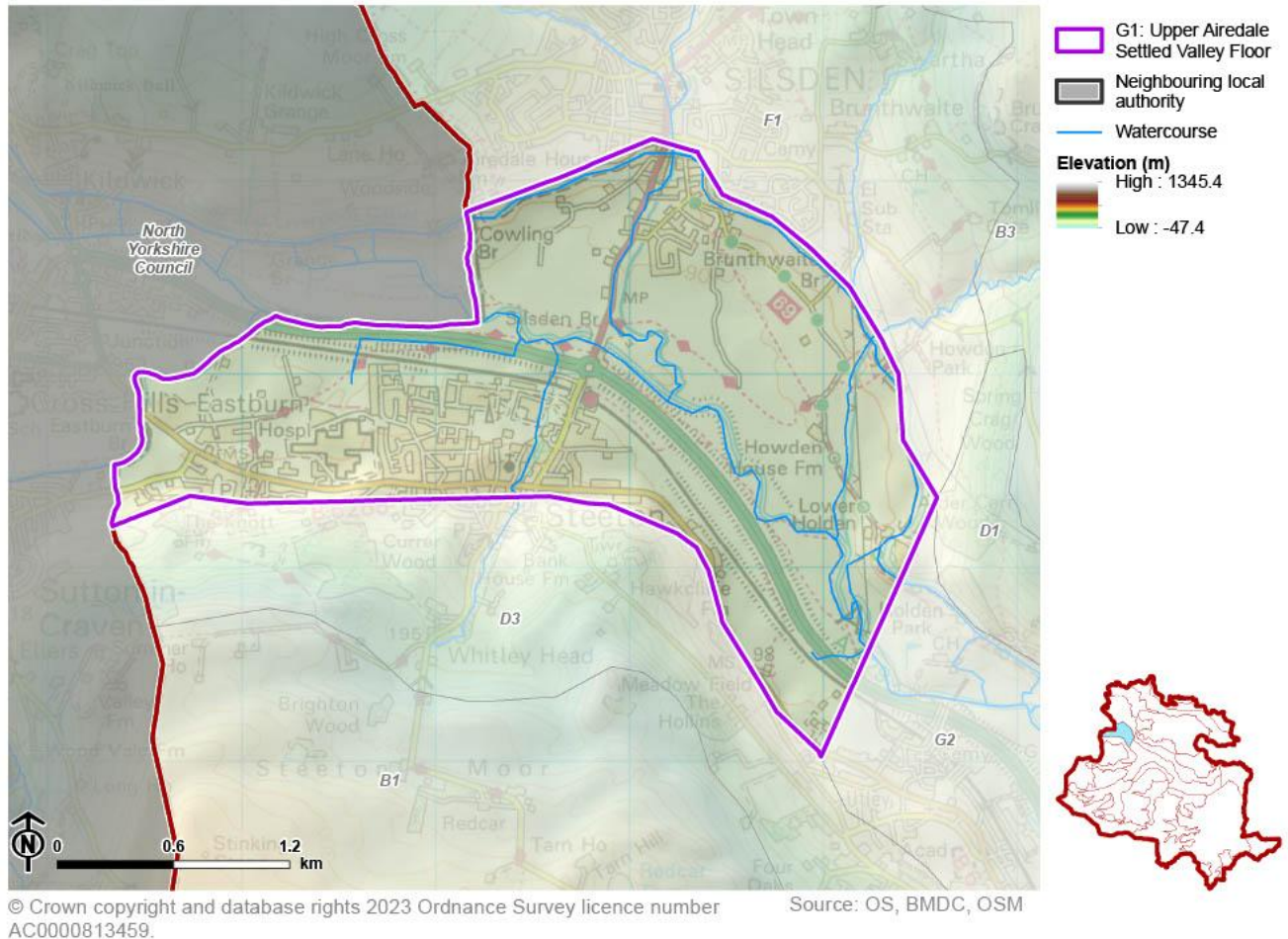
The River Aire as seen from the promoted Millennium Way.



The River Aire is bounded by woodland and riparian vegetation as it moves through pastoral fields.

Landscape Character

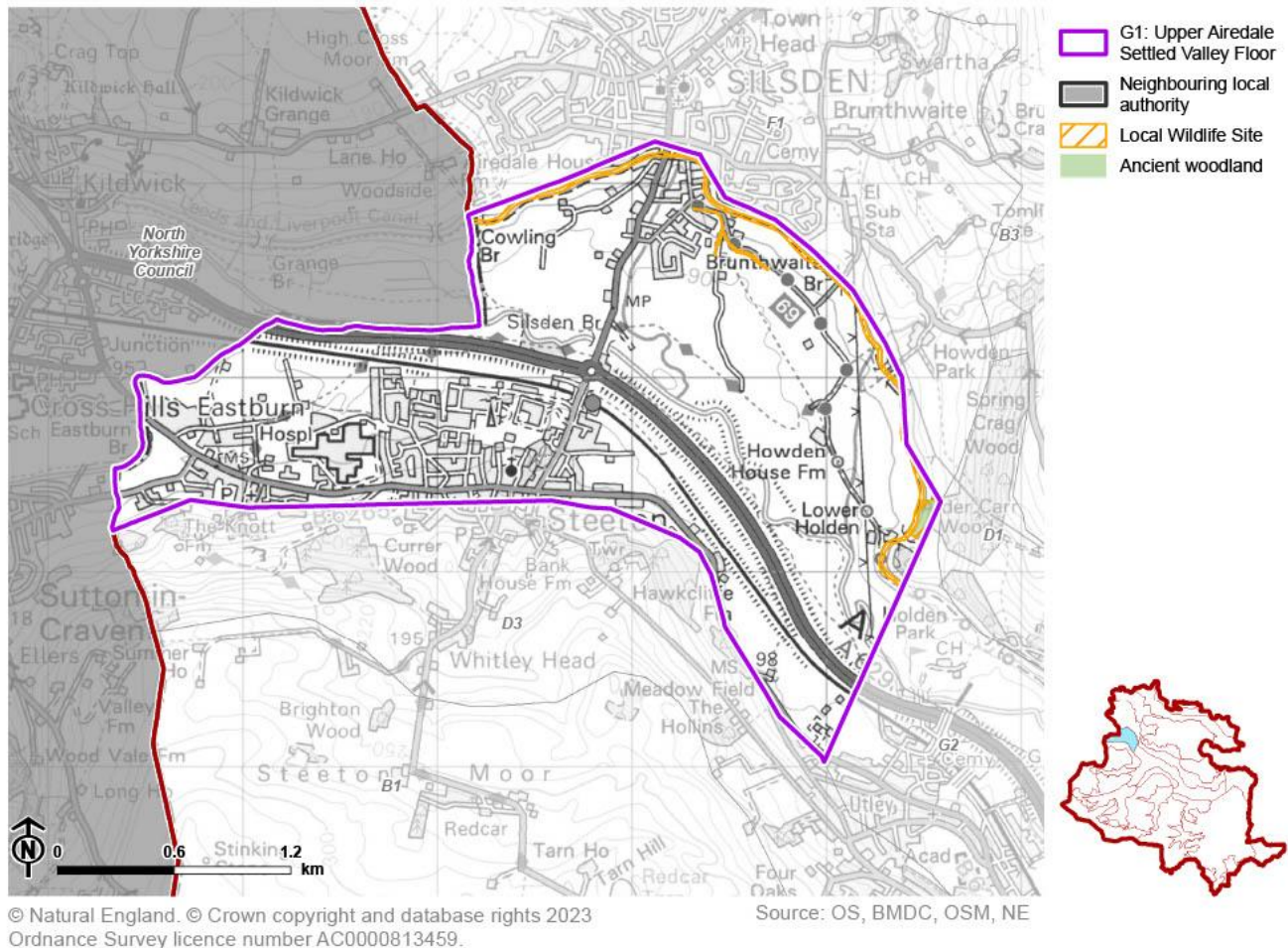
Figure 3.138: Topography of LCA G1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- Predominantly a bedrock geology of Millstone Grit (mudstones, siltstones and sandstones) overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, sand and gravel) and alluvial fan deposits (sand and gravel). Further from the River Aire and floodplain pockets of sandstone occur overlain by river terrace deposits and till.
- Loamy and clayey floodplain soils either side of the River Aire are of moderate fertility and naturally wet. Further from the river, towards settlements soils become more acidic with impeded drainage and low fertility.
- The valley is dissected by the meandering course of the River Aire with tributaries including Silsden Beck, Holden Beck and Steeton Beck. A number of ditches, springs and wells are found particularly in the east of the area.
- Expanse of flat valley floor lies at 90m AOD, rising gently to 100m AOD towards the settlements of Silsden and Steeton.

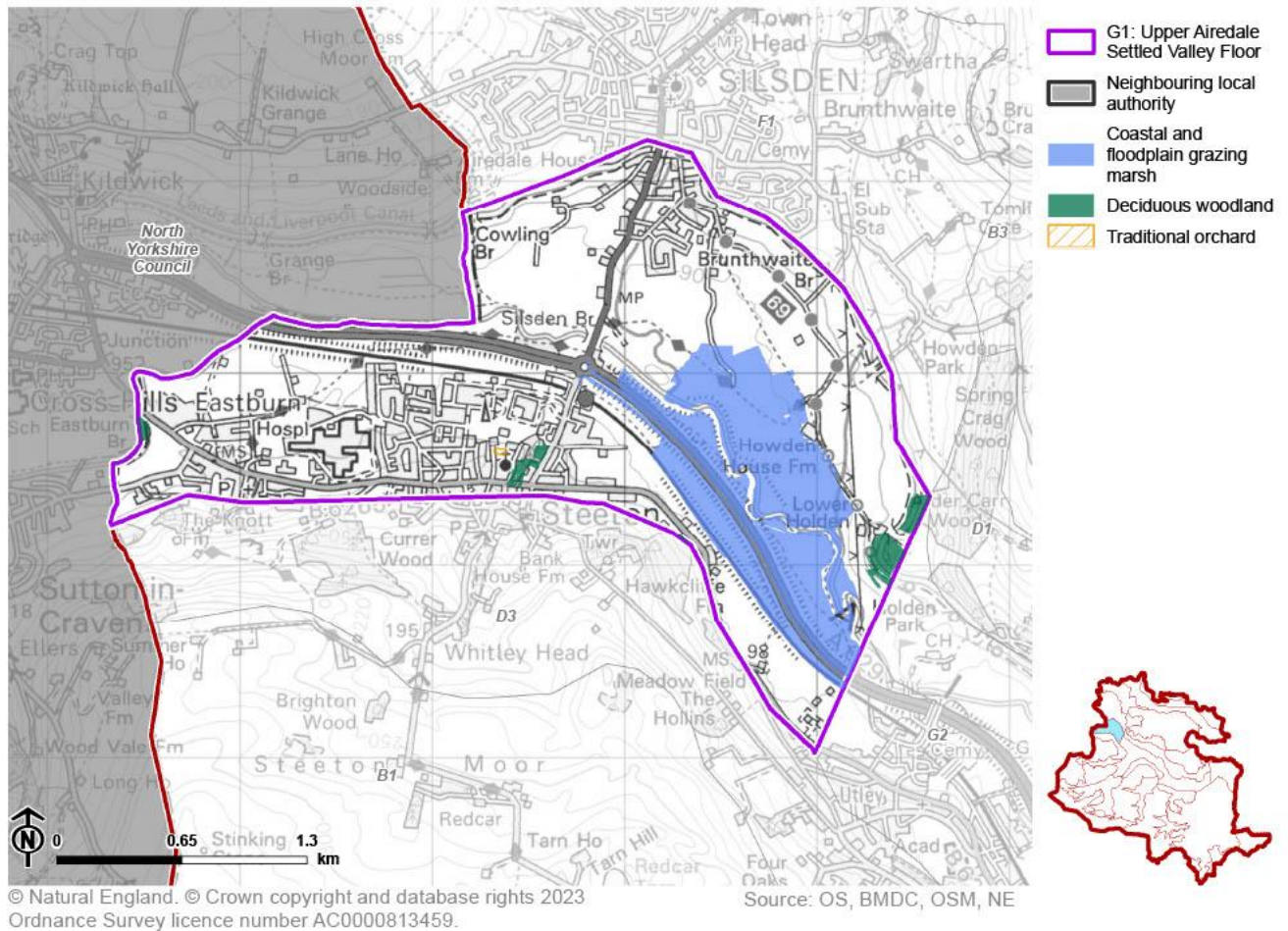
Figure 3.139: Natural heritage of LCA G1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Trees and waterside vegetation define the meandering course of the River Aire and its tributaries. Trees also occur frequently along field boundaries (defined by walls as well as hedges) and occasionally in fields. There are no areas of significant woodland. Some fields of orchard planting occur alongside the River Aire.
- Tree planting along the A629 provides some screening of this transport corridor and of industrial sheds on the edge of Steeton. Lombardy poplars are distinctive vertical elements.
- The floodplain is identified as part of the coastal and floodplain grazing marsh priority habitat, consisting of periodically inundated grazed pasture or meadow with ditches to maintain water levels. The ditches are especially rich in plants and invertebrates, although they contain no ecological or wildlife designations.
- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal which defines the northern extent of the LCA is designated as a local wildlife site.
- Also known as the washlands, the areas of land adjacent to the River Aire are prone to flooding. They are a natural store for water and essential to the management of the flood risk of the River Aire. Known locally as 'ings', an old Viking word that means damp or marshy land (e.g. Steeton Ings and Silsden Ings).

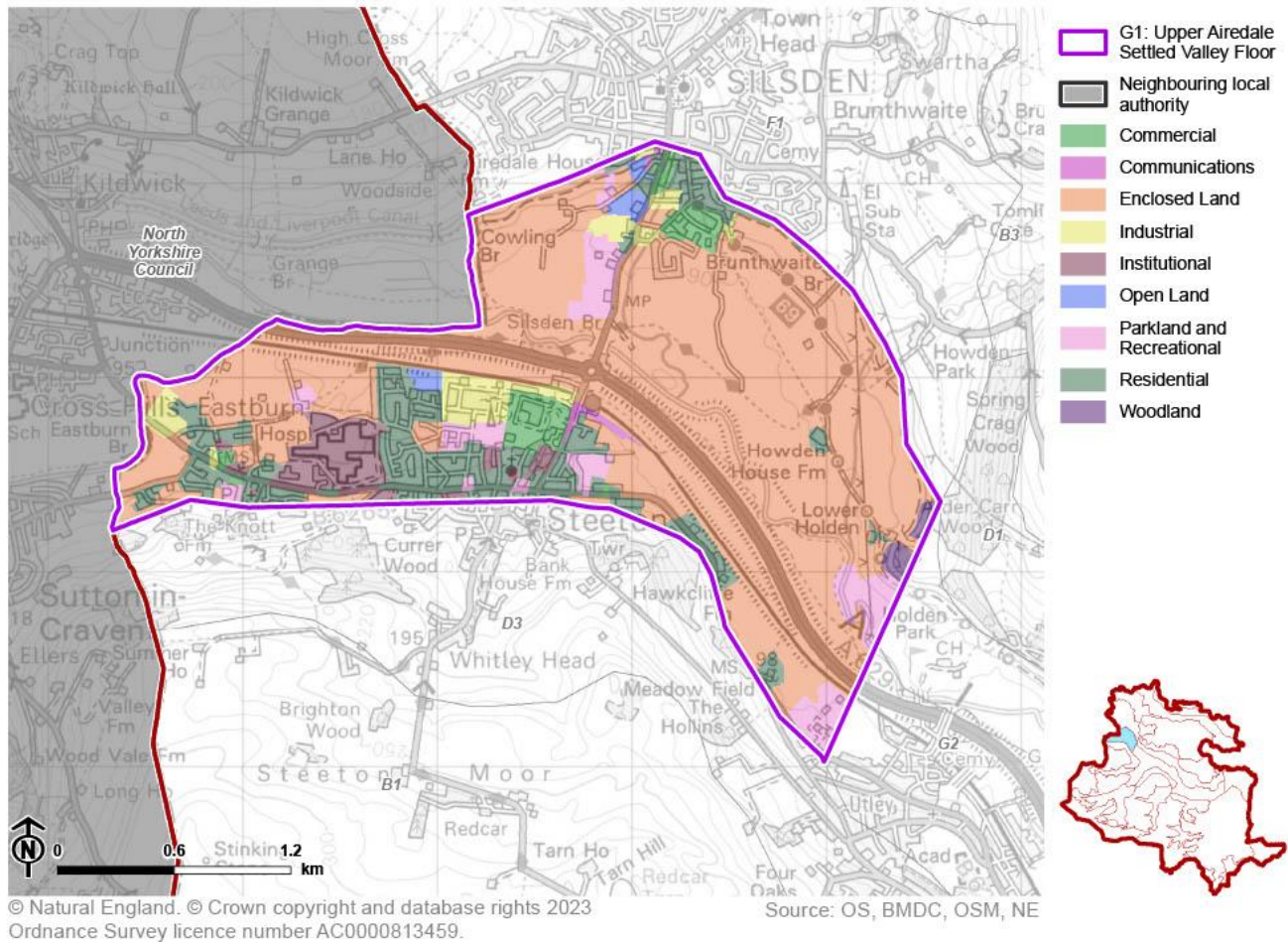
Figure 3.140: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G1



Land Use and Field Patterns

- The valley floor is dominated by grazed semi/improved grassland (with some areas of scattered scrub). A pastoral landscape has been retained due to the wet nature of the floodplain which is not suitable for arable production or development.
- Fields are small to medium in size with regular and semi-regular boundaries, bounded by hedgerows and stone/drystone walls. Known as piecemeal enclosure fields, this field pattern developed organically as enclosure occurred.
- Areas of medium-large sized pasture regular shaped fields with straight drystone walled boundaries occur alongside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and on the southern edge of Silsden. These replaced piecemeal enclosure and commons in the 18th and 19th century.

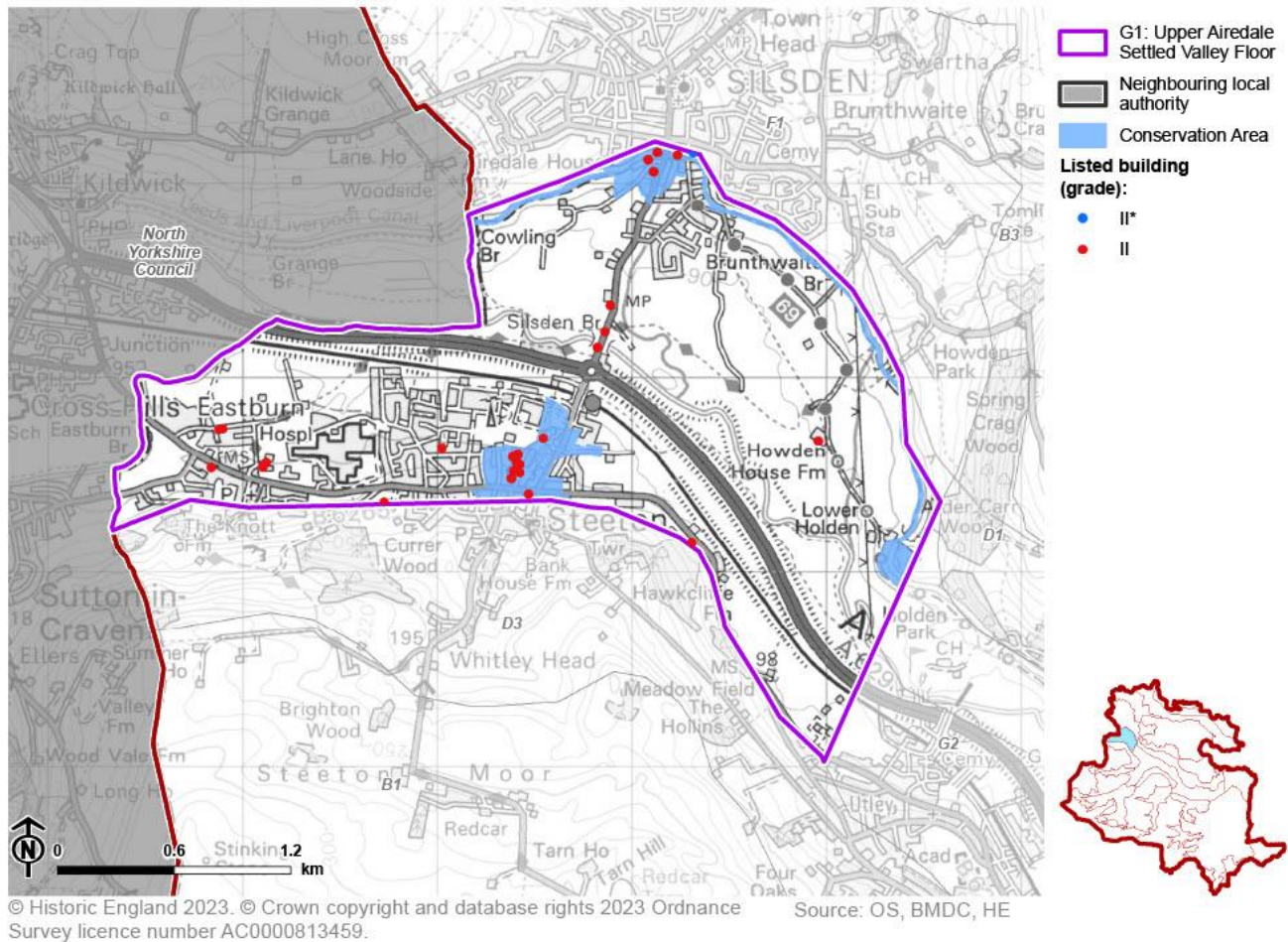
Figure 3.141: Historic landscape classification of LCA G1



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The floodplain which has been grazed for many centuries provides historic continuity.
- The field patterns relate to different periods of history with smaller and more irregular fields suggesting piecemeal enclosure (potentially occurring during the prehistoric period, though mostly given a medieval or post medieval date) showing organic development as land was enclosed. Fields with very straight edges were established later in the 18th and 19th century.
- The local geology is evident in building materials including drystone walls and local vernacular architecture. The historic cores of Steeton and Silsden are both conservation areas and contain a number of listed buildings.
- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal provides a reminder of the area's industrial past, built in the late 1700s and used to transport raw material (limestone and coal) and manufactured goods (textiles). A number of listed buildings within the LCA relate to the canal (e.g. canal warehouses on the edge of Silsden).

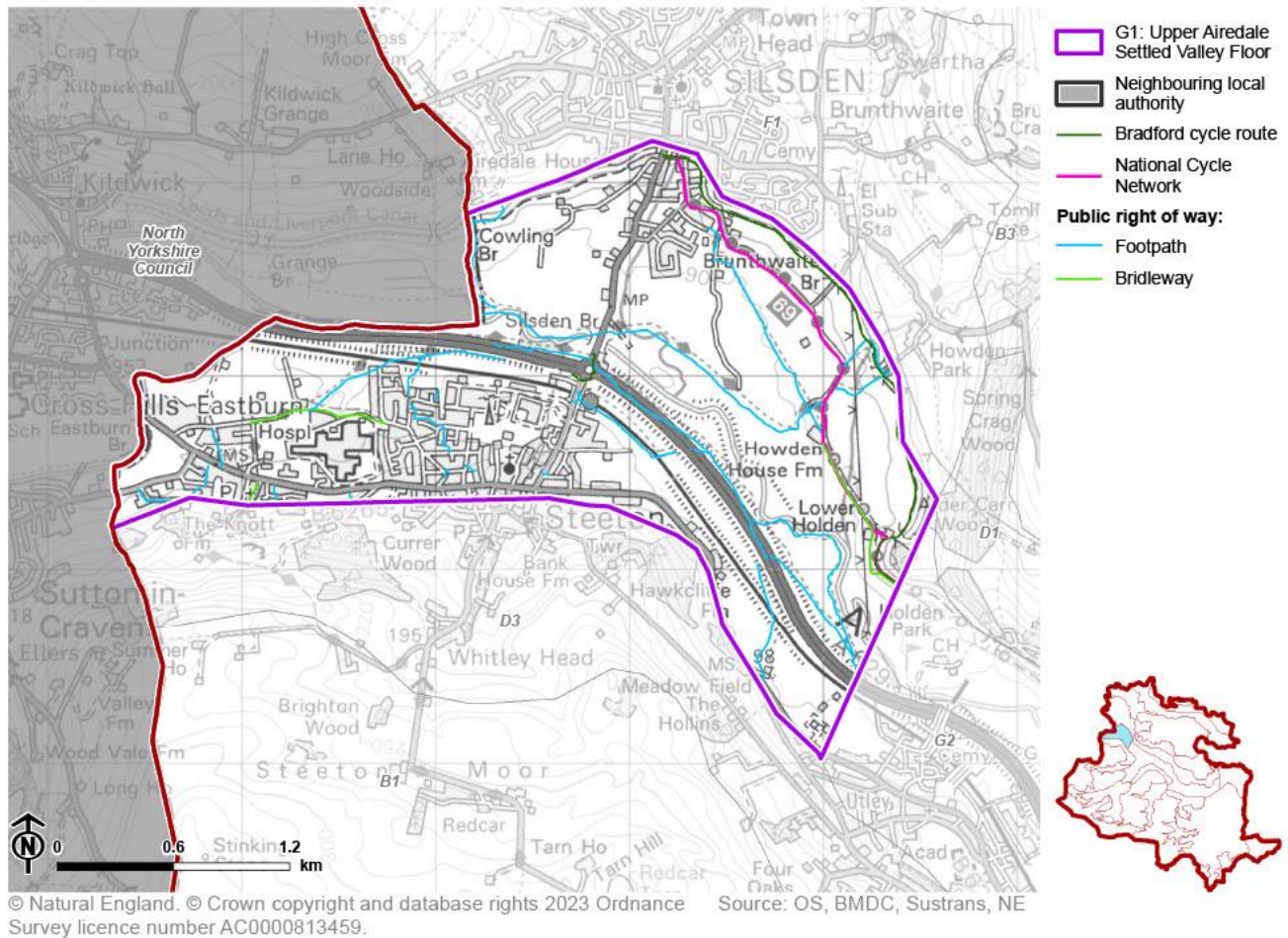
Figure 3.142: Cultural heritage of LCA G1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlement is concentrated to the north (Silsden) and south (Steeton) of the LCA where the land gently rises above the floodplain and spreads up the steeper valley sides. The growth and development of Steeton village and Silsden town centred around the construction of the canal in the late 1700s and the arrival of the textile industry.
- The risk of flooding had deemed much of the areas unsuitable for building. With the exception of occasional farmstead buildings, the valley floor is open farmland.
- The A629 transport corridor is visible stretching across the floodplain. Parallel to the A629, the Skipton to Keighley railway line passes close in to the valley side along the southern edge of the pastures.
- Airedale General Hospital is a landmark building on the edge of Steeton.
- Modern housing and factory units in non-traditional materials are found on the southern edge of Silsden and to a greater extent around Steeton.

Figure 3.143: Access and recreation of LCA G1



Access and Recreation

- The LCA is crossed by a number of public rights of way which connect to the Millennium Way long distance walking route which crosses the area east to west.
- The National Cycle Network Route 69 runs alongside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
- Recreational activities associated with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Aire include boating, wildlife watching, walking and cycling.
- There is a golf driving range and sports fields on the edge of Silsden.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

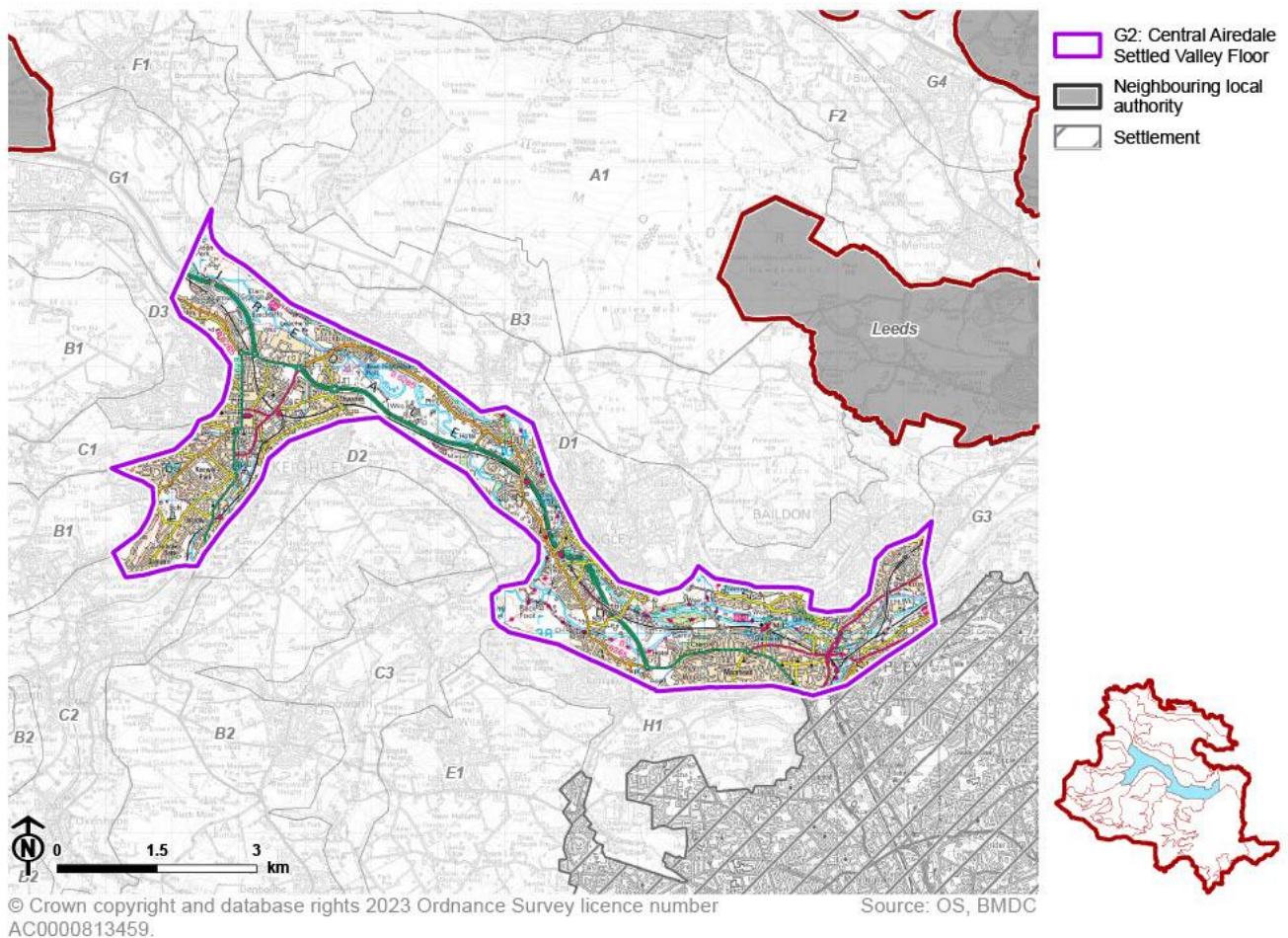
- From the flat, open valley floor there are views of rolling hills and up both gentle and more steeply sloping valley sides. These farmed and wooded slopes and tops provide a backdrop to the floodplain landscape providing a sense of containment.
- The area is divided by the A629 and the railway line. Noise from the transit corridor and the settlements is apparent throughout the landscape.
- Frequent open views from the settlements across the pastoral landscape, to rising slopes beyond.
- The pastoral qualities and views from within and along the floodplain pastures provide a sense of tranquillity, particularly in the east of the LCA, although human influence is still apparent.

G2. Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor

Location, Context and Summary

The Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor comprises a section of the low-lying valley floor of Airedale, including the settlements of Keighley and Shipley (on the edge of Bradford) and the lower settled part of the Worth Valley. The River Worth is a tributary of the River Aire and the Worth Valley joins Airedale in Keighley. The valley floor narrows in this LCA and is dominated by residential and industrial use distinguishing it from the wider, less developed valley floor to the north west (LCA G1: Upper Airedale Settled Valley Floor) and east (LCA G3: Esholt Settled Valley Floor). The boundaries of the valley floor are predominantly defined to the north east and south by the rising landform of the Steep Valley Sides (LCA D1: Baildon Steep Valley Sides, D2. Thwaites Brow Steep Valley Sides and D3. Hollins Bank Steep Valley Sides) which contain it. The River Aire and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal pass through the area and have played an important role in the industrial development of the valley.

Figure 3.144: Location of LCA G2



Key Characteristics

- Relatively narrow, settled section of the River Aire valley floor between Keighley and Shipley. Contained by the rising landform of the Airedale Valley, carved out by glacial activity and fluvial erosion.
- The meandering course of the River Aire is joined by the River Worth at Keighley and also fed by a number of streams (e.g. Harden Beck at Bingley). Waterways have shaped the type and location of development in this landscape.
- Dominated by settlement (Keighley, Bingley and Shipley) and industry which sprawls along the valley floor. Pockets of open pastoral fields remain sandwiched between housing, woodland and industry, and play an important role in retaining limited separation between settlements.
- A major transport corridor containing road, rail, river and canal routes which, along with the valley landform, have contributed to the industrialisation and development of Airedale.
- Pockets of deciduous woodland occur occasionally through the area, generally relating to the watercourses, residential areas and transport corridors where they often perform a screening function.
- A number of isolated areas of wetland habitat are designated as local wildlife sites or SSSI (e.g. Bingley South Bog SSSI).
- Presence of the renowned Saltaire World Heritage Site (including Salts Mill) which evokes strong connections to the past importance of the textile industry in this area and has a strong sense of time depth.
- A number of historic buildings, parks and gardens as well as built features including tall chimneys, viaducts, mills and locks provide focal points and historic connections.
- Artistic and literary connections with artwork by David Hockney exhibited at Salts Mill.
- Views out to the open valley sides and tops and channelled along watercourses providing respite from the busy often enclosed valley floor.

Figure 3.145: Example photos from LCA G2



Salts Mill within Saltaire World Heritage Site, backdropped by landform.



Mix of woodland, development and grazed fields on the valley floor.



Drystone walls and pasture in the floodplain and between settlement.



Victoria Road, Saltaire World Heritage Site.



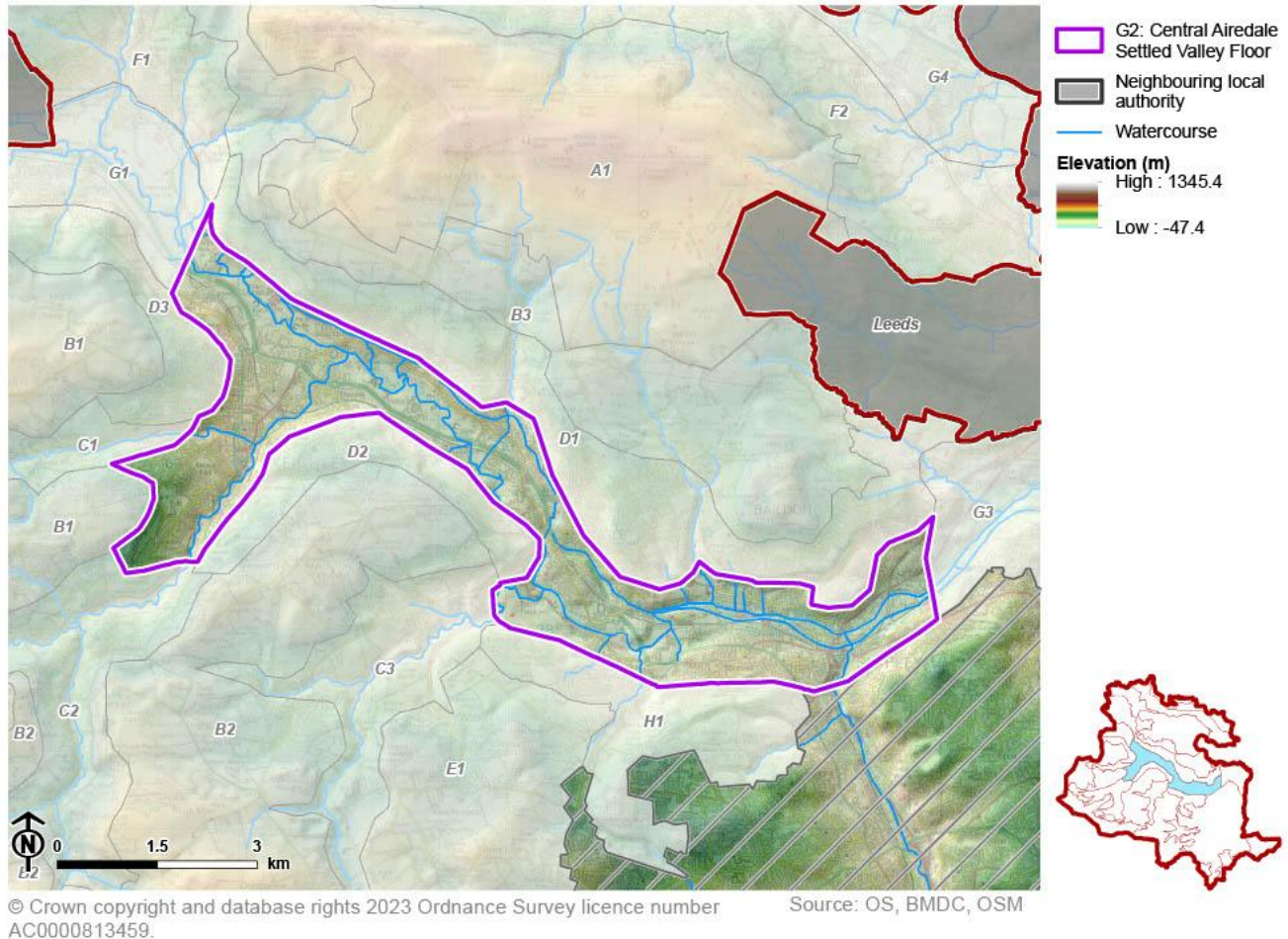
Industrial sandstone vernacular on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.



Modern industrial development within the floodplain.

Landscape Character

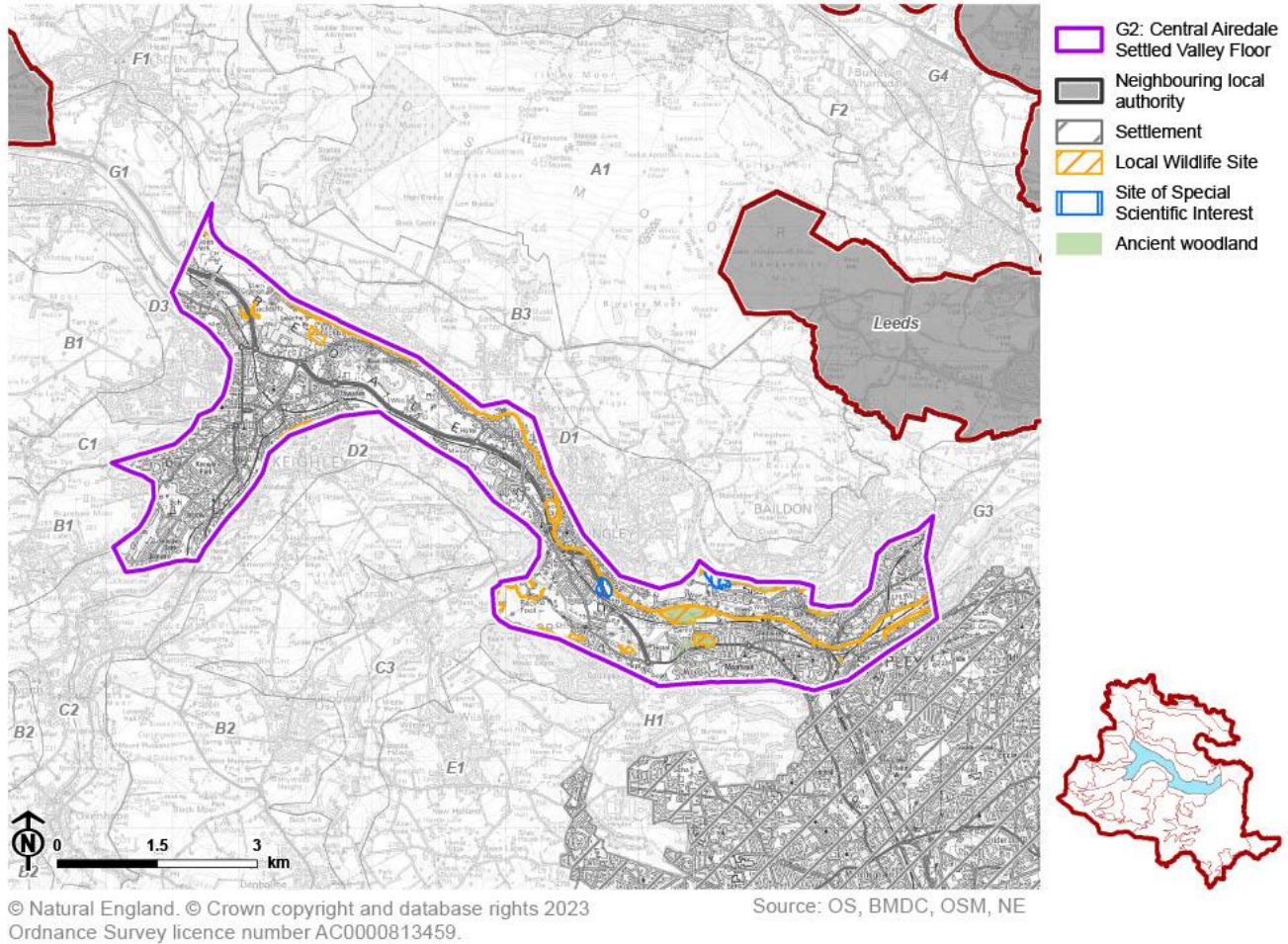
Figure 3.146: Topography of LCA G2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- Predominantly a bedrock geology of Millstone Grit (mudstones, siltstones and sandstones) overlain by a variety of superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, sand and gravel), alluvial fan deposits (sand and gravel) and till.
- Loamy and clayey floodplain soils either side of the River Aire are of moderate fertility and naturally wet due to high groundwater. Further from the River, where land is settled, soils become more acidic either freely draining or with impeded drainage and of lower fertility. Peat is present in isolated patches within poorly drained enclosed hollows such as Bingley South Bog.
- The meandering course of the River Aire and the straighter line of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal run along the valley floor. The River Aire is joined at Keighley by the River Worth and by a number of becks along its course (e.g. Harden Beck). Springs, ditches, ponds and weirs are features of the landscape.
- At the confluence of the Aire and Worth Valleys a gentle sloping alluvium fan raised above the level of the floodplain provides the location for the growth and spread of the town of Keighley.
- The relatively narrow valley floor lies at 70m AOD to 85m AOD, rising gently to meet the steep valley sides which contain it.

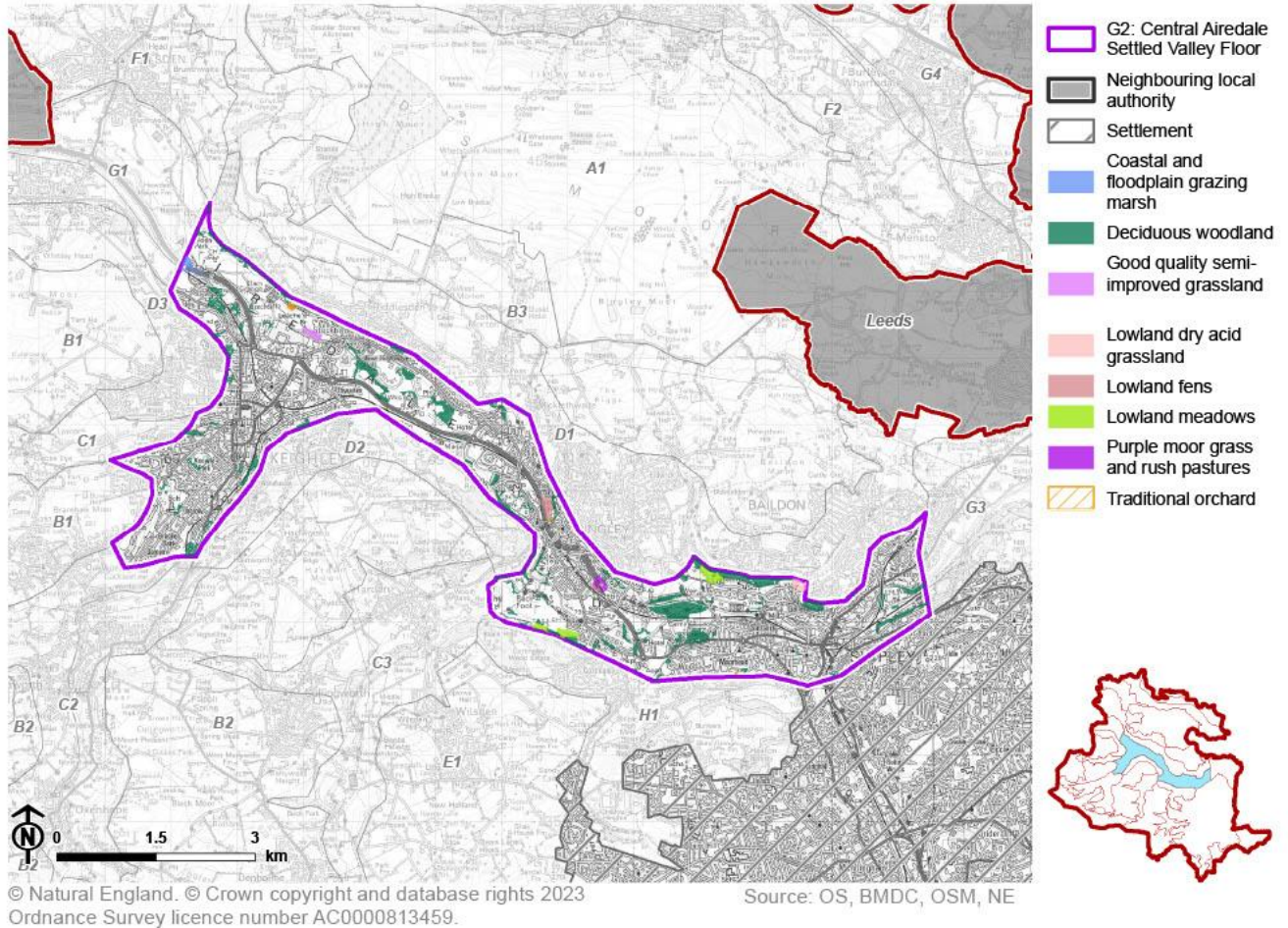
Figure 3.147: Natural heritage of LCA G2



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Trees and waterside vegetation define the meandering course of the River Aire and its tributaries. Strips and pockets of deciduous woodland occur throughout the area, some of which are local wildlife sites such as Fairbank Wood. In places strips of woodland screen views of industrial areas and transport corridors.
- Hirst Wood and woodland on the slopes below Nab Wood are identified as areas of Ancient Woodland.
- There are a range of small, fragmented patches of wetland priority habitat within the floodplain, including areas of floodplain grazing marsh, lowland fens and purple moor grass and rush pasture. Areas of open, functional floodplain are rich in plants and invertebrates.
- A number of wetland habitats are designated as local wildlife sites including Bingley North Bog, Bingley South Bog (also a SSSI), the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Stockbridge Nature Reserve and Beechcliffe Ings.
- Remnant fields of grazed semi/improved grassland, with some areas of marshy grassland and scattered scrub, occur alongside the River Aire and River Worth on undeveloped floodplain land.

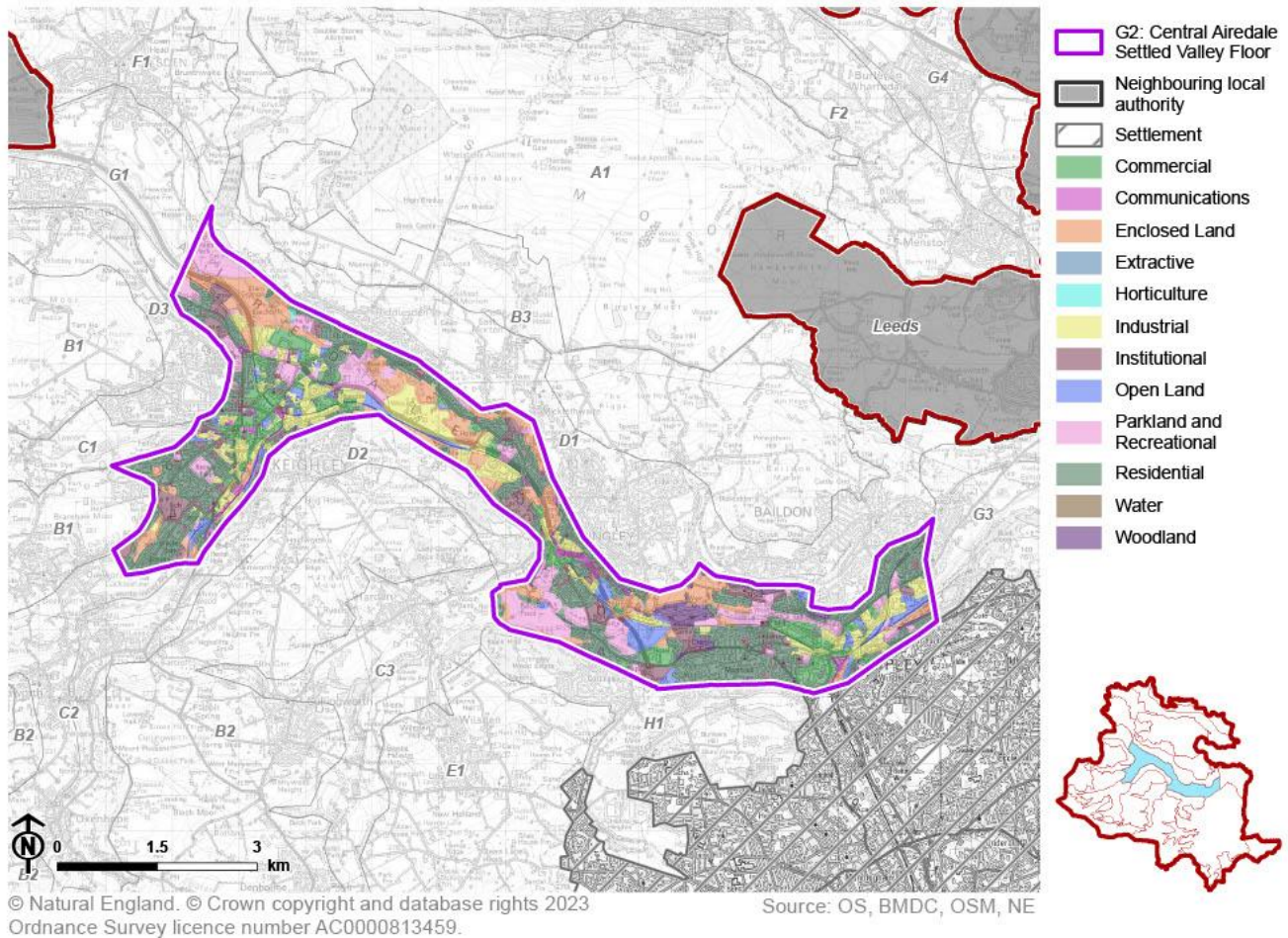
Figure 3.148: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G2



Land Use and Field Patterns

- The valley floor has a complex and varied land use, dominated by residential and industrial use with pockets of pastoral fields on the floodplain. These open fields play an important role in separating the settlements of Riddlesden, Keighley, Bingley, and Shipley (on the edge of Bradford).
- Field sizes vary from small to medium-large bounded by hedgerows and drystone walls. Some boundaries are very straight while others are irregular often defined by the meandering river. These are known as piecemeal enclosure fields and developed organically as enclosure occurred.
- Also known as the washlands, the areas of land adjacent to the River Aire are prone to flooding. The washlands are a natural store for water and essential to the management of the flood risk.
- Industrial buildings and sewage works are found on settlement edges predominantly adjacent to the River Aire. Sports pitches and recreation grounds are also features of the valley floor.

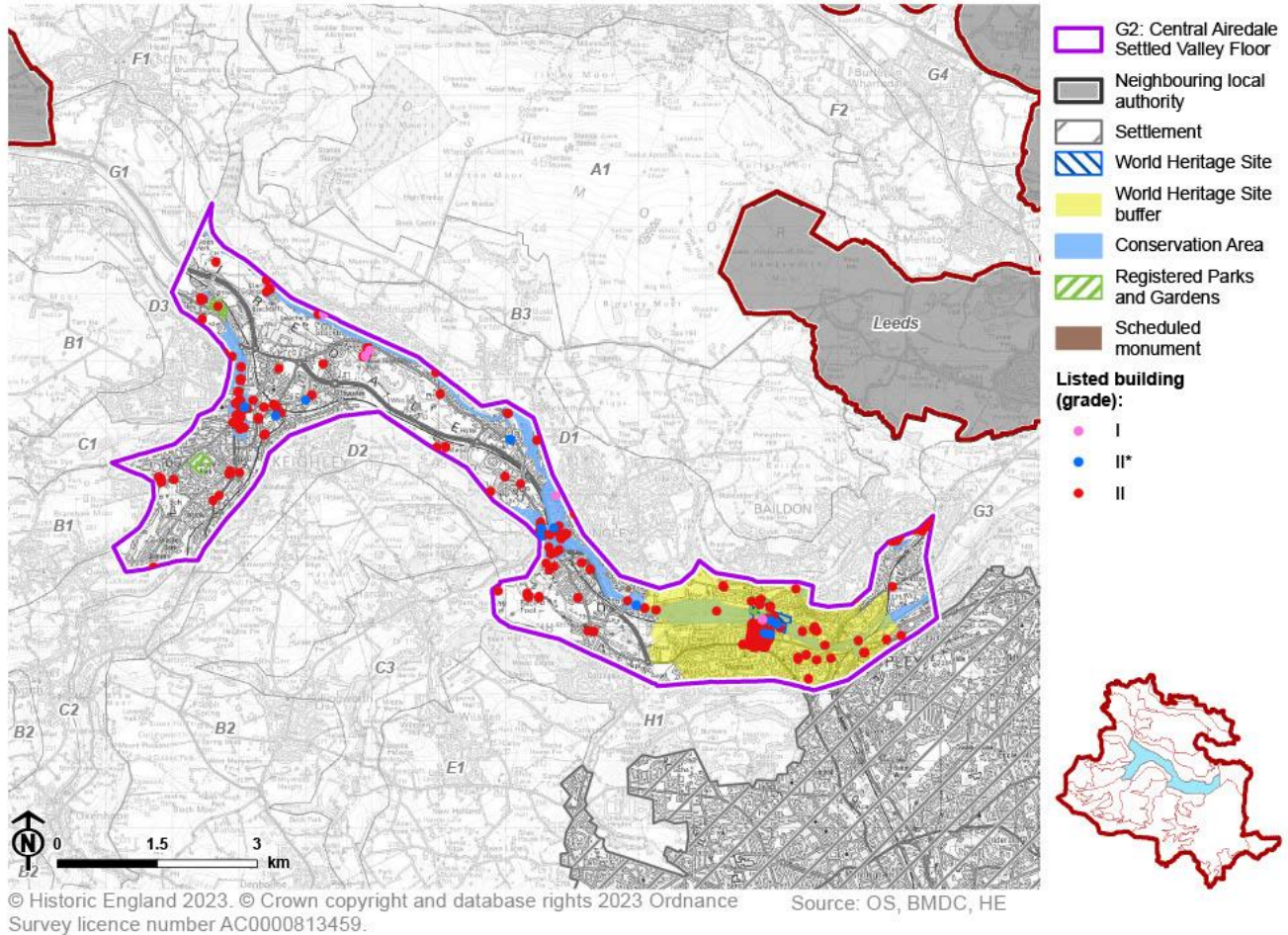
Figure 3.149: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G2



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The Saltaire World Heritage Site sits within the valley floor and its buffer area extends up the valley sides. The valley floor exhibits a strong connection to its industrial past shaped by the physical environment. This is exemplified by the location of the Saltaire World Heritage Site (designated by UNESCO in 2001) and Grade II* Listed Salts Mill textile mill which was steam powered, with water drawn from the River Aire. Saltaire is named after Sir Titus Salt, who built the textile mill and village. It was built as a single planned industrial village between 1851 and 1876 to house the mill workers.
- A number of registered parks and gardens include Lund Park and Utley Cemetery in Keighley, and Roberts Park at Saltaire.
- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is an important industrial feature, designated as a conservation area and used to transport manufactured goods (textiles) and raw materials (coal). Structures associated with the waterways, including locks, weirs, bridges are present throughout the valley floor and many are designated as listed buildings. Further conservation areas at Keighley, Bingley Town Centre, Micklethwaite and Eldwick Beck are emblematic of the long-lived agricultural and industrial history across the area.
- East Riddlesden Hall is a Grade I Listed Building dating from 1640 and was the centre of a thriving farming estate.
- The local geology is evident in building materials used for drystone walls, chimneys, aqueducts, in the construction of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and within historic residential areas.
- Saltaire and Salts Mill is today an important visitor attraction contains a large collection of work by the internationally renowned and Bradford-born artist David Hockney.

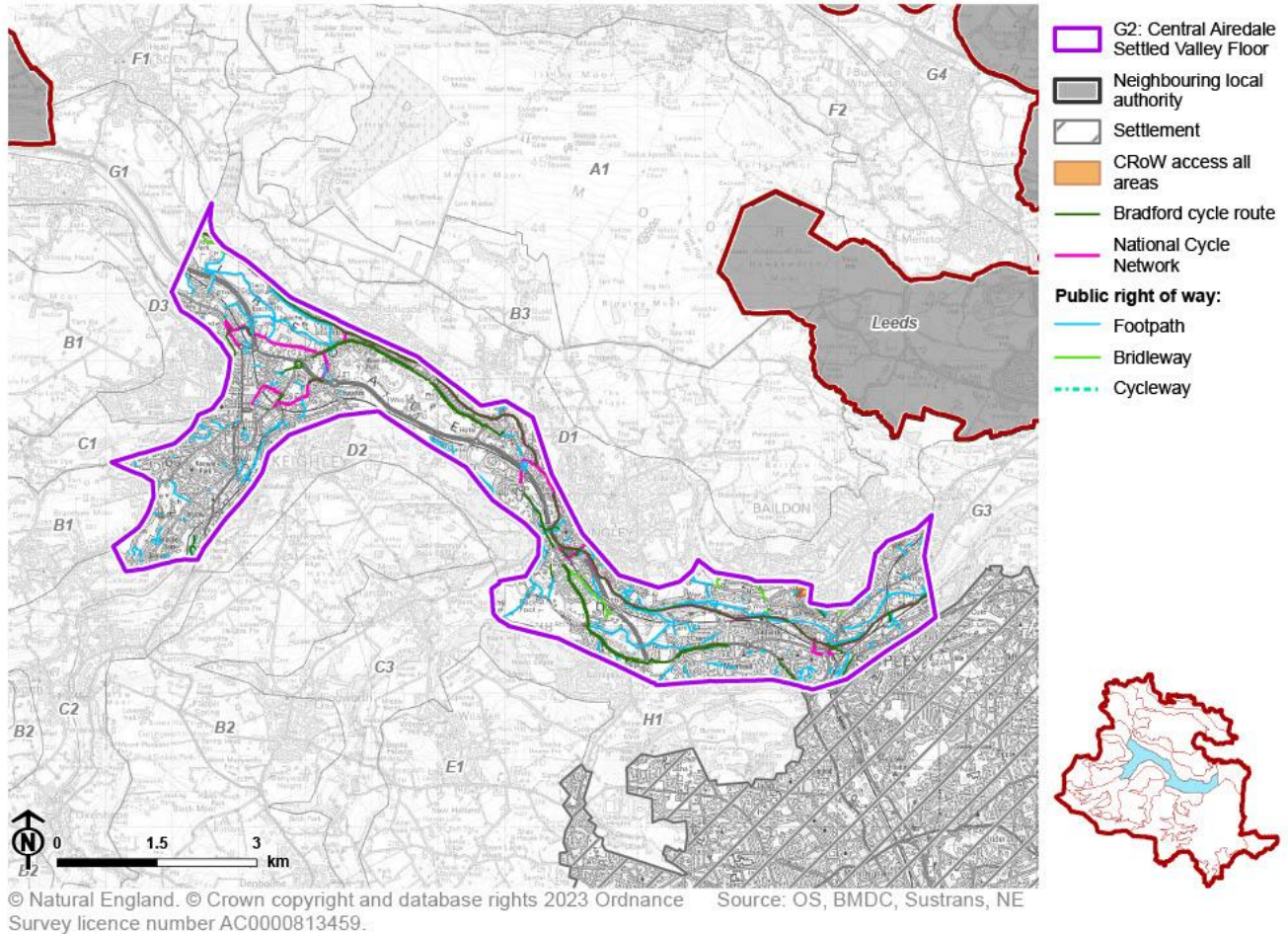
Figure 3.150: Cultural heritage of LCA G2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- A densely settled valley floor containing the settlements of Keighley (located on the confluence of the River Aire and Worth), Bingley and Shipley all of which were historic market towns and the former village of Riddlesden (now associated with Keighley). In places, settlements have agglomerated to form an urban sprawl which encroaches up the valley sides. These towns expanded quickly in the 19th century linked to textile industry and completion of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
- Settlement edges are often abrupt, and typified by industrial sheds and recreation grounds with flood lighting. Woodland sometimes performs a screening function to provide softer transition to pastoral farmland.
- The LCA is a major transport corridor containing road, rail, river and canal routes which, along with the valley landform, has contributed to the industrialisation and development of Airedale.
- The rail corridor extends through this area from the urban core in Bradford to Shipley and then runs both east to Leeds and west towards Keighley and Cumbria.

Figure 3.151: Access and recreation of LCA G2



Access and Recreation

- Extensive and well-used footpath network (including two long distance walking routes – the Millennium Way and Dales Way) connecting the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Aire to other areas both within and outside the LCA.
- National Cycle Route 69 follows the Leeds and Liverpool Canal on a 6 mile long, combined walking and cycling route connecting Keighley, Bingley, Saltaire and Shipley (also known as the Airedale Greenway).
- Recreational activities associated with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the River Aire include boating (rowing/canoeing), barge holidays, fishing, wildlife watching, walking and cycling.
- Visitor attractions including: Saltaire World Heritage Site, a unique and internationally recognised model industrial village; the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway; and historic buildings, park and gardens such as Cliffe Castle Museum and Park, and National Trust owned East Riddlesden Hall.
- The Keighley-Worth Valley Railway begins in Keighley and extends into LCA C2: The Worth Upland River Valley. This is a magnet for tourism in the area, in association with the Brontës and the settlement of Haworth.
- Recreation grounds for football and cricket on the floodplain pastures and golf courses.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- A diverse LCA, containing a patchwork of settlement, industry, farmland, woodland and wetland all contained within a narrow valley floor, which result in very different experiences in different areas.

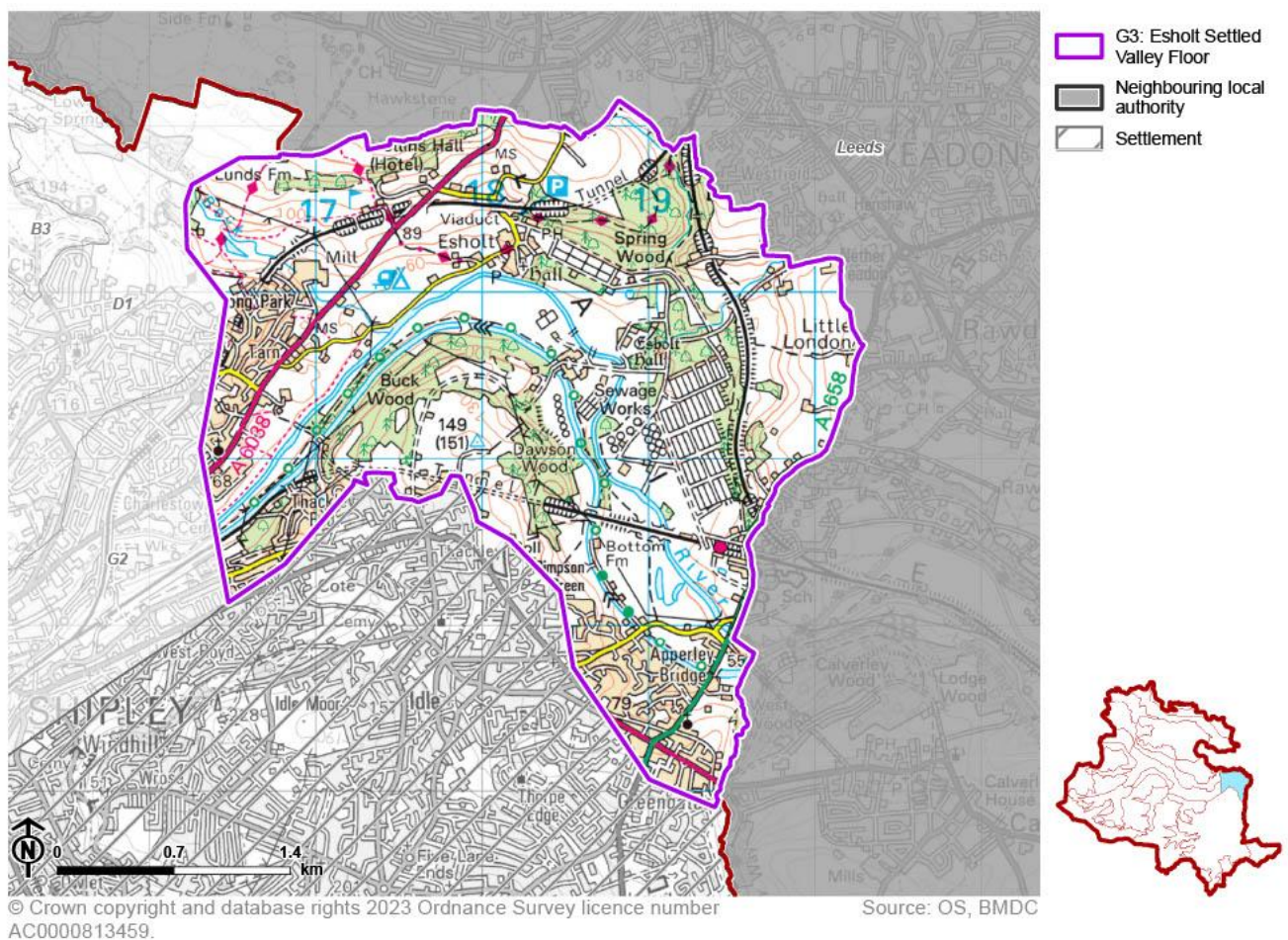
- A rich wealth of historic assets which contribute to a distinct sense of place, juxtaposed with modern industrial development and urban areas occasionally in poor condition.
- Noise from the major transport corridors which dissect the area can be heard widely, and roads in Bingley, Shipley and Keighley are often congested. There are pockets of more tranquil areas throughout, often associated with the waterways and woodlands.
- Saltaire World Heritage Site is a focal point within the LCA, and views of the striking Salts Mill can be obtained from within the immediate vicinity and the wider bowl of the valley.
- The rising topography both of Airedale and of the opening of the Worth Valley permit views of wooded valley sides and often a more naturalistic landscape from the valley floor. There are also valued views along and across the canal and river, particularly where they are bounded by pastoral fields or mature woodland.
- Sewage works, industrial sheds, gas works, pylons and major transport infrastructure all affect the experience of this landscape. The impact of these are often softened by woodland which is a key valued characteristic.

G3. Esholt Settled Valley Floor

Location, Context and Summary

The Esholt Settled Valley Floor is located on the eastern edge of Bradford District comprising a section of the Airedale Valley which wraps around the northern edge of the City of Bradford. The boundaries of the LCA are defined to the north and east by the district boundary with the City of Leeds and to the west by LCA G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor. This section of the floor of Airedale is less settled and more wooded than that to the west (LCA G2). The area has a strong sense of enclosure and remnant parkland character in places, which contrasts with peri-urban features such as the extensive sewage works and Tong Park Industrial Estate.

Figure 3.152: Location of LCA G3



Key Characteristics

- A relatively narrow section of the River Aire valley floor contained by the rising landform of the wooded valley sides. Carved out by glacial activity and fluvial erosion which cut through the carboniferous Millstone Grit and sandstone bedrock.
- The meandering course of the River Aire is fed by a number of streams (including Gill Beck, Guiseley Beck and Yeadon Gill). Floodplain soils are predominantly loamy and clayey and naturally wet due to high groundwater.
- A rural landscape but dominated by the presence of Esholt sewage works which has strong connections to the textile industry.
- Tracts of woodland occupy the valley slopes and valley floor (much of which is ancient woodland) creating an enclosed character.
- Pockets of open pastoral fields on the River Aire floodplain and on southern facing valley sides. Small to medium in size and bounded by hedgerows, drystone walls and some timber post fencing.
- The River Aire meanders naturally across the floodplain and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal runs alongside, both of which are valued for wildlife and recreation.
- A sparsely settled landscape where the largest settlement is the village of Esholt which has a strong rural character.
- Many recreational activities are associated with the River Aire and Leeds and Liverpool Canal, and the wider landscape benefits from an extensive network of public rights of way.
- The rail infrastructure in the valley is testament to the wider area's industrial past, with viaducts and tunnels presenting imposing forms within the landscape.
- Views up to the wooded valley sides and channelled along water courses.

Figure 3.153: Example photos from LCA G3



Meandering course of the River Aire dominates the valley floor.



Buck Wood forms wooded slopes which create enclosure.



Vernacular properties give a rural character to Esholt.



Viaduct at Esholt remnant from rail industry.



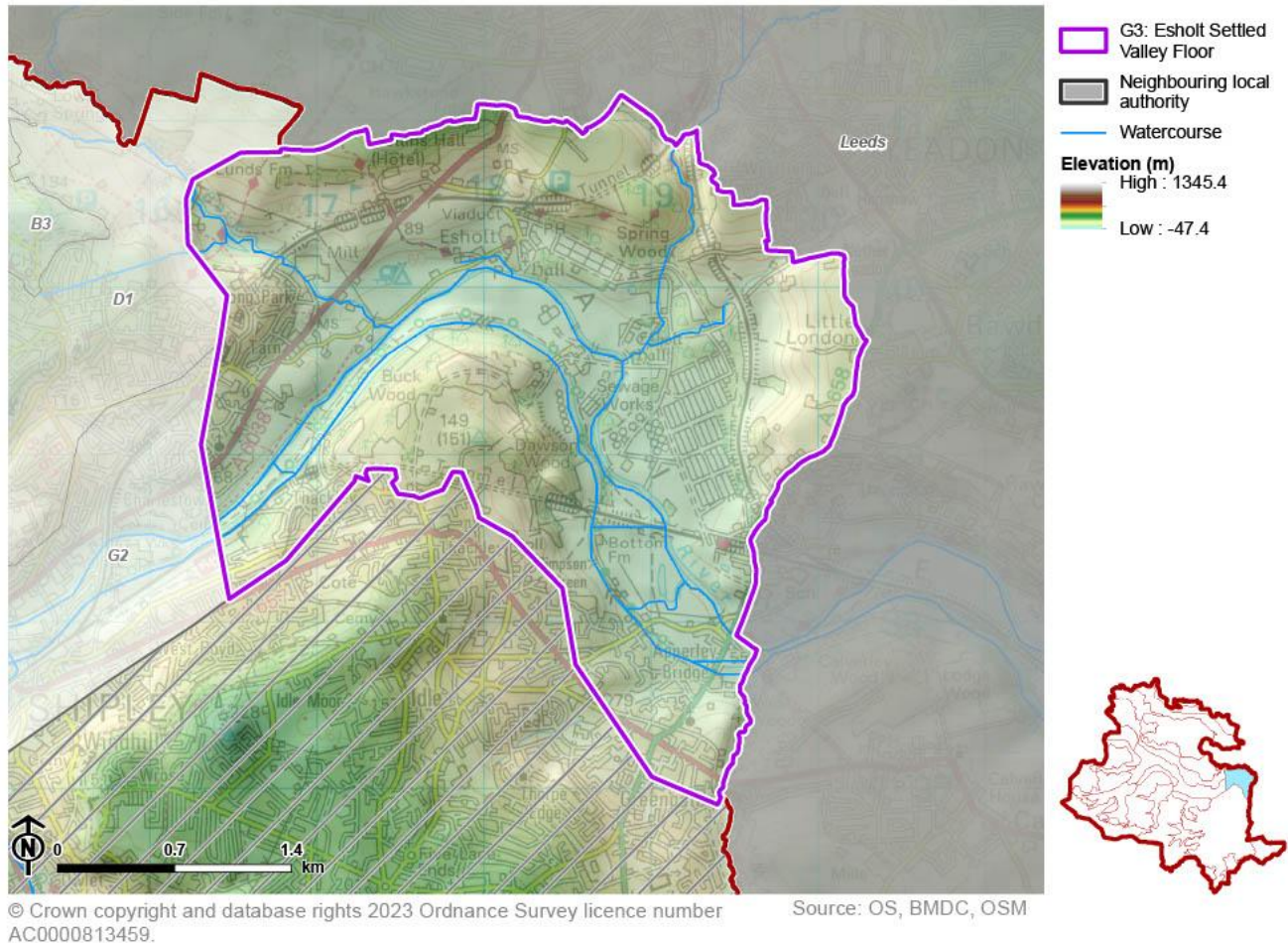
Views along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal framed by wooded valley sides and dominated by pylons.



Footbridge across the River Aire, part of the wider footpath and bridleway network along the river and canal corridors.

Landscape Character

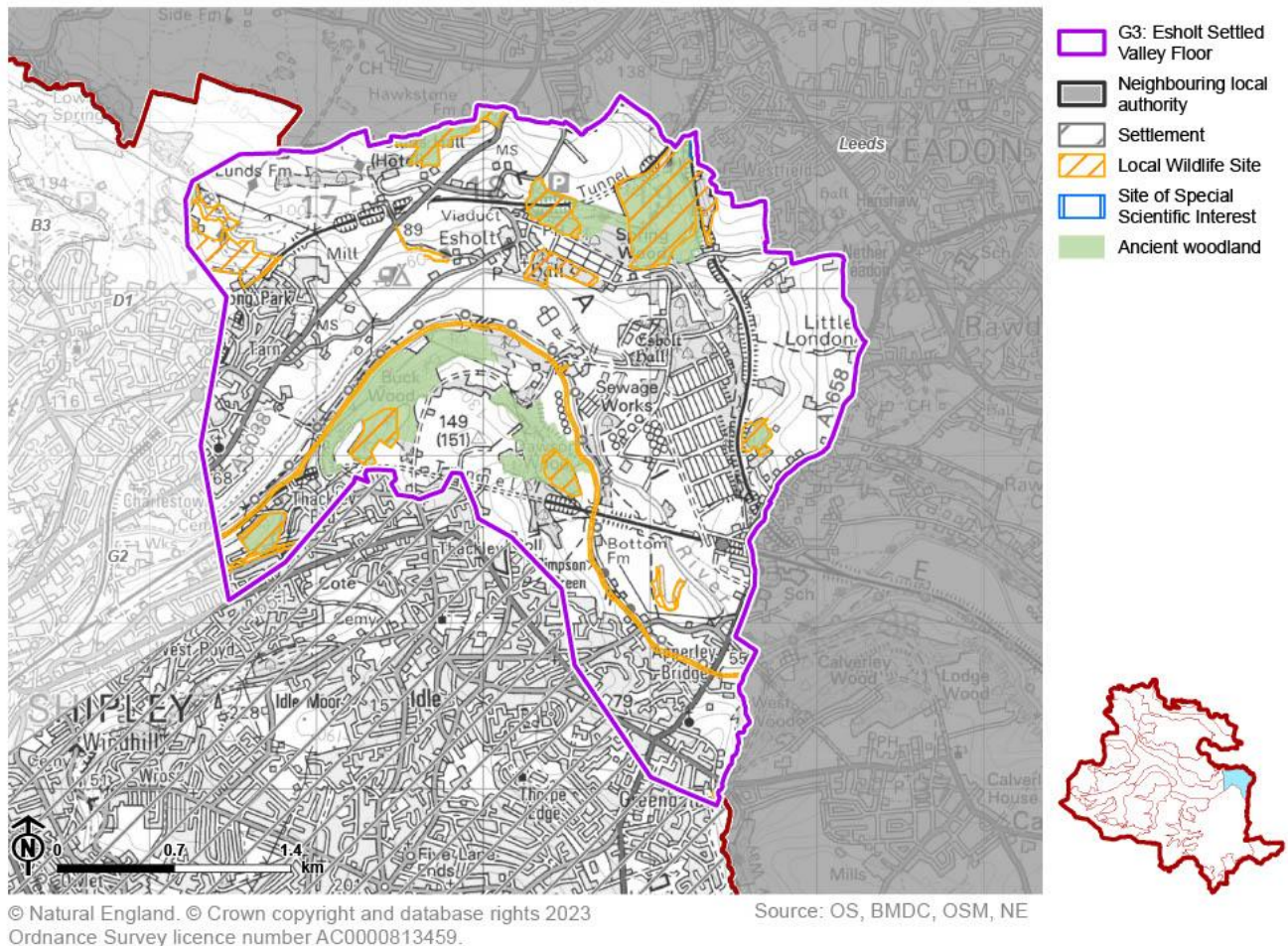
Figure 3.154: Topography of LCA G3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The bedrock geology was formed during the Carboniferous period comprising Millstone Grit (mudstones, siltstones and sandstones) and areas of sandstones including Rough Rock, Guiseley Grit and Huddersfield White Rock. The valley was carved out by glacial activity and fluvial erosion.
- Superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, sand and gravel), till and river terrace deposits overlay the bedrock.
- Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with impeded drainage and low fertility give rise to a wooded landscape with areas of grazed pasture on gently sloping valley sides.
- The meandering course of the River Aire and the curved course of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal run along the valley floor. Tributaries to the River Aire include Gill Beck, Guiseley Beck and Yeadon Gill, and springs, ditches and weirs are features of the landscape.
- The landform comprises of a narrow section of the valley floor with valley sides rising steeply to the south and more gently to the north. This is the lowest lying section of the Airedale Valley within the Bradford District at 55-60m AOD, and this lower elevation informs a more lowland character.

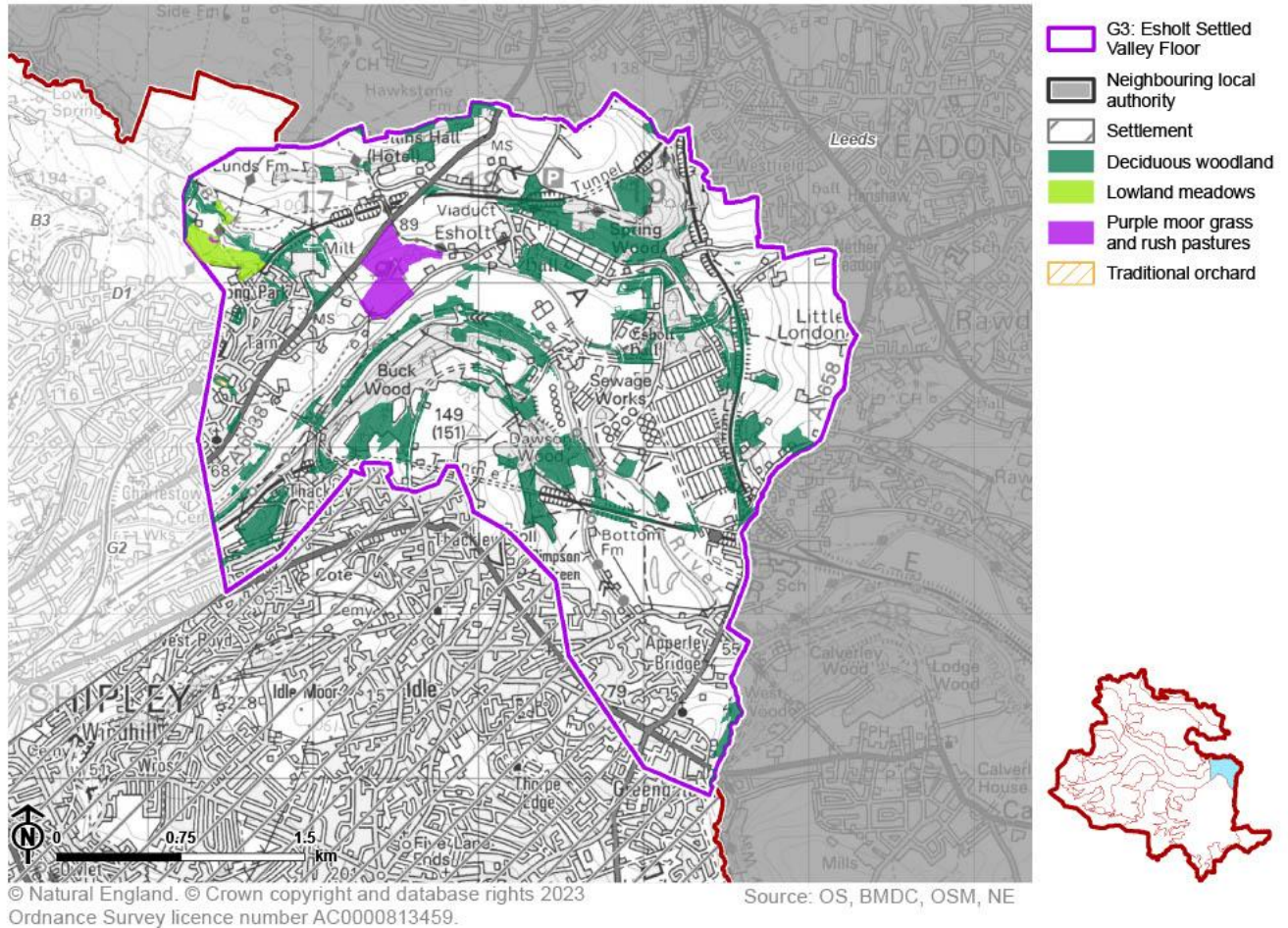
Figure 3.155: Natural heritage of LCA G3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- One of the most concentrated areas of woodland in the Bradford District, woodland is found throughout, although the largest areas are found on the sloping valley sides. This includes areas of ancient woodland (e.g. Buck Wood, Spring Wood, Jerrison Wood and Hawkstone) also designated as local wildlife sites. On lower slopes and the valley floor woodland contains and provides screening of the sewage works and associated industrial buildings and infrastructure.
- Wetland habitats are important within the LCA and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal is designated as a local wildlife site. As well as having submerged, floating and emergent plant communities the canal provides a wildlife corridors and contributes to a network of wetland habitats and rivers.
- Trees and waterside vegetation define the meandering course of the River Aire and its tributaries which is an important feature often hidden in the wider landscape. In the east of the area Millman Bridge Ox-Bow and the redundant sewage beds of Langholme support a range of flora and fauna, especially birds.
- Nine hectares of purple moor grass and rush pasture north of the River Aire contribute to the wider wetland and woodland habitat.

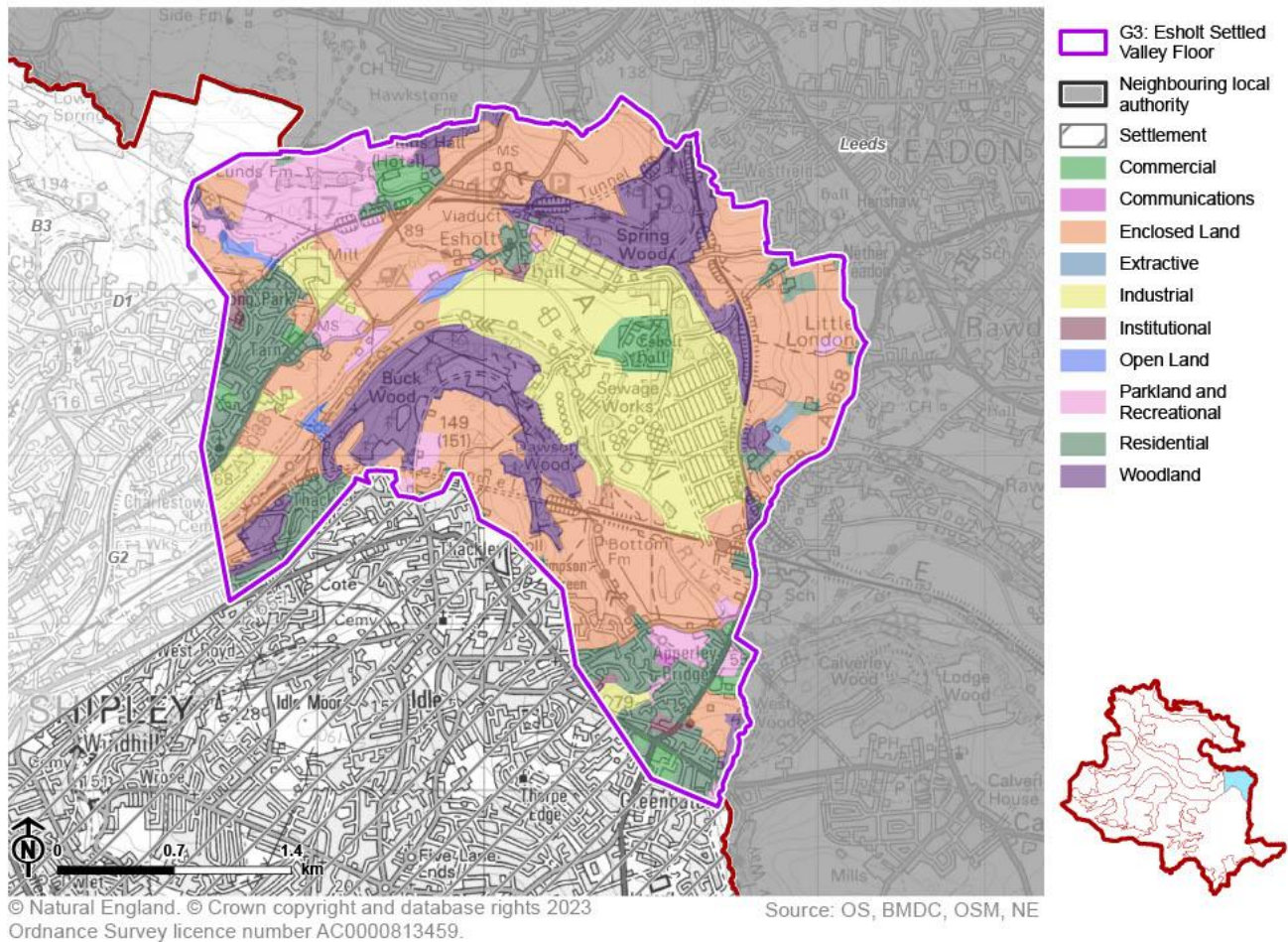
Figure 3.156: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G3



Land Use and Field Patterns

- The valley floor is dominated by the Esholt water treatment works and associated infrastructure (in the form of the large water treatment filtration beds). However, large tracts of deciduous woodland contain the site and provide screening.
- There are pockets of open pastoral fields on the River Aire floodplain and on south facing valley sides. These are small to medium in size and bounded by hedgerows, drystone walls and some timber post fencing. The field pattern is generally the result of piecemeal enclosure, although there are remnant areas of strip enclosure in the north of Thackley and on Hollins Hill.
- Recreation is another key land use, with the extensive Hollins Hall Golf and Country Club in the west of the area and some recreation grounds on open areas of the valley floor.

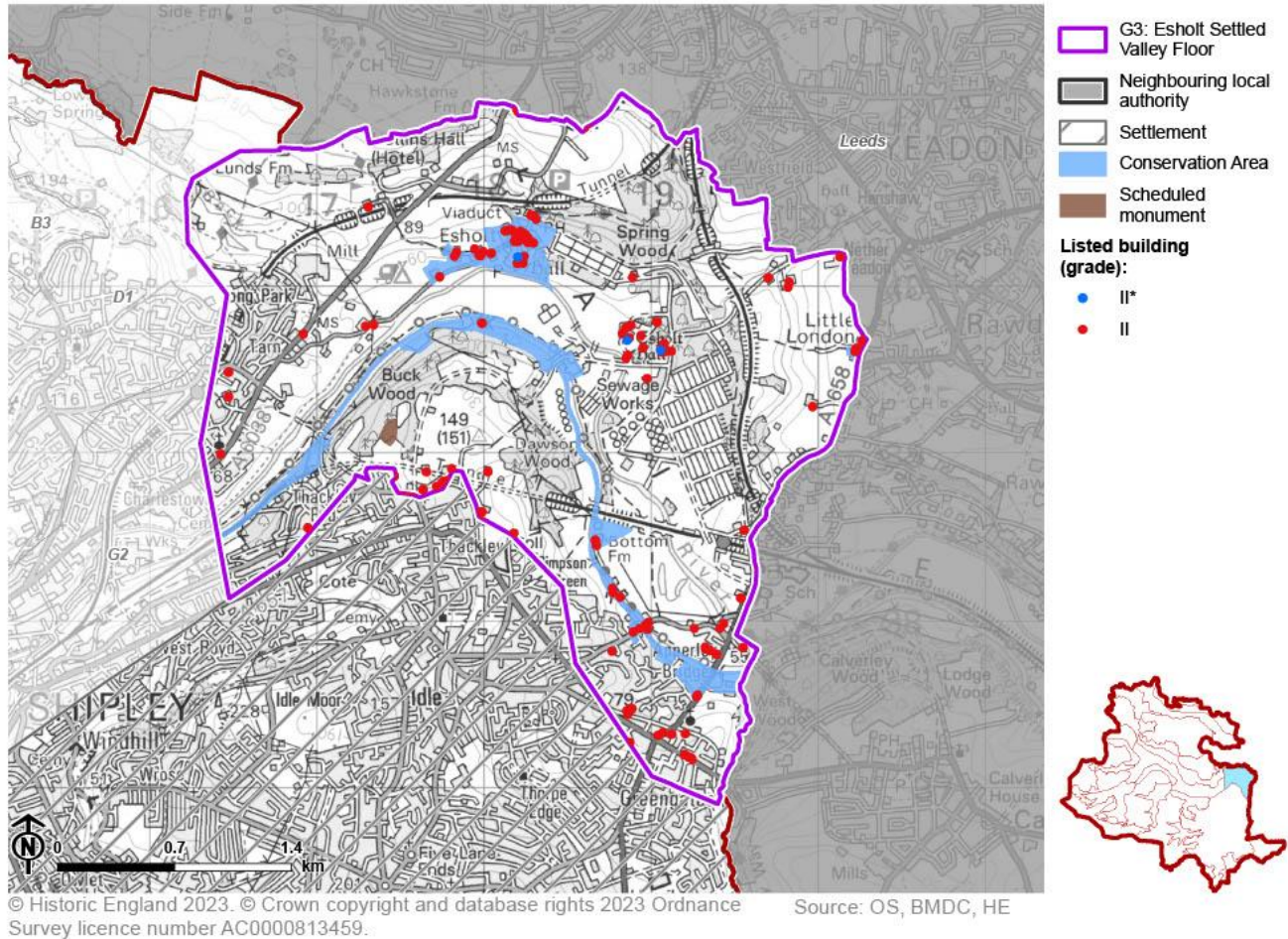
Figure 3.157: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G3



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Founded in the 12th century, the Cistercian Nunnery of St Mary and St Leonard at Esholt owned the Esholt Estate which covered much of the LCA. The Grade II* Listed Esholt Hall was built on the site of the nunnery in 1707 and sat within an extensive parkland, much of which survives and contributes to the wooded character of the area. Numerous listed buildings within the village of Esholt are associated with Esholt Hall and its estate.
- The village of Esholt developed as an agricultural settlement, which expanded due to the textiles industry. Buildings within the settlement have a distinctive vernacular style, many of which were built to provide accommodation for local mill workers. The village and its outskirts are designated as a conservation area.
- The Leeds and Liverpool Canal is an important historic feature and is designated as a conservation area.
- Esholt sewage works was constructed in the early 20th century, partly to deal with the high levels of soap, bleaches and dyes being produced due to the textiles industry which played an important role in the development of the Airedale Valley.
- The village of Esholt has a long standing association with the television series 'Emmerdale'. Many tourists are still attracted to the village to see the places that used to feature in the series.
- The combination of tracts of Ancient Woodland, dispersed parkland features, industrial history and the picturesque vernacular character of Esholt, creates a strong and distinct sense of time depth.

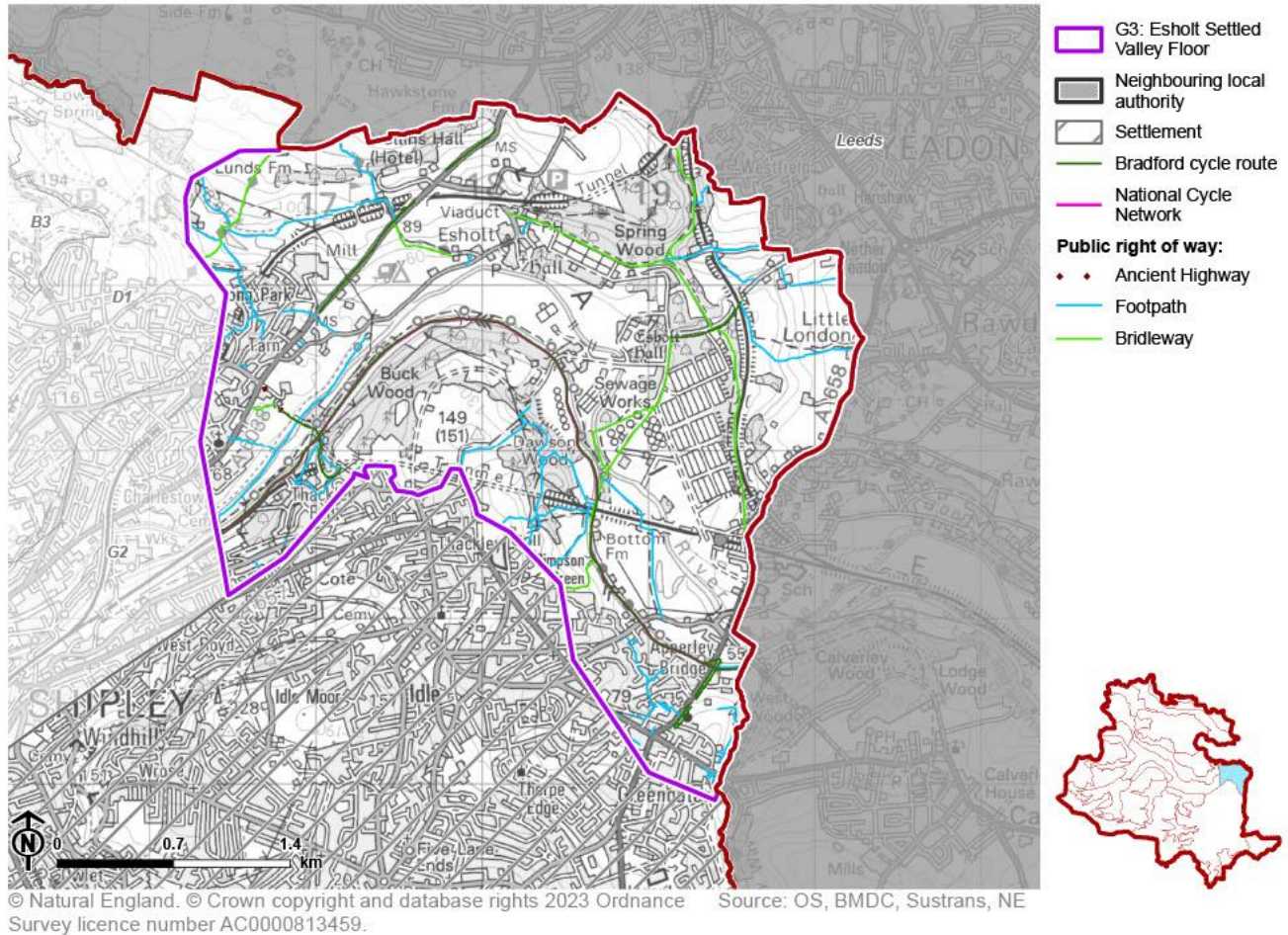
Figure 3.158: Cultural heritage of LCA G3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The LCA is sparsely settled within its interior, and the village of Esholt is the only settlement on the valley floor. On the southern and western peripheries of the LCA the edges of Baildon and Thackley have crept down the valley sides towards the valley floor.
- The A6038 crosses the LCA on its western edge and Esholt Lane provides access to Esholt otherwise the landscape has very limited road infrastructure. The A658, a key connector between Harrogate/Leeds and Bradford, bounds the eastern edge of the LCA.
- Three railway lines traverse the LCA with associated viaducts and highly engineered tunnels including the Thackley Tunnel built in 1846.

Figure 3.159: Access and recreation of LCA G3



Access and Recreation

- The area is crossed by a number of public rights of way, many of which traverse through woodland. The Welcome Way Long Distance Path passes through Esholt and National Cycle Route 66 follows the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.
- Much of the extensive woodland throughout the LCA is publicly accessible and provides an important natural resource for both the settlement of Guiseley to the north and to the urban edge of Bradford to the south.
- Recreational activities associated with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and River Aire include boating (rowing/canoeing), canal/barge holidays, fishing, wildlife watching, walking and cycling. There are golf courses in the valley.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Throughout the LCA there is a strong sense of enclosure created by the extensive tracts of woodland. The dominance of woodland creates a landscape of strong seasonal interest.
- The degree of enclosure, screening and the very limited road networks create a pocket of rural character with a degree of remoteness and tranquillity sandwiched between busy urban areas to the north, south and west.
- In places, the remnants of parkland character associated with Esholt Hall contrast starkly with working sites, for example where the original parkland avenue approach (now called 'The Avenue') passes the noise and infrastructure of Esholt Urban Quarry.

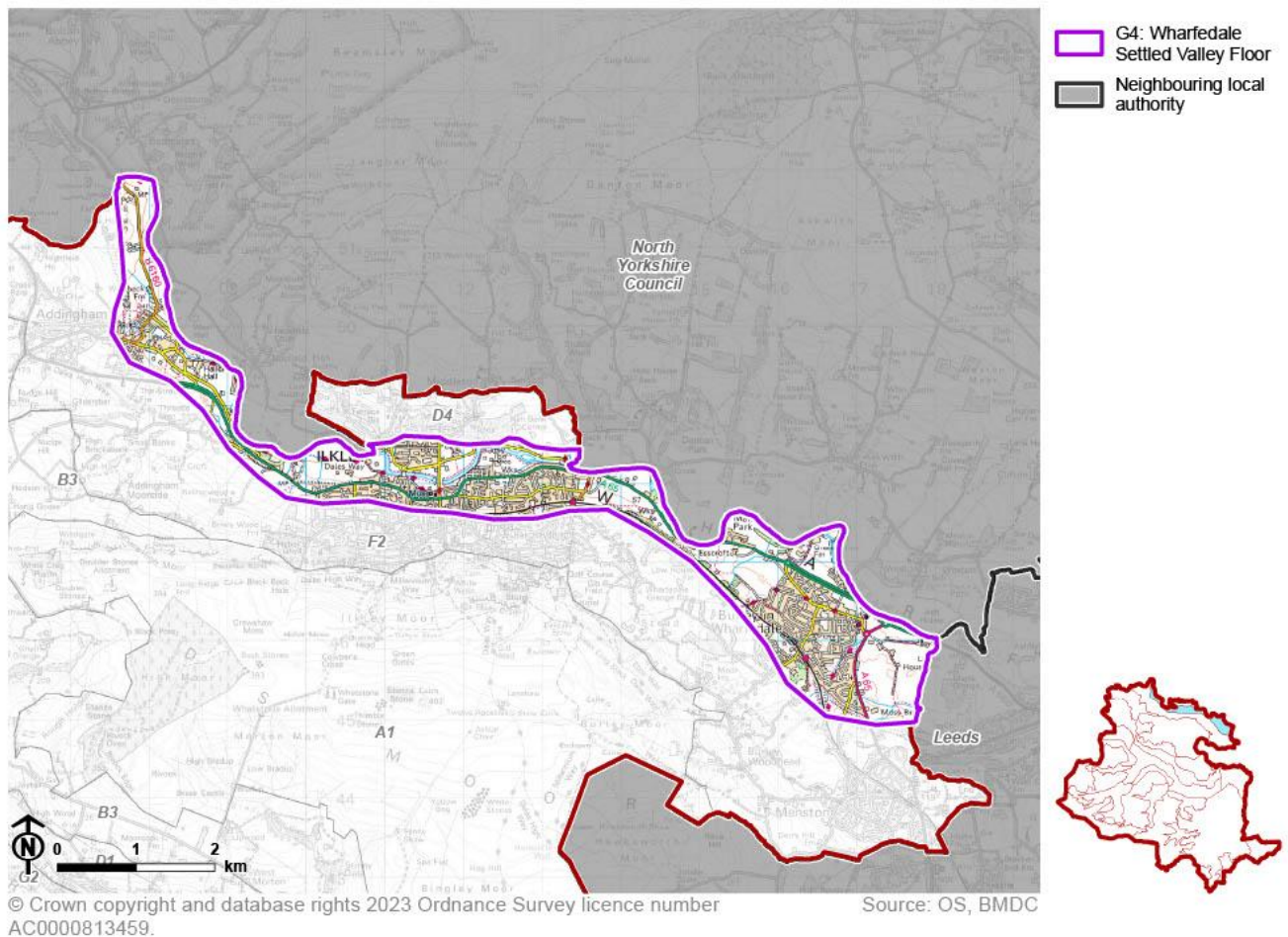
- The noise of the Esholt Urban Quarry and smells from the sewage works are experienced in the south west of the LCA. Glimpsed views are available to the sewage works and to pylons on ridgetops.
- Channelled views along the River Aire and Leeds to Liverpool Canal are experienced from footbridges.
- The LCA, although similar in physical form to the rest of the Airedale Valley has a very distinct sense of place informed by a unique combination of industrial and medieval historic character.

G4. Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor

Location, Context and Summary

The Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor is located on the north eastern edge of Bradford District. It comprises a section of the low-lying, settled valley floor of the River Wharfe between Addingham and Burley in Wharfedale. The boundary of the northern edge of the LCA is defined by the Bradford District boundary, with the valley floor and sides extending beyond into Harrogate District. To the north, LCA D4: Middleton Woods Steep Valley Sides lies within Bradford District and rises steeply from the valley floor. On its southern edge the valley floor is contained by the rising landform of LCA F2: Wharfedale Rolling Enclosed Pasture. The River Wharfe flows eastwards out of this LCA into Leeds District. The absence of a canal limited the 20th century influence of the textile industry, highlighting the more pastoral features of this LCA and distinguishing it from those found within Airedale to the south. The settlement of Ilkley's development as a spa town and subsequent tourist destination distinguishes it significantly from settlements within Airedale.

Figure 3.160: Location of LCA G4



Key Characteristics

- A settled section of the River Wharfe valley floor which extends out beyond the boundaries of Bradford District. Contained by the rising landform of the Wharfedale Valley, carved out by glacial activity and fluvial erosion cutting through the carboniferous Millstone Grit bedrock.
- The River Wharfe is fed by a number of streams (e.g. Wine Beck, Carr Beck and Town Beck) and meanders along the valley floor sometimes visible but often hidden by tree cover.
- Contains parts of the settlements of Addingham and Ilkley which extend up the valley sides from the valley floor, Burley-in-Wharfedale lies entirely on the lower land of the valley floor.
- A rural pastoral landscape is retained with a field pattern relating to piecemeal enclosure. Field sizes are small-medium, regular and bounded by hedgerows often with hedgerow trees.
- Small pockets of deciduous woodland and riparian vegetation occur at intervals along the River Wharfe marking its meandering course through the landscape.
- Local wildlife sites sit alongside the river at Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits, Sun Lane and Low Mill. Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits is also a Local Nature Reserve with a range of wetland communities (including marshy grassland, water lagoons, and neutral grassland) and is regionally important for invertebrates and birds.
- A number of cultural and historic associations with the River Wharfe still evident today, including the noted spa town of Ilkley and hydrotherapy associated architecture.
- Crossed by a number of public rights of way which provide access alongside the River Wharfe, including the Dales Way and Welcome Way long distance walking routes.
- Views across the flat open floodplain with enclosure provided by the valley sides, tree cover and field boundaries. This valley floor landscape can be seen from a number of prominent positions notably on the adjacent Rombalds Moor.

Figure 3.161: Example photos from LCA G4



River Wharfe bordered by tree cover.



Wildflowers and unimproved grassland at Sun Lane nature reserve.



Hedgerows and occasional trees within the pastoral landscape.



Historic bridge across the River Wharfe within Ilkley Conservation Area.



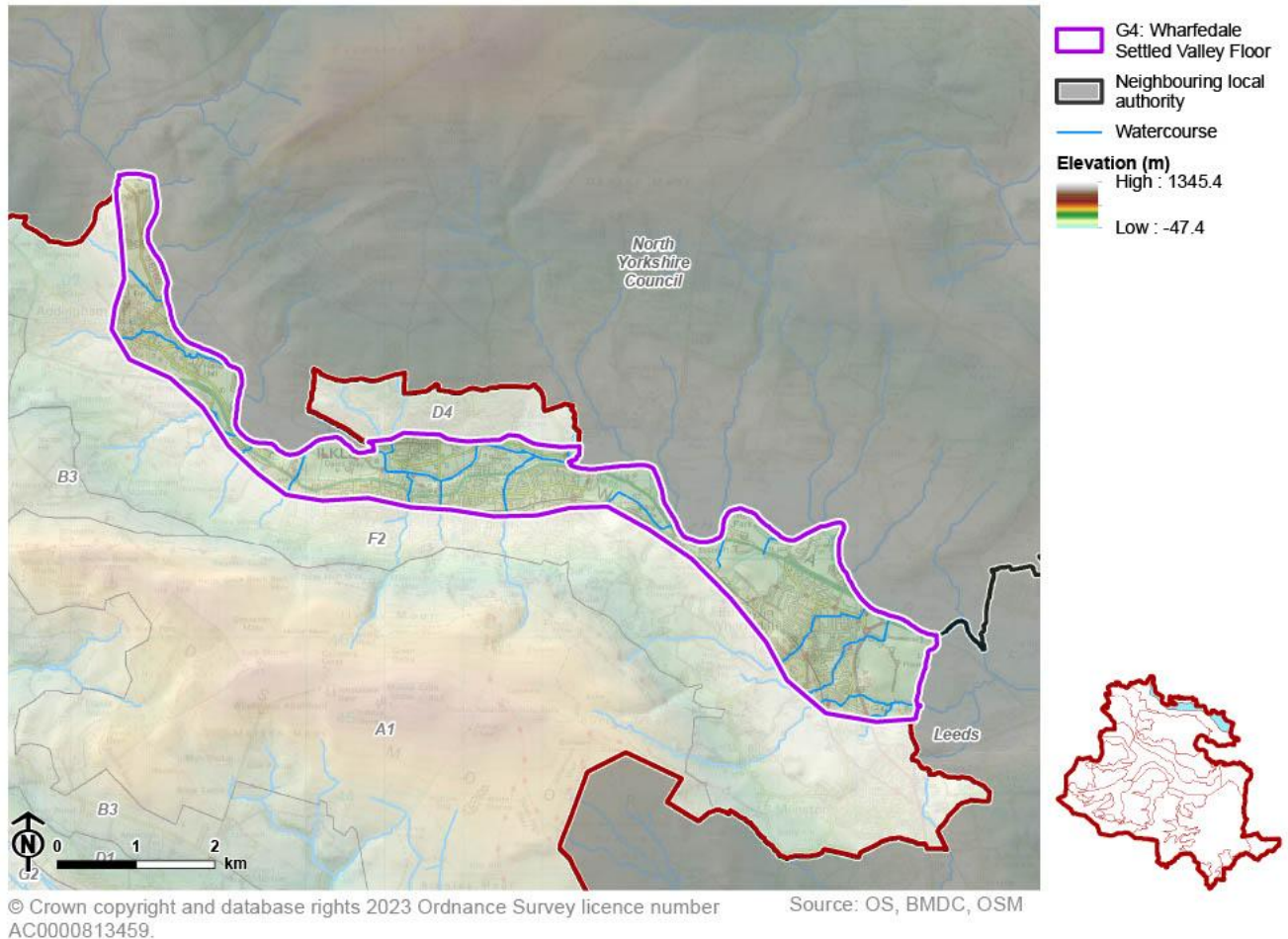
Recreational amenity alongside the River Wharfe.



Historic signage along the Dales Way long distance walking route.

Landscape Character

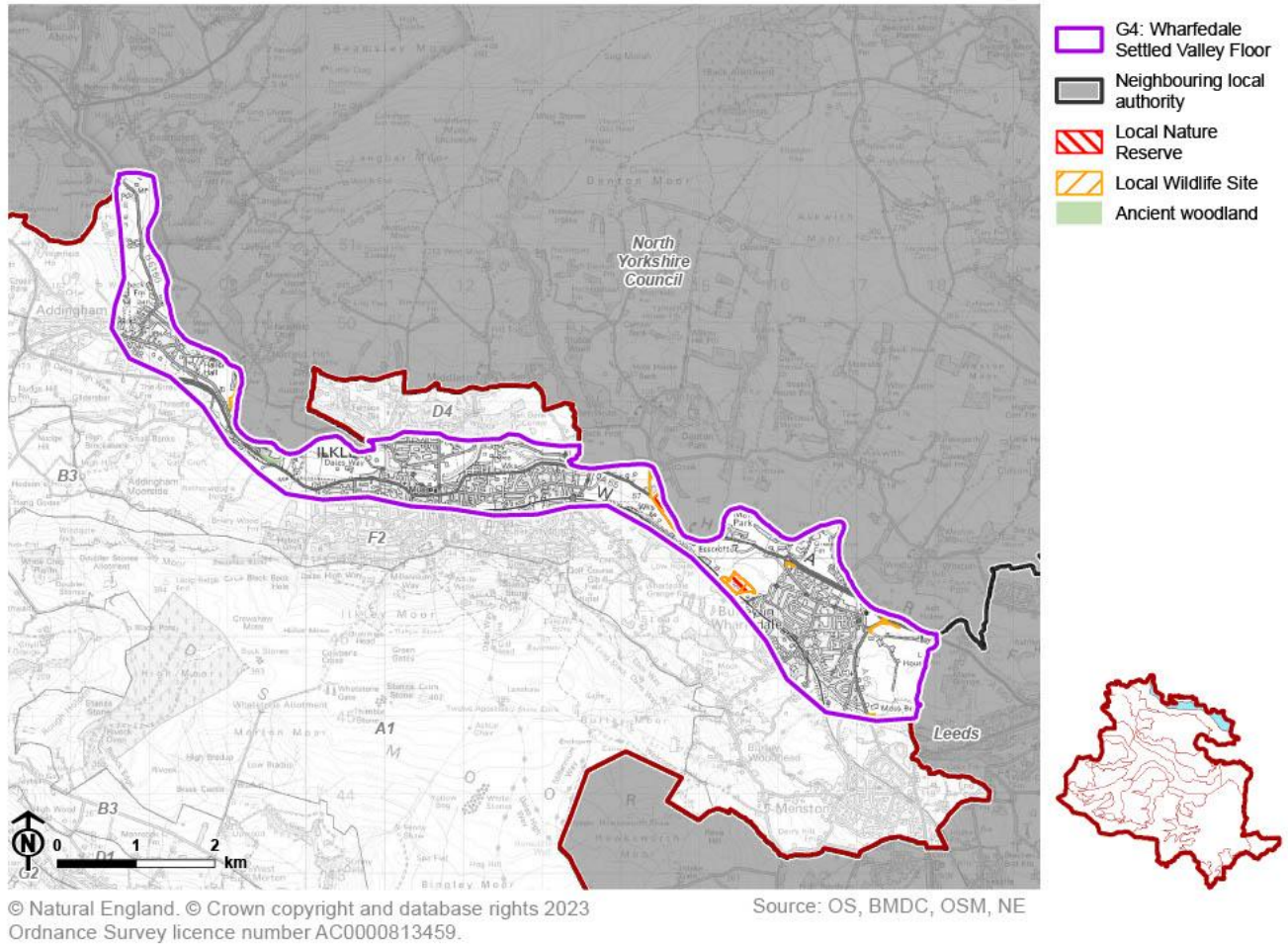
Figure 3.162: Topography of LCA G4



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying bedrock is part of the Millstone Grit, and this impervious rock gives rise to the steep southern valley sides.
- The topography has been formed by glacial activity and as a result there are several different types of glacial till deposited on the valley floor. These deposits range from boulder clay to sands and gravels in varying thickness and locations. The River Wharfe has cut down through these, forming distinctive river terraces and exposing these deposits.
- Free draining loamy floodplain soils of moderate-high fertility are found on either side of the River Wharfe. These areas are vulnerable to flooding so not suitable for arable production. Further from the river soils become more clayey with impeded drainage and lower fertility.
- The meandering course of the River Wharfe is fed by a number of becks along its course (e.g. Wine Beck, Town Beck, Carr Beck Springs, Black Beck). Ditches and weirs are features of the landscape.
- The relatively narrow valley floor lies at approximately 70m AOD, with the landform rising to the south.

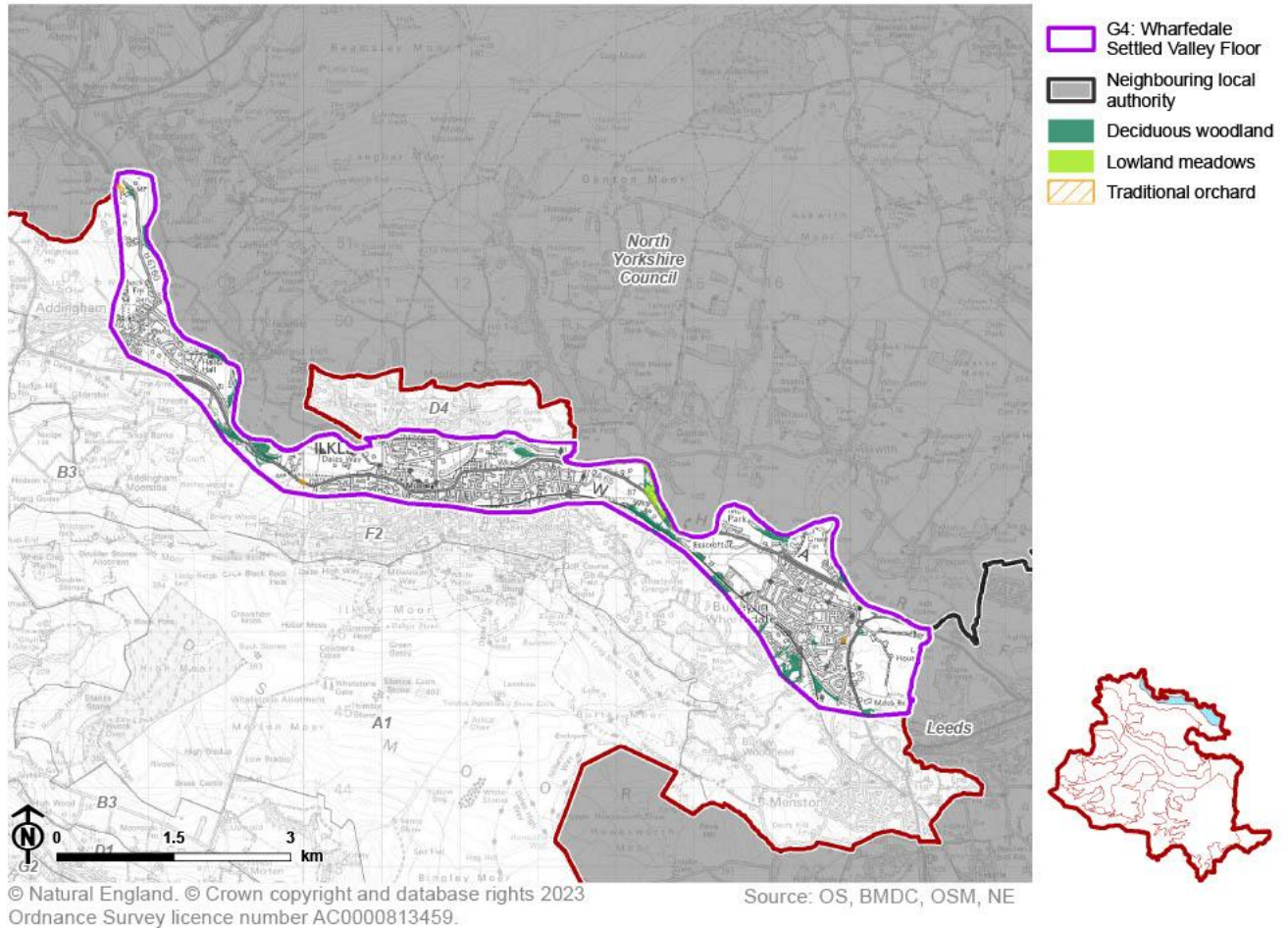
Figure 3.163: Natural heritage of LCA G4



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Predominantly grazed pastoral grassland but with a diversity of habitats linked by the River Wharfe, including woodland, wetland and grasslands. Riparian vegetation and wet woodland can be found along the becks and dispersed along the length of the river. Trees and waterside vegetation define the meandering course of the River Wharfe, often making it a hidden feature in the wider landscape.
- The River Wharfe meanders naturally within its floodplain for much of its length. Natural, ongoing bank erosion is important for a range of species including sand martins, kingfisher and riverine invertebrates.
- Local wildlife sites have been identified at Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits, Sun Lane and Low Mill. Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits is also a Local Nature Reserve with a range of wetland communities (including marshy grassland, water lagoons, and neutral grassland) and is regionally important for invertebrates and a variety of birds.
- Occasionally, strips of woodland and tree planting provide screening to the transport corridors, both road and rail, which run through this LCA.

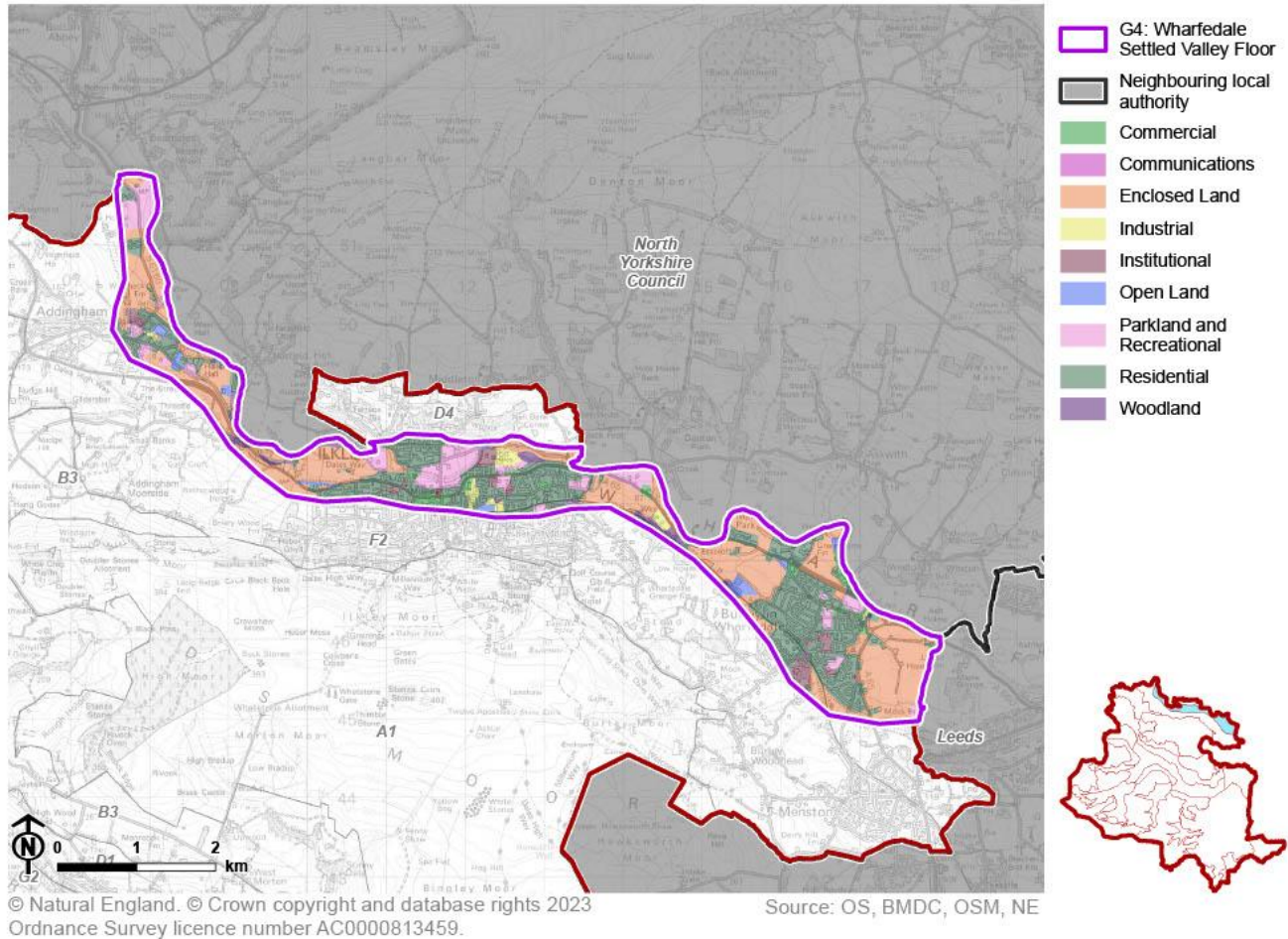
Figure 3.164: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G4



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Much of the valley floor is settled, interspersed with areas of grazed pasture and the wooded river corridor. Areas of grazed pasture provide a rural setting to the settlements.
- Fields are small to medium-scale, bounded by hedgerows often with hedgerow trees and occasional post and wire fencing. The field pattern is predominantly regular in shape with straight sides, and numerous in-field trees, particularly to the north of Addingham. The field pattern is generally the result of piecemeal enclosure which occurred organically.
- Known as the washlands, the areas of land adjacent to the River Wharfe are prone to flooding. The washlands are a natural store for water and essential to the management of the flood risk along the River Wharfe.
- Sewage works at Addingham and Burley-in-Wharfedale take advantage of the low lying location below the settlements and in close proximity to the river.

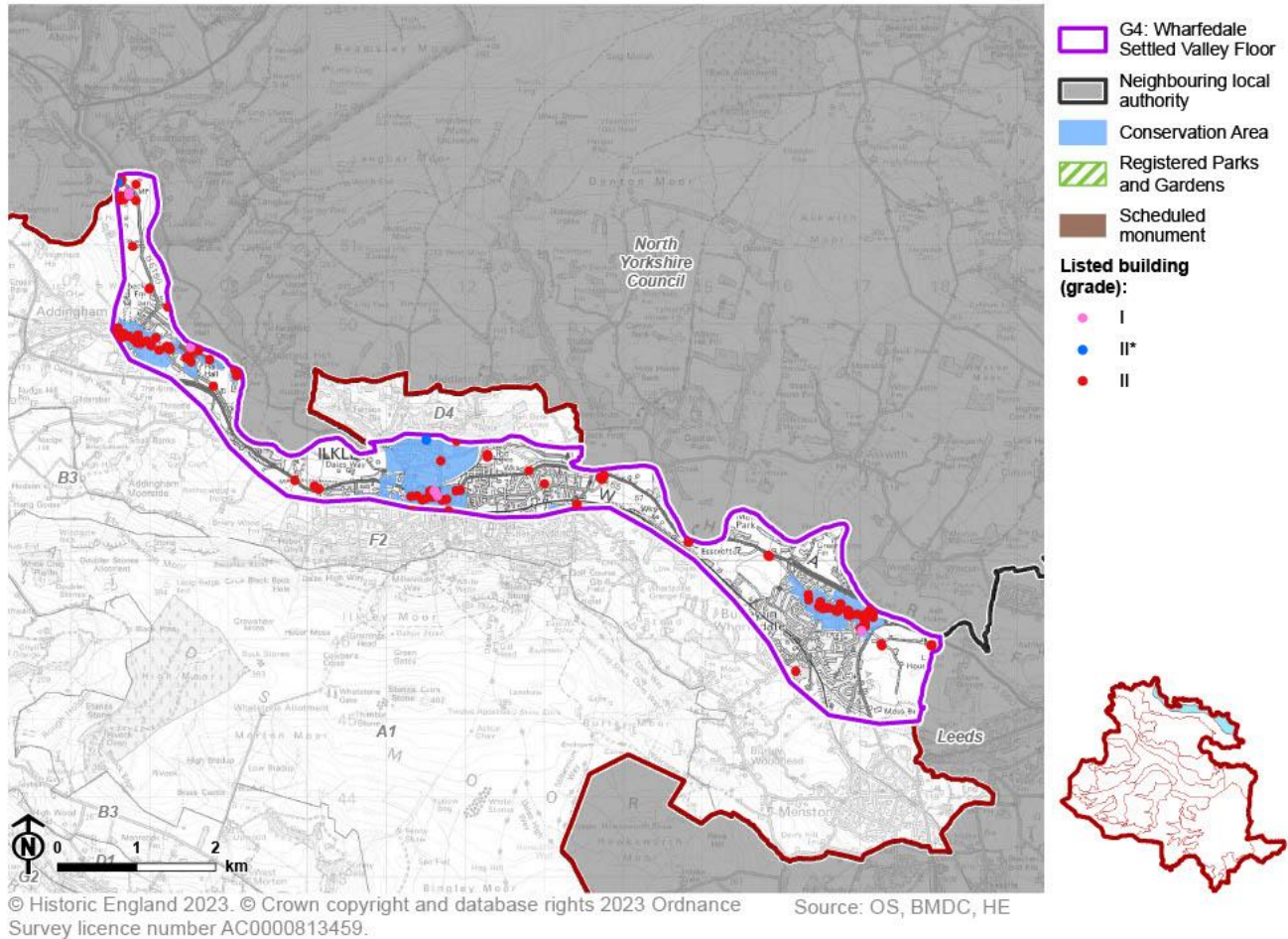
Figure 3.165: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G4



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Three scheduled monuments including an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, a medieval manorial centre on the edge of Addingham, and the site of a Roman Fort and bridge crossing the River Wharfe at Ilkley, provide reminders of the long-standing settlement in the area and the importance of the river.
- The floodplain which has been grazed for many centuries also provides historic continuity in this area. It provides a remnant of a pastoral landscape which has long been protected from development due to its location which is prone to flooding.
- Ilkley expanded in the 18th and 19th century as a spa town as a result of the popularity of spa water treatments amongst upper class society. A number of buildings relating to hydrotherapy were built to take advantage of the supposed health-giving properties of the town's water. The high status and decorative buildings designed at this time have resulted in an engaging settlement character with a cohesive sense of time depth.
- Industry did not develop to the same extent in the Wharfedale Valley as in the Airedale Valley due to the lack of transport links (no canal was constructed, and a railway line not built until 1876).
- The conservation areas of Addingham, Ilkley, and Burley-in-Wharfedale include numerous listed buildings. The local geology is evident in building materials predominantly within residential areas, particularly those designated as conservation areas.

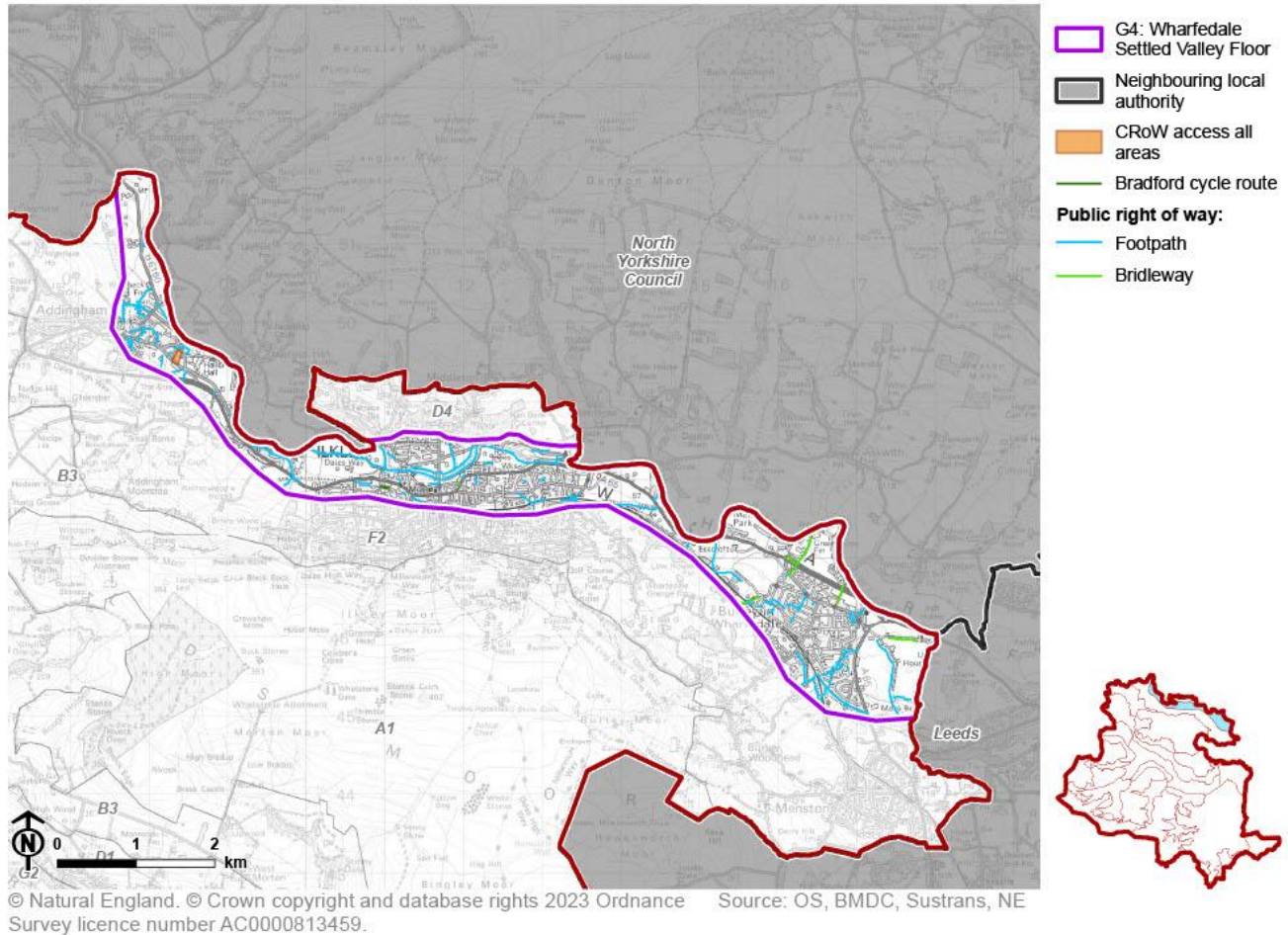
Figure 3.166: Cultural heritage of LCA G4



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The LCA contains parts of the settlements of Addingham and Ilkley which extend up the valley sides from the valley floor. Burley-in-Wharfedale lies entirely on the lower land of the valley floor. Isolated, dispersed farm buildings and outbuildings are located on the edge of the washland. Settlement is a dominant feature on much of the valley floor, but unlike in Airedale the major settlements are distinct from one another.
- The landscape plays an important role in separating settlements, preventing coalescence between Addingham, Ilkley, and Burley-in-Wharfedale, and contributes to the rural setting of these settlements.
- The A65 trunk road follows the flat land of the valley bottom, bypassing the village of Addingham but passing through Ilkley and Burley-in-Wharfedale. Suburban roads are present within the areas of concentrated settlement, however there are few minor roads which extend out in to the wider landscape.
- The Otley to Ilkley Railway Line was established in 1865 and ran along the valley floor passing through Burley-in-Wharfedale to terminate in Ilkley. This was dismantled through the Beeching cuts, and the railway now runs from Leeds to Ilkley. The dismantled section from Otley to Burley-in-Wharfedale is set to become part of the Wharfedale Greenway recreational route.

Figure 3.167: Access and recreation of LCA G4



Access and Recreation

- The Dales Way long distance walking route follows the course of the River Wharfe from north of Addingham to Ilkley where it climbs the valley side to Ilkley Moor. Further east, the Welcome Way long distance walking route passes through Burley-in-Wharfedale. A number of public rights of way provide further connections and access to and along the river.
- Recreational activities associated with the River Wharfe include boating (rowing/canoeing), fishing, wildlife watching, walking and cycling.
- Recreational activity has also taken advantage of this flat land in the river bottom, including extensive sports pitches at Ben Rhydding and close to Ilkley town centre.
- The Wharfedale Greenway (in planning) will provide a walking, cycling, and horse riding route along the valley between Otley and Ilkley. There are potential future links in progress which would extend the route further to the east and west.
- Ilkley has been a tourism destination since its connection to the railway network in the 19th century and is considered a base from which to explore the moorland and pastoral countryside beyond.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- A flat, open floodplain with a feeling of enclosure provided by the valley sides, tree cover and field boundaries. The valley has a strong sense of rurality and differs in this respect from the busy Airedale Valley to the south.

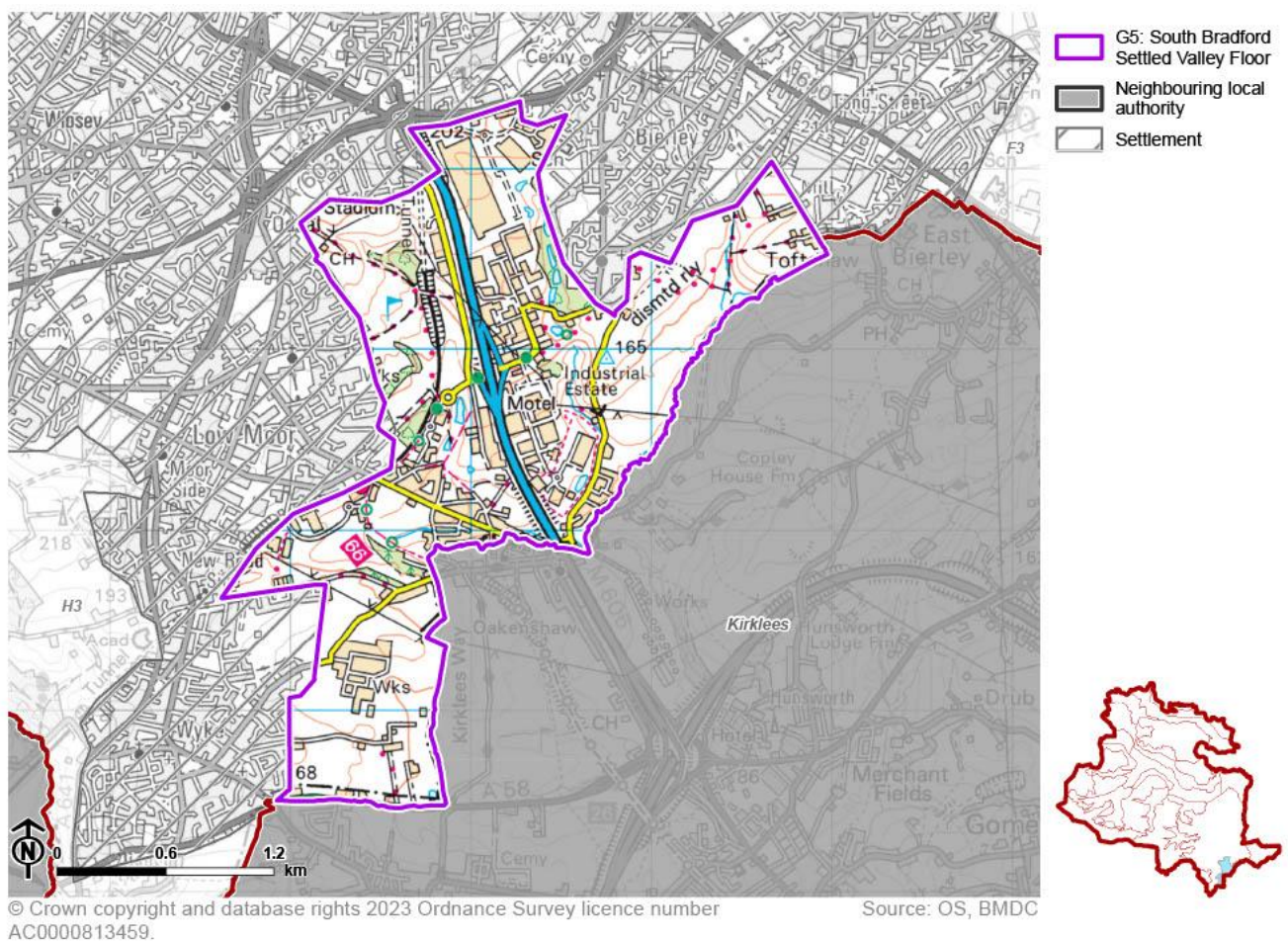
- The floodplain pastures can be viewed from a number of prominent positions, notably on the adjacent Rombalds Moor, and there is strong intervisibility along the length of the A65 trunk road to the elevated moorlands in the south. Within Ilkley south of Skipton Road, the landform rises sharply and views north across the valley are available towards the Nidderdale AONB.
- There are channelled views along the River Wharfe from foot bridges and road crossings. Where lack of development permits, views are open along the floodplain and across the open pastoral fields.
- In the undeveloped stretches between settlements, within the pastoral fields along the wooded River Wharfe corridor, there is a more pronounced sense of tranquillity, with some localised effects of light and sound from the A65 and settlement edges.
- Within the settlements there is a strong sense of place, with visual connections out to the surrounding upland moors and valley sides, and location along the River Wharfe. A strong sense of time-depth is also evident, with historic buildings associated with the spa heritage particularly in Ilkley, and surrounding medieval field patterns arising from the long-standing agricultural traditions in the Wharfe Valley.
- Along the River Wharfe corridor, the A65 and occasional industrial uses (e.g. the sewage works north of Ilkley) affect the otherwise pastoral and tranquil setting.

G5. South Bradford Settled Valley Floor

Location, Context and Summary

South Bradford Settled Valley Floor is an urban fringe landscape heavily influenced by its proximity to Bradford, consisting of the sloping land between the southern extent of the Bradford urban core and the district boundary with Kirklees. Motorway traffic and very large brightly coloured distribution centres abut traditional stone farmsteads and hedgerow bounded pasture. The area is affected by urban and industrial development which have weakened its character, though it does contain a wide variety of land uses in a relatively small area and includes some valuable wetland habitat. The landscape does not conform to administrative boundaries, and on the ground the area is perceived as part of a wider unit of fragmented landscape that exists between the Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds and Bradford conurbations.

Figure 3.168: Location of LCA G5



Key Characteristics

- Sloping north to south landform within a settled basin underlain by Lower Pennine Coal Measure geology.
- Acidic low-fertility soil and competing land uses have restricted farming, which is limited to pockets of enclosed pasture.
- Some rural qualities and time-depth with piecemeal and surveyed enclosure bounded by drystone walls remains.
- Woodland blocks, including ancient woodland, are present throughout the area, at Odsal Wood, Bierley Wood and along the course of High Royds Beck.
- Raw Nook (Railway Terrace) Nature Reserve provides recreational value and important biodiverse woodland, wetland and heathland habitat.
- Long history of industrial use, including 19th century iron works, dye works, chemical works and British Railway sidings in the Oakenshaw basin. There has been extensive coal mining activity in the area, with disused mineshafts scattered between Oakenshaw and Low Moor.
- Settlement concentrated in the lower lying basin at Oakenshaw and Lower Woodlands, through which the M606 passes. There are occasional farmsteads scattered amongst the pockets of enclosed pasture.
- Functions as a key transport link and is dominated by the industrial corridor along the M606, consisting of huge distribution centres, warehouses and chemical works.
- The dominant mass of industry, the M606 and large pylons are intermingled with areas of small fields, neglected farms and winding lanes giving a busy, complex feel to the landscape. The mixture of scales and wide variety of elements creates an incoherence to its character.
- Limited tranquillity and dark skies due to M606 industrial corridor and proximity to Bradford.

Figure 3.169: Example photos from LCA G5



Large scale warehouses dominate on higher ground.



Nature reserves provide woodland and wetland habitat.



Relationship with the urban edge of Bierley.



Fly tipping is a problem in parts of the LCA.



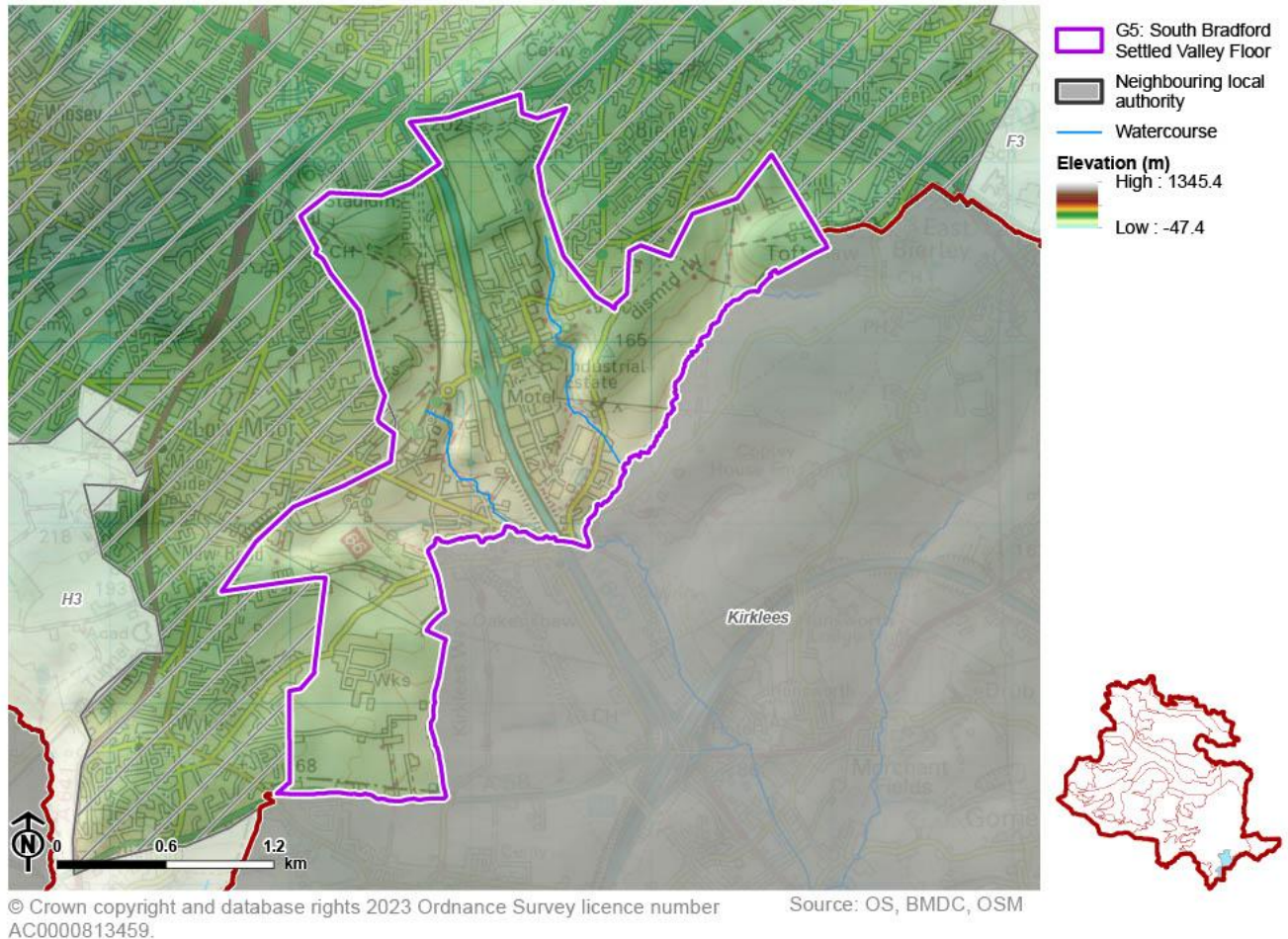
Pylons and large storage sheds are visible across the transport corridor.



Views towards industrial units visible within the treeline from neighbouring Kirklees District.

Landscape Character

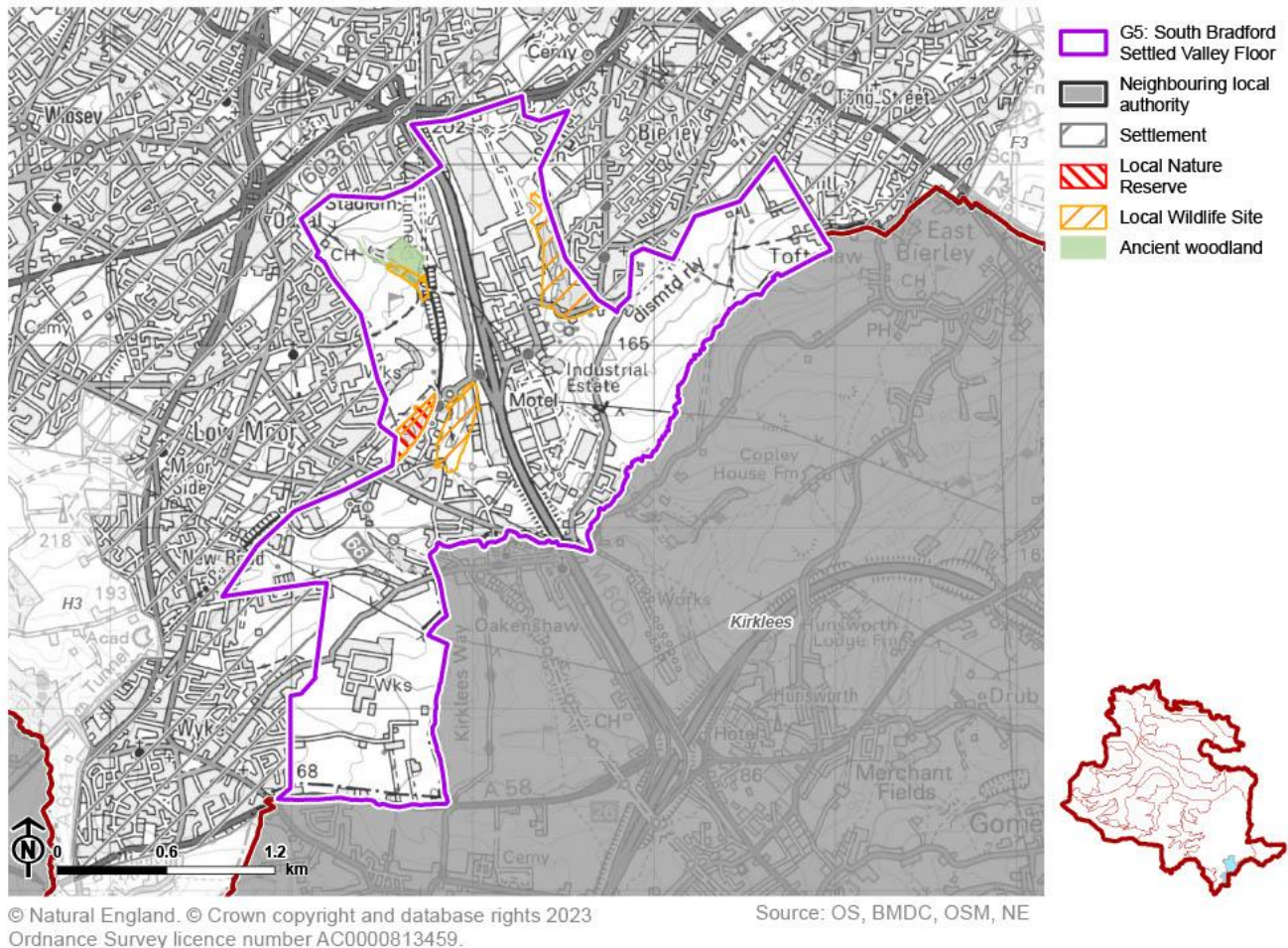
Figure 3.170: Topography of LCA G5



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying bedrock comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Lower Pennine Coal Measure Formation, as well as Clifton Rock Sandstone. Much of the area is covered by glacial till drift deposits.
- These rocks break down into low fertility acidic soils. The predominant soil type is a seasonally wet loamy and clayey soil which impeded drainage.
- High Royds Beck runs along the southern boundary of the LCA and two unnamed small becks flow north to south meeting at the southern area boundary. There are several small artificial ponds and wetlands in the minor valleys either side of the M606, including Bierley Ponds.
- The topography slopes from north to south, from a high point of approximately 202m AOD at South Bradford Golf Club to a low point of approximately 120m AOD at Oakenshaw.

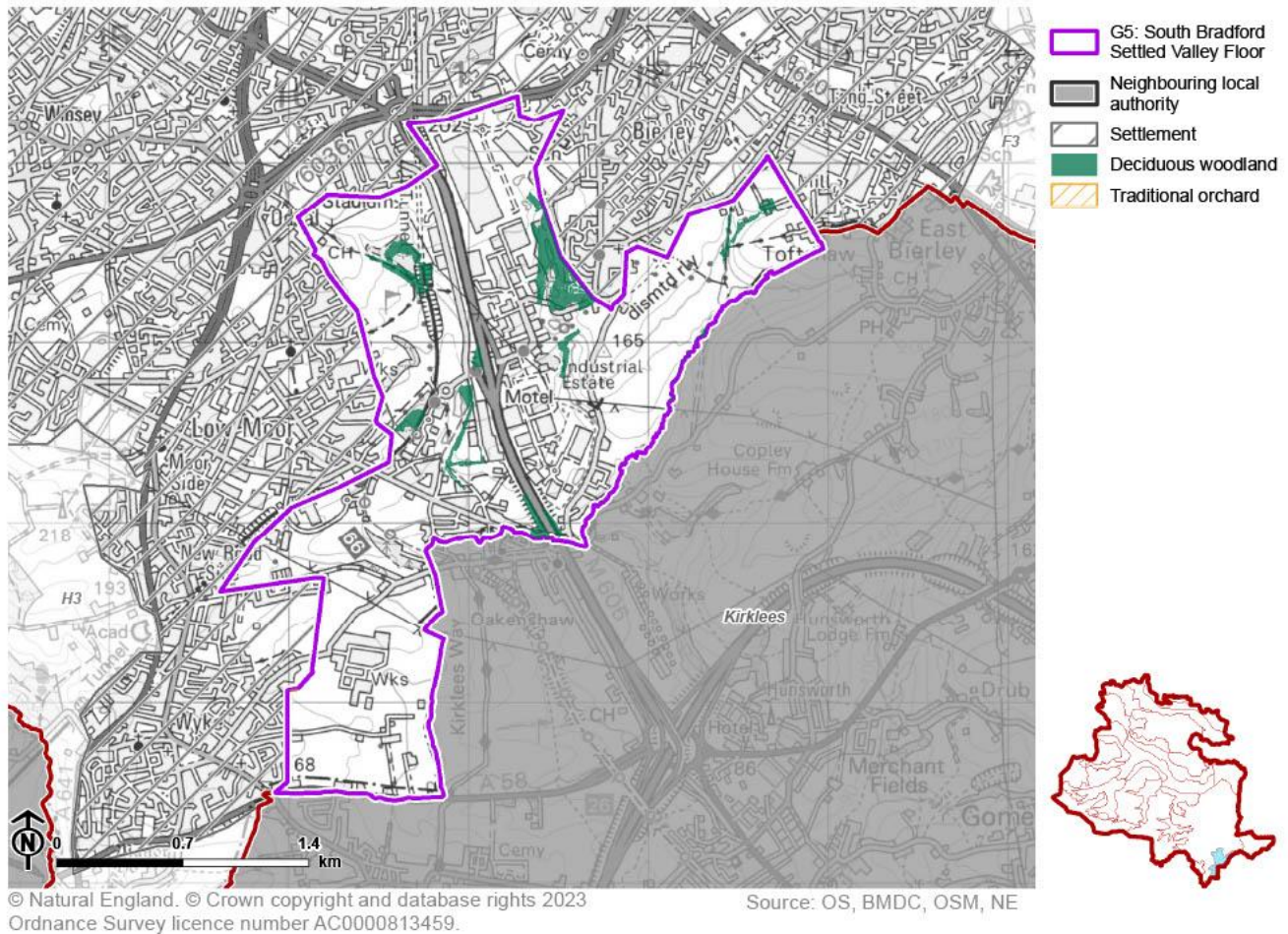
Figure 3.171: Natural heritage of LCA G5



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Broadleaved tree cover throughout the area is relatively abundant, consisting of woodland corridors in the small valleys, as well as shelterbelts and strips around the M606 and surrounding industrial corridor. Much of it is classed as priority habitat. Hedgerow trees in pockets of enclosed pasture and ornamental planting at South Bradford Golf Club also contribute to the tree cover in the area.
- Despite the high concentration of industry, there are some notable semi-natural habitats in the area, largely concentrated along the wooded railway corridor. Odsal Wood, adjacent to South Bradford Golf Club is classified as Ancient Woodland and is a Local Wildlife Site. On the opposite side of the M606, Bierley Wood is also a Local Wildlife Site with wetland habitat in the form of historic artificial ponds.
- The ponds in Bierley Woods, although subjected to recreational pressure, boast a good variety of wildlife such as pond snails, water scorpion and pond skaters, palmate newts, frogs and toads as well as heron, kingfisher and green woodpecker, nuthatch and tree creeper in the woodlands.
- Railway Terrace, Raw Nook and Toad Holes Beck comprise a Local Wildlife Site and Bradford's first Local Nature Reserve on former railway sidings. It is composed of a mosaic of habitats which include lowland heath, small copses, wildflower meadows and a pond which together support a wide range of plants, birds and insects.

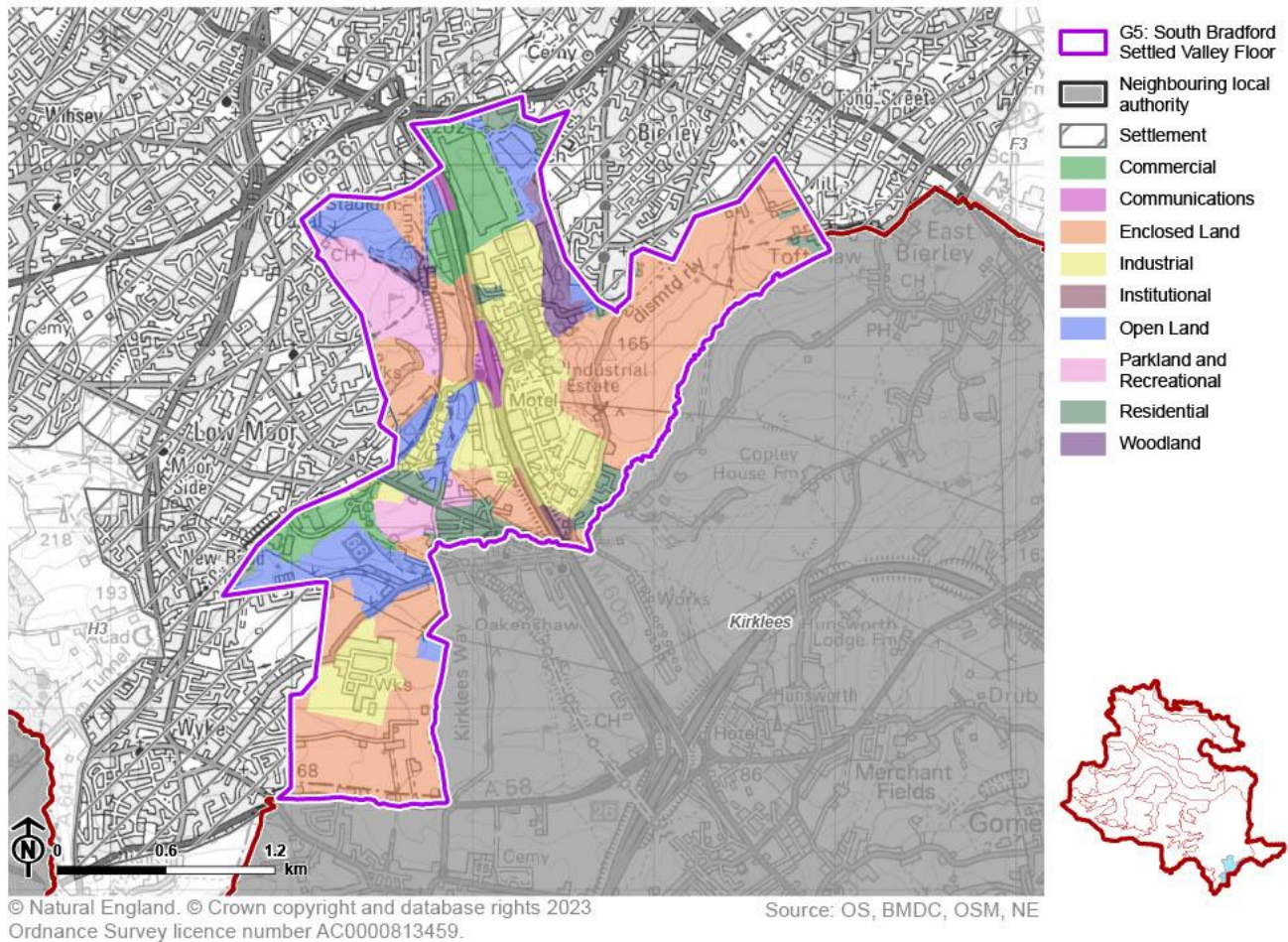
Figure 3.172: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G5



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Land use is heavily influenced by close proximity to Bradford. The area consists of an industrial corridor encompassing the M606 motorway and, in the core of the area, very large distribution centres and retail parks. The corridor widens around the settlement of Oakenshaw to form a smaller area to the north east of Wyke, which includes a large chemical works.
- Large tracts of this LCA, especially around the M606 and Oakenshaw, have variable man-made ground conditions signifying the large impact which industry has had on this part of the District.
- There are pockets of enclosed pasture west of the M606 and more extensively to the south and east of the industrial corridor. The majority of the field patterns are due to piecemeal enclosure, with some boundary loss, though there is a more intact area in the east as well as some surviving strip enclosure. Drystone walls and hedgerows in the area are often poorly maintained.
- Recreation is another notable land use. The area includes South Bradford Golf Club, Holy Trinity Cricket Club, Woodlands Cricket Club and recreational woodland and wetland at Bierley ponds, Low Moor Bank and Railway Terrace.

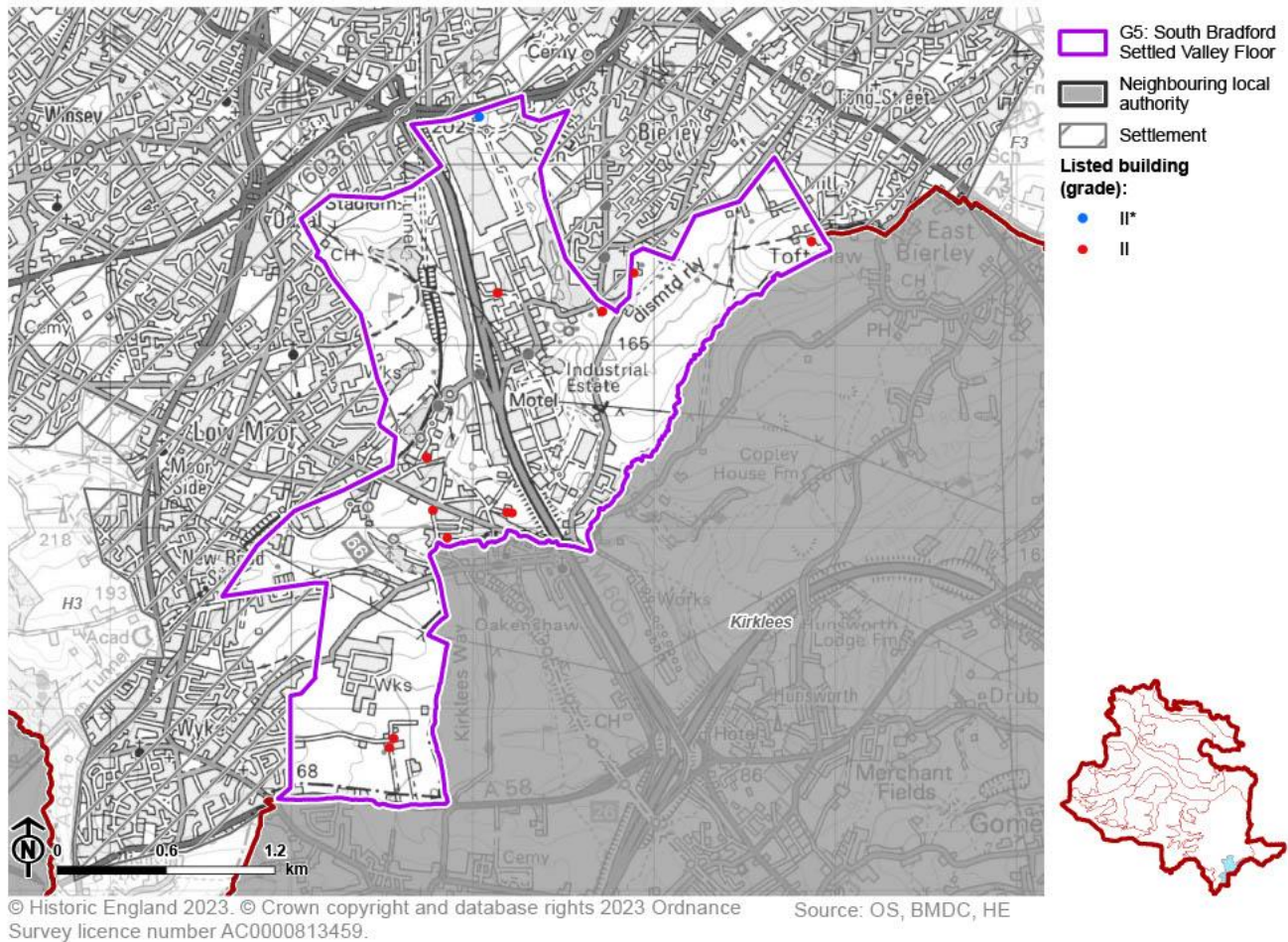
Figure 3.173: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G5



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The area has a long history of industrial use, including 19th century iron works, dye works, chemical works and British Railway sidings in the Oakenshaw basin. There has been extensive coal mining activity in the area, with disused mineshafts scattered between Oakenshaw and Low Moor.
- Although the rural historic landscape of the area is generally weakened by the associated infrastructure of the M606 industrial corridor, farms and field patterns in its pockets of enclosed pasture (particularly in the east above High Royds Beck) serve as a reminder of how the area would have been originally, before mining and modern development.
- Bierley Hall Woods were once part of the estate and parklands of Bierley Hall, demolished in the 1960s.
- Recreational land use in the area is long standing. South Bradford Golf Club has occupied its present site since 1917, while Low Moor Holy Trinity Cricket Club and Woodlands Cricket Club were both established in the late 19th century. Victoria Park was established in 1900.

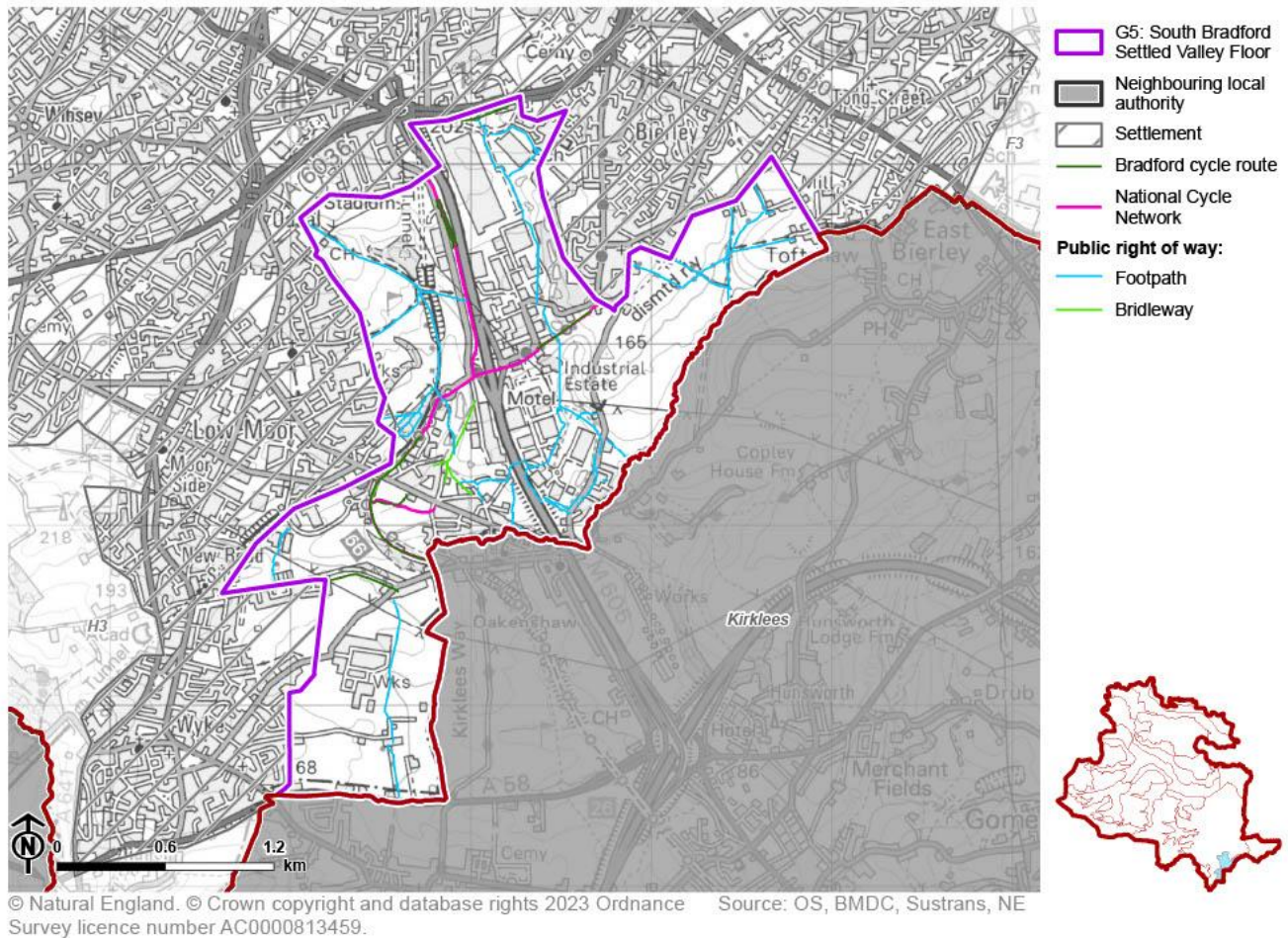
Figure 3.174: Cultural heritage of LCA G5



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The LCA contains the M606, the spur of the motorway that links Bradford to the M62, and therefore the M1. In this way, the area functions as a gateway between Bradford and the rest of the country. Its current character is dominated by the consequences of its role as a 'transport link'. The motorway creates a physical barrier within the landscape reducing the connectivity between the east and west of the area.
- Settlement in the area is concentrated in the lower lying basin at Oakenshaw and Lower Woodlands, through which the M606 passes. There are occasional farmsteads scattered amongst the pockets of enclosed pasture.
- A network of B-roads converges on Oakenshaw, providing local access through the area to Bradford.
- The Calder Valley railway line emerges from a tunnel at Odsal Wood and traverses the western half of the LCA. The landform associated with the tunnel mouth forms a physical barrier within the landscape further reducing connectivity for pedestrians.

Figure 3.175: Access and recreation of LCA G5



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by a public rights of way network which provides access to its parkland, woodland and wetland, much of which constitute local wildlife sites. Raw Nook (Railway Terrace) Nature Reserve is well valued for its semi-natural habitats and wildlife and provides the focus for a Community Conservation Group.
- The ponds in Bierley Wood are used for fishing, with access administered by Bierley Angling Club.
- National Cycle Route 66 passes through the centre of the LCA via the former Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway line at Oakenshaw (known as the Spen Valley Greenway).
- Other recreational features in the landscape include a golf course, cricket grounds and parkland.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The dominant mass of industry, the M606 and large pylons are intermingled with areas of small fields, neglected farms and winding lanes giving a busy, complex feel to the landscape. The mixture of scales and wide variety of elements creates an incoherence to its character.
- Views tend to be relatively contained across much of the area due to the landform, tree cover and the concentration of large structures along the M606 corridor, though some longer distance views are available from higher elevations such as Mill Carr Hill Road and Greenfield Lane above the High Royds Beck valley.

- Despite the dominance of the M606 industrial corridor, the area's small wooded valleys retain a sense of intimacy and enclosure.
- Due to the M606 industrial corridor and proximity to Bradford, dark skies and tranquillity are limited across the LCA, being highest at Toftshaw Bottom on the valley floor of High Royds Beck.

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT G: Settled Valley Floor

Climate Change

- Climate change leading to increased temperatures and periods of drought could result in lower water levels and stream flows which may adversely impact on associated habitats and landscape character.
 - G1, G2: The floodplain grazing marsh and other identified priority habitats rely on being periodically flooded to maintain water levels and support a diversity of plants and invertebrates. Changes in water levels would affect these habitats and the species they support.
 - G1, G3: Loss/change to trees and waterside vegetation would lead to habitat loss and erode the vertical definition of watercourses, often hidden within the wider landscape.
 - G2: Small, isolated and fragmented areas of wetland habitats (e.g. Bingley South Bog SSSI and local wildlife sites) are vulnerable to unpredictable fluctuations and changes in water levels. Loss or change in species composition would occur with changing conditions.
 - G2, G3, G5: Changes to water levels in springs, ditches, ponds and weirs with reduced water levels could reduce the contribution these features make to the character of the landscape, the habitats they provide and their historic connection to a past landscape.
- Climate change may also result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall, potentially causing increased flood events in Airedale and Wharfedale. This may necessitate flood prevention schemes at higher points in the catchment.
 - G1, G2: Changes in frequency of flooding and water levels would affect this floodplain grazing marsh and the species it supports. Flood prevention schemes at higher points in the catchment could also alter the existing balance.
 - G2, G4: An increase in the frequency and extent of flooding would affect buildings and settlement already in close proximity to the existing extent of floodplain.
 - G4: Landslips which are already a common occurrence on the Wharfedale Valley sides would likely increase in frequency and severity.
 - G1, G2: New flood prevention schemes at higher points in the catchment could impact on the washlands, which are a natural store of water and essential to the management of the flood risk of the River Aire.
- Climate change increases the risk of pests and diseases which survive in warmer and wetter conditions. Potentially impacting on certain species of plants which can cause major habitat damage and impact on landscape character, screening and historic continuity.
 - G2, G3, G5: Potential loss of tracts of woodland (including ancient woodland) and trees would expose abrupt built edges, sewage works (G3) industrial buildings and infrastructure.

Agricultural Change

- Changes in grazing pressure, both overgrazing and under grazing, as a result of climate change and changing markets, could impact on the existing character of the pastoral landscape, its habitats and historic continuity.
 - G1, G2: Grazing marsh priority habitat relies on appropriate grazing levels for perpetuation of habitat and species.
- Changing agricultural practices could result in hedgerows and traditional drystone wall field boundaries being lost or not maintained. The definition of field boundaries and historic enclosure could be eroded and lost.
 - G1, G2, G5: Hedgerow loss, unmaintained drystone walls and horse paddock fencing already impact on character and reduce intactness.

Development

- Significant amounts of change have occurred in these landscapes over the last few centuries. This change has been piecemeal without an overall strategy, the pastoral landscape and wetland habitats within the floodplain have only been retained due to their inappropriateness for building on.

- Encroachment of development on the edges of settlements and along transport corridors continues to erode the setting of settlements and the definition of the more rural pastoral landscape.
 - G1: The wide valley floor is experiencing encroachment as development creeps onto the edges of the open pastoral floodplain (e.g. southern edge of Silsden northern edge of Steeton). Piecemeal encroachment of urban influences (e.g. lighting, bollards, fencing) and deterioration in condition of features (e.g. unmaintained walls) reduces intactness and strength of character.
 - G1: Enclosed pastures in close proximity to settlements along the valley have suffered some deterioration in condition due to urban influences. Some areas have been fenced for horse grazing. Lack of repair to walls is evident in some locations.
 - G2: Open pastoral fields which retain separation between developments are vulnerable to lack of management which will erode character and reduce distinctiveness.
 - G2, G3: Lighting and infrastructure associated with sports pitches and recreation grounds on the flat valley floor perpetuate urban edge character and reduce distinction between urban and rural areas.
 - G5: There is development pressure on the edges of Wyke to the west and Bierley to the north, potentially affecting the few remaining pockets of enclosed pasture.

Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- Lack of control of invasive species impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity changing habitats and species composition.
 - G1 and G4: The rapid spread of Himalayan Balsam is one of the most significant threats to biodiversity along the Rivers Wharfe and Aire. It is shading out native species and is likely to increase the rate of erosion of the river side banks.
- Introduction of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and habitat banking related to Biodiversity Net Gain could alter the existing character through landscape-scale habitat creation and enhancements including management changes in some areas. Such changes should take into consideration the key characteristics of the landscape and seek to build upon and enhance character.

Heritage at Risk

- If not carefully considered, tree planting and development could alter both views of, and the setting of, the Saltaire World Heritage Site.
- Loss of important urban industrial heritage due to neglect.
 - G2: A number of important relics of the textiles industry in Keighley are suffering from deterioration including Grade II* Listed Dalton Mills, which has suffered significant fire damage, and the Mill Building at Low Mills.

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Increasingly under or over used footpaths and associated maintenance issues (e.g. litter, surface repairs, overhanging vegetation).
- Visitor pressure on natural and cultural heritage features (Saltaire, Leeds and Liverpool Canal, local wildlife site).

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- Fly tipping in more remote rural locations.
 - G5: Fly tipping on the edge of rural lanes near Bierley and general litter on road verges.

Guidance

- Conserve, maintain and enhance the distinctive open and undeveloped, pastoral floodplain landscape of the valley floor. Including the larger swathes (LCA G1) and smaller pockets (LCA G2) which provide a natural store for water and retain important areas of open landscape between concentrations of development.
- Conserve, maintain and where possible connect fragmented valuable wetlands habitats (priority habitats, SSSI, local wildlife sites and local nature reserves). Update or prepare and implement habitat management plans.
- Encourage ecological monitoring and assessment to understand and record changes in the landscape and guide future management.
- Conserve, enhance and connect areas of woodland (including ancient woodland) and tree cover to improve landscape character and biodiversity value. Through careful planning and design, increase and perpetuate woodland and tree cover to contain, screen and absorb existing settlement and infrastructure.
- Promote the development of tree strategies and woodland management plans to provide guidance on sustainable tree and woodland management. This should include guidance on active management (e.g. pollarding in LCA G3) for carbon sequestration; retaining important views; biodiversity; creating diversity in age structure; planting and successional planting locations; and appropriate species for resilience to climate change and pests/diseases.
- Appropriately manage and replant hedgerows (including gapping up) and hedgerow trees to strengthen landscape character and provide ecological connections. Use a diversity of appropriate native species to provide habitat and landscape resilience.
- Maintain intact drystone walls, repairing as required. Ensure that repair and restoration is carried out sensitively and with due regard to local style and construction. Resist use of post and wire fences and horse paddock fencing where this may weaken distinctive landscape character.
- Maintain and encourage appropriate levels of (conservation) grazing to perpetuate traditional land management practices, retain a strong pastoral character and benefit biodiversity.
 - G1, G2: encourage low intensity farming and promote creation and restoration of meadows.
- Resist and prevent further built development along the river corridors within the floodplain, including preventing the encroachment of urban influences such as lighting, bollards, fencing.
- Sensitively manage potential flood prevention and flood risk management schemes to ensure downstream impacts are thoroughly understood, particularly considering impacts on grazing marshes/washlands.
- Promote river restoration including options for improving water quality, protecting the river courses and preventing bankside erosion through appropriate management of riparian vegetation.
 - G4: Improving water quality for bathing within the Wharfe (historic spa town connections).
- Conserve, restore and maintain springs, ditches, ponds and weirs as historic and ecological features of the landscape.
- Monitor and sensitively/appropriately control invasive species using mechanical methods (resist use of chemicals especially near water courses).
 - G1, G4: Himalayan balsam control and management along Silsden Beck and the River Wharfe.
- Maintain recreational routes (e.g. manage overhanging vegetation, keep clear of litter, ensure appropriate directional signage) which often provide vital access to the countryside from built up areas/settlement. Encourage new joined up active travel routes along river corridors. Any new recreational features or parks should tie into the existing or future network, where possible.
- Conserve open views across pasture and channelled views along water courses which provide an important contrast to the built area-up areas.
- Protect the Outstanding Universal Value of Saltaire World Heritage Site and minimise the negative impact of development within the Buffer Zone on the World Heritage Site (G2). Consider setting and views in relation to potential new tree planting and development.

- Maintain traditional and listed buildings in good condition (including, chimney viaducts and tunnels). Ensure use of traditional building materials and methods in repair and restoration.