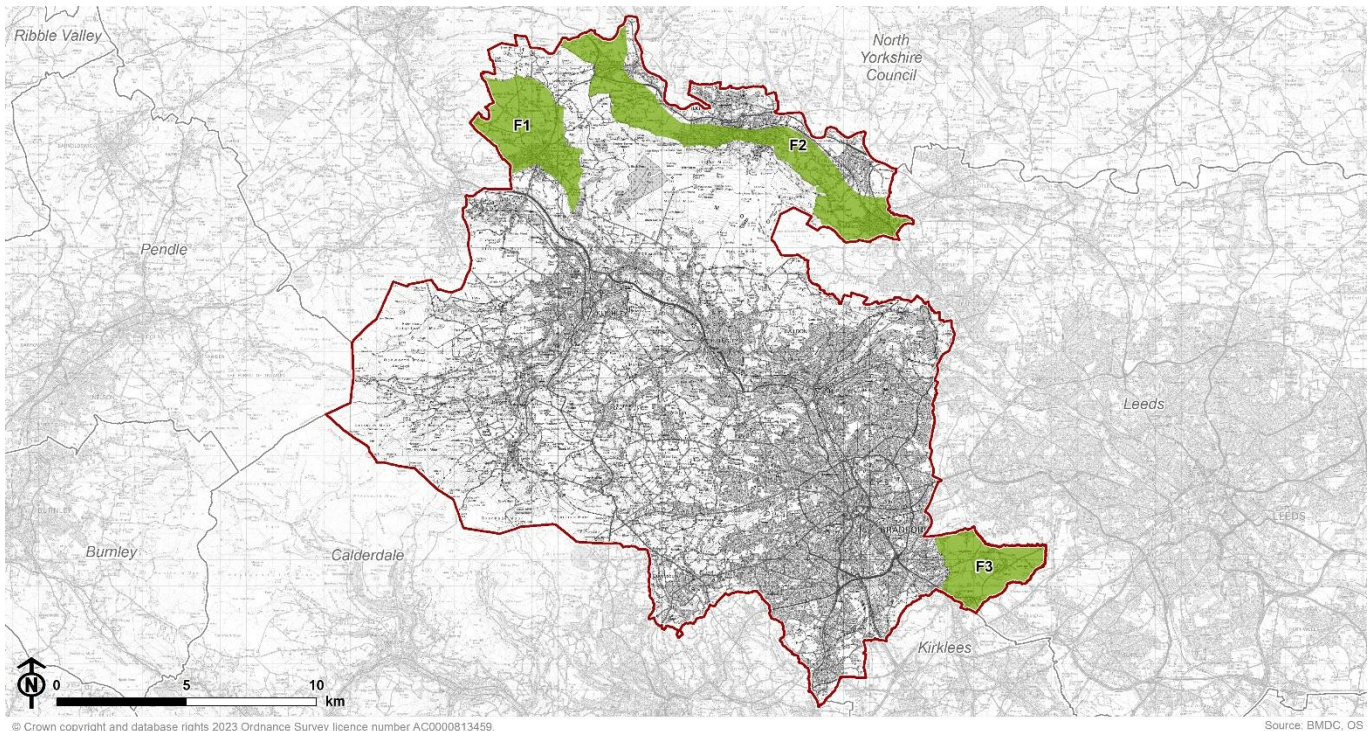


Landscape Character Type F: Rolling Enclosed Pasture

Figure 3.110: Location of the Rolling Enclosed Pasture



LCT F Overview

Consisting of rolling farmland, the Enclosed Pasture landscape character type contains numerous patches of woodland among its extensive pastoral fields. Fields are generally irregular and bounded by drystone walls, hedges, and hedgerow trees. These agricultural areas are more sheltered and contain more tree cover than farmland within LCT B: Moorland Fringe or LCT E: Upland Pasture. This character type is located adjacent to smaller settlements within the Aire, Wharfe and Tong valleys, and consequently settlement within the area is more diverse than the more typical isolated farmstead typology found in more remote LCTs. Dispersed residences are tucked among the undulating fields and relatively well integrated into the landscape by mature woodlands, limiting the effects of development on the rural characteristics. There are some areas of modern farm development, which break the pattern of smallholding farmsteads and fields.

There are three LCAs within this LCT:

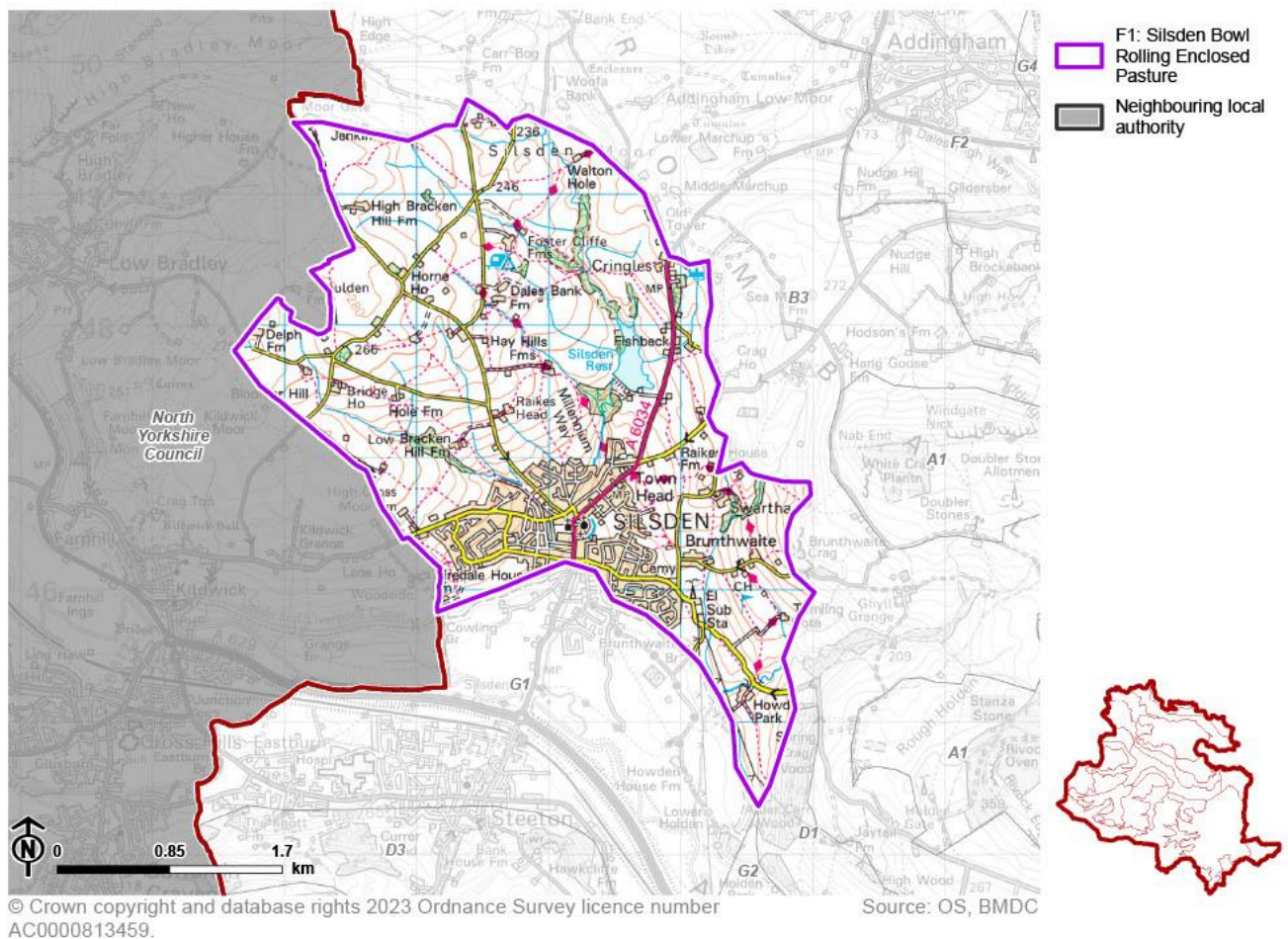
- F1. Silsden Bowl Rolling Enclosed Pasture
- F2. Wharfedale Rolling Enclosed Pasture
- F3. Tong Valley Rolling Enclosed Pasture

F1. Silsden Bowl Rolling Enclosed Pasture

Location, Context and Summary

The Silsden Bowl Rolling Enclosed Pasture LCA consists of an undulating pastoral landscape dotted with small groupings of trees and woodlands. It is situated between the gently rising Silsden and Baildon Moorland fringe in the north and east, and the Airedale Valley to the south. The town of Silsden is located in the south of the LCA, and sits in a shallow depression along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, just north of the River Aire. A mix of arable and pastoral fields encircle the town, but transition to primarily pastoral fields as the landform climbs in elevation to the north and east. Irregular, small-scale fields are bound by gappy hedgerows and drystone walls, and form part of the rural setting to the settlement. Settlement is more common in this character type than the more remote areas in the moorland fringes to the east, and becomes more prevalent in the south in proximity to Silsden. The landscape forms part of the transition between the uplands to the north and east, and more densely settled river valleys to the west.

Figure 3.111: Location of LCA F1



Key Characteristics

- A gently rolling landform which falls from more elevated moorland in the north west and east to the more settled Airedale Valley in the south.
- The underlying geology is generally comprised of Millstone Grit, giving rise to more acidic soils and limiting arable farming across the slopes.
- Woodland bands are found in meandering and incised stream corridors and around reservoirs, flowing down moorland slopes in the north east and west towards the valley in the south.
- Pastoral, mostly regular fields, with a mix of hedgerow and drystone walls boundaries contribute to a strong sense of time-depth and illustrate the history of agricultural land use across the landscape.
- Consistent field patterns defined by drystone walls across the rising pastoral fields in the north of the LCA contribute to a distinctive upland Yorkshire character.
- Public rights of way extend from the northern settlement edge into the rising slopes to the north, and the Millennium Way long distance route crosses from the Airedale Valley to Ilkley Moor in the north east.
- Settlement within the area has primarily agricultural origins, with historic farmsteads dispersed across the slopes and more recent industrial influences in the form of mills and workers housing in proximity to the canal.
- Distant southerly views to the rising wooded slopes and moorlands across the Airedale Valley provide a strong sense of place, although local undulations and tree cover limits views further down the slopes in proximity to Silsden.
- Areas to the south near Silsden possess a more urban character, while areas to the north among the rising pastoral fields provide a sense of rurality and seclusion, bolstered by the visual connections across the settled Airedale Valley.

Figure 3.112: Example photos from LCA F1



Pastoral fields in the south with views across the Airedale Valley.



Rolling landform with steeper slopes around incised wooded becks.



Drystone walls form a consistent pattern across rising pastoral fields, interspersed with clumps of in-field trees.



Views from rising land north of Silsden across the settled Airedale Valley, with chimney stacks and factory buildings seen to the south.



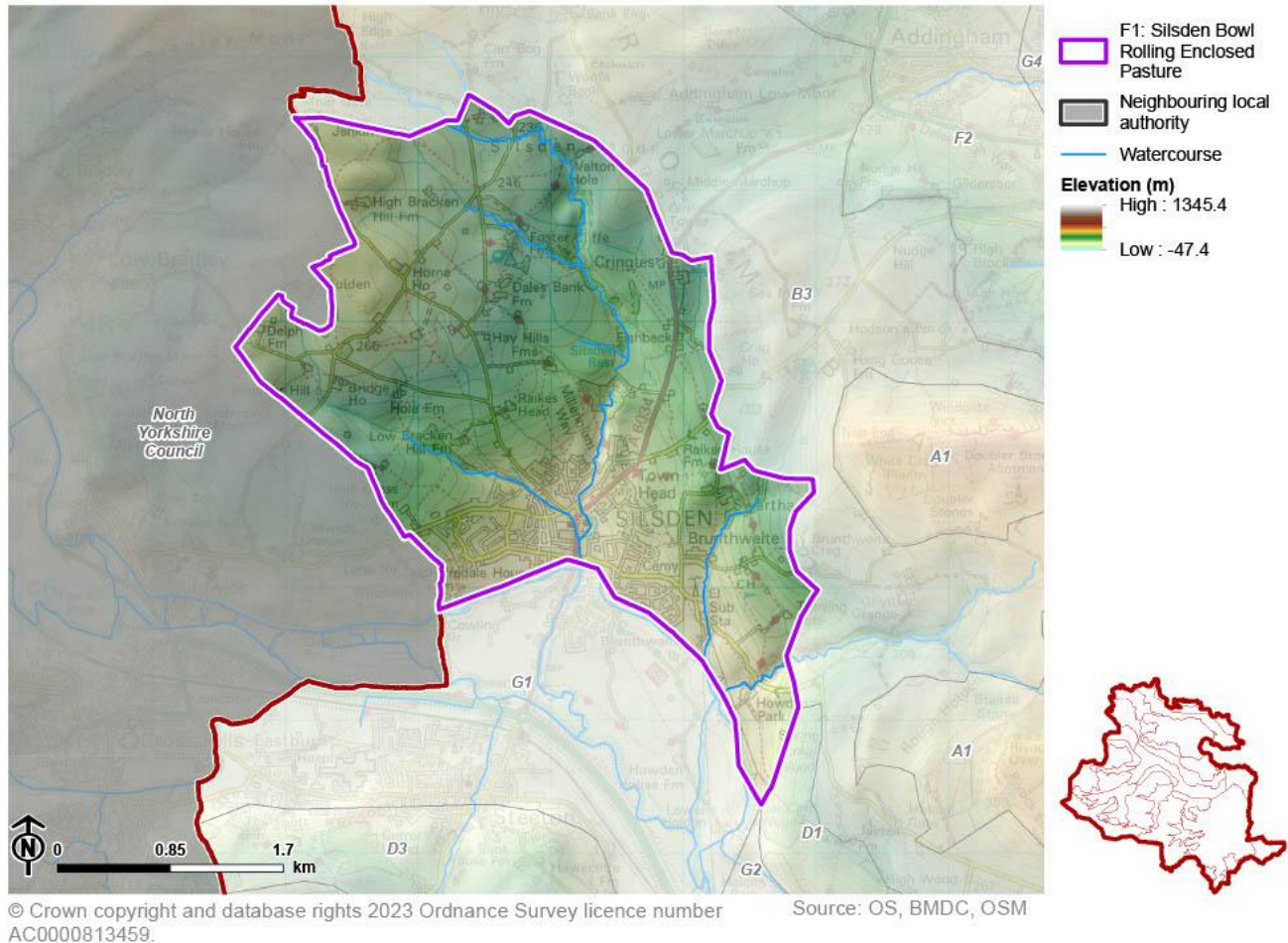
Grade II Listed buildings at Silsden.



Woodland bordering Hayhills Beck.

Landscape Character

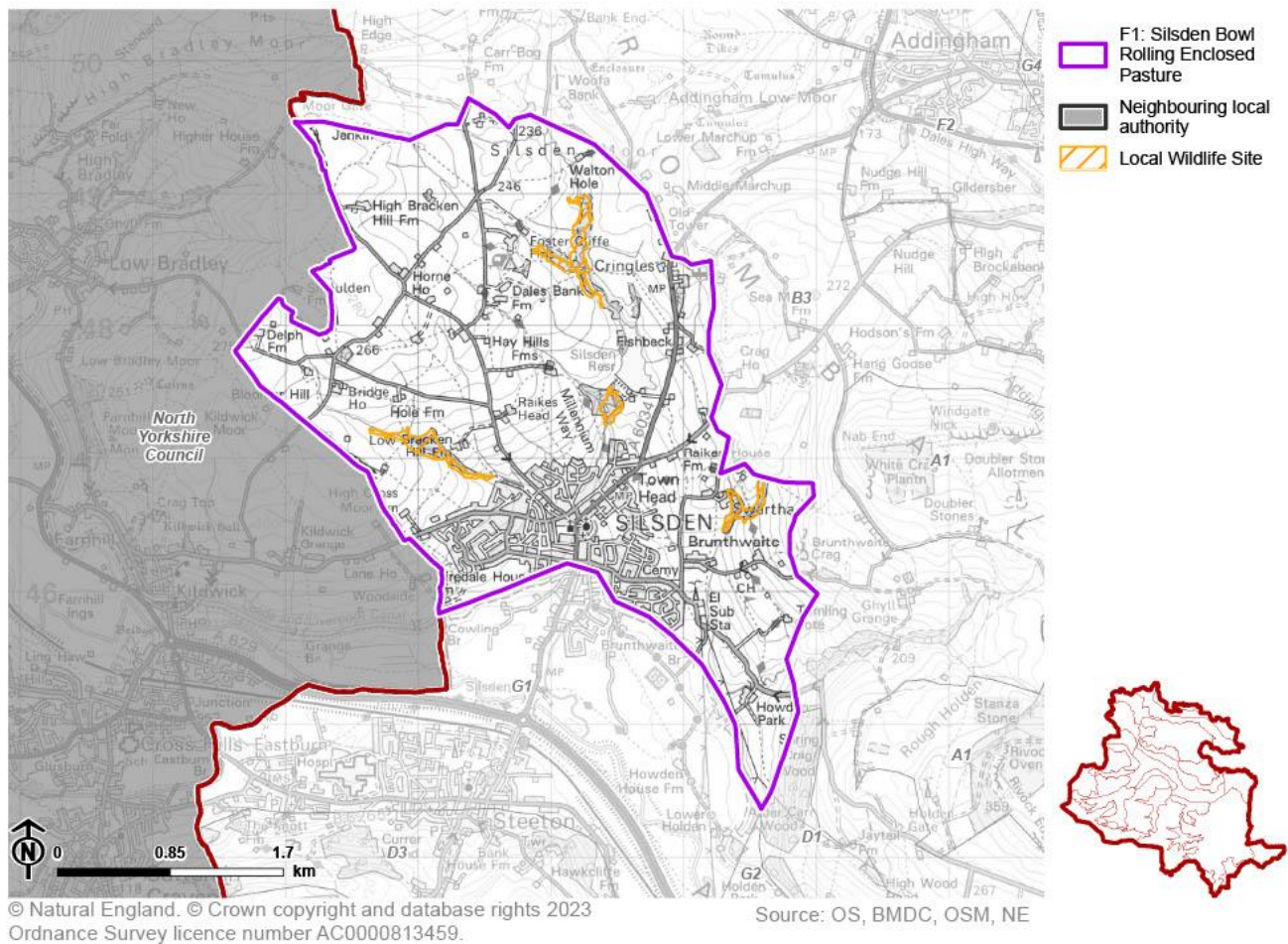
Figure 3.113: Topography of LCA F1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous mudstone, siltstone and sandstone from the Millstone Grit Group.
- These rocks break down into low fertility acidic soils. In the centre and south of the LCA this is dominated by more freely draining loamy soils.
- Several becks and incised stream corridors dissect the area, flowing from the moorlands in the north east and north west and joining the River Aire and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in the south. The most significant of these is the Great Gill Beck which feeds Silsden Reservoir in the east of the area.
- Gently undulating hills rise from approximately 100m AOD in the south near the Airedale Valley to roughly 280m AOD in the north west approaching High Bradley Moor, with steeper slopes in the east associated with incised stream corridors and the adjacent moorland fringe.
- There is a Bradford Local Geological Site on the course of the Bracken Hill Gill on the western edge of Silsden, where there is an exposure of Upper Carboniferous (Namurian) mudstones, clays and sandstone beds.

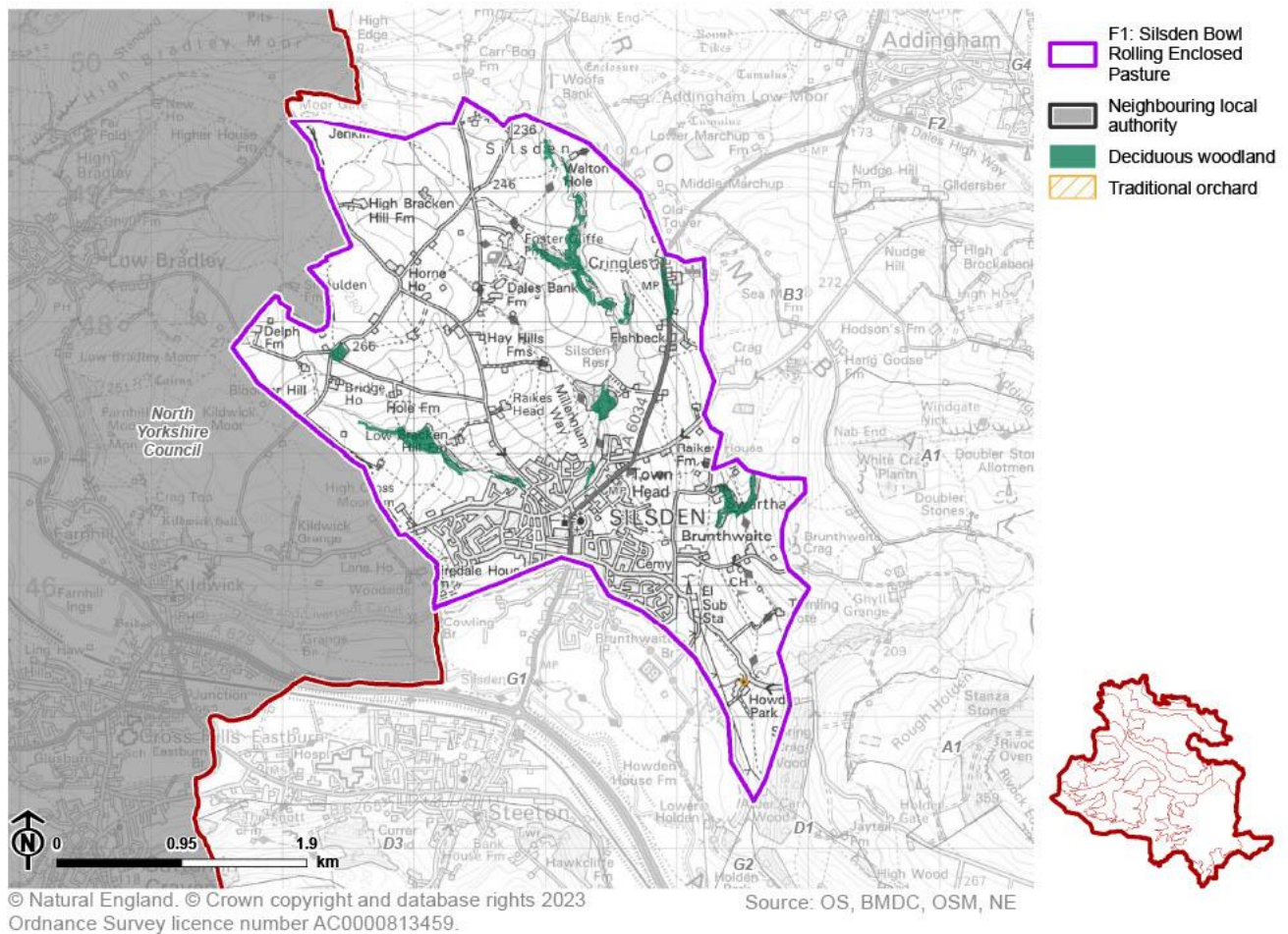
Figure 3.114: Natural heritage of LCA F1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Small broad-leaved woodland groupings and scrub are frequent within the landscape, particularly alongside Silsden reservoir and incised streams. Some of these have been identified as local wildlife sites, including the woodland around Great Gill Beck, Silsden Beck, Bracken Hill Gill, and Brunthwaite Beck.
- Hedgerows are a much more common in this area than in the wider district, particularly at the lower elevations on the outskirts of Silsden. Hedgerows form important ecological corridors which strengthen the wider woodland network.
- Additional areas of habitat include bands of riparian vegetation, mostly comprised of semi-improved neutral grassland, acid grassland, rush and scrub vegetation which can be found in small extents along the stream corridors and around Silsden Reservoir.

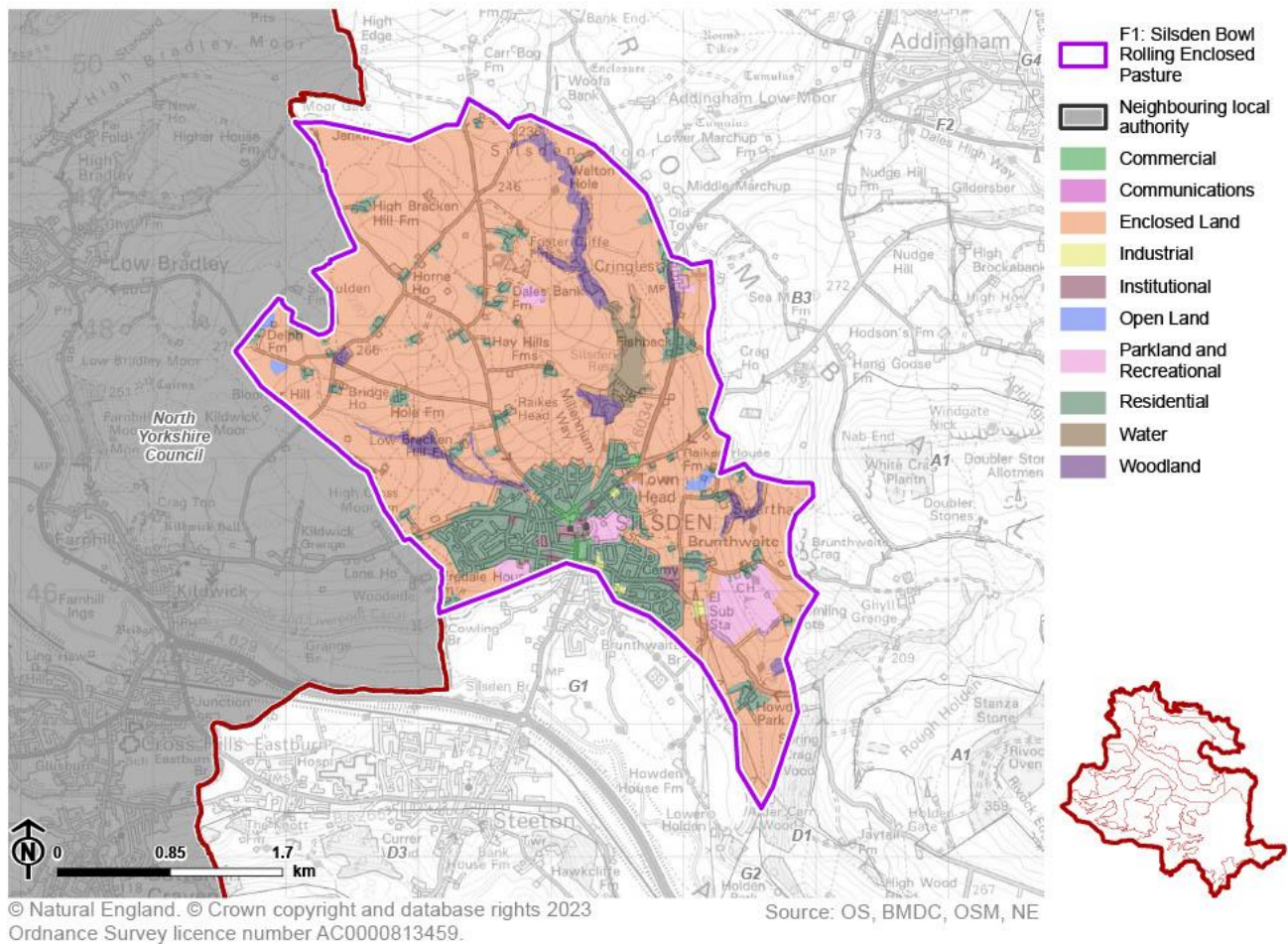
Figure 3.115: Priority habitat inventory of LCA F1



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Agricultural land is primarily semi-improved grassland used for grazing and silage, but transitions to arable use at lower elevations closer to Silsden. This reflects the transition from poor quality, acid soils to the more fertile soils found along the valley floor.
- The field pattern is comprised of small-scale, regular and semi-regular fields bound by hedgerows and drystone walls. Areas to the north west in proximity to the uplands are more typically delineated with drystone walls. There is limited boundary loss across the LCA, expressed by gappy hedgerows and occasional replacement with post and wire fencing.
- The majority of the LCA is piecemeal enclosure with medieval origins, and reflects the long-standing agricultural land uses across the landscape. Areas of remnant strip fields are found in proximity to the settlement edge and larger pastures of enclosed from moorland can be found in the north west.

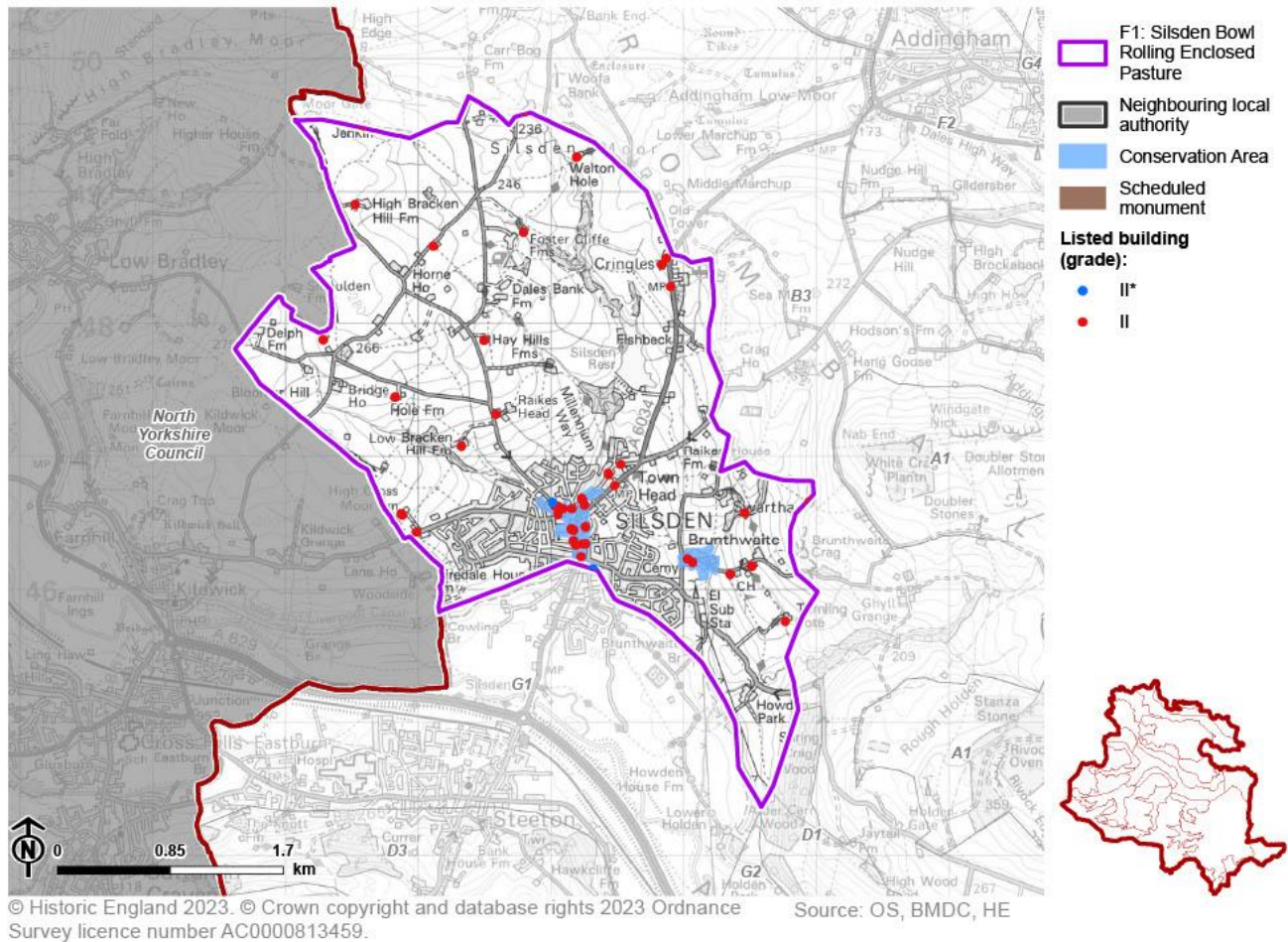
Figure 3.116: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA F1



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Across the LCA, vernacular stone farmsteads and traditional drystone walls and hedgerows contribute to the historic character and enhance the sense of place. This is particularly pronounced in areas to the north west in proximity to the moorlands at High Bradley Moor.
- Silsden Conservation Area forms a north-south spine through the centre of the settlement, and there is a cluster of grade II listed buildings within this central area which was first recorded as a small agricultural settlement in the 1086 Domesday Book.
- The small hamlet of Brunthwaite is situated to the east of Silsden, and is designated a conservation area as a result of its ancient origins as a Saxon manor holding. Its name originates from language meaning 'a clearing made by burning', likely referring to the prehistoric clearances for agriculture land uses. Strip fields associated with the ancient settlement are still expressed in the field pattern today, although there has been some modern influence with the introduction of a golf course across the fields (since closed).
- Numerous grade II listed buildings in the form of historic farmsteads are scattered across the LCA and contribute to the sense of place, rooted in agricultural history. A grade II listed aqueduct constructed in 1858 passes through Swartha Wood on the slopes east of Silsden.

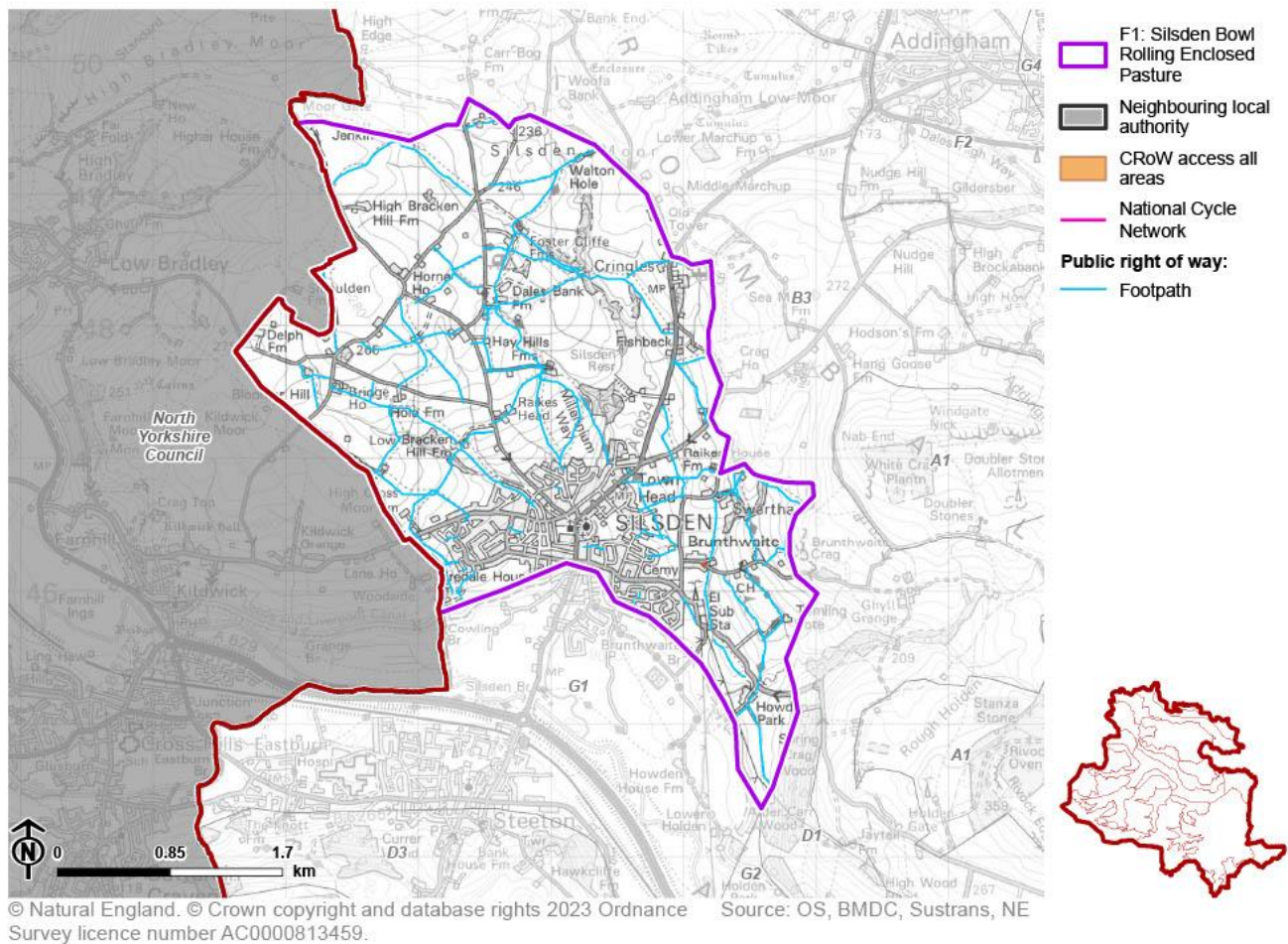
Figure 3.117: Cultural heritage of LCA F1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The main settlement in the LCA is Silsden, which sits at the southern area boundary alongside the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, close to the valley floor. During the Industrial Revolution the settlement expanded, bolstered by the growth of the wool industry and remnant mill buildings are still found located along the canal.
- Two small hamlets, Brunthwaite and Swartha, sit within 1km to the west of Silsden, possibly originating as smaller manor estates that made up the larger township of Silsden. The settlements have experienced limited change over the past century, retaining the limited settlement pattern with structures dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Frequent areas of woodland limit views of dispersed farmsteads across the LCA, and provide a somewhat integrated settlement edge for Silsden, softening views from the northern slopes.
- Rural lanes and limited minor roads extend from Silsden into the surrounding fields and eventually up into the moorlands, with dispersed farmsteads strung along the network. The A6034 connects Silsden and Addingham in the north, and offers sequential and unobstructed views across the Airedale Valley and surrounding pastoral fields.

Figure 3.118: Access and recreation of LCA F1



Access and Recreation

- A number of public rights of way extend from the edge of Silsden into the surrounding rural landscape, passing through pastoral fields and connecting a number of the dispersed farmsteads. Several extend up the steep slopes in the east to the remote moorlands of Addingham High Moor.
- The Millennium Way long-distance walking route crosses north-south through the LCA, connecting the river valley to the moorlands in the north east.
- The LCA contains two campsites which illustrate the appeal of the recreational landscape.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The gradually rising topography to the north offers distant views over the surrounding pastoral fields, although views are often limited by the frequent blocks of woodland, particularly approaching Silsden. Elevated areas to the east and in the far north offer more distant views across the Airedale Valley to Steeton Moor and its wooded rising slopes.
- The extensive areas of pastoral fields and meandering wooded streams in the north and at the peripheries of the settlement lend a rural and tranquil character to much of the LCA, which transitions into a more urban character in proximity to the Silsden settlement edge.
- Across fields in proximity to the settlement edge, influence of human development is more evident, with sounds of vehicular traffic and construction affecting the otherwise tranquil experience.

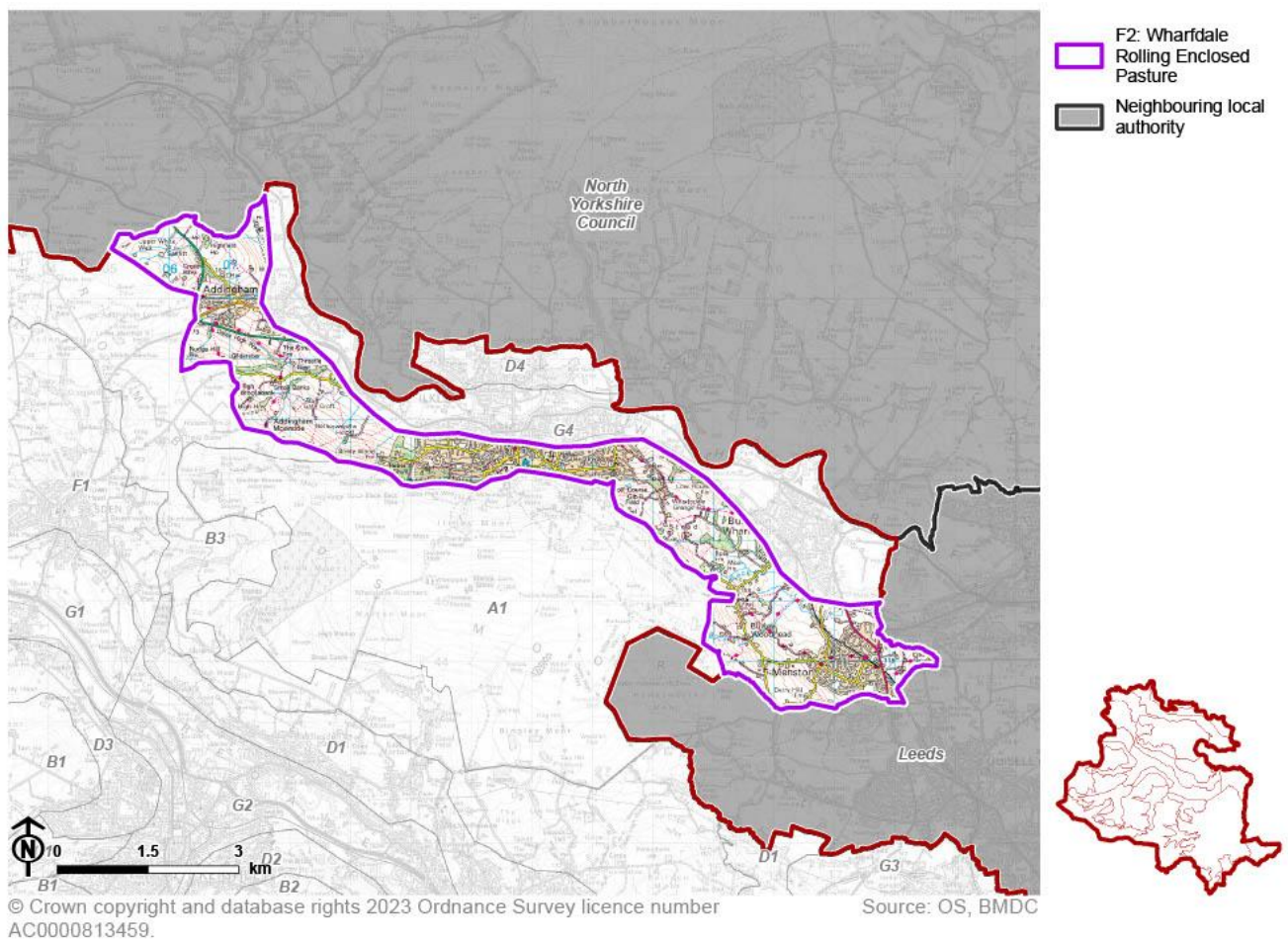
- In the north of the LCA in proximity to High Bradley Moor, the rural character is heightened, with landscape features more typical of the high moors (particularly the consistent geometric drystone walls across the slopes) and limited modern influences.
- The area to the east of Silsden between Brunthwaite and Swartha retains a strong sense of time depth due to influence of the manor developments, for example in tall well-maintained stone walls.

F2. Wharfedale Rolling Enclosed Pasture

Location, Context and Summary

The Wharfedale Rolling Enclosed Pasture LCA comprises the undulating pastoral fields to the north of Ilkley/Rombalds Moor. Forming a thin strip of sloping land, this landscape stretches from the settlement of Addingham in the north west, to Menston in the south east. The landscape is characterised by large swaths of improved grassland with intermittent woodland bands, interspersed with small areas of concentrated settlement. Areas of ancient woodland are sparse, but younger blocks of woodland form frequent features in the landscape along the numerous burns that flow south to the River Wharfe. The LCA sits between LCA A1: Rombalds Moor/ Ilkley Moorland Plateau to the south, and LCA G4: Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor to the north.

Figure 3.119: Location of LCA F2



Key Characteristics

- Sloping landform which transitions from the elevated moorland fringe near Rombalds Moor to the settled valley floor of the River Wharfe.
- Acidic lower fertility soil, resulting in mostly pastoral fields across the slopes, but with small areas of arable fields in proximity to the River Wharfe in the north as a result of till deposits.
- Piecemeal and surveyed enclosure bound by drystone walls and hedgerows, which contribute to a sense of place and time-depth.
- On higher slopes to the south, heath and moorland vegetation is more present and provides a link to the upland moorlands.
- Woodland is primarily present in areas of lower-lying pastoral fields, forming mature hedgerow boundaries and clumps of in-field trees. Larger pockets of woodland are present in the east of the LCA, between Ilkley and Burley in Wharfedale, as well as to the south and west of Ilkley.
- Settlements within the area primarily have agricultural origins, but have since been influenced by industrial growth, particularly in wool and milling. Ilkley has origins as a Victorian holiday settlement, and spa town, evident in the vernacular of historic buildings in the core of the settlement.
- Long-distance views are typically limited by frequent woodland groupings and roadside vegetation, but views north across the Wharfe Valley towards the Nidderdale AONB are provided from higher elevations across the LCA.
- Across areas of elevated pastoral fields along the southern edge of the LCA, tranquillity and qualities of remoteness and rurality are more strongly experienced. Closer to Ilkley and along the A65, these characteristics are diminished, with abundant influences of human development.

Figure 3.120: Example photos from LCA F2



Pastoral land use and agricultural properties on sloping landform.



Vernacular properties at Menston bordered by dense hedgerows.



The edges of settlements frequently have views out across expansive pastoral fields towards Rombalds Moor.



Historic architecture in Ilkley with links to the settlement's history as a Victorian spa town.



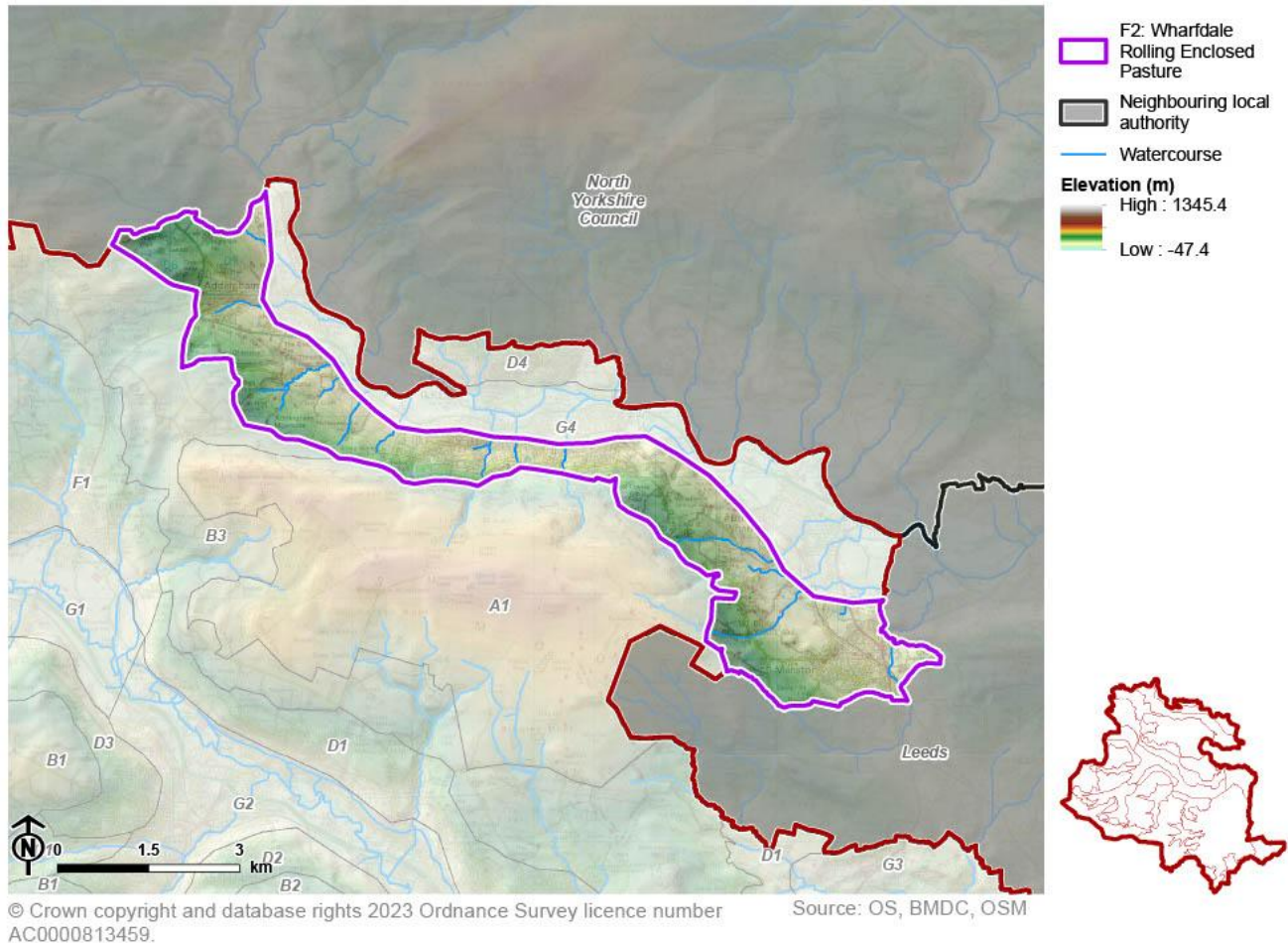
Historic architecture of Ilkley, with the rising form of Rombalds Moor seen in the background.



The rising form of Rombalds Moor is seen beyond the pastoral fields surrounding Ilkley.

Landscape Character

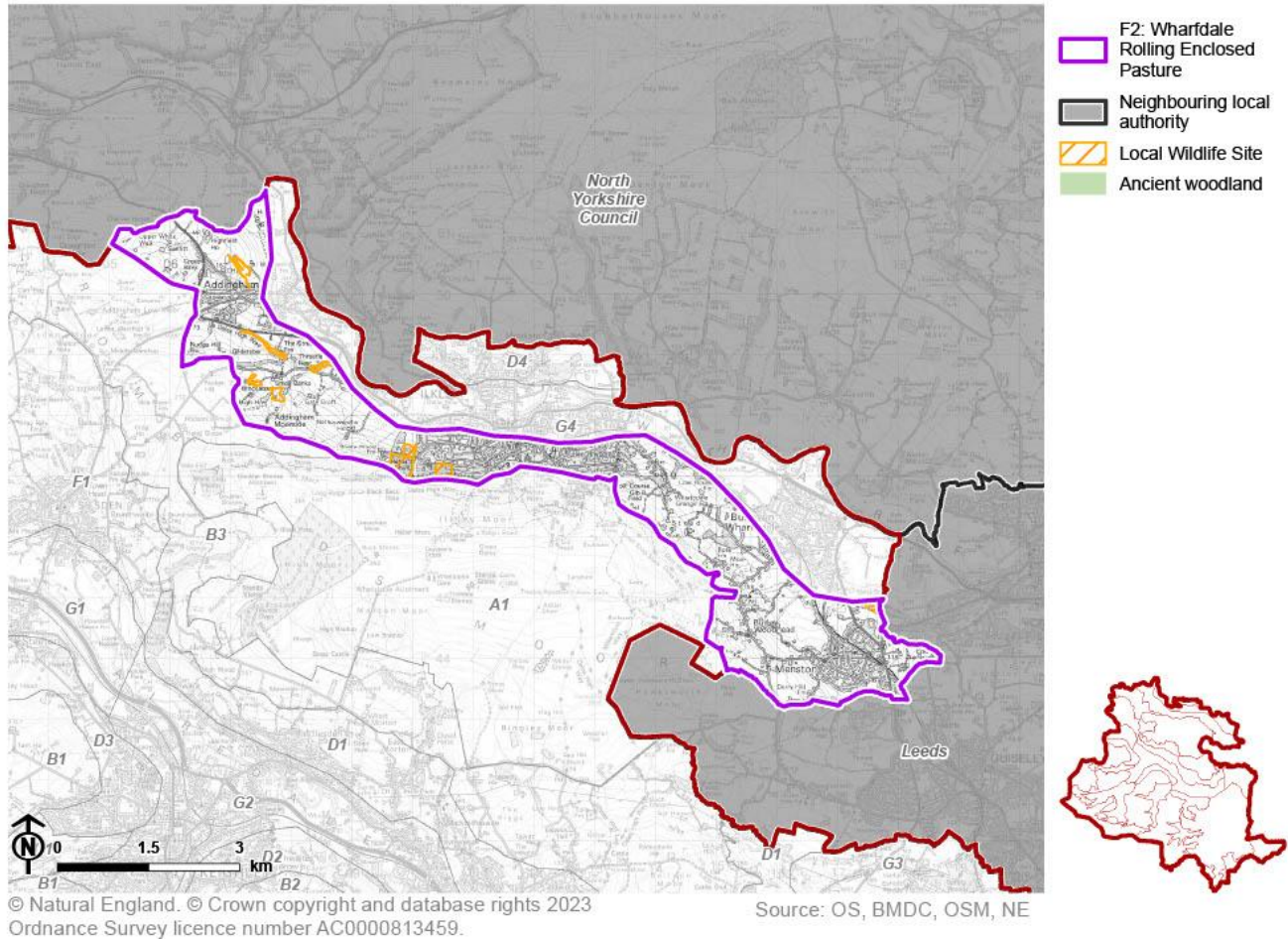
Figure 3.121: Topography of LCA F2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology is a composite of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Millstone Grit Group, interbedded in places by Nestfield Sandstone, particularly in the far west of the LCA.
- Areas of more free draining till are found along the northern bands of the LCA, in closer proximity to the River Wharfe.
- The topography is characterised by undulating slopes falling from approximately 220m AOD at the edge of Rombalds Moor in the south and roughly 250m AOD at Addingham Moor in the west, to approximately 120m AOD in proximity to the River Wharfe in the north.
- A number of small incised watercourses meander north through the landscape and drain into the River Wharfe, the more substantial of which include Lumb Beck in the west and Rushy and Coldstone Becks in the east.

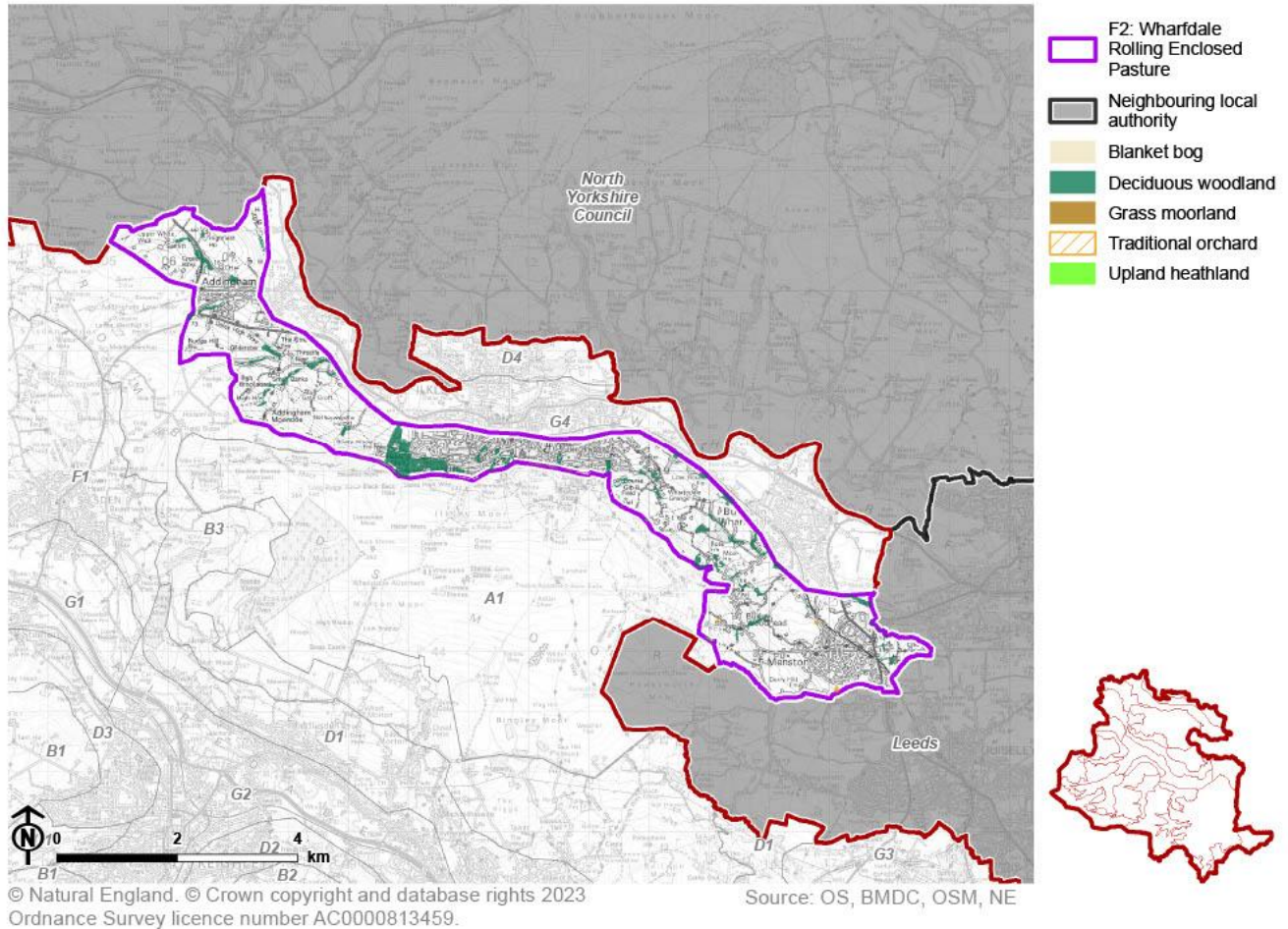
Figure 3.122: Natural heritage of LCA F2



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Mature hedgerow boundaries and pockets of broadleaved woodland form a relatively intact habitat network across the LCA. In particular, hedgerows at Long Riddings in the north west provide ecological value and have been identified as a Local Wildlife Site due to their importance for wildlife shelter.
- Tree-lined stream courses cut north-south through the pastoral landscape and through Ilkley, connecting the moorlands in the south with the River Wharfe in the north.
- Among the numerous areas of woodland, Briery Wood and Heber's Ghyll, Panorama Wood, Steg Holes, Far Bank, and Lumb Gill Wood have been identified as local wildlife sites and as areas of priority habitat.
- Additional habitats are predominantly semi-improved grassland, which comprises the dominant land cover across the LCA and offers limited biodiversity value.

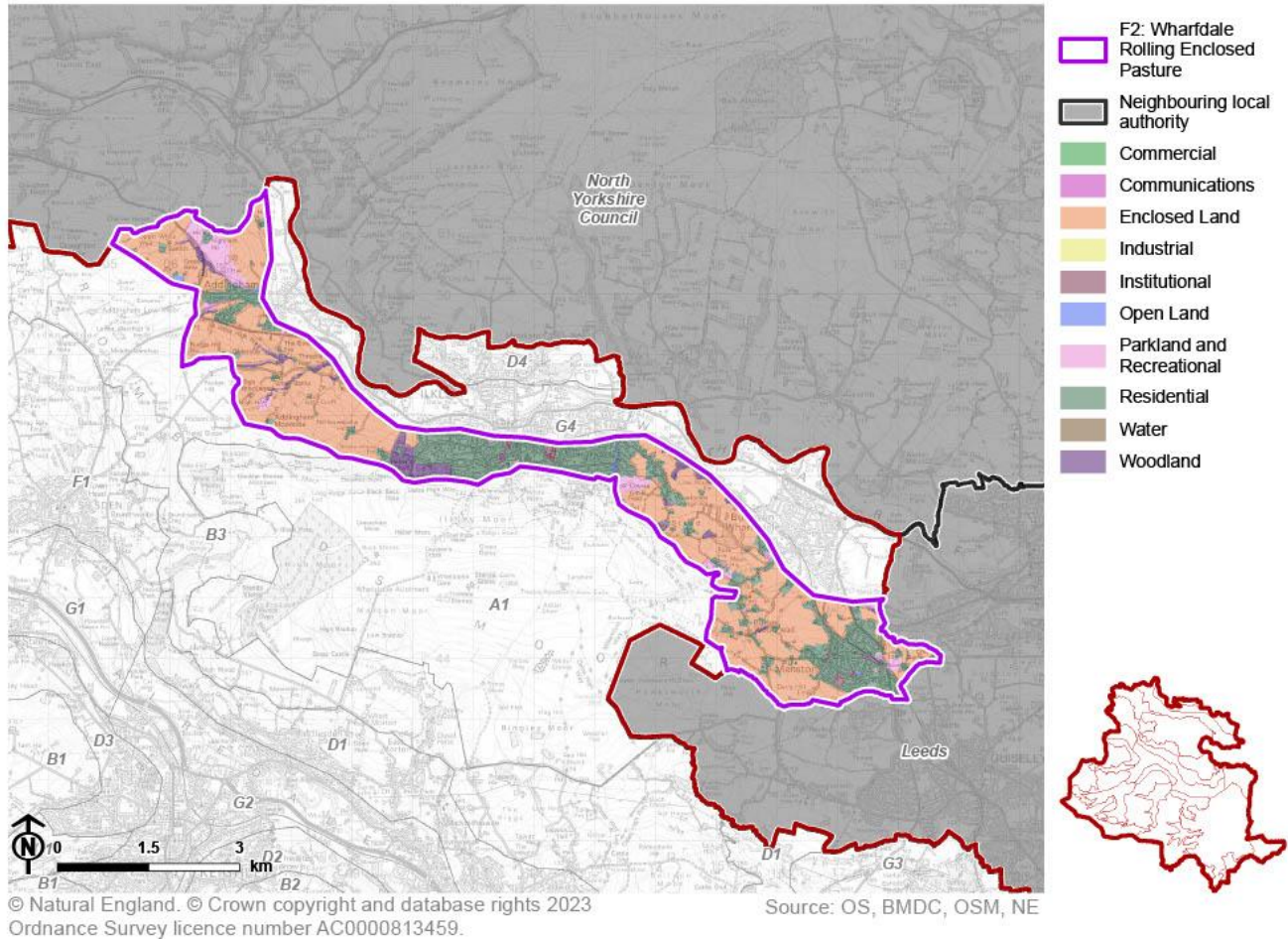
Figure 3.123: Priority habitat inventory of LCA F2



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Agricultural land is primarily semi-improved grassland used for grazing or cut for silage. This reflects the poor quality acidic soils. Towards the northern edge of the LCA some fields are in arable use, indicative of the more fertile soils found in the river valley.
- The field pattern in the west and north of the LCA around Addingham generally comprises piecemeal enclosure fields with regular, straight boundaries, typically running perpendicular to the topography and bound by a mix of drystone walls and hedgerows. Hedgerows are more common in this LCA than in the wider district and form dense boundaries in places. Drystone walls are more prevalent in the far west and south of the LCA, in proximity to Addingham Moor and Ilkley Moor.
- Small scale assarts with irregular, overgrown hedgerow boundaries are dominant in the east of the LCA, reflecting the medieval agricultural land use in the area and contributing to a sense of place and time-depth across the landscape.
- Remnant strip fields are found in proximity to the eastern edge of Ilkley and around Menston.

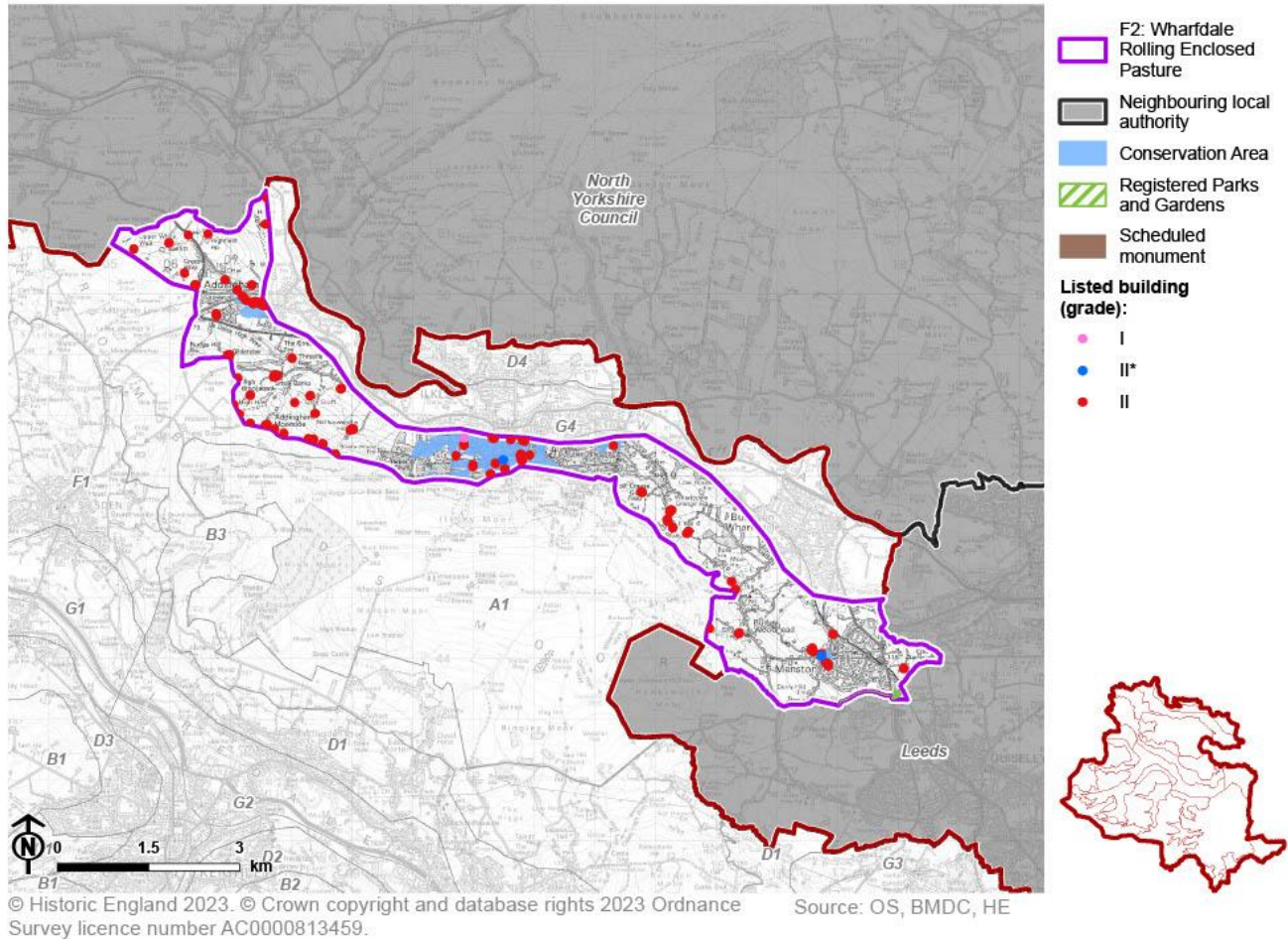
Figure 3.124: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA F2



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Within more rural areas along the southern edge of the LCA and west of Addingham, drystone walls form much of the field boundaries and vernacular stone farmsteads contribute to a distinctive sense of place.
- Moving south east towards the hamlet of Burley Woodhead and north towards the River Wharfe these boundaries generally transition to overgrown hedgerows, associated with the numerous assarts in the area. These traditional field boundaries enhance the sense of time-depth and agricultural history across the landscape.
- There are four conservation areas across the LCA, in the north west at Addingham, in the centre at Ilkley, Ben Rhydding within the wider Ilkley urban area, and a small area in Menston in the south east of the LCA. These areas are indicative of the extensive history of settlement across the landscape.
- Numerous listed buildings are located in each conservation area, typically cottages and farmsteads of 18th and 19th century origins. Many of the listed buildings in Ilkley are legacies of its history as a spa town and Victorian holiday destination.
- The Grade I Listed Heathcote House, designed by the renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, is located in Ilkley at the northern edge of the LCA and sits within Heathcote Registered Park and Garden. Ilkley Memorial Gardens located 500m to the east is also a Registered Park and Garden.

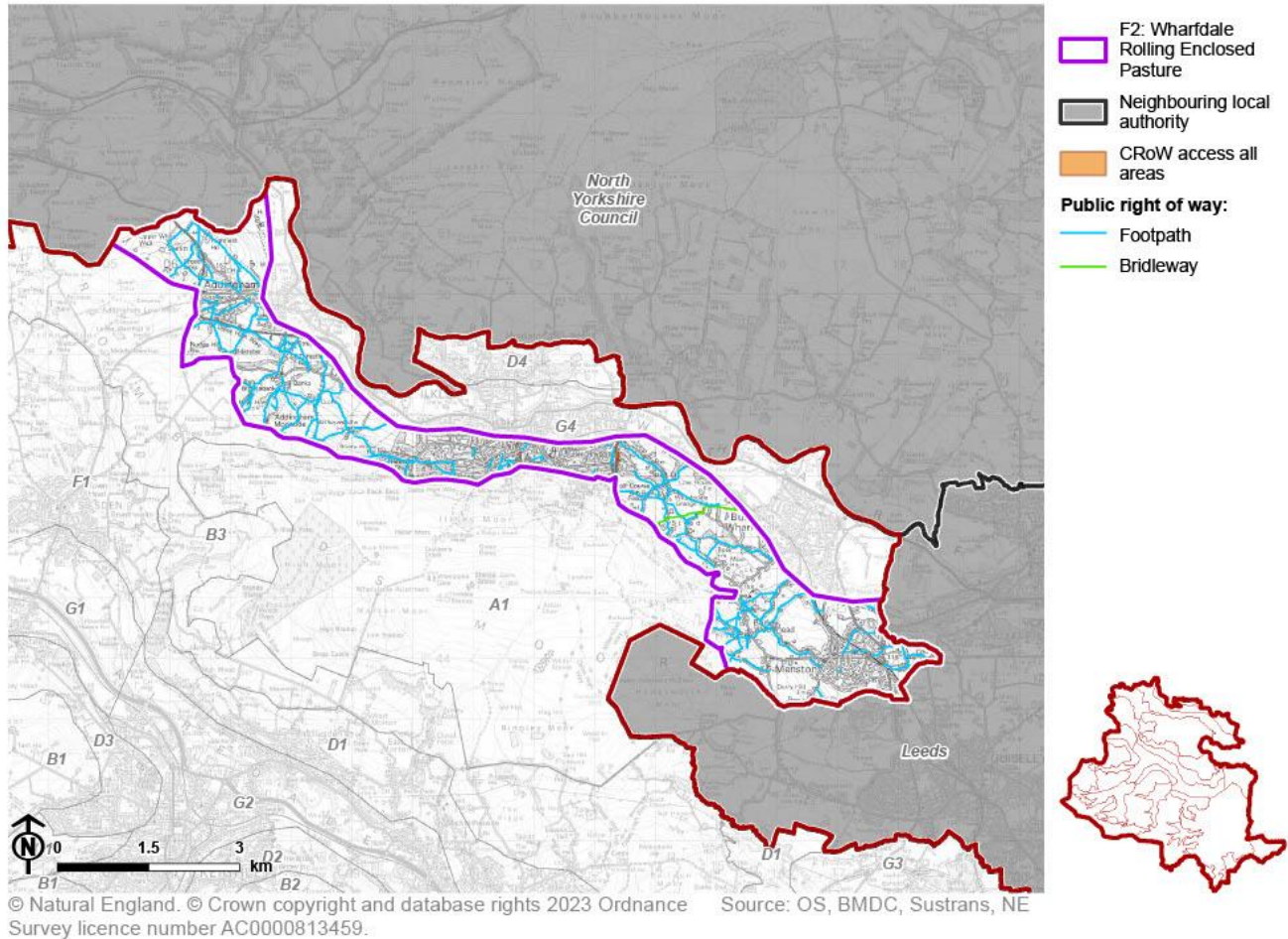
Figure 3.125: Cultural heritage of LCA F2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The town of Ilkley is the largest settlement in the LCA and is centrally located in the pinch point between the River Wharfe and rising slopes at Ilkley Moor, encompassing the entire area between the two features. The village of Addingham lies in the north west on elevated pastoral slopes adjacent to moorland, and the village of Menston occupies the south east of the LCA, on falling slopes at the southern edge of Ilkley Moor. Both Addingham and Ilkley cross into the adjacent LCA (G4. Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor) to the north.
- Dispersed farmsteads are strung along rural lanes between the larger settlements, and are typically enclosed by small tree groupings, integrating the structures into the landscape and limiting the modern influences in remote parts of the LCA.
- Roads within the LCA are mainly limited to narrow rural lanes connecting dispersed farmsteads and small hamlets. However, the A65 passes through the west of the area, connecting Addingham to Ilkley. Suburban streets are concentrated within the key settlements and occasionally connect with rural lanes out into the wider landscape.
- Settlements within the LCA are generally contained from the wider landscape by woodland belts, which soften more modern development at the edges of the settlements.

Figure 3.126: Access and recreation of LCA F2



Access and Recreation

- The long distance walking routes, the Ebor Way and Dales Way, pass through Menston in the east before crossing Ilkley Moor, and the Welcome Way meanders through Menston before curving north through Ilkley. Dales High Way connects through the west of the area along the settlement edge of Addingham before heading further west.
- In addition to this there is an extensive network of public rights of way through the area, radiating out from the settlements and passing along rural field boundaries into the wider landscape, connecting the remote moorlands in the south to the more settled valley below.
- There are some small slivers of open access land which extend from the large area of open access land to the south into Ilkley. These areas further support access to the open, wild landscape of the neighbouring LCA (A1: Rombalds/Ilkley Moorland Plateau).

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Views within the LCA are more limited by frequent areas of woodland, particularly to the east of Ilkley, where assarts and mature hedgerow trees form a more enclosed field pattern.
- In the west of the LCA views are more open, particularly on higher slopes south of Addingham, unobstructed by woodland and where field boundaries are more typically formed by drystone walls. Within the settlement of Ilkley, clear views to the rising wooded slopes in the north are framed by buildings.

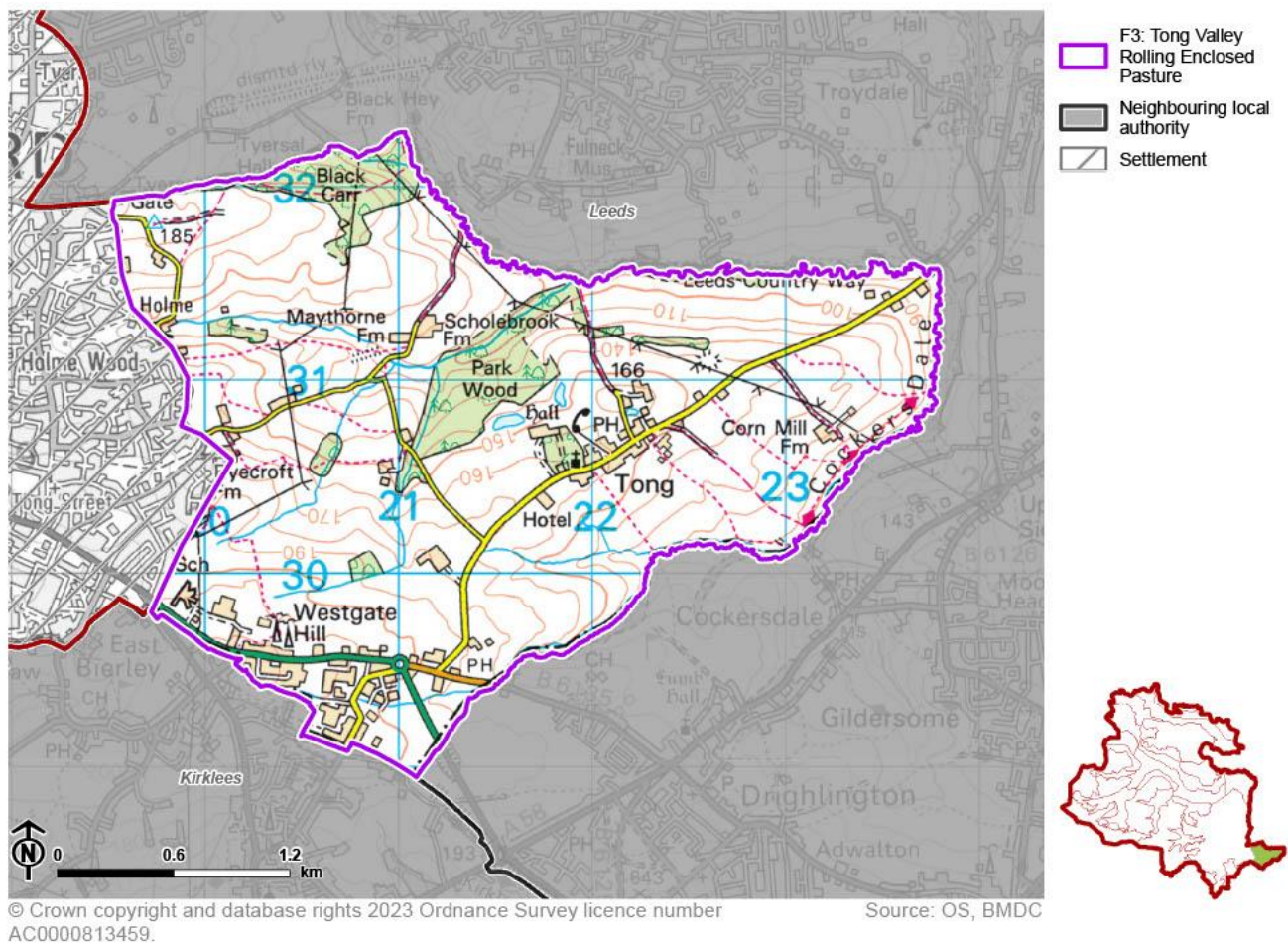
- Areas away from concentrated settlement and in proximity to the moorlands to the south have stronger experiences of dark night skies, with minimal influence from the urban centres.
- The pastoral areas between the settlements are highly tranquil, particularly away from Ilkley, although noise from the A65 is somewhat consistent throughout the LCA.
- Ilkley itself has a strong sense of time depth and aesthetic appeal as with the advent of the railway the town was expanded as a tourist destination. Many buildings such as the Grade II* Listed Church of St Margaret were built to cater for discerning visitors and designed to a high standard.
- Areas of sparse settlement and extensive areas of pastoral fields strung between the settlements retain rural character and aesthetic, with characteristic drystone walls and clumps of woodland, and long distance views reaching across the Wharfe Valley.

F3. Tong Valley Rolling Enclosed Pasture

Location, Context and Summary

Tong Valley is a green, relatively well-wooded and gently undulating lowland landscape located between the Leeds and Bradford conurbations. In general, it is an enclosed landscape with a ring of estate and high-rise flat developments prominent on distant skylines. Leafy lanes cross the large, hedgerow-bounded, areas of pasture connecting the historic village of Tong with the surrounding areas. The LCA, and district, boundaries run along Carr Beck and Pudsey Beck valleys to the north; Tong Beck valley to the east; and Ringshaw Beck to the south. On the ground, the Tong Valley is perceived as being continuous with other small pieces of countryside which fringe Bradford, Pudsey, Birkenshaw, Gildersome, and Drighlington, and this LCA should be considered as part of this wider landscape area.

Figure 3.127: Location of LCA F3



Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating landform sloping west to east bounded by a number of small watercourses.
- Dominated by enclosed pasture, with some pockets of arable farmland due to the availability of relatively good agricultural land.
- Drystone walls and hedgerow trees define variable scales of field pattern, which tend to be larger and looser than other areas in the district.
- Woodland is fairly extensive in blocks, belts and along watercourses. There are some notable larger woodland blocks, including Black Carr, a substantial area of ancient woodland.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees are important elements within the landscape, especially where they link woodlands.
- The village of Tong is mentioned in the Domesday Book and is of considerable historical importance, containing several important listed buildings and being protected as a conservation area. Its interesting architecture, mature tree groups, consistent scale, and attractive townscape work together to create a clear and memorable sense of place.
- Limited transport infrastructure and limited development in the core of the LCA other than Tong village and occasional farmsteads.
- Exists as an island of relatively static, rural countryside in the middle of busy and expanding surrounding urban settlements, proximity to which has weakened its rural character in places.
- Undulating landscape with woodland blocks and hedgerow trees lend the landscape an enclosed character, though public rights of way through fields offer more open views across the rolling countryside.

Figure 3.128: Example photos from LCA F3



Gently rolling, well wooded agricultural landscape.



Local sandstone vernacular and cattle grazing.



Medium to large scale field pattern.



Strong visual connection with the edge of Bradford.



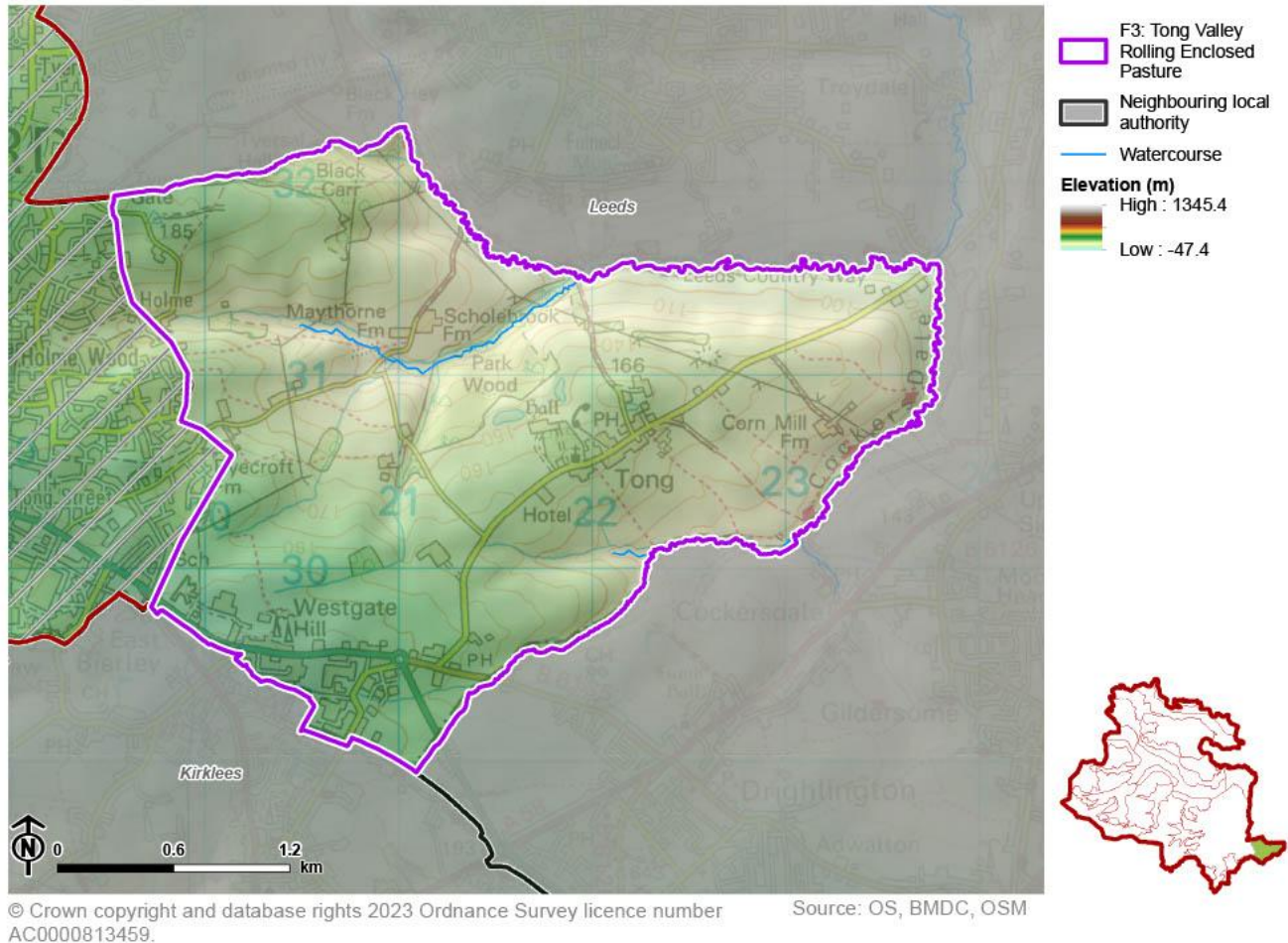
Drystone walls in poor condition and scattered agricultural buildings.



Good network of lanes and public rights of way.

Landscape Character

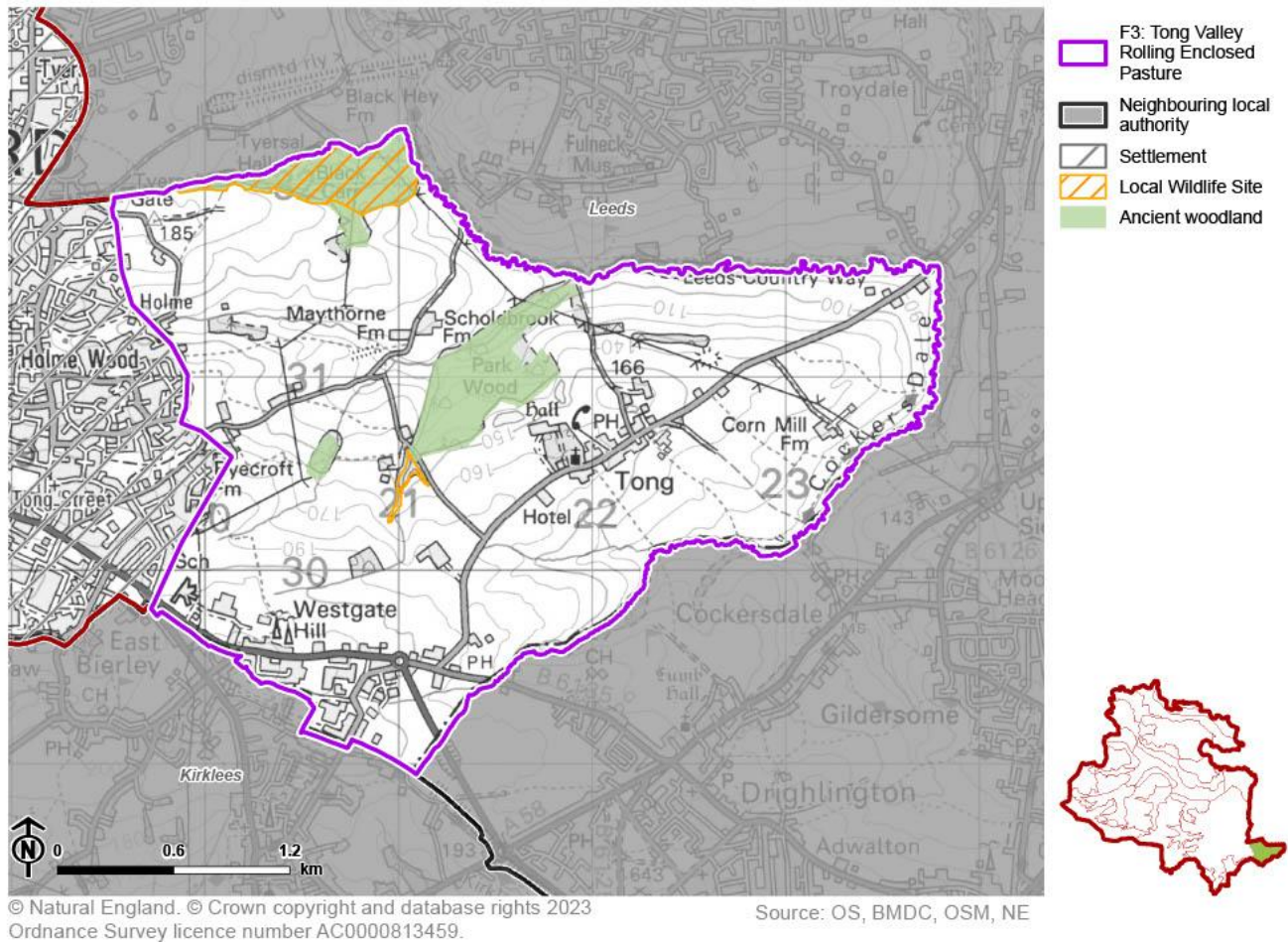
Figure 3.129: Topography of LCA F3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- In contrast with the wider district, the underlying bedrock is mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, with various fault lines running within it. There are scattered areas of landslip, as well as several areas of man-made ground and colliery spoil.
- Significant areas around Raikes Hall Farm, Manor Farm and Black Carr Wood are covered by glacial till deposits (boulder clay), and narrow strips of alluvium run alongside the becks.
- These rocks break down into low fertility acidic soils. The predominant soil type is a seasonally wet loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage and smaller areas of freely draining loamy soil in the vicinity of Tong.
- The landform consists of one main ridge of land extending towards Leeds, with a smaller, parallel ridge to the north, on the other side of Holme Beck. It is relatively low lying, gently undulating land which generally slopes from west to east, dropping in height from approximately 200m AOD to 80m AOD.
- A number of small watercourses fringe the LCA or pass through it, including Ringshaw Beck, Tong Beck, Pudsey Beck, Holme Beck, Kit Wood Beck and Carr Beck. There are a number of ponds within or adjacent to Park Wood.

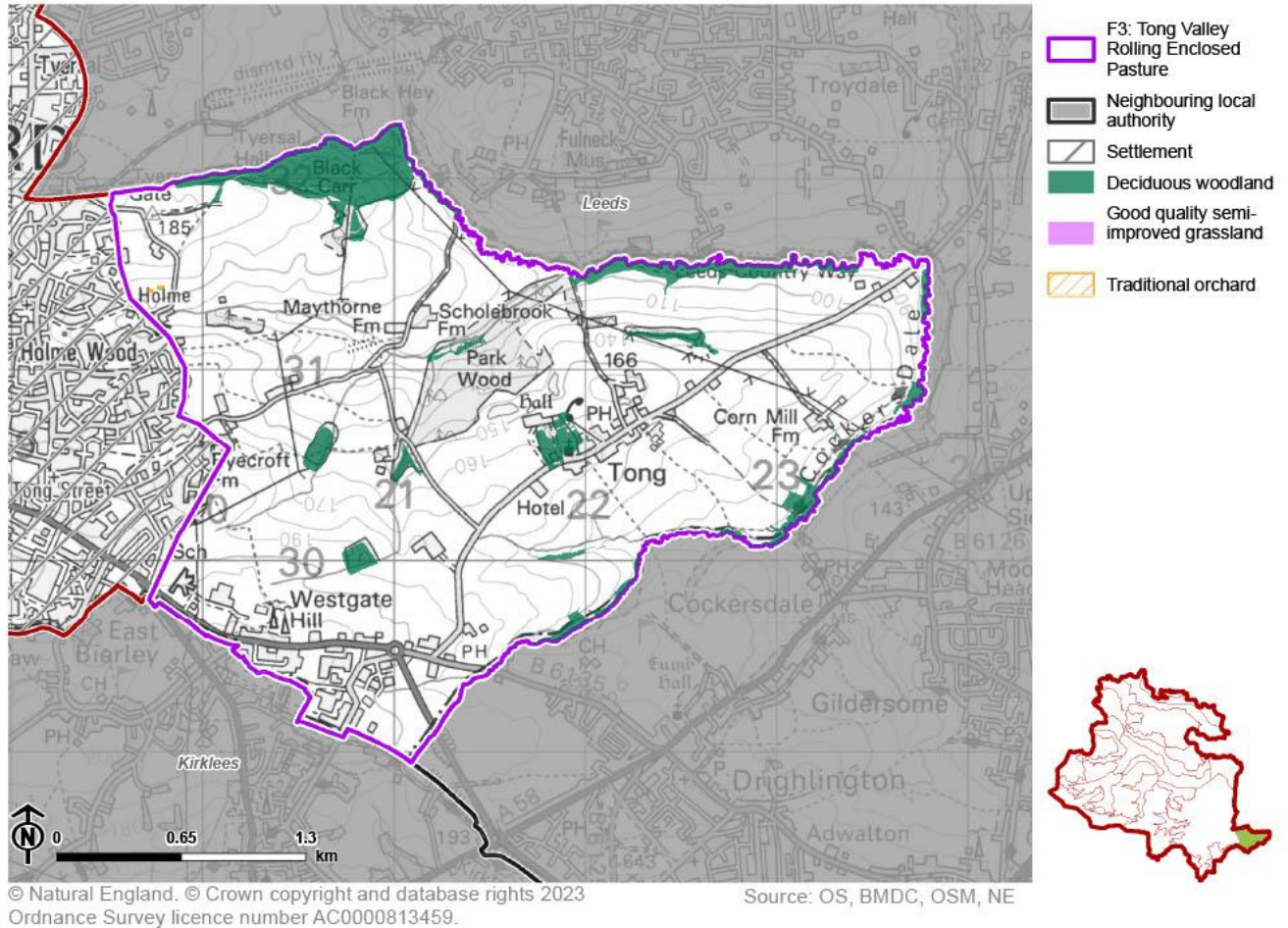
Figure 3.130: Natural heritage of LCA F3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The Tong Valley has a greater agricultural value than much of the district due to better quality soils. The area is predominantly Grade 3 (Good to Moderate) in contrast to the majority of the district which is largely either Grade 4 (Poor) or Grade 5 (Very poor). Nearly all the pastures in the area have been agriculturally improved, drained and fertilised and have little ecological value.
- Despite the predominance of agriculture there is some notable semi-natural woodland across the area, including the Ancient Woodland of Black Carr, Park Wood, and Kit Wood.
- Black Carr Wood is a large semi-natural broad-leaved woodland with a uniform canopy, containing some ancient woodland indicator species such as bluebell (*Endymion nonscriptus*) and dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and notable for the absence of any introduced species such as sycamore. As one of the most natural ancient woods in the county with predominantly native species, it is recognised as a Local Wildlife Site, alongside Kit Wood.
- Carr Beck runs through Black Carr Woods and generates diverse flora on the stream sides, containing alder underlain by dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*).
- Park Wood is significant for its size in a predominantly agricultural area and contains some small ponds. It is likely that all these wooded areas formed part of a much larger woodland in the past. Some of the small streams are lined by groups of trees and are classified as priority habitat.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees are important elements within the landscape, especially where they link woodlands.

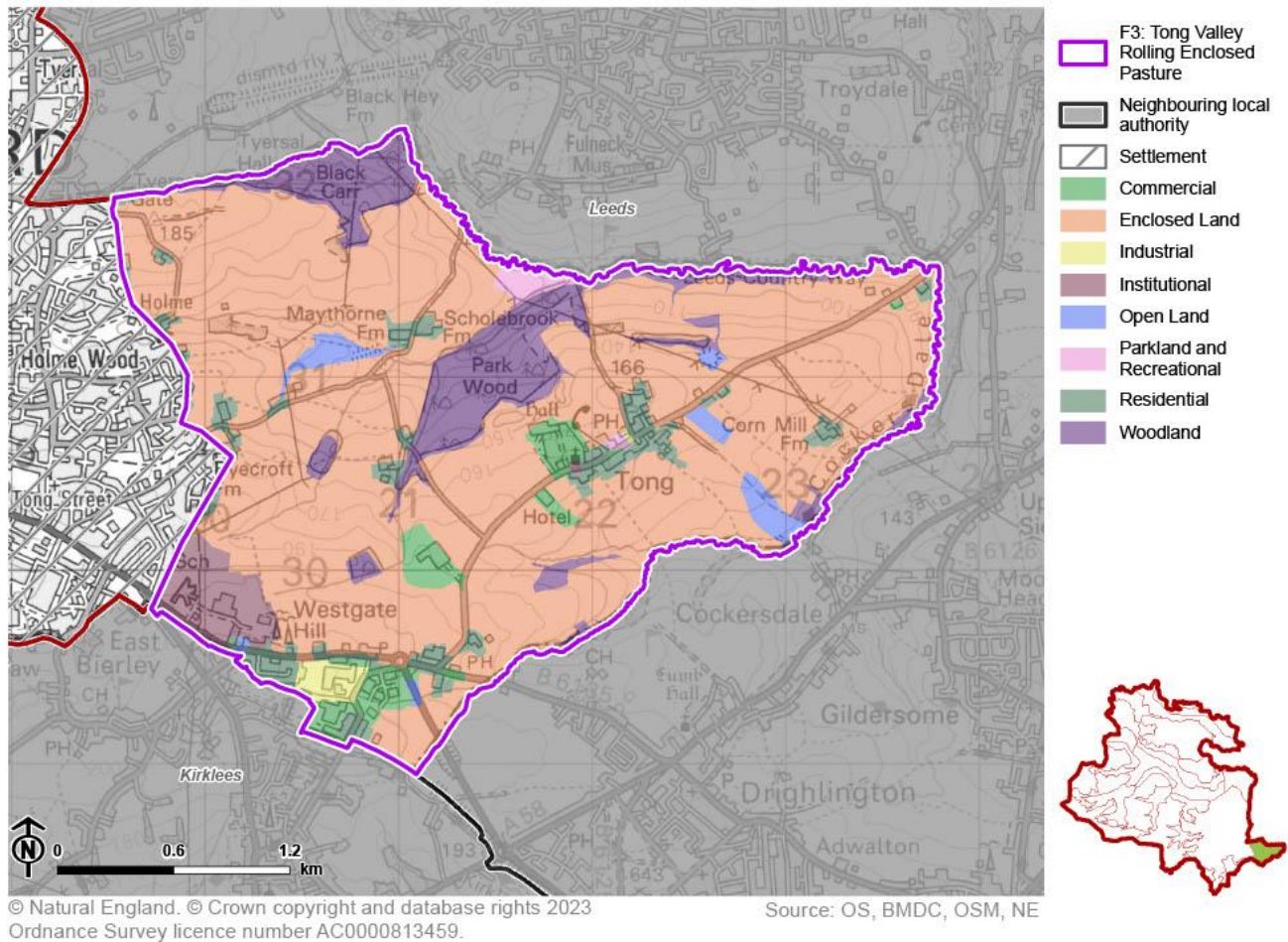
Figure 3.131: Priority habitat inventory of LCA F3



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Agricultural land is primarily semi-improved grassland used for a mix of sheep, cattle and horse grazing or cut for silage, though there are some small pockets of arable farmland.
- Field patterns vary in size, with areas of small to medium size strip and piecemeal enclosure immediately surrounding Tong. Larger agglomerated fields are present in the north and east of the LCA, created through the removal of woodland, field boundaries and the repurposing of derelict land in the late 20th century.
- Fields are enclosed by a combination of drystone walls, large woodland blocks, and many smaller wooded copses and hedgerows.

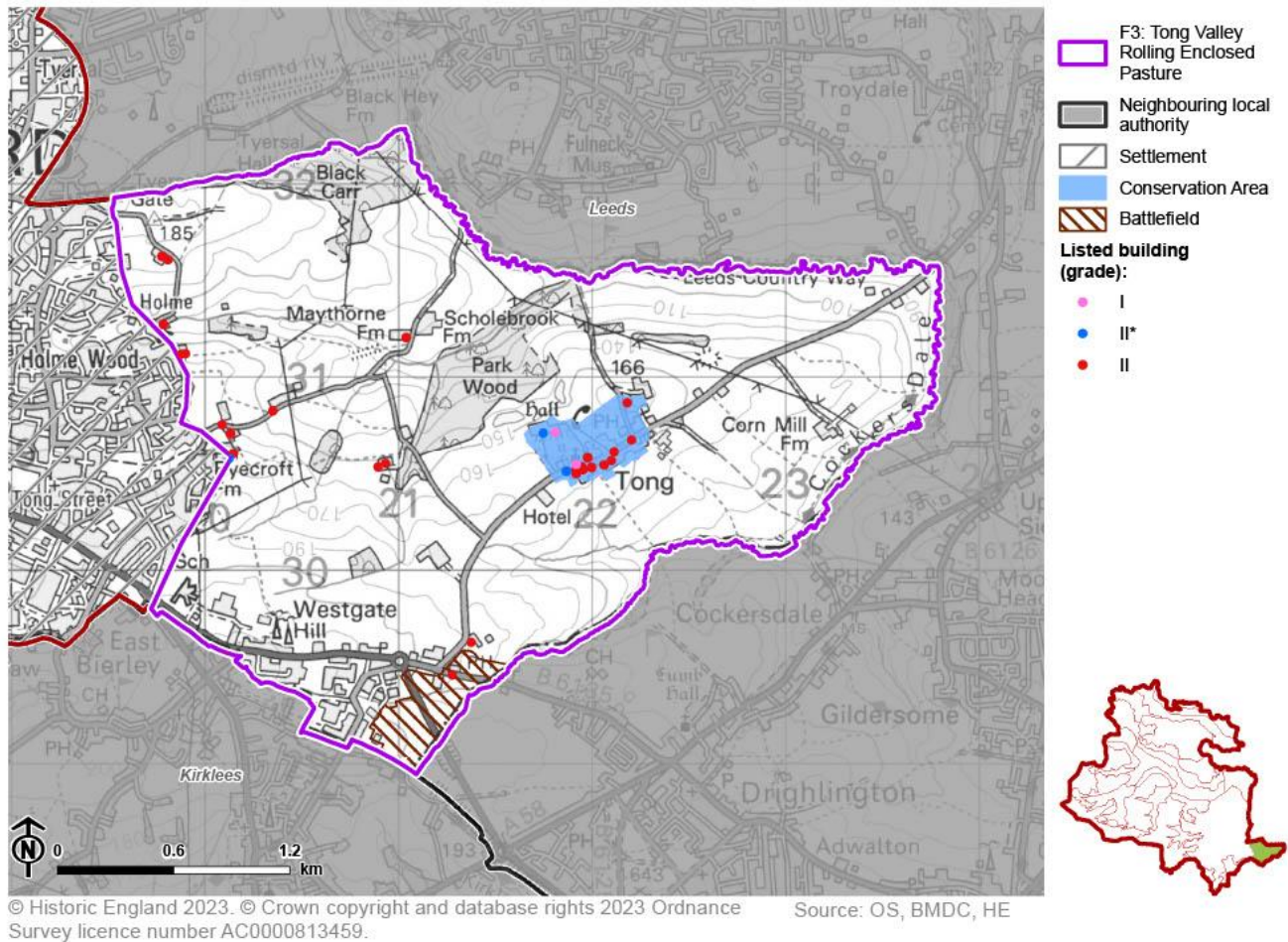
Figure 3.132: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA F3



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- A lot of change has occurred on the western edge of the Tong Valley in recent years. The expansion of the Holme Wood housing estate, has reduced the size of the LCA. However, very few changes have occurred within the core of the LCA, with the exception of the felling of Holme Wood in the mid to late 20th century. The rural land uses remain, there are ancient woodlands and the village of Tong retains its vernacular character.
- The village of Tong is mentioned in the Domesday Book, has several important listed buildings and is a conservation area. The surrounding countryside contains some ancient woodlands, and the historical character of the Tong Valley is emphasised due to its position between the urban conurbations of Leeds and Bradford.
- Tong Hall (Grade I Listed Building) was built in 1702 by Sir George Tempest, probably on the site of a much older residence. Sir George Tempest also built St. James' Church which replaced an original chantry from the mid-12th century. Excavations of the foundations have indicated the possible remains of an earlier Saxon church. St James's Church is an important example of an estate church closely related to the Hall.
- The battle at Adwalton Moor took place on 30th June 1643 and is considered to be one of the most important battles of the Civil War. Although the A650 has undoubtedly altered the character of the eastern part of the battlefield, the remaining topography and, in particular, the lines of the hedgerows running across the fields rising up the hillside to which the Royalists initially fell back, are still clearly evident with several of the hedgerows in this area likely to have been features of the 1643 scene. The north western extent of the battlefield falls within the LCA.
- There are several disused coal shafts and workings, as well as one disused sandstone quarry.

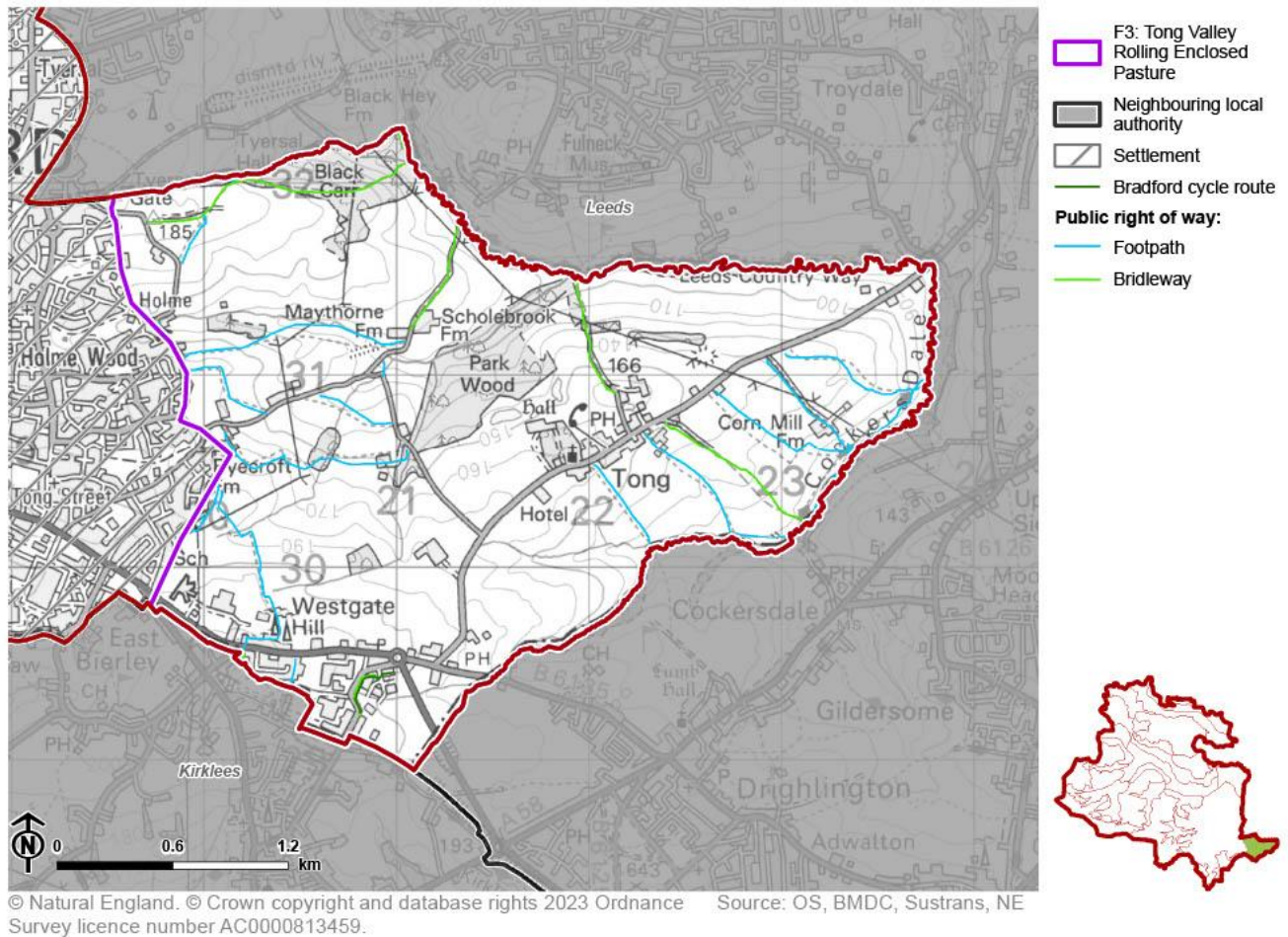
Figure 3.133: Cultural heritage of LCA F3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The estate development of Holme Wood is sharply and awkwardly connected to the western edge of the Tong Valley landscape, and the industry of Westgate Hill is present in the southern corner.
- Within the Tong Valley there is just one village. This lies on the top of a high ridge of land and extends along either side of Tong Lane with other tracks and lanes running off it at right angles.
- Apart from Tong village, there is very little other development within the core of the LCA apart from occasional farmsteads and a large garden centre. However, development is evident all around in views to the north, south west and in distant views towards the Leeds skyline in the east.
- There is relatively little transport infrastructure within the Tong Valley. The B6135 and A650 pass through the southern extents of the LCA. Tong Lane runs from the B6135 through Tong village to Leeds, and New Lane runs off Tong Lane to Scholebrook farm and then west to Holme Wood estate. There are several other smaller lanes, tracks and footpaths in the LCA.

Figure 3.134: Access and recreation of LCA F3



Access and Recreation

- A public rights of way network is not extensive but provides access through much of the area's pasture and woodland. Informal recreation in the Tong Valley includes walking, riding or cycling along the paths, tracks and lanes.
- The Leeds Country Way runs alongside much of the eastern and northern boundaries at Tong Beck and Pudsey Beck providing a popular recreational route for local residents.
- Behind Tong Hall, Park Wood hosts a 4x4 and Enduro/Trials bike track, a camping/caravan site and a small fishing lake. Other outdoor recreation in the area includes a Livery Stable at Raikes Hall.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The Tong Valley exists as an island of relatively static, rural countryside in the middle of the busy and expanding surrounding urban settlements. There are two rows of pylons which are very prominent within the landscape, and the surrounding housing estates and blocks of flats affect its rural character. However, the contrast between these two types of landscape serves to emphasise the historic character and relative tranquillity of Tong Valley.
- The interesting architecture, mature tree groups, consistent scale, and attractive townscape of Tong Village work together to create a clear and memorable sense of place.
- Tranquillity and dark skies are limited due to the proximity of surrounding urban settlement, and are most available in the core of the LCA.

- In places, generally on the urban edge, the condition of the landscape is poor, with poached ground conditions, degraded drystone walls and frequent instances of litter and fly tipping.
- The gentle valley channels views east, where the distinct skyline of Leeds can be seen rising above the intervening green and rolling landscape.

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT F: Rolling Enclosed Pasture

Climate Change

- Droughts and increased temperatures as a result of climate change could result in lower water levels and increased pathogen presence, which in turn may affect the numerous areas of priority habitat woodland, and diverse vegetation along minor watercourses throughout the LCT.
 - F1: Detrimental effects on Silsden Reservoir and its areas of wetland vegetation and neutral grassland, as well as riparian vegetation along Hayhills Beck, Bracken Hill Gill, and Great Gill Beck.
 - F2: Numerous minor watercourses connect Ilkley Moor to the River Wharfe, and the varied riparian vegetation along these may be impacted. The local wildlife sites at Briery Wood and Heber's Ghyll, Panorama Wood and Steg Holes may come under additional ecological strain.
 - F3: Impacts on the hydrological health of Carr Beck and the diverse flora which lines the watercourse, and the surrounding ancient woodland within Black Carr Wood, including the notable annual bluebell display.
- More intensive rainfall events could increase soil erosion on steep sided becks.

Agricultural Change

- Changes in grazing pressure, both overgrazing and under grazing, as a result of climate change and changing markets/agricultural practices, could change the existing character of the pastoral landscape, and could result in traditional field boundaries not being maintained.
 - F1: Strongly pastoral character on the slopes north and east of Silsden, with relatively intact drystone walls and hedgerow boundaries contributing to the settlement setting.
 - F2: Pastoral character provides buffer and important rural setting to the dispersed settlement along the lower northern slopes of Ilkley Moor.
 - F3: Continued expansion of horse paddocks and resultant grazing pressure, fencing, and stables could alter the existing landscape character, particularly within the western and northern areas of the LCA.

Development

- Continued expansion of neighbouring towns has the potential to alter the more dispersed settlement pattern of smaller villages, scattered farmsteads and historic manor houses throughout the LCT, and could erode the historic settlement settings and rural character.
 - F1: New developments along the outskirts of Silsden and extending up the surrounding slopes would affect the strong visual relationship from the settlement edge to the surrounding pastoral landscape, with its small and medium scale fields and drystone and hedgerow field boundaries, which contribute to the rural setting.
 - F2: Expansion at the edges of disparate settlements (particularly Addingham and Ilkley) may contribute to the perception of infill development and coalescence between settlement cores and dispersed farmstead settlement further out, and may alter the existing and historic settlement pattern of historic villages and isolated farmsteads set within pastoral fields.
 - F3: Supporting infrastructure for new developments through the Tong Valley and the green belt may have effects on the existing wooded and pastoral character of the landscape, particularly around the ancient Black Carr Wood and the historic Park Wood.
 - F3: The rural landscape within the Tong Valley plays an important part in maintaining space and distinctive boundaries between large and growing settlements in all directions. Surrounding settlements are on higher ground, and development would be clearly visible from within Tong Valley, impacting on the rural character of the valley.

Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- Removal or erosion of hedgerow trees and riparian vegetation could erode the connections between larger pockets of woodland throughout the LCT, which strengthen the wider woodland network and provide habitat for important bird species.
 - F1: The strong hedgerow field pattern which extends outwards from the wooded Silsden Reservoir and along Hayhills Beck and which connects between smaller pockets of woodland.
 - F2: Numerous areas of priority habitat deciduous woodland along the north-south becks, connecting the moorlands to the River Wharfe.
 - F3: Riparian vegetation and hedgerows within the fields between Black Carr Wood/Carr Beck and Park Wood/Holme Beck, and along Tyersal/Pudsey Beck.
- Increased invasive species growth, particularly Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed.
- 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

- Increased development in proximity to numerous conservation areas across the LCT could risk degradation of the historic setting of the surrounding landscape.
 - F1: Increased development along the eastern edge of Silsden could contribute to coalescence between the Brunthwaite Conservation Area and the Silsden settlement edge, and could contribute to the erosion of the historic setting of both conservation areas.
 - F2: New infill development in proximity to the conservation areas of Addingham, Ilkley, Ben Rhydding and Menston could erode the historic and rural setting.
 - F3: Urban creep from surrounding urban settlements could alter the strongly rural and historic setting of the landscape within the Tong Conservation Area, which has seen limited 20th century development.
 - F3: The historic setting to the Registered Battlefield at Adwalton Moor could be affected by new developments in proximity.

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Manage recreational pressure by maintaining valued footpaths, and limiting damaging uses within the woodlands and areas of open green space found throughout the LCT.
 - F2: Public rights of ways split by the A65 and other major roadways, particularly near Addingham, lack clear signage or other visual cues across the roadway, leading to occasional confusion of visitors to the area.
 - F3: Quad bikes and the use of other motored transit is an ongoing concern at Black Carr Wood, with noted impacts on the quality of footpaths and woodland.

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- Increased development and urban expansion increase the risk and perception of risk in relation to antisocial behaviour and littering.
 - F1: Increasing concerns over fly tipping along rural lanes east and west of Silsden, particularly along Brunthwaite Lane and Bolton Road.
 - F2: Ongoing concerns over fly tipping along Skipton Road and other rural lanes that extend from the settlements, and have limited community oversight.

- F3: Increasing fly tipping, particularly along the western edge of the LCA along roadside verges, adjacent to new developments.

Guidance

- Conserve the characteristic field pattern across the slopes. Maintain the drystone walls and hedgerows, especially alongside footpaths which are part of the historic network.
- Enhance woodland belts with native woodland planting to replace the Ash trees which may be lost. Consider species which may be more drought tolerant and therefore resilient to climate change.
- Enhance and expand areas of ancient and priority habitat woodland, particularly where woodland character has been eroded by modern development and previous loss of woodland.
- Enhance and widen corridors of riparian habitat mosaic (including grassland and rush habitats) adjacent to the waterways.
- Locate any potential development so as to avoid fragmenting hedgerows and riparian vegetation, and the connective ecological networks between larger areas of woodland throughout the LCT.
- Avoid locating development on the surrounding areas of higher elevation where it would be visible along the skyline, and would influence the rural character and tranquil and historic valley settings within these LCAs.
- Considering the historic settlements with relatively intact settlement patterns, and the sensitivities of the LCAs, any potential development would need careful consideration, and there may be limited potential for future development.