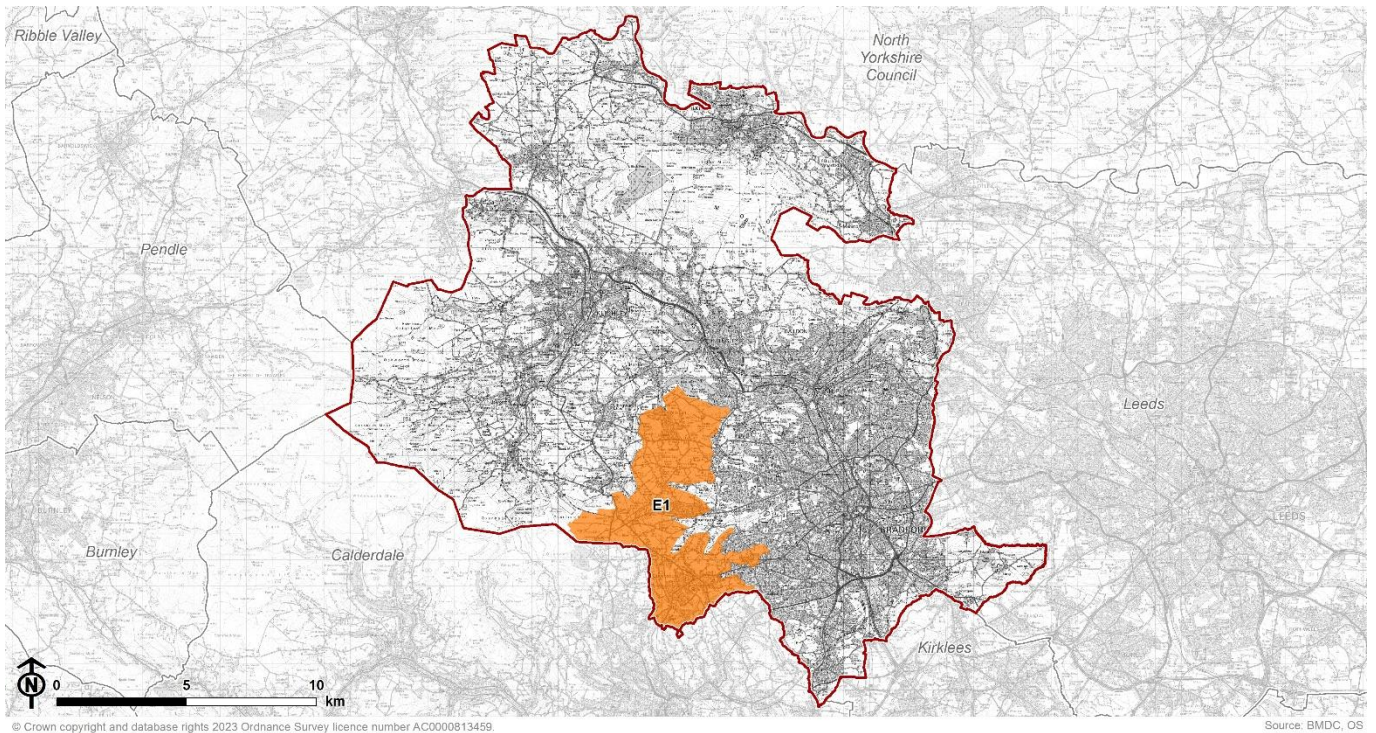


## Landscape Character Type E: Mixed Upland Pasture

Figure 3.101: Location of the Mixed Upland Pasture



### LCT E Overview

Stretching from the elevated moorland plateaus and moorland fringe landscape to the more settled areas in proximity to the river valleys, the Mixed Upland Pasture character type primarily consists of undulating pastoral fields. These are generally lined by drystone walls typical of the Yorkshire region, and the landscape possesses a rural feel, though it is influenced by urban fringe elements. Farmsteads are dotted across the landscape, yielding to small hamlets and larger settlements moving to the west. While tree cover is slightly more extensive within this character type than is found in the Moorland Fringes (LCT B), it is scattered in nature, and generally confined to field boundaries and roadside vegetation. The proximity to settlement and the incised wooded river valleys that draw down from the plateau contribute to a diversity of natural and human elements, with electrical and road infrastructure prominent across the landscape.

There is one LCA within this LCT:

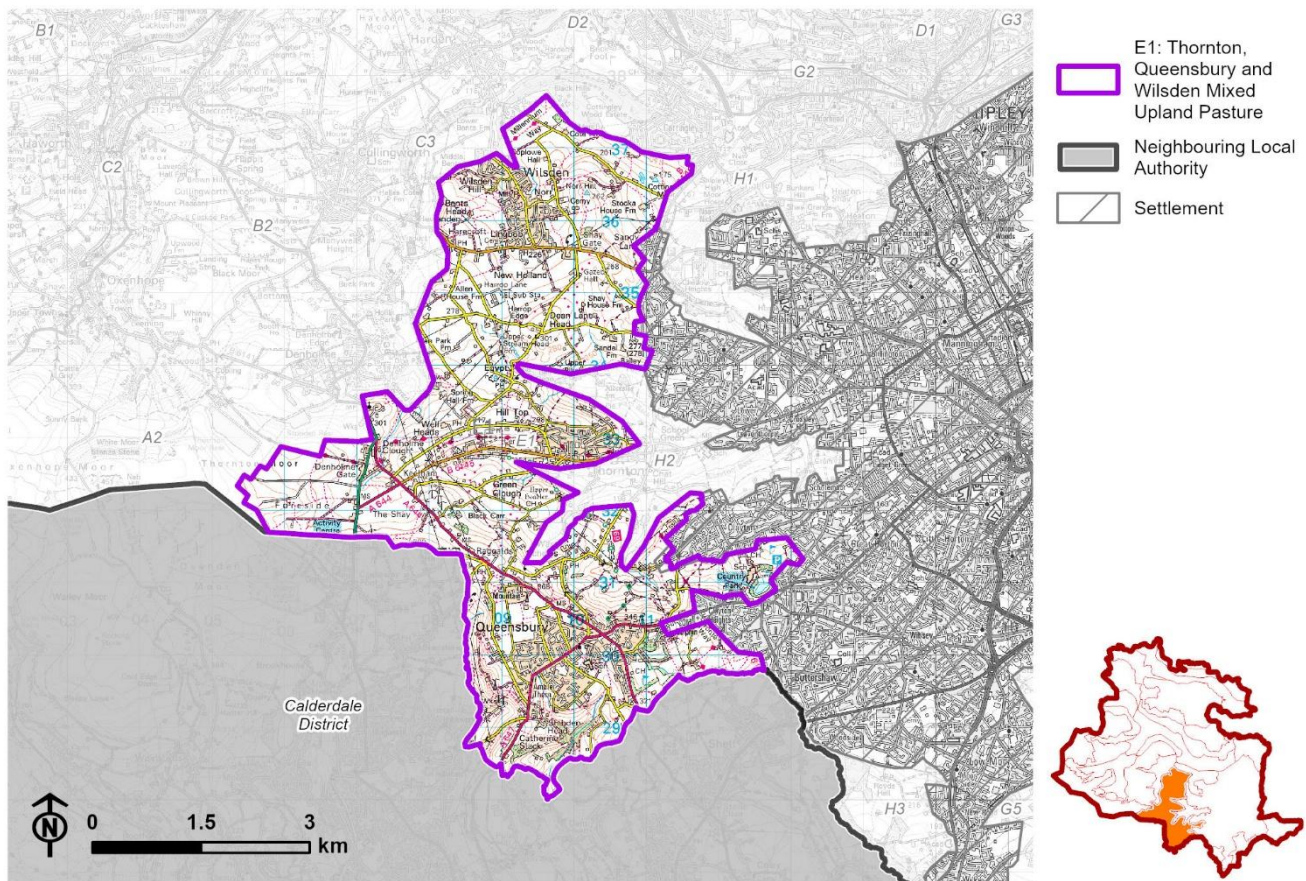
- E1. Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden Mixed Upland Pasture

## E1. Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden Mixed Upland Pasture

### Location, Context and Summary

The Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden Mixed Upland Pasture LCA comprises an exposed, undulating plateau that transitions from the higher moorland of the South Pennines to the wooded river valleys and urban edge of Bradford. The area is predominantly characterised by small-scale field patterns, gritstone walls, scattered farmsteads and sheep pasture. Contrasting with the area's rural qualities, a multitude of large electricity pylons march prominently across the landscape. While the lower lying settlement of Wilsden nestles into a bowl-shaped depression in the plateau landscape, the more elevated settlements of Thornton and Queensbury appear superimposed on the upper slopes. To the north and west the area's boundaries are defined by the plateau edge which borders the wooded and sloping forms of Denholme Beck, Harden Beck and Wilsden Beck. The southern boundary follows the district boundary as the plateau starts to drop steeply to neighbouring Calderdale. To the east the area's boundaries meet the urban core of Bradford and the upper extent of the wooded river valleys of Pitty Beck and Clayton Beck that surround Thornton (LCA H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded River Valleys and Slopes).

Figure 3.102: Location of LCA E1



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Source: OS, BMDC

### Key Characteristics

- In contrast to the rest of the South Pennines this LCA possesses Coal Measure geology, with several outcrops of sandstone bedrock. The landform is highly undulating due to the presence of softer mudstones.
- An elevated, undulating plateau with a long dip slope towards Bradford, generally ranging in elevation between 250m AOD and 300m AOD.
- Acidic, low fertility soils have resulted in a largely pastoral rural landscape.
- Extensive, small-scale rectilinear field patterns, defined by drystone walls. Strict, geometric field patterns as a result of surveyed enclosure on the higher ground, transition to less regular piecemeal and strip field pattern at the lower elevations.
- Tree cover is fragmentary and limited to linear bands along field boundaries and occasional small blocks.
- Industrial heritage in the form of textile mills, local building vernacular, delfs and quarry spoil deposits.
- Urbanising influences from traffic, infrastructure and housing development. Wind turbines and in particular, large electricity pylons, are visually prominent throughout and create a degree of clutter within the landscape.
- Thornton and Queensbury appear as skyline settlements on the plateau, Wilsden sits at a lower elevation and is more nestled into the surrounding shallow basin.
- Despite local undulations providing a sense of enclosure, the overwhelming perception is one of elevation and exposure.
- The area has a strong visual connection with the urban area of Bradford to the east.

Figure 3.103: Example photos from LCA E1



Plateau landscape with settlement interspersed amongst pasture, with pylons seen on the skyline.



Expansive views of Bradford including mill chimney structure.



Pylons and wind turbines are prominent features within the LCA.



In place the area exhibits strong rural character.



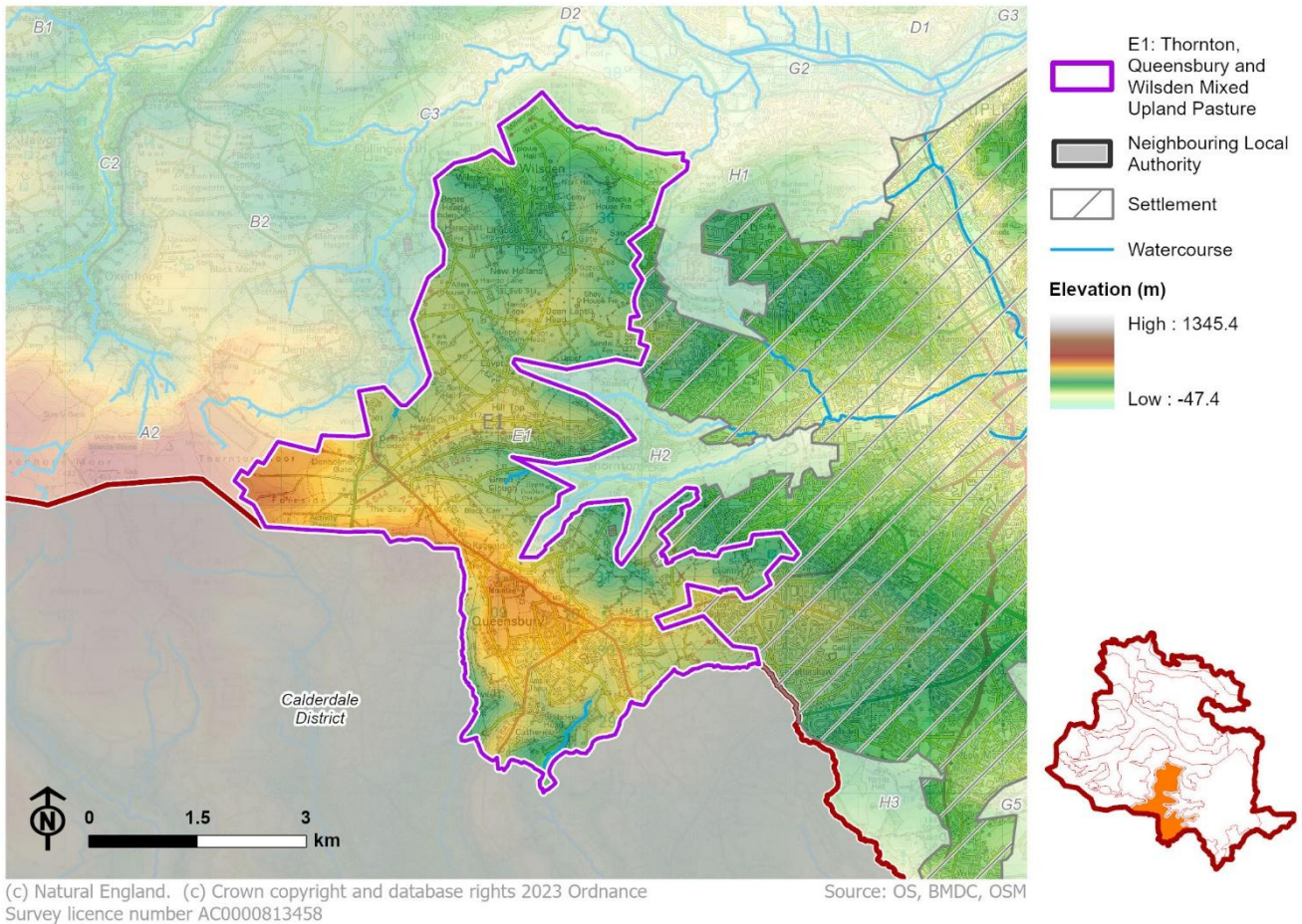
At the higher points, such as at Queensbury the topography is flat and the settlement edges are exposed.



At lower elevations the field pattern is more intricate and tree cover is more extensive.

## Landscape Character

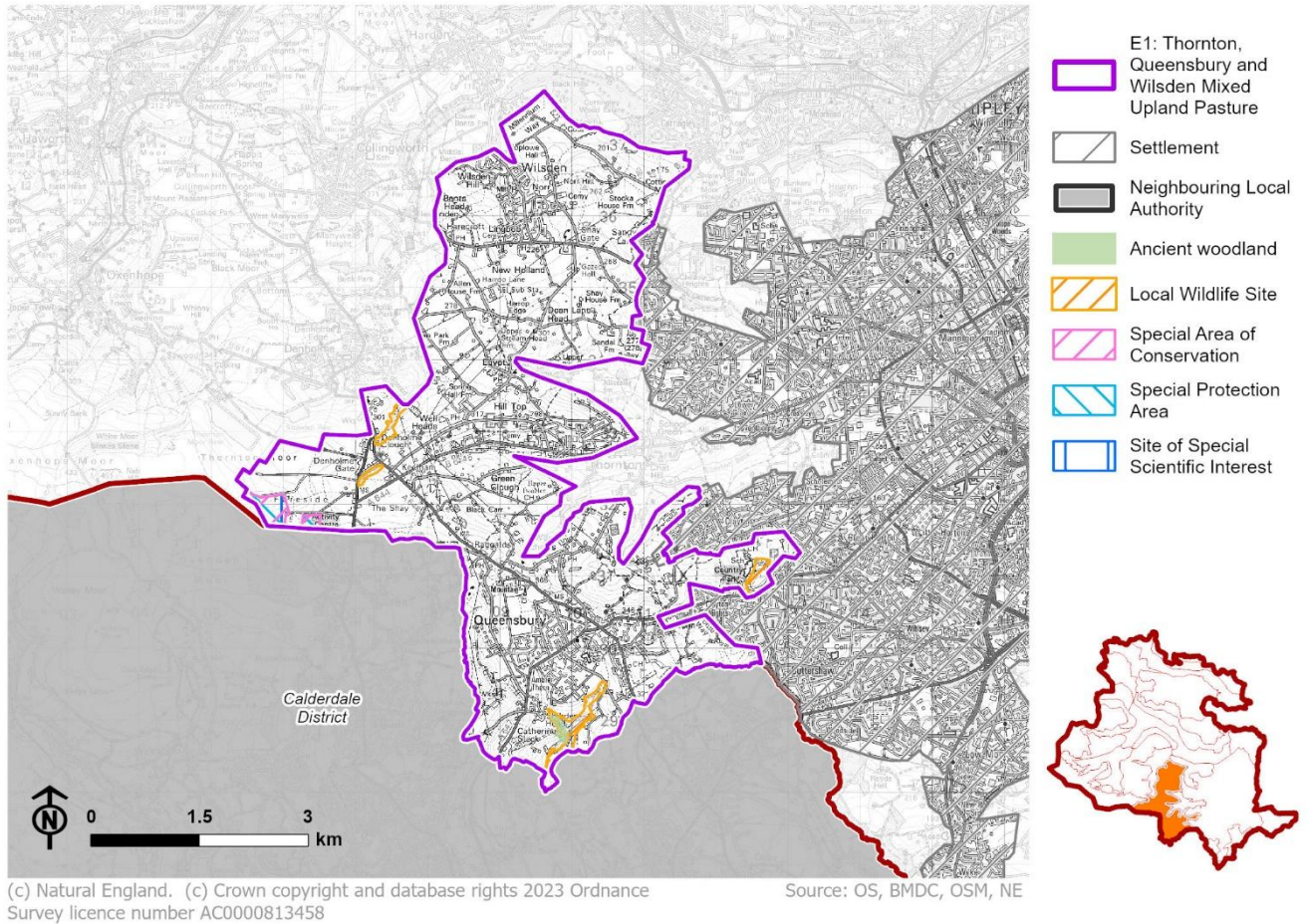
Figure 3.104: Topography of LCA E1



### Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology is a composite of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measure Formation as well as Elland Flags sandstone. These were historically mined and quarried in the LCA, particularly in the vicinity of Thornton and Queensbury. The undulating landform across the LCA is due to the presence of softer mudstones, eroded by the many becks that pass through the area.
- There are no major watercourses within the LCA, though runoff from the plateau drains into surrounding tributaries such as Denholme Beck, Pitty Beck, Pinch Beck, Clayton Beck and Shibden Brook in the valleys below.
- The majority of the LCA occurs on relatively high ground, with most land between 250m-300m and a high point of approximately 385m near the summit of Soil Hill. In the northern extents of the area the landform dips steadily towards Wilsden, reaching a low point of approximately 175m.
- Queensbury sits on a high promontory of land which drops off sharply to the north down to Clayton Vale, south to Shibden Dale, and west to Strines Beck. The gorge-like quality of Shibden Dale in the south of the area is unusual within the Bradford District, and is more characteristic of the landscapes to the south in Calderdale.
- The underlying geology results in low-fertility acidic soils across the LCA, with some local variation. In the lower lying area around Wilsden the loamy and clayey soils are deep and slow draining, while at higher elevations around Thornton and Queensbury the loamy soils are shallow and free draining.

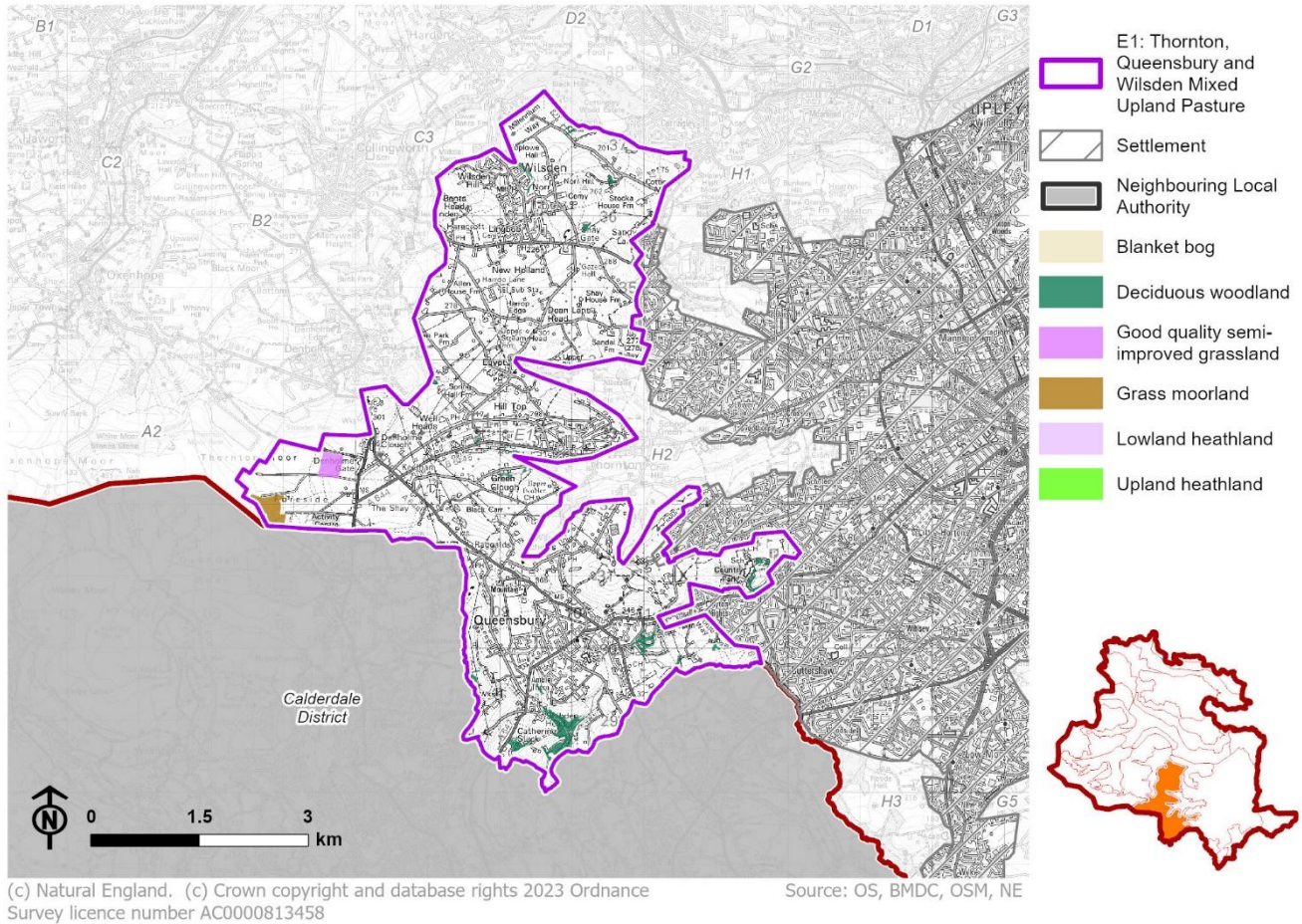
Figure 3.105: Natural heritage of LCA E1



### Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The LCA is dominated by pasture. Due to the acidic, poor quality soils most of the grasslands within the area have been agriculturally improved and are often heavily grazed, with little species diversity.
- The area is exposed and as a result tree cover is fragmented and limited to linear bands along field boundaries and occasional small blocks. Some hedgerows occur but most are in need of management and restoration and have limited ecological value. At the higher elevations (for example around Mountain) there is very little to no tree cover.
- A notable larger area of tree cover is found in the steep-sided valley of Shibden Head where oak-birch remnants of ancient woodland transition to heathland, with gorse in some areas. Providing a secluded habitat for a variety of wildlife such as roe deer, Shibden Head is one of four local wildlife sites across the LCA. The others are located at Horton Bank Country Park, Denholme Gate and Silverdale.

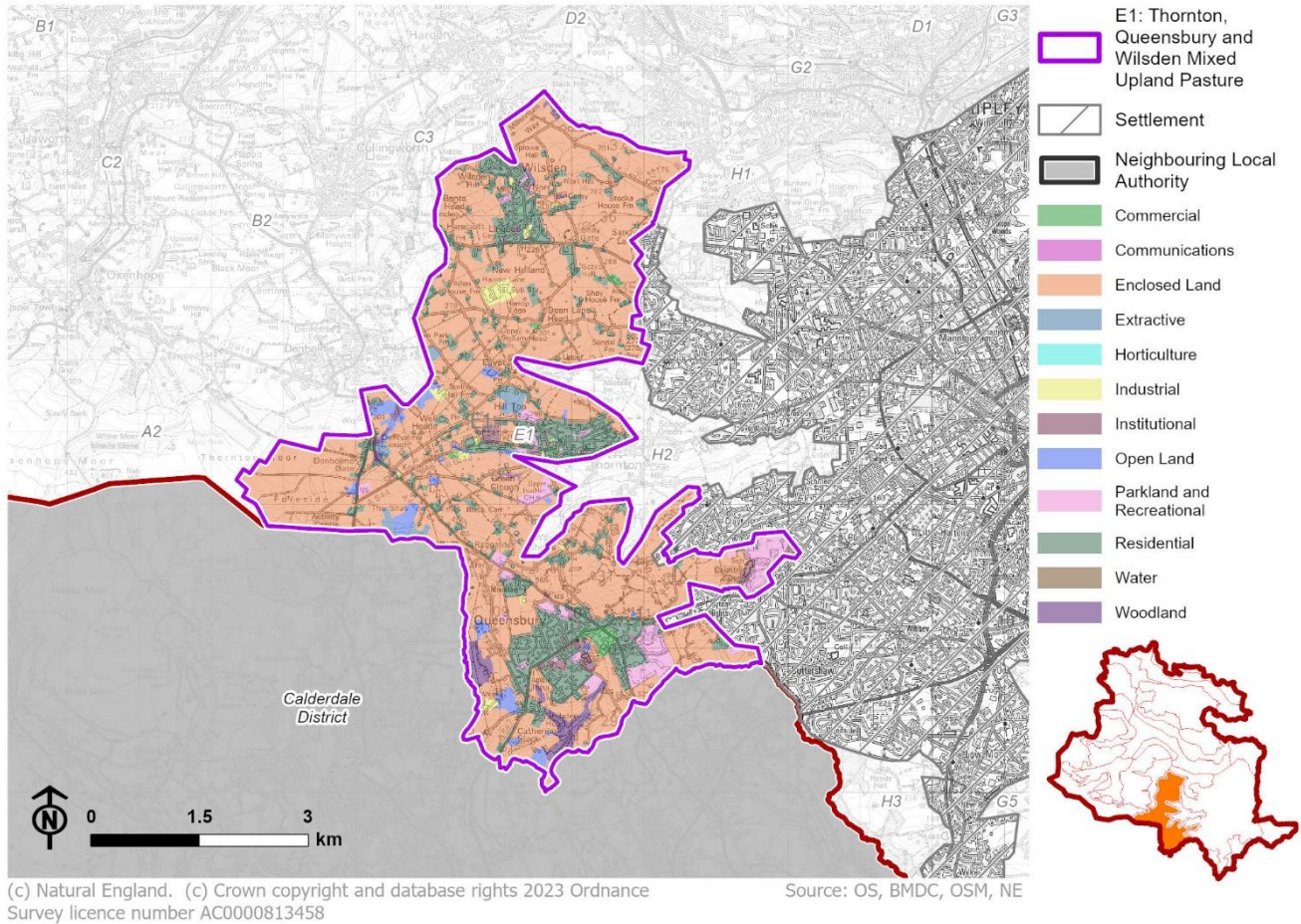
Figure 3.106: Priority habitat inventory of LCA E1



### Land Use and Field Patterns

- Land use across the area is predominantly agricultural, consisting of improved pasture and grasslands enclosed by drystone walls. The farm units are often supported by the dual economy system, whereby the marginal agricultural infrastructure is supplemented by other land uses such as haulage, storage of materials, riding stables and small-scale renewable energy. Horse pasture is common, particularly across the east of the area and adjacent to settlements.
- Field patterns are small to medium scale and variable in shape from irregular to rectangular depending on piecemeal, surveyed and strip enclosure. Areas of strip enclosure are associated with the settlements of Thornton and Wilsden and the edge of the adjacent river valleys (LCA H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes and C3. Harden Upland Wooded River Valley). Piecemeal enclosure is found to a greater extent in the east on the lower ground, while at the higher elevations to the west, the strict grid pattern of surveyed enclosure dominates. Drystone walls define the majority of field boundaries, but their condition differs considerably across the LCA.
- Land across the LCA is also utilised for electricity infrastructure. Several large overhead electricity lines traverse the area and the large Bradford West Substation is located south of Wilsden. A cluster of commercial wind turbines are located on high ground to the west of Thornton.

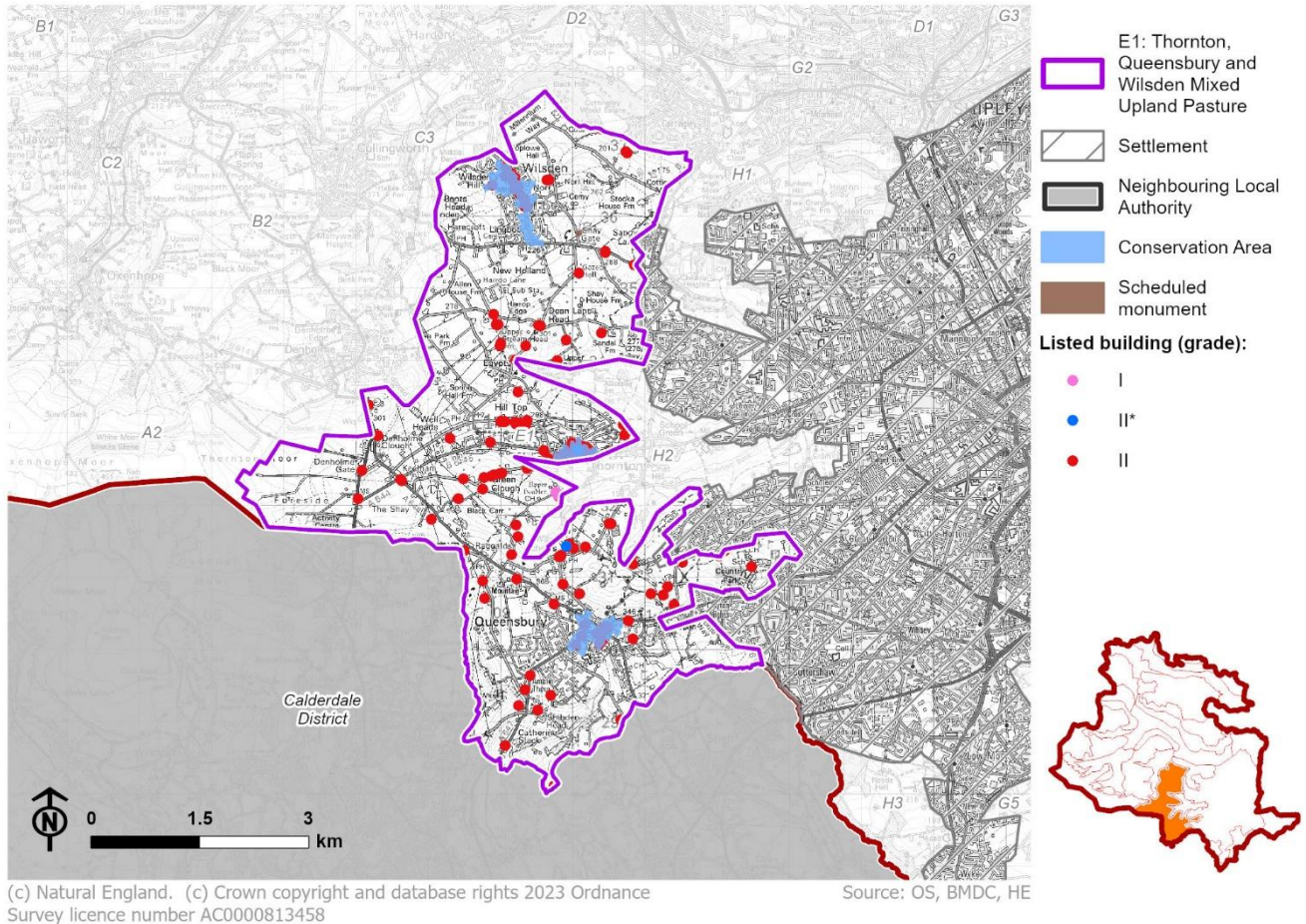
Figure 3.107: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA E1



### Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The rural parts of the LCA have a moderate sense of historic character due to the presence of vernacular stone farmsteads and extensive historic field patterns defined by traditional drystone walls. However, there are significant amounts of neglected or marginal pasture land, and some walls are in need of repair.
- The primary settlements in the area are valued for their historic character, as evidenced by their designation as conservation areas. This includes Wilsden, Thornton and Queensbury. There are a wealth of listed buildings associated with each settlement, including the prominent local landmark the Grade II Listed Church of St James in Thornton.
- Remnants of the closely linked relationship between the physical environment and the development of industry is still evident in the landscape. Mill buildings (such as the Grade II Listed Black Dyke Mill in Queensbury, which the well-known brass band The Black Dyke Band is named for) and terraced textile workers' housing are found in the main settlements, and architectural and material traces of coal mining and quarrying are common across the LCA.
- The Great Northern Railway was built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, connecting mill towns in the Halifax, Bradford and Keighley triangle. A number of viaducts and tunnels were constructed to negotiate the Pennine landscape, including the striking Thornton Viaduct.
- Thornton has literary associations as the birthplace of the Brontë sisters, whose father, Reverend Patrick Brontë became the incumbent of Thornton Chapel in 1815. The 71km long Brontë Way long-distance footpath passes through Thornton.

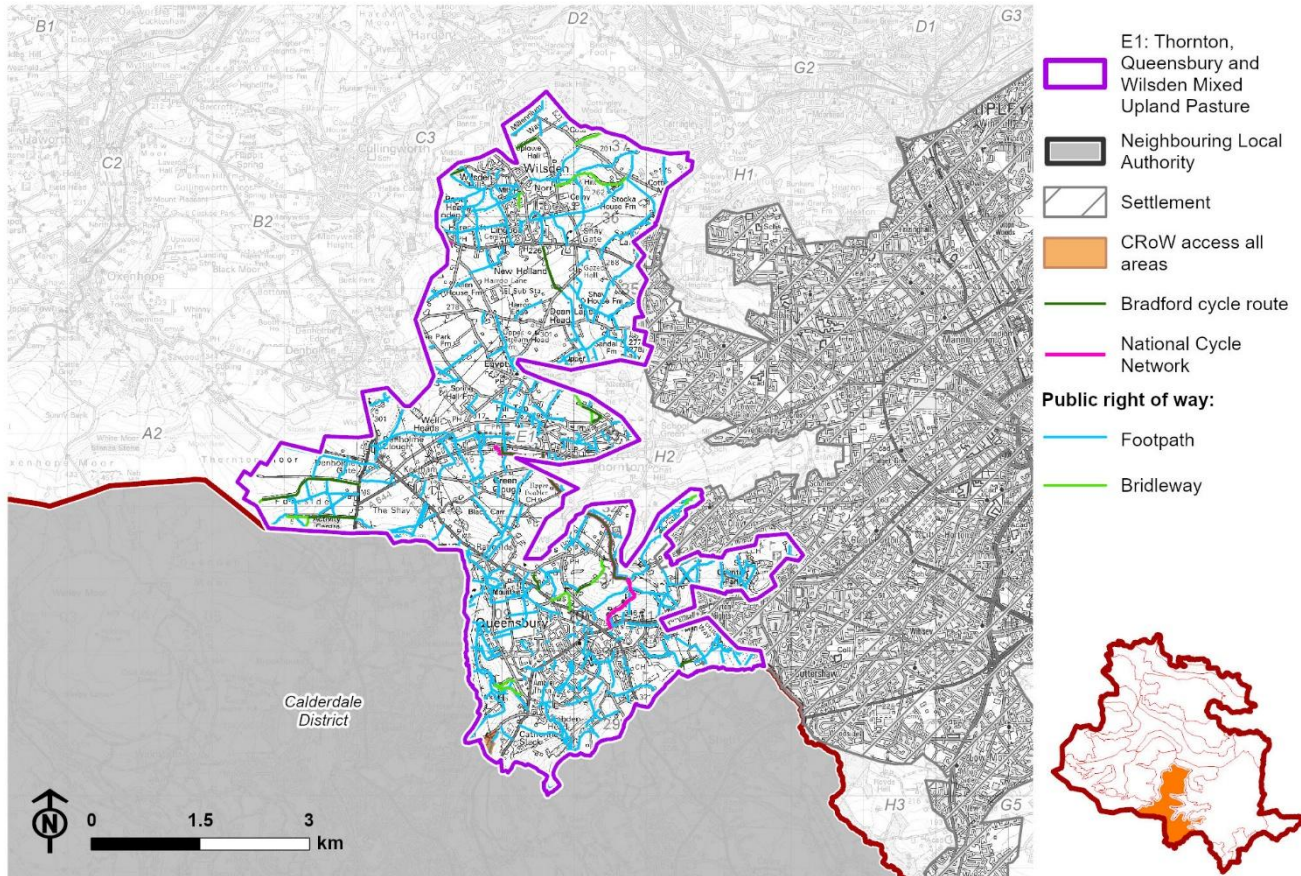
Figure 3.108: Cultural heritage of LCA E1



### Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlement is relatively evenly distributed throughout the LCA. Thornton occupies the centre, roughly equidistant between Queensbury in the south and Wilsden in the north. Between these larger settlements are numerous scattered farmsteads, and occasional small hamlets such as Egypt and West Scholes nestled in the undulations of the plateau.
- Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden are all located close to the boundary of the LCA, at the edges of the plateau. The lower, eastern end of Thornton is located within LCA H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes.
- Wilsden sits in a bowl-shaped depression in the plateau and appears nestled into the landscape, while Thornton and Queensbury sit more prominently on the skyline of the plateau.
- Settlement in the area reflects the local landform. Wilsden and Thornton are both relatively linear, occupying a shallow river valley and a high ridge respectively, while Queensbury has developed in a more radial fashion onto the surrounding plateau table.
- There is an extensive minor road network criss-crossing the plateau, linking the farmsteads and small hamlets of the pasture lands to the main settlements. The B6144 and B6145 provide access to Wilsden and Thornton respectively and the A644 connects Queensbury and Brighouse in neighbouring Calderdale. The A647 travels south from Queensbury to Halifax, and east to Bradford.

Figure 3.109: Access and recreation of LCA E1



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### Access and Recreation

- There is a dense network of well-used public rights of way that traverses the pasture lands, with the higher ground often affording long-distance views in many directions. The Millennium Way and the Brontë Way pass through the northern and central extents of the LCA respectively.
- Two separate sections of the Great Northern Railway Trail cycleway and footpath run along the 8km long Cullingworth to Queensbury disused railway track, forming part of National Cycle Route 69. When completed, the Great Northern Railway Trail will extend 10km between Cullingworth and Queensbury.
- There are many riding stables throughout the area and golf courses at Clayton and Queensbury.
- Horton Bank Country Park, once a quarry and then a reservoir, now provides a site for walking. The pond is used as a site for wild swimming.

### Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Due to the area's elevation, views are generally open in nature, though there is a high degree of variability. Long-distance views are available from higher points on the plateau in the vicinity of Mountain and Queensbury and from the upper slopes north of Thornton, whereas in the more rural folds of the landscape, views tend to be shorter distance and more enclosed within the undulating pasture land.
- Related to these visual qualities, perception fluctuates across the LCA from a sense of elevation and exposure on higher ground, to one of shelter between undulations and in the small valleys.

- North east of Queensbury above Brow Lane there is a bowl-shaped valley with farmsteads, small holdings and a quarry set into the folds of the landscape. Tree groups are clumped around and in between these features creating a more enclosed, small-scale character which is distinct from the nearby settlements of Thornton, Queensbury, and Bradford.
- The undulating landform and extensive field patterns of traditional pasture across the LCA lend it notable rural qualities. However, these rural qualities are weakened by significant modern infrastructure, in particular a number of overhead power lines, supported by large electricity pylons, that converge on Bradford West Substation. These feature prominently on the skyline throughout the LCA, and are seen alongside wind turbines and solar panels.
- From the south of the area there is a sense of sitting on a high shelf of land raised above Bradford, and in places the area benefits from very expansive views. The eastern extent of the area has a sense of being on the urban edge and littering and fly tipping is not uncommon in this area.

## Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT E: Mixed Upland Pasture

### Climate Change

- Climate change leading to increased periods of drought could reduce the widespread presence of springs in E1, and decrease the waterflows in the beck heads (such as at Denholme Beck) which then flow into different LCTs.
- Drier and warmer conditions increase the risk of wildfires in neighbouring moorland which may spread to E1.
- Climate change may also result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall which has the potential to cause localised flooding and increasing the risk of erosion and landslides. Wet field conditions could increase poaching from livestock, already an issue in parts of the LCT due to intensive horse grazing.

### Agricultural Change

- Diversification of upland farms leading to renovations and extensions to agricultural holdings may detract from rural character in places. As an area close to the urban edge, there may be greater demand for the conversion of agricultural holdings.
- Characteristic drystone walls are falling into disrepair in places, often on the urban edge. Changes in agricultural subsidies could further exacerbate this trend.
- Uncertainty over changes to agricultural funding may lead to increases or decreases in grazing pressure and subsequent impacts on grassland character.
- Intensive horse grazing has caused poaching and the compaction of soil, particularly in locations in the east on the urban edge. Horse grazing can also have a detrimental impact on riparian vegetation on small scale becks, and associated buildings and fencing can affect rural character.

### Development

- Settlements within the LCT are under increased pressure for development due to their convenient distance from Bradford.
- The key settlements within E1 have a strong relationship with their surrounding landform. Development pressure may cause the expansion of settlements past their traditional topographic boundaries, eroding their relationship to their setting.
  - Thornton is characterised by its location on an elevated spur and development spilling down onto the valley floor to the north and south could detract from this.
  - Wilsden sits within the gentle valley bowl surrounding the Wilsden Beck, development up the valley sides could alter the character of the settlement.
  - Queensbury is located on the plateau top, development to the north and to the south crossing into Shibden Dale could have a detrimental impact on wider landscape character.
- The LCT has a substantial degree of existing energy infrastructure, including wind turbines, overhead electricity lines, and substations. Pressure for additional energy infrastructure, particularly from wind energy and battery storage facilities, could have a cumulative and increasingly negative impact.
- Development in the neighbouring Calderdale District south of E1 may alter the rural character in the south of the LCA.

### Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- Uncertainty over new Environmental Land Managements Schemes (ELMS) and the impact this will have on habitat management for upland farming.
- 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.

- Pressure for additional tree planting which would contrast starkly with the very open exposed landscape character in parts of E1, particularly in the south west and south.
- Flooding in the Calderdale District may require upper catchment water retention initiatives in the upper valleys in the south of the area in order to minimise flooding.

### Heritage at Risk

- Thornton Conservation Area is on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register and is assessed as having 'Very bad' condition and a 'deteriorating' trend.
- Drystone walls play an important role in defining historic field patterns and a deteriorating trend in condition is damaging to historic continuity.
- The Queensbury Tunnel is in a state of disrepair and may be infilled, though there is a campaign to reopen it and repurpose it as part of a cycle network.

### Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Increased development on the edge of Bradford may increase pressure on the network of public rights of way.
- The completion of the Great Northern Railway Trail cycle route may draw more people to the area.

### Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- Fly tipping and litter is common in some locations on the urban-rural transition in the east of E1.

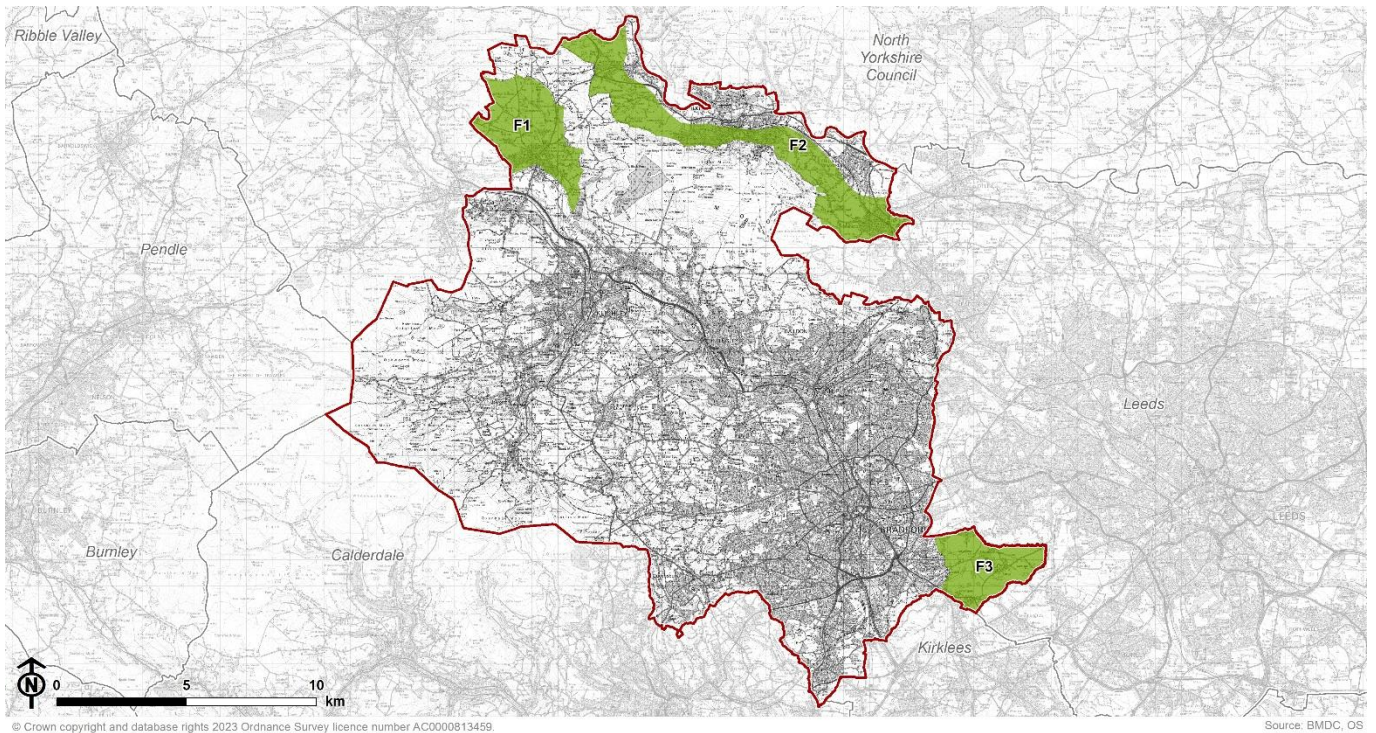
## Guidance

- Encourage diverse grasslands within agricultural land to create a mosaic of habitats within the grazed pasture. This should include drought tolerant species.
- Sensitively manage potential flood prevention schemes at beck heads and use them as an opportunity to increase biodiversity as well as retain water.
- Manage the degree of horse grazing in the landscape and seek to reduce poaching and negative impacts on riparian vegetation.
- Aim to increase tree cover in LCT but concentrate tree planting within valleys, at the heads of streams and around settlements where tree cover is an existing characteristic. Avoid tree planting on the exposed and elevated plateau tops in the south and west and where it will alter skylines.
- Conserve and enhance the area's rich industrial heritage supporting the schemes and strategies most likely to ensure the long term positive condition of industrial built form. Ensure use of traditional building materials and methods in repair and restoration. Views to prominent industrial features, such as the Thornton Viaduct, should be maintained.
- Assess the archaeological potential (including through consultation with the Historic Environment Record) of developed and undeveloped land particularly in relation to the risks posed by any proposed development schemes or environmental mitigation strategies.
- Thornton's connection with the Brontës should be conserved and promoted. In particular, the setting of the Old Bell Chapel should be preserved and negative impacts on users of the Brontë Way minimised.
- Conserve the characteristic geometric field pattern. Maintain the drystone walls, repair where necessary ensuring that restoration is carried out sensitively and with due regard to local style and construction.
- Strive to respect the relationships between settlements and the landform they are associated with.
- Seek to integrate new development into the landscape through tree planting, where appropriate within the landscape, for example tree planting may help to integrate development on the edge of low lying Wilsden, but may be less appropriate around the more elevated Queensbury.

- Seek to maintain separation between distinct settlements and to respect settlement settings where they contribute to settlement character.
- Carefully consider the capacity of the landscape to accommodate additional energy infrastructure development, taking into account potential for cumulative impacts. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments/ Landscape and Visual Appraisals are an important part of the iterative design and assessment process and can help inform the potential for cumulative impacts.
- Where additional residential development is proposed, seek to strengthen the existing public right of way network to mitigate against increased use and to benefit existing and new residents.

## 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:

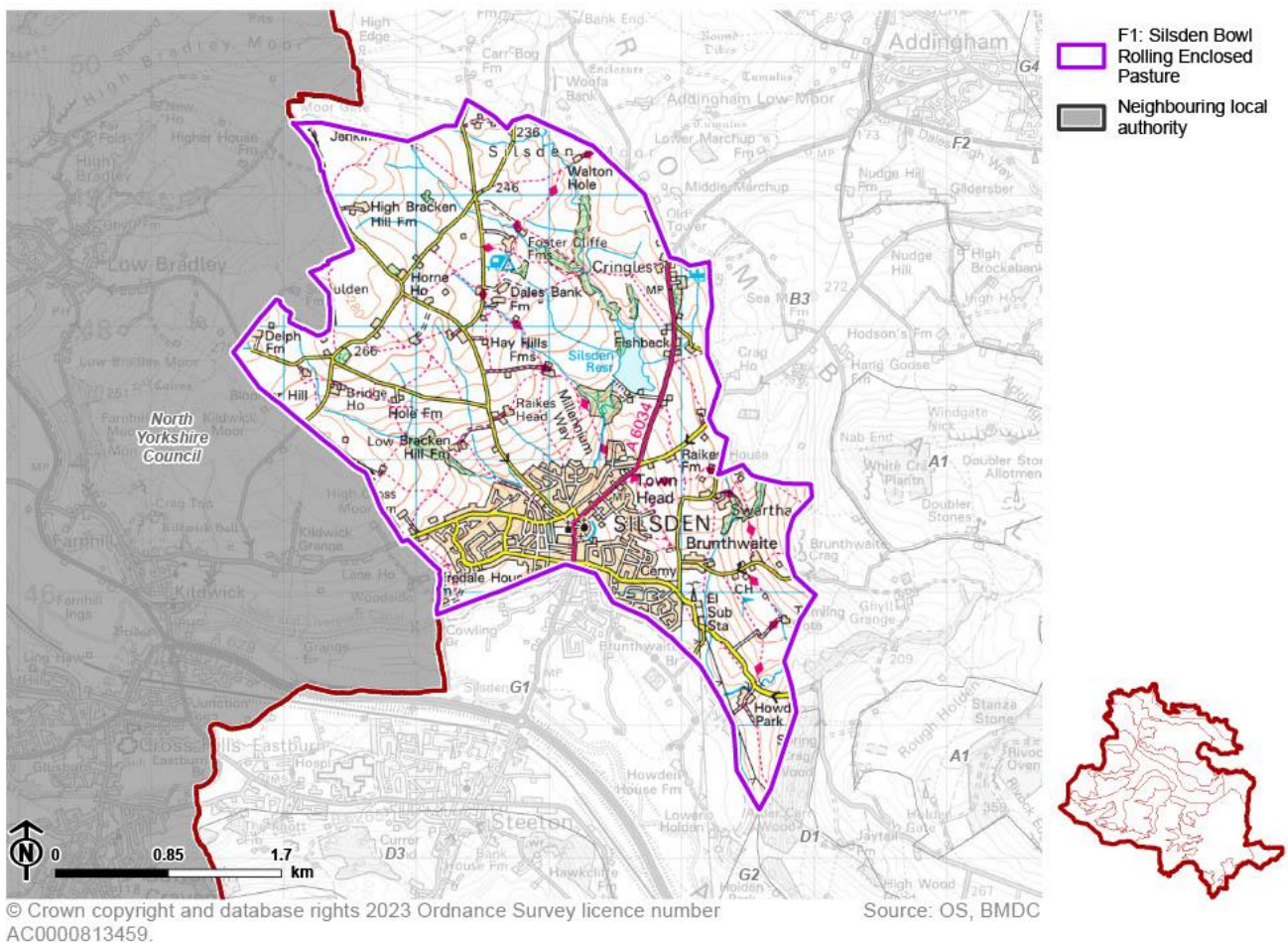
- F1. Silsden Bowl Rolling Enclosed Pasture
- F2. Wharfedale Rolling Enclosed Pasture
- F3. Tong Valley Rolling Enclosed Pasture

## 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 Addingham, 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.



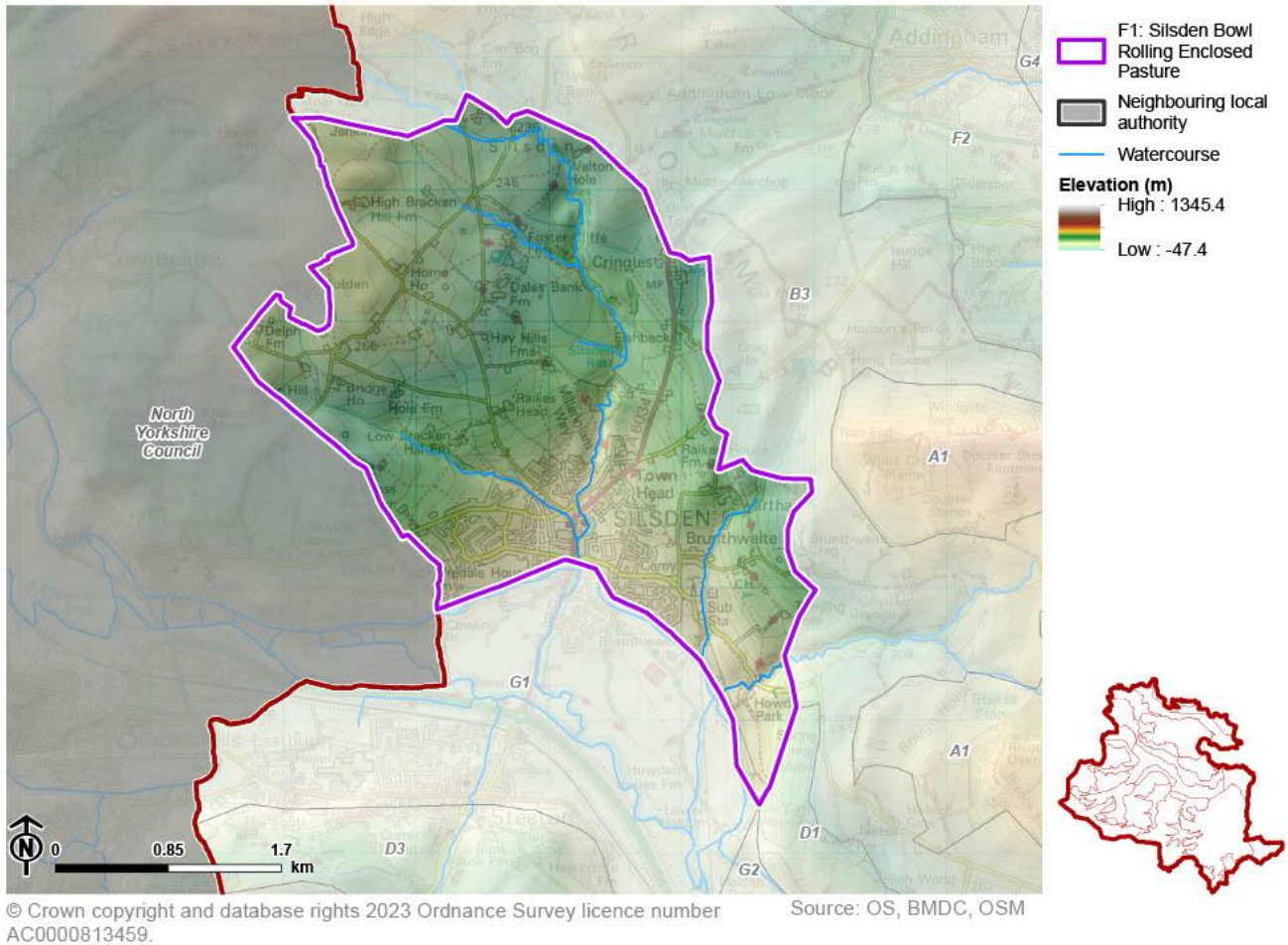
Grade II Listed buildings at Silsden.



Woodland bordering Hayhills Beck.

Landscape Character

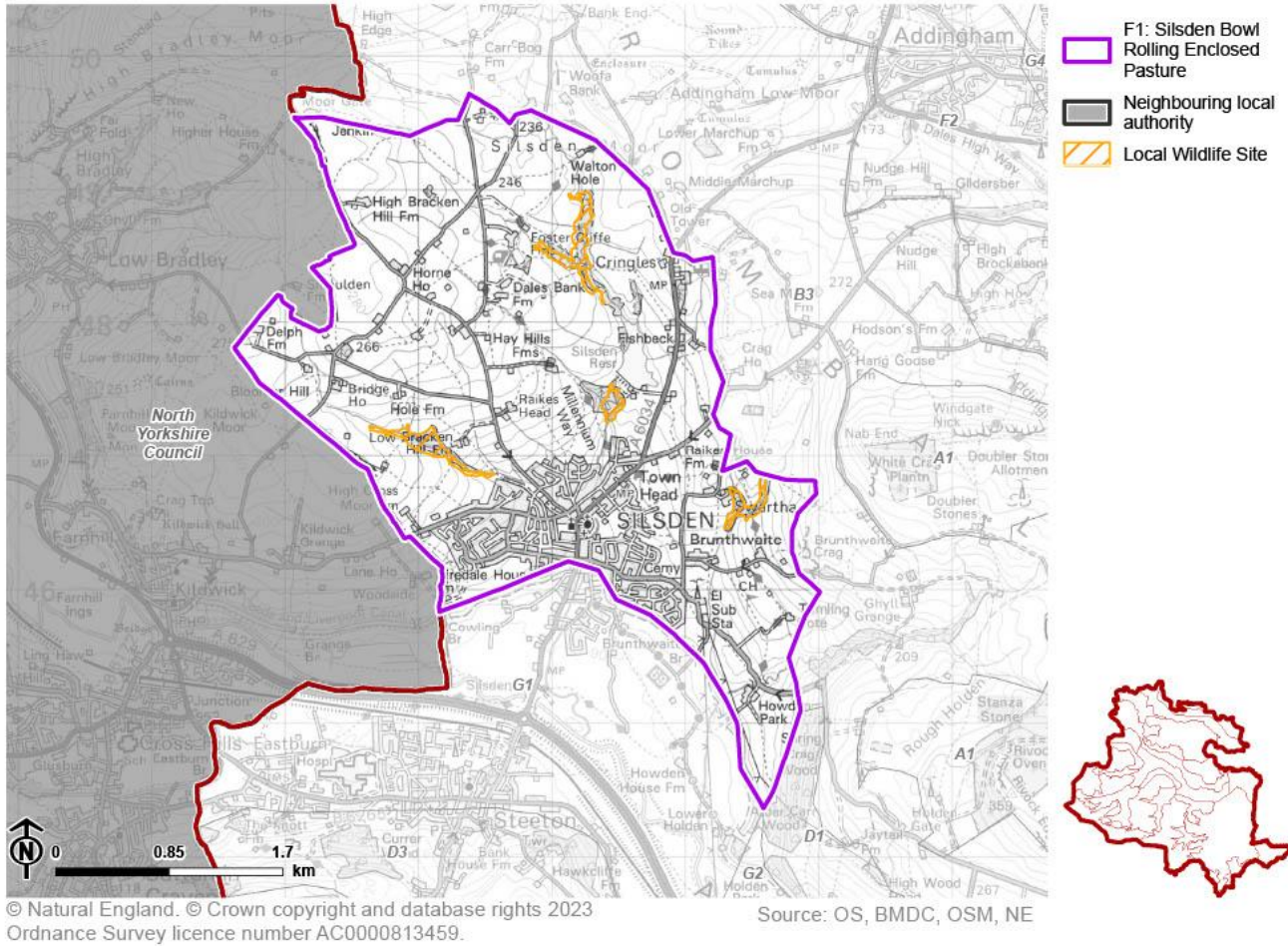
Figure 3.113: Topography of LCA F1



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.

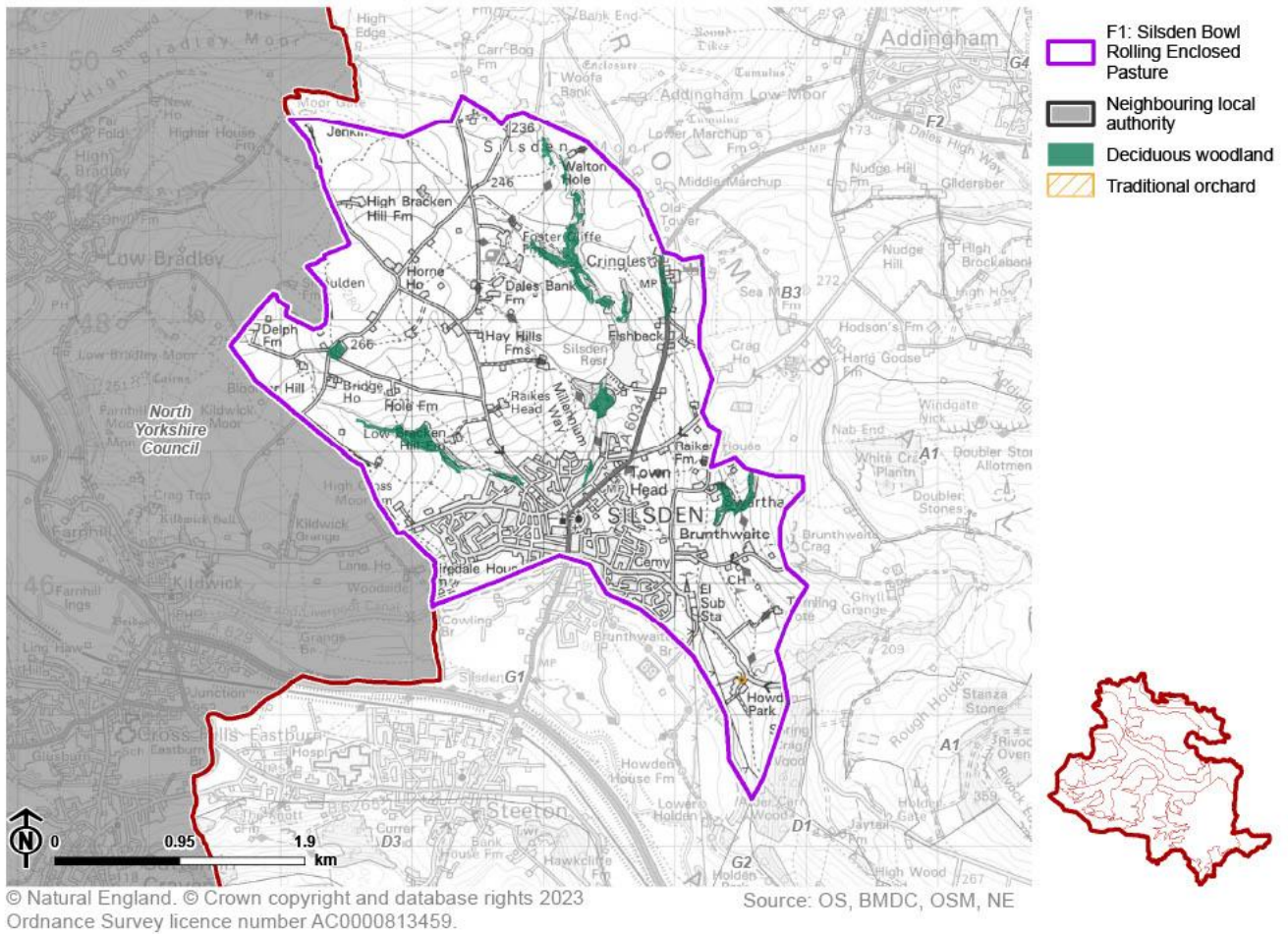
Figure 3.114: Natural heritage of LCA F1



### 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.

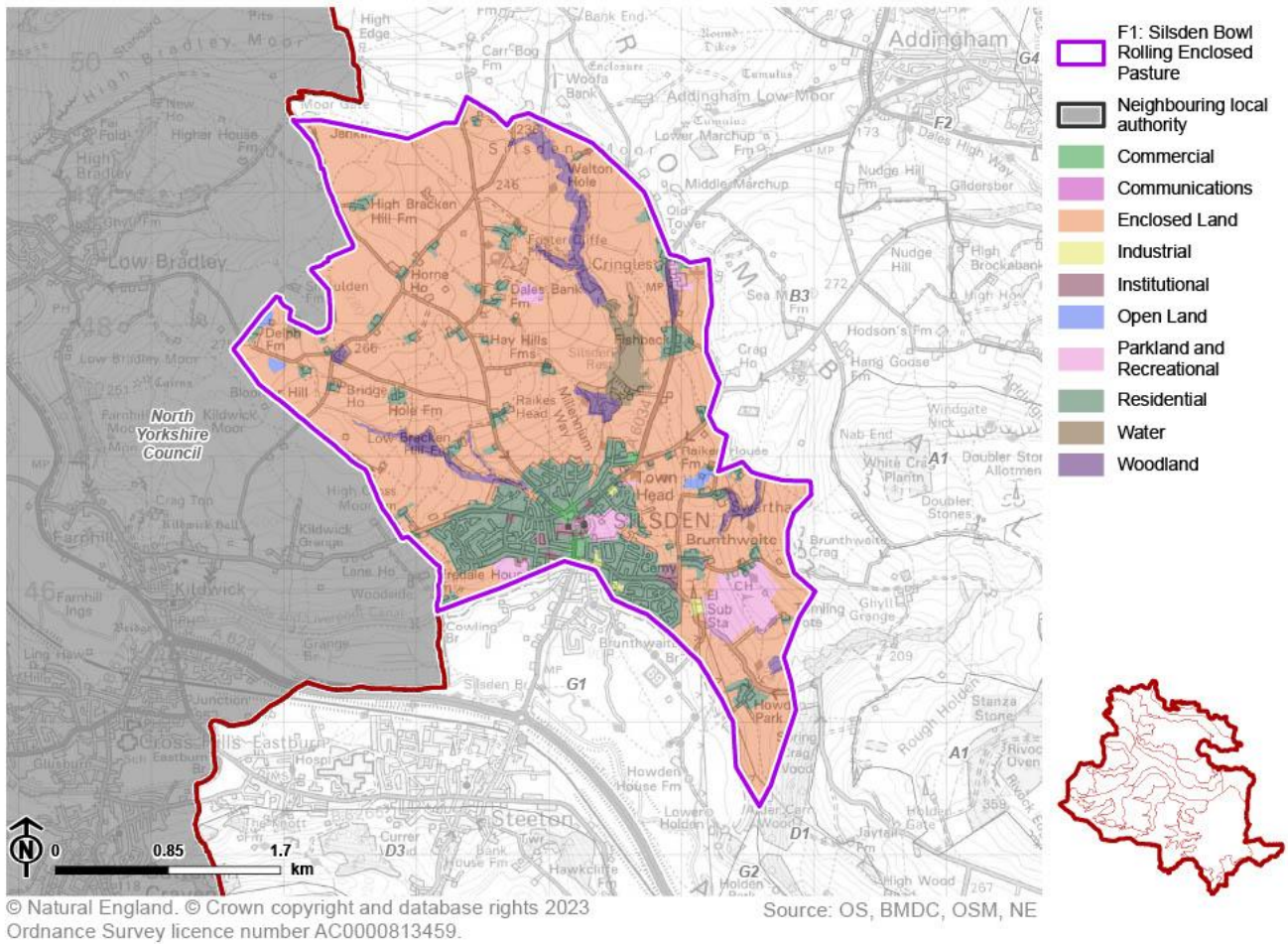
Figure 3.115: Priority habitat inventory of LCA F1



### 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.

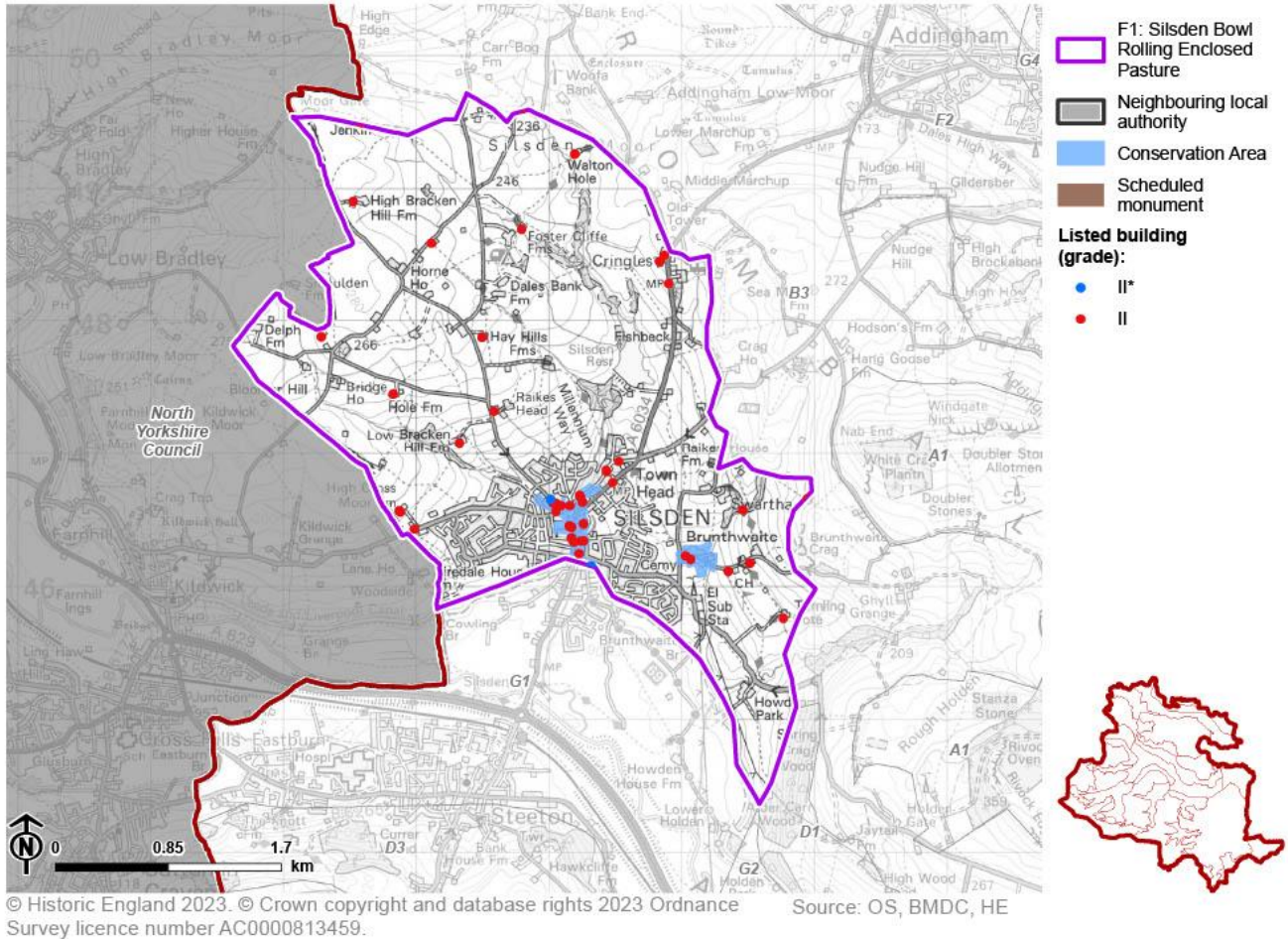
Figure 3.116: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA F1



### 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.

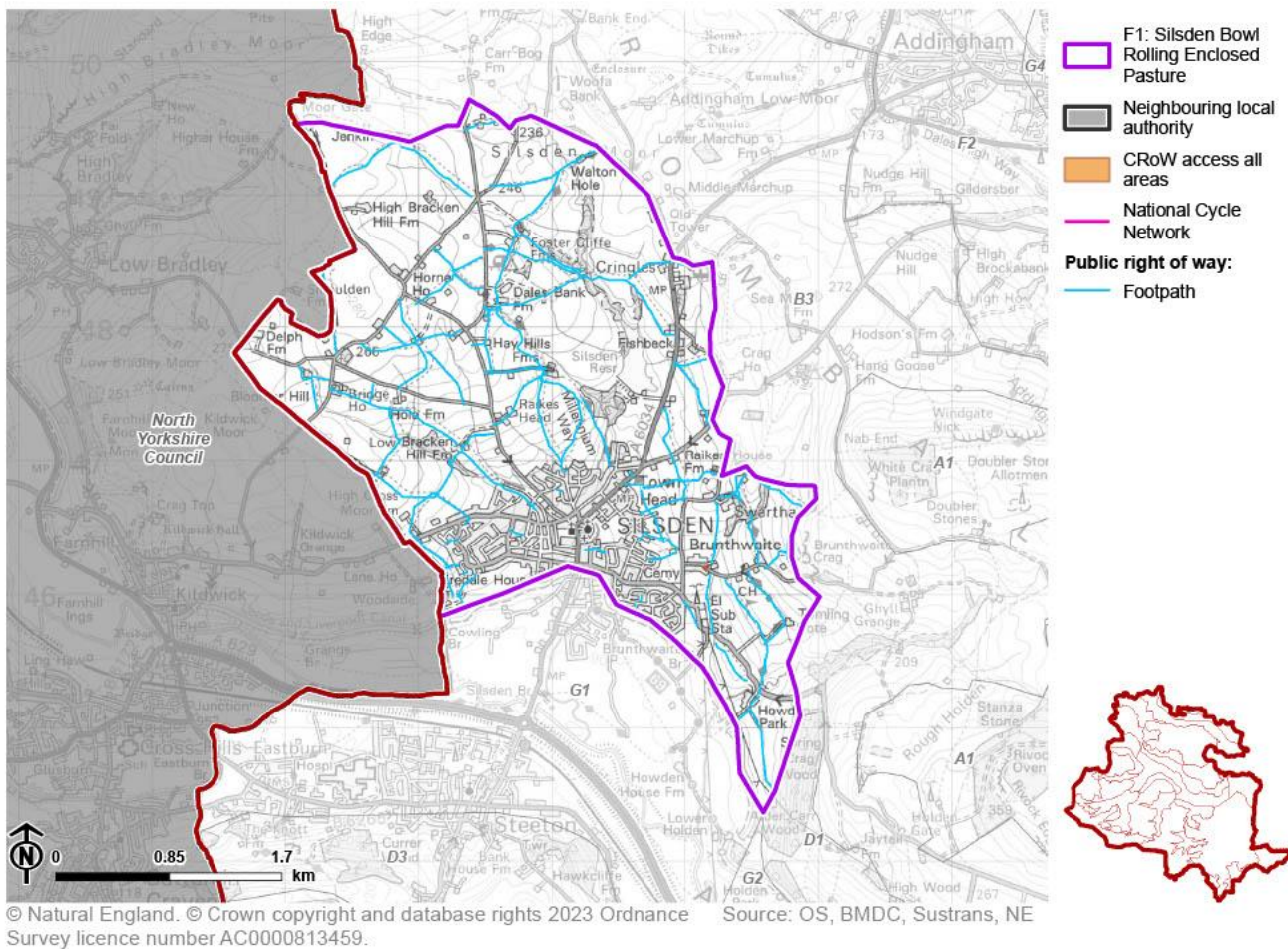
Figure 3.117: Cultural heritage of LCA F1



### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 West Yorkshire Cycle route passes through this LCA along Howden Road between Silsden and Brunthwaite.
- 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.

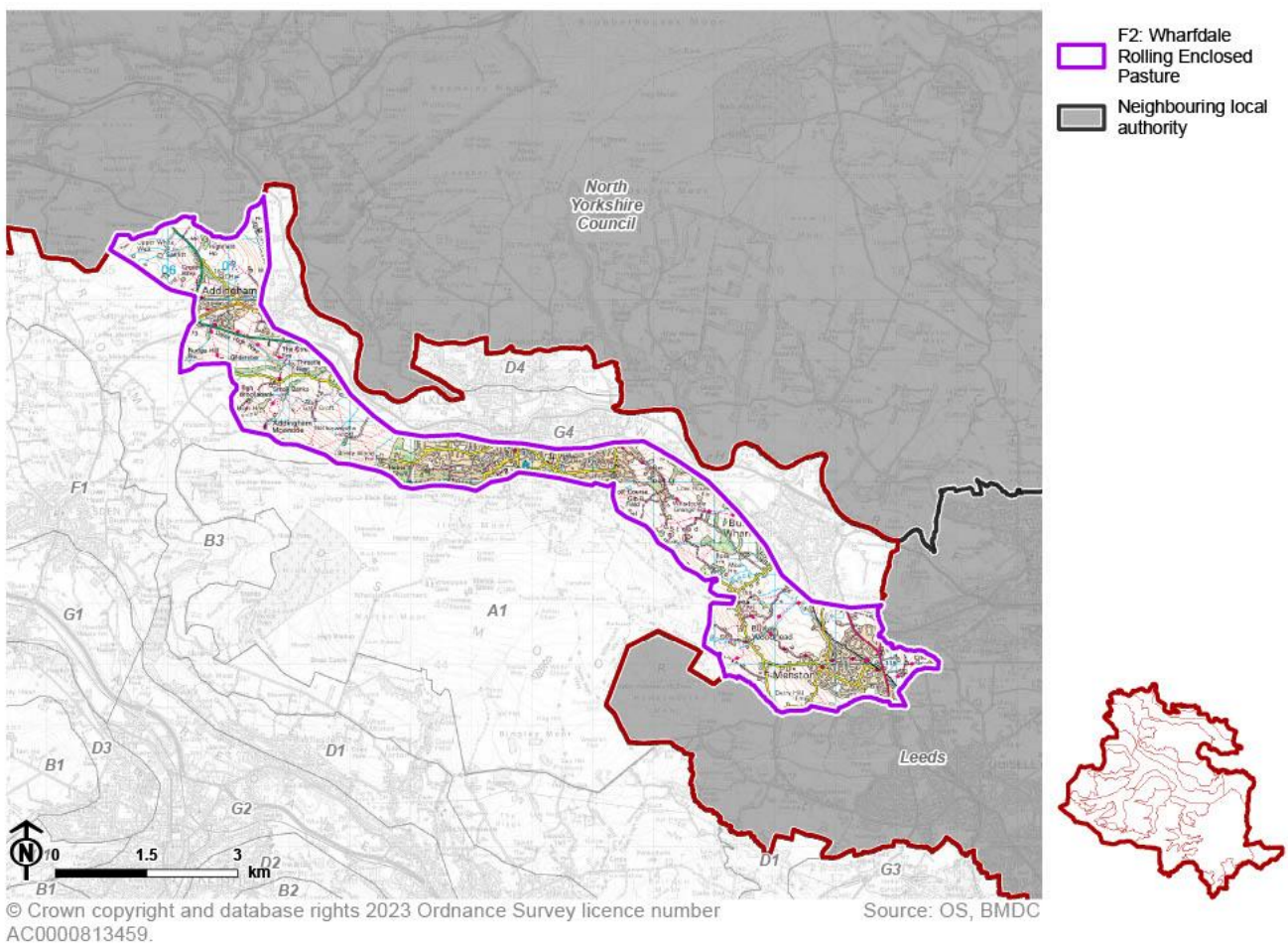
- In the north of the LCA in proximity to High Bradley Moor, the rural character is heightened, with landscape features more typical of the high moors (particularly the consistent geometric drystone walls across the slopes) and limited modern influences.
- The area to the east of Silsden between Brunthwaite 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. There are notable areas of semi-improved flower rich pasture and hay meadows, particularly around Addingham.
- 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. There are a number of well wooded ghylls to the south of Addingham and 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. Part of this LCA forms part of the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Settlements within the area primarily have agricultural origins, but have since been influenced by industrial growth, particularly in wool and milling. This is seen in the array of historic buildings in Addingham associated with textile manufacturing. 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 National Landscape 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.



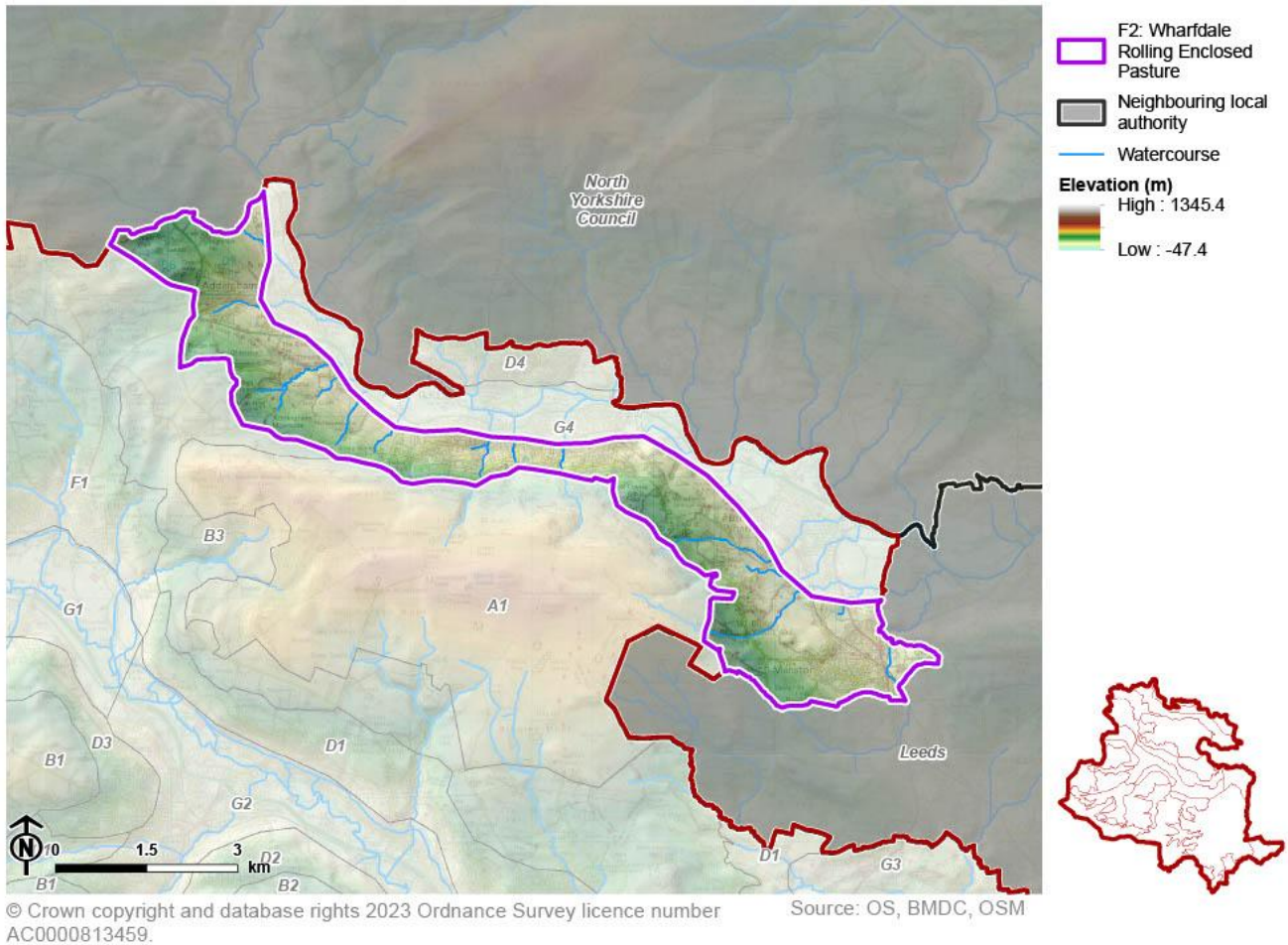
Historic architecture of Ilkley, with the rising form of Rombalds Moor seen in the background.



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

### Landscape Character

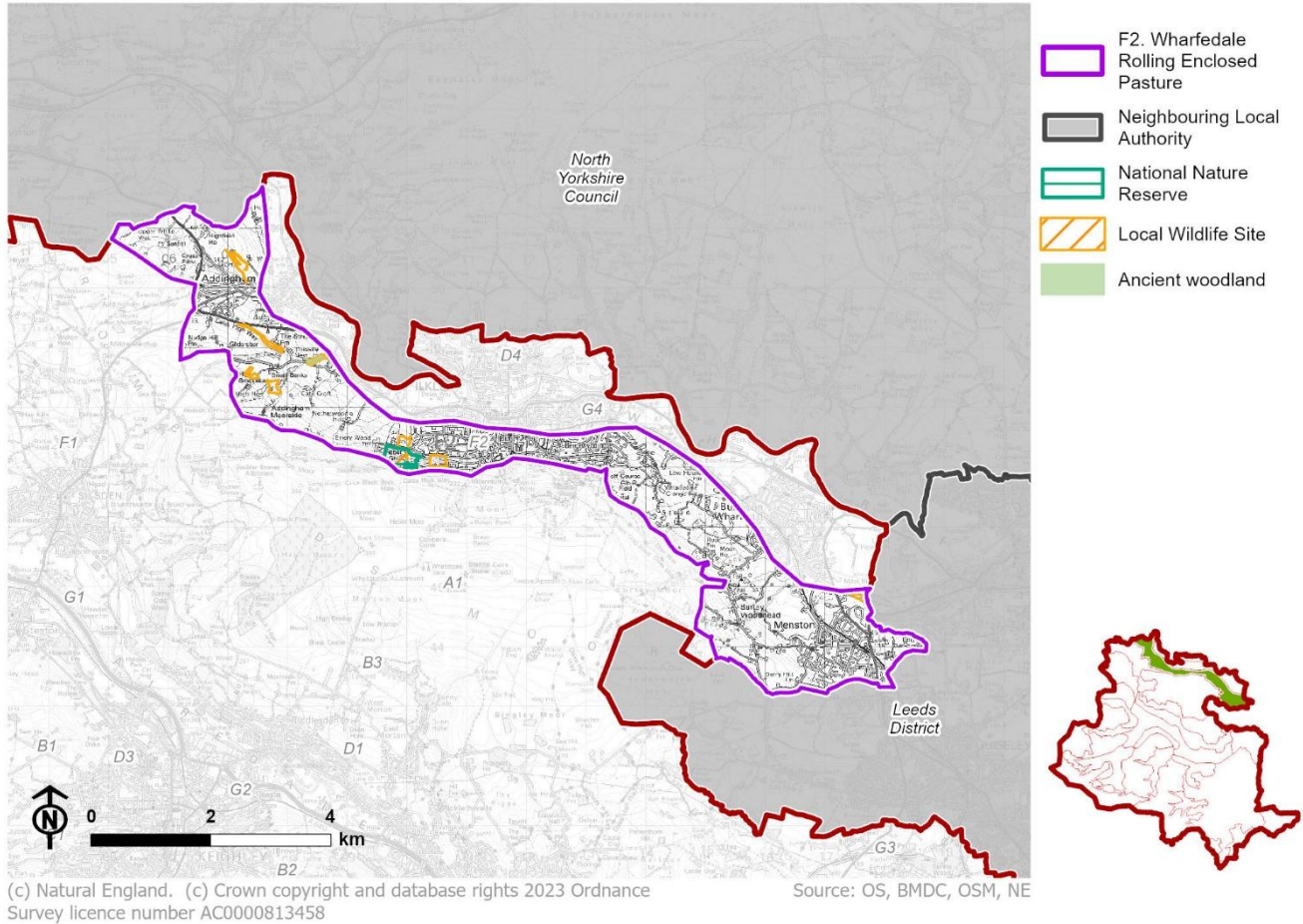
Figure 3.121: Topography of LCA F2



### 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.

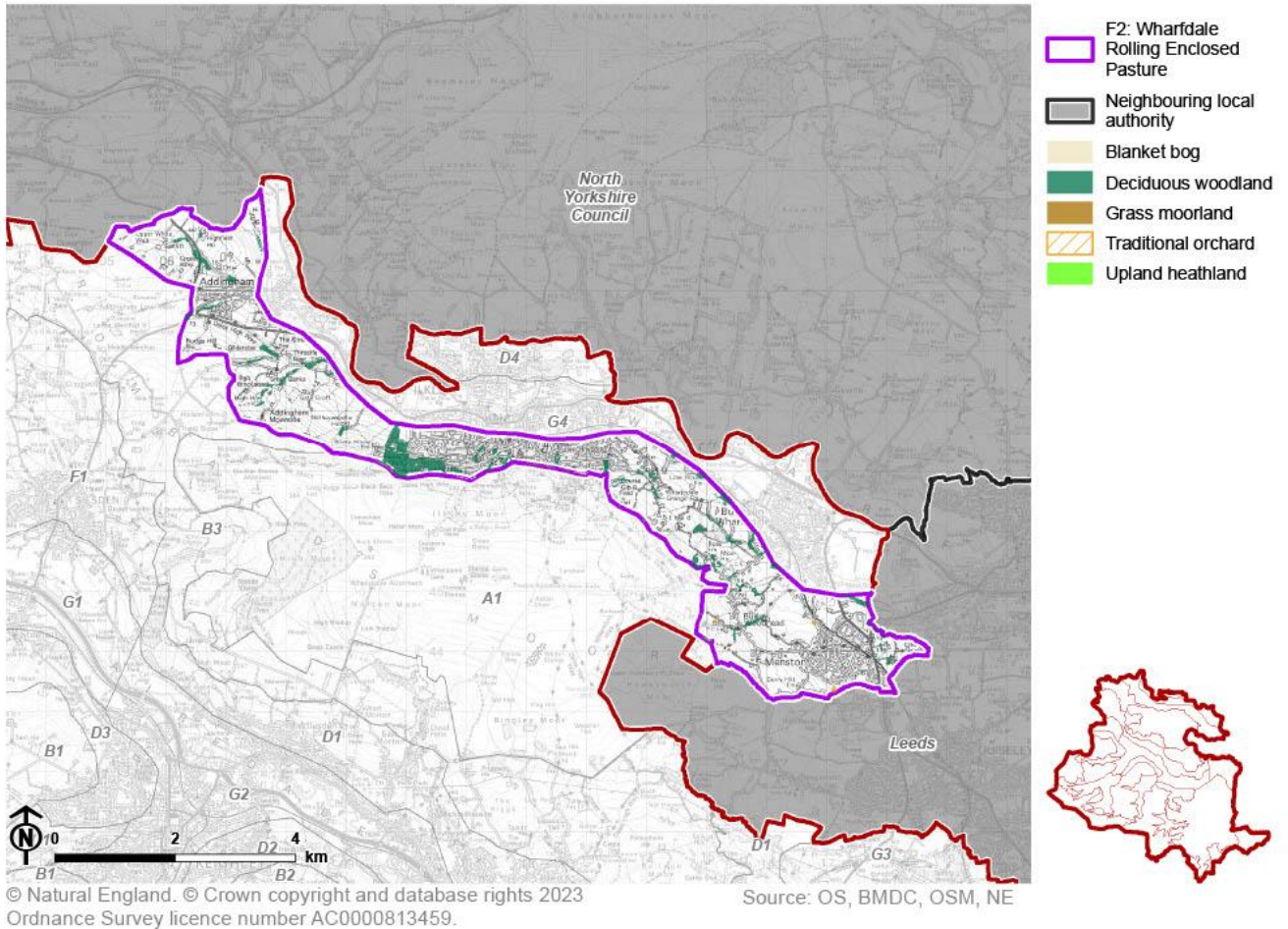
Figure 3.122: Natural heritage of LCA F2



### 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. Those areas at Heber's Ghyll and Panorama Wood are also partly included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR designation.
- Additional habitats are predominantly semi-improved grassland, which comprises the dominant land cover across the LCA and offers limited biodiversity value.

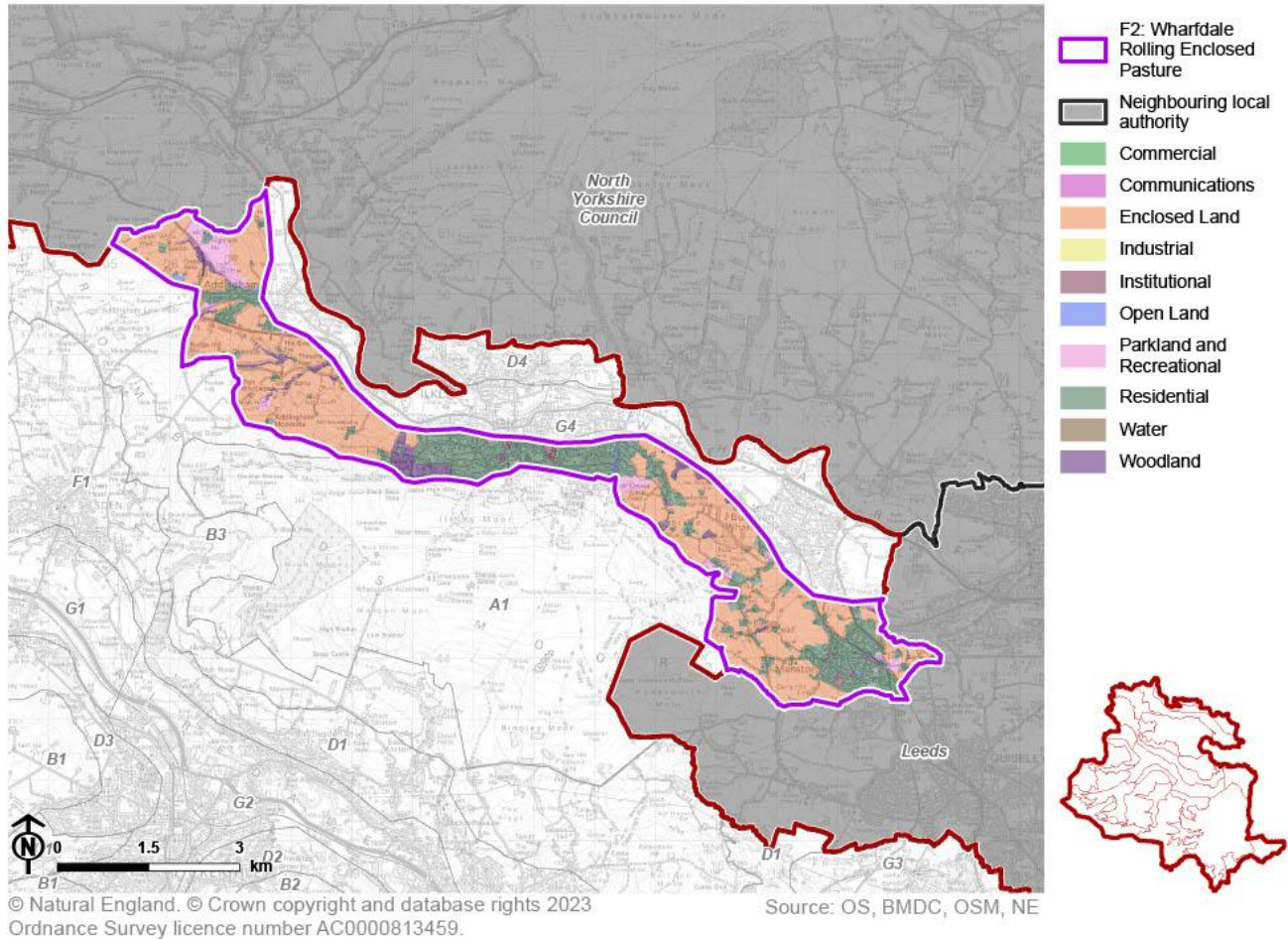
Figure 3.123: Priority habitat inventory of LCA F2



### 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.

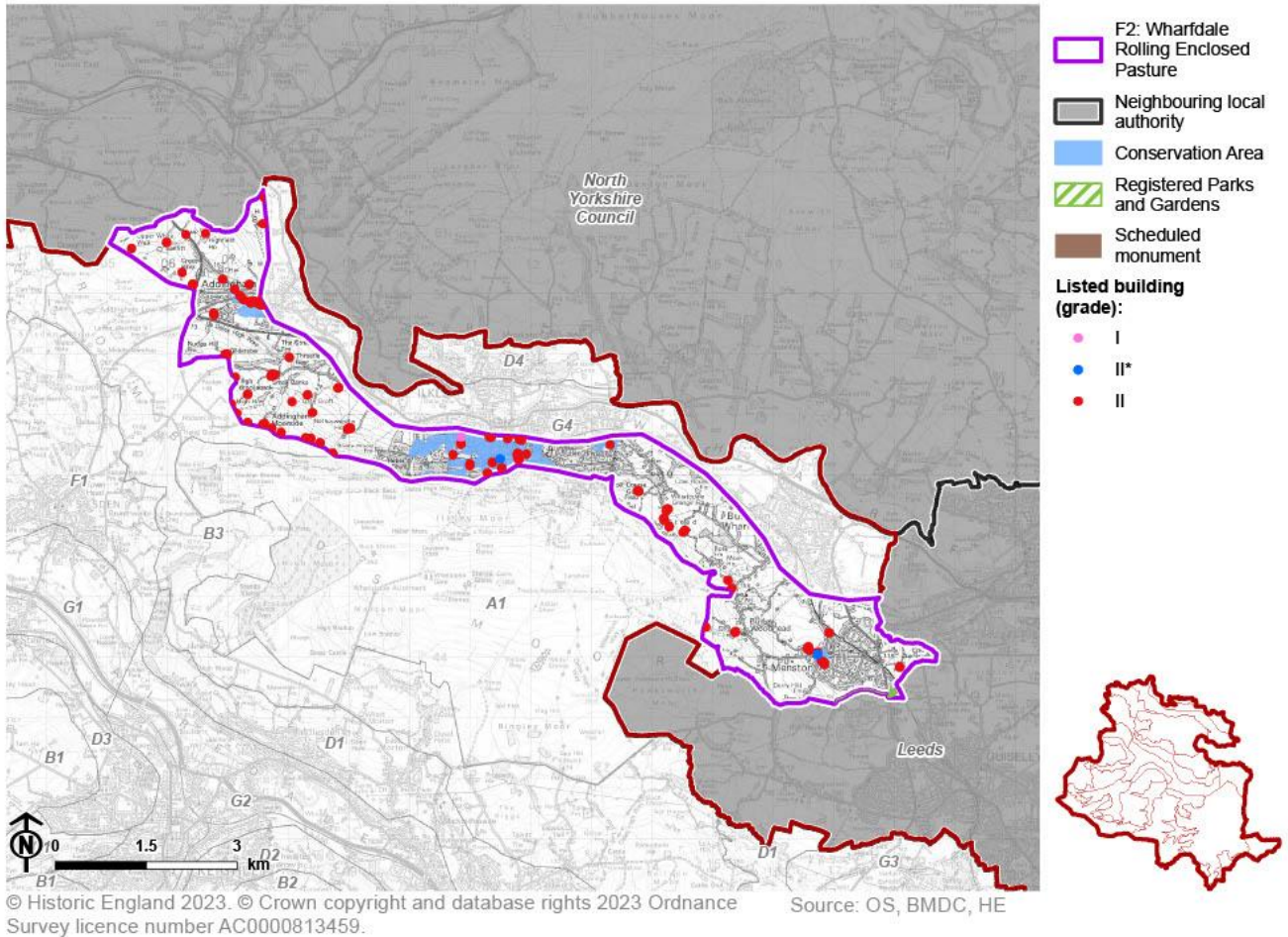
Figure 3.124: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA F2



### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century origins. Many of the listed buildings in Ilkley are legacies of its history as a spa town and Victorian holiday destination. In Addingham a number of the listed buildings are related to the textile industry and the community that developed around it.
- 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.

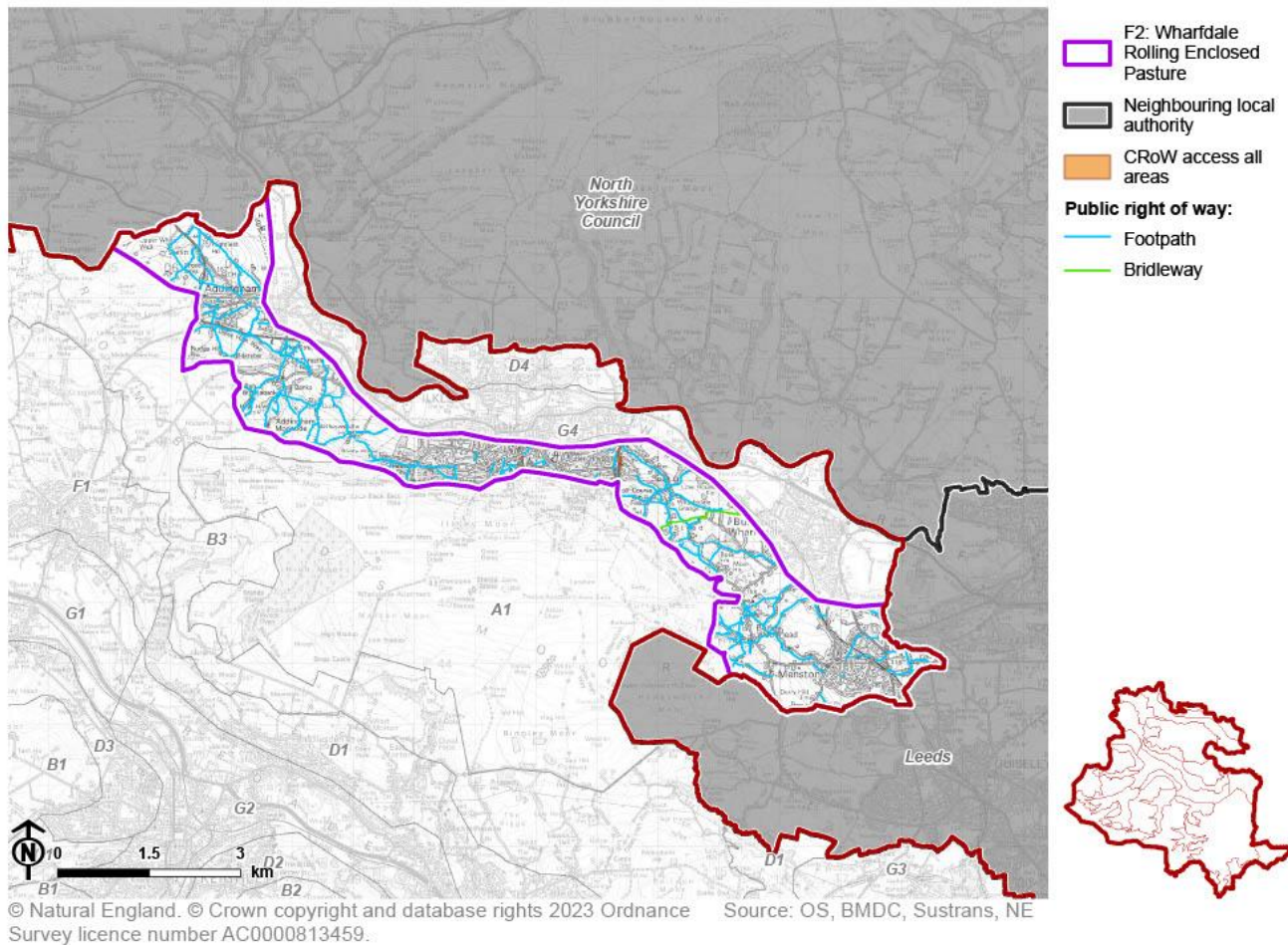
Figure 3.125: Cultural heritage of LCA F2



### 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.

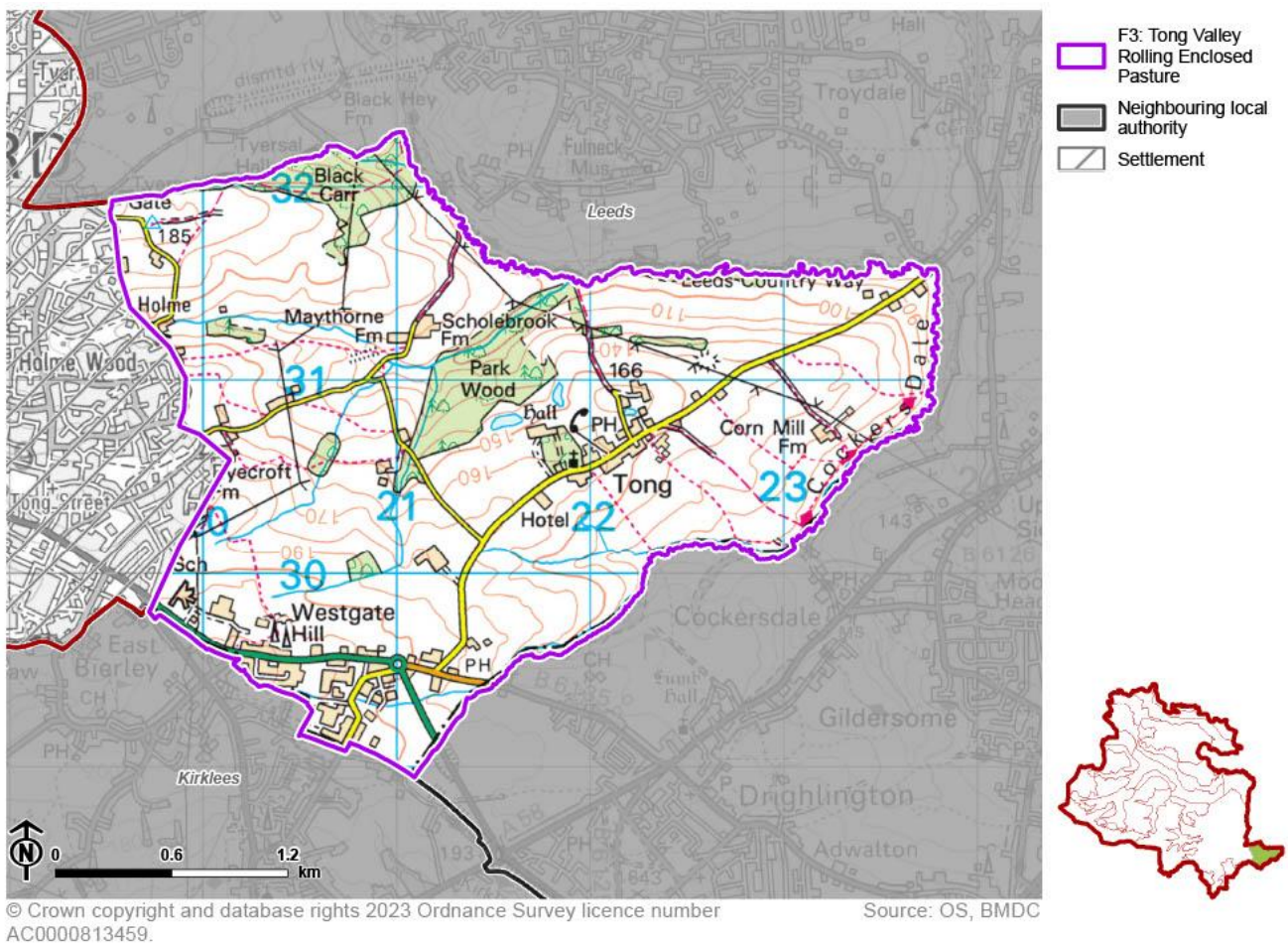
- Views north across the Wharfe Valley towards the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape are provided from higher elevations across the LCA.
- Areas away from concentrated settlement and in proximity to the moorlands to the south have stronger experiences of dark night skies, 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.



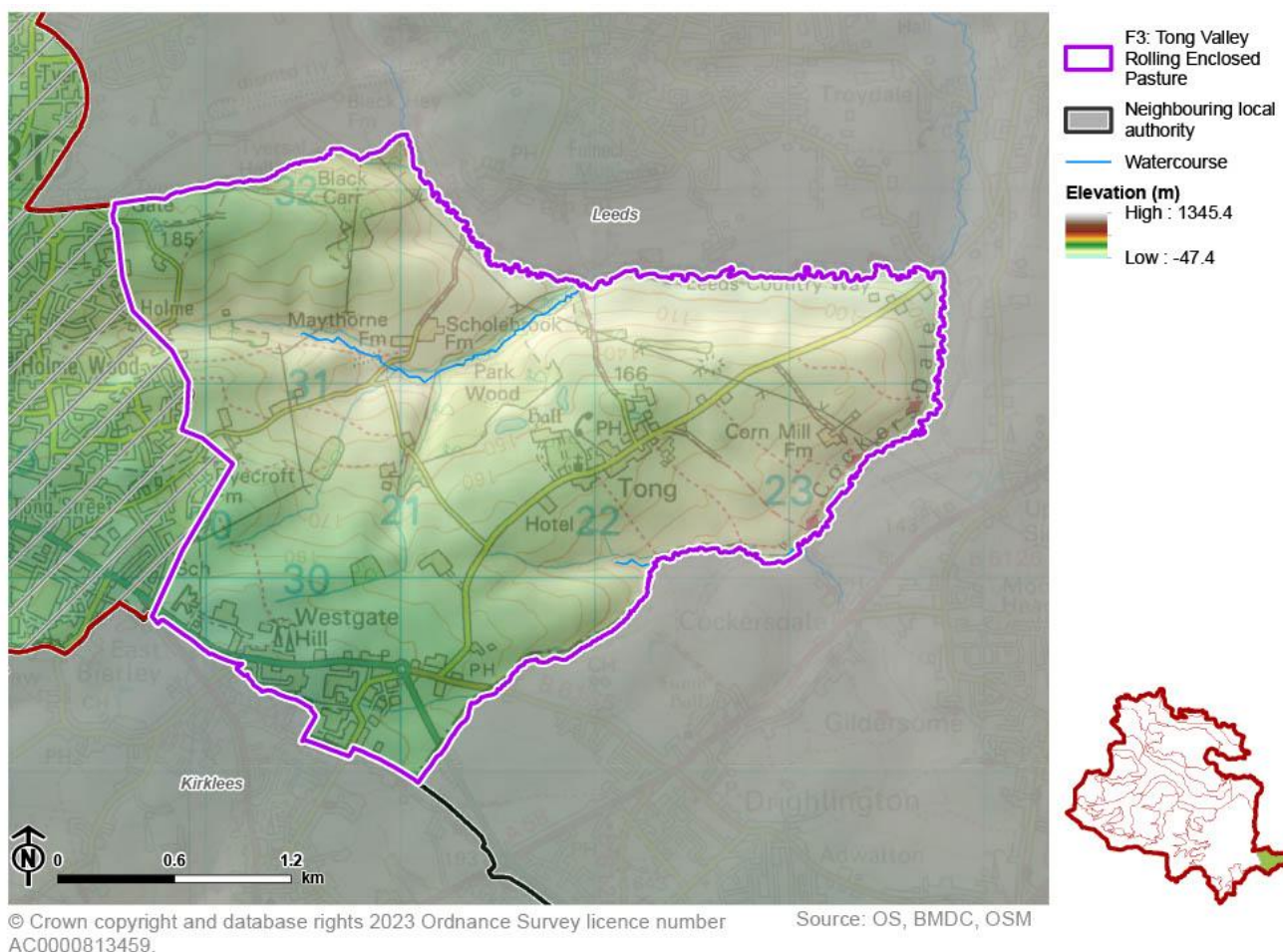
Drystone walls in poor condition and scattered agricultural buildings.



Good network of lanes and public rights of way.

## Landscape Character

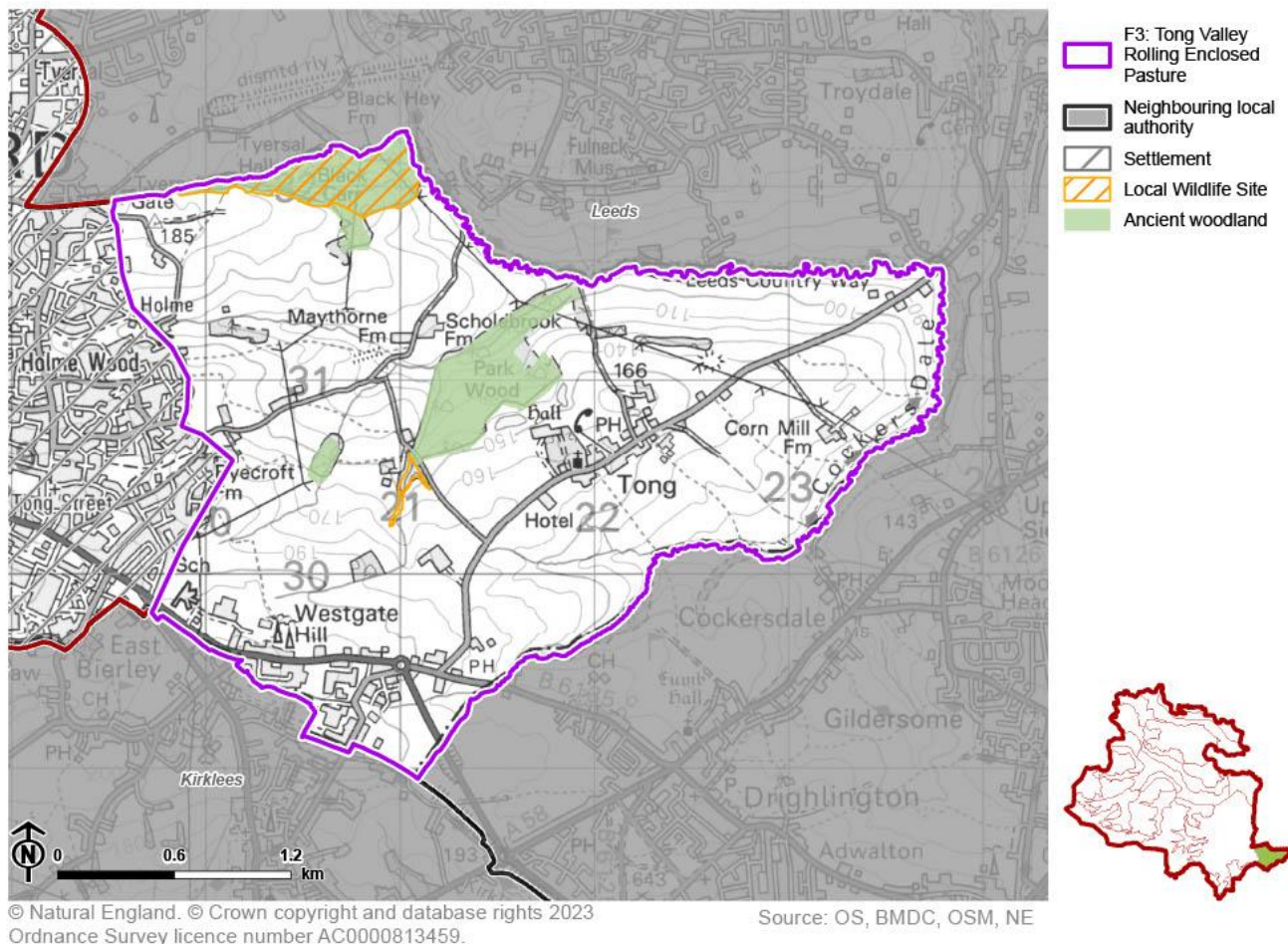
Figure 3.129: Topography of LCA F3



### 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.

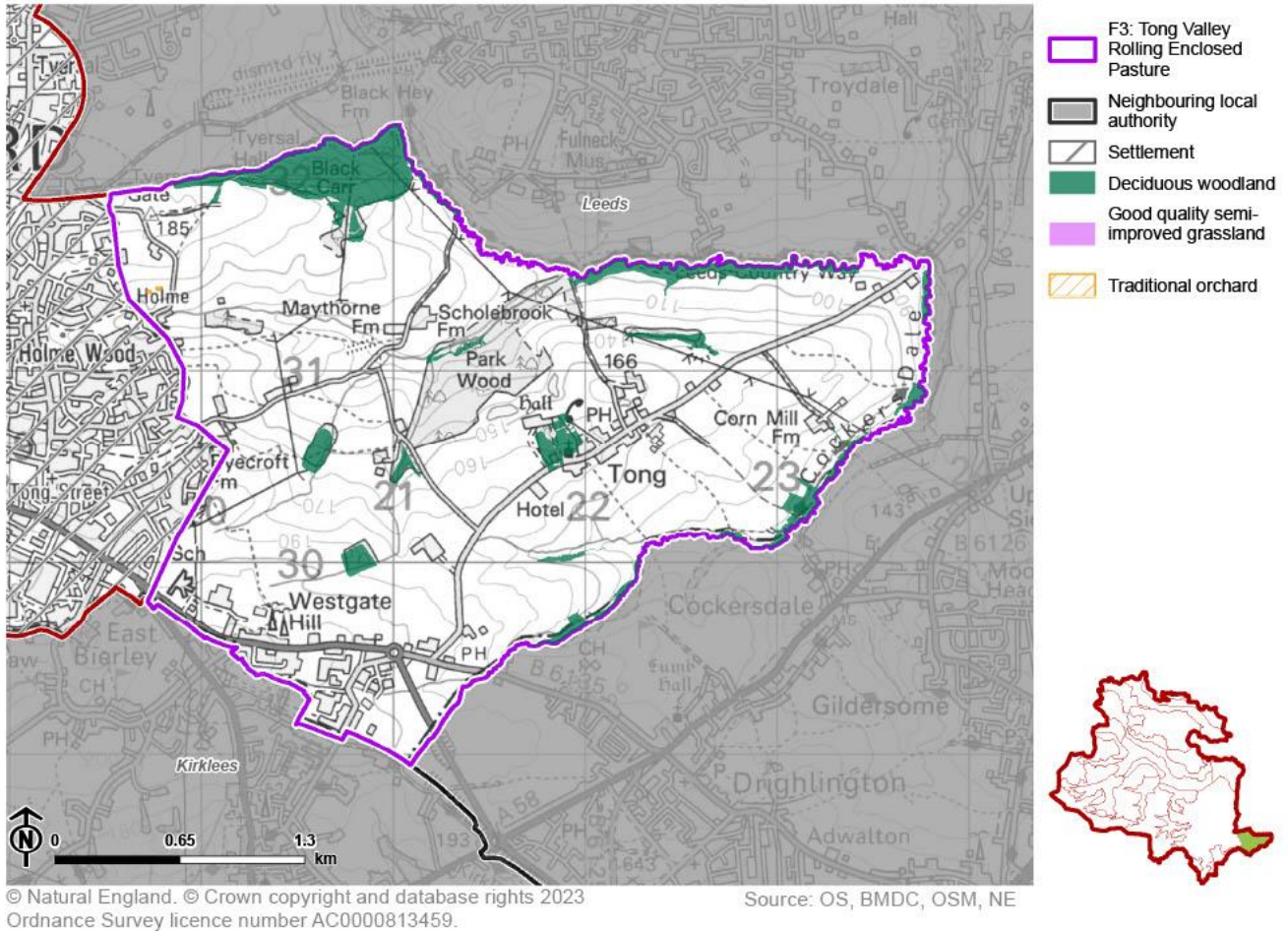
Figure 3.130: Natural heritage of LCA F3



### 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.

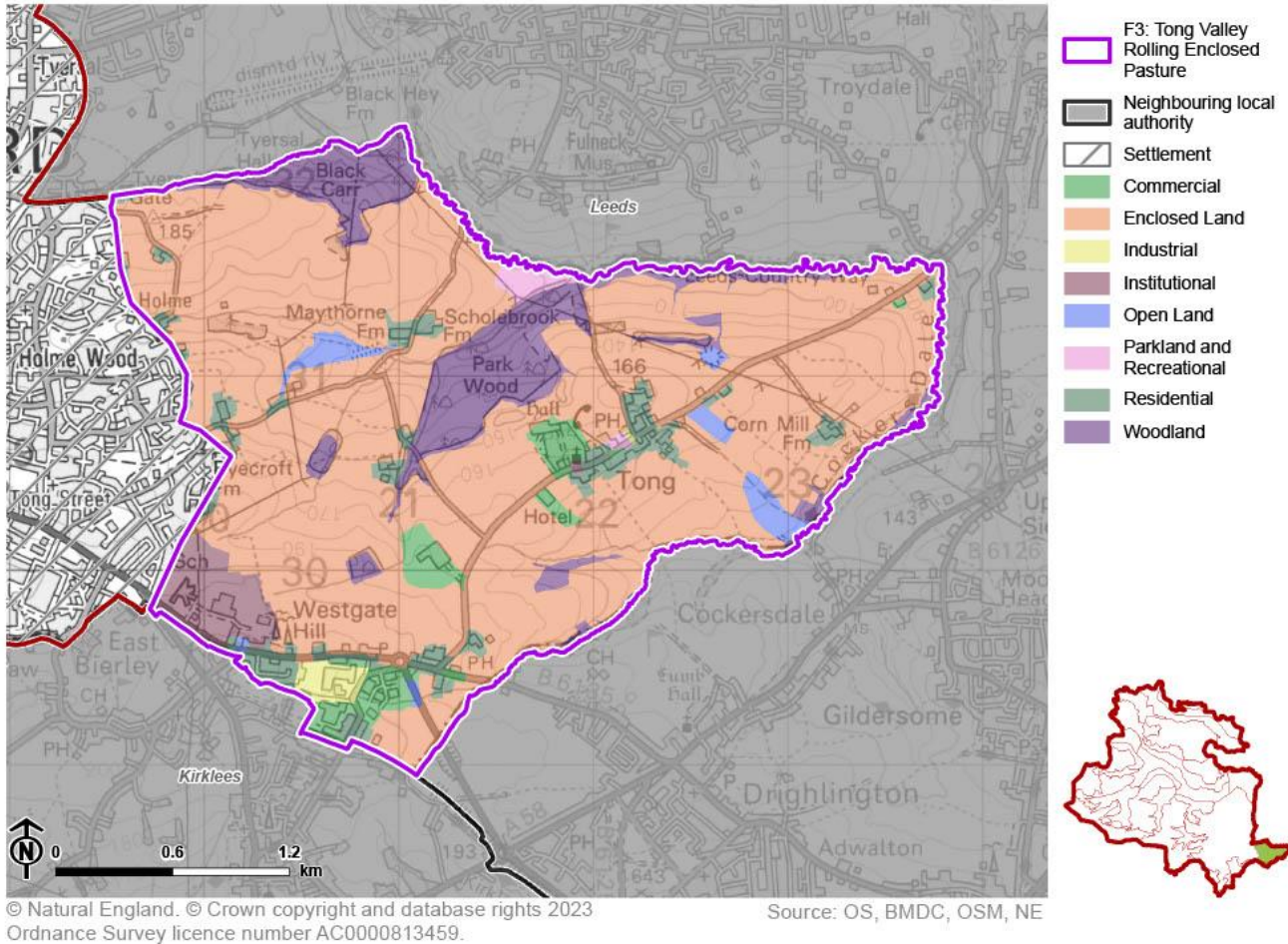
Figure 3.131: Priority habitat inventory of LCA F3



### 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 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Fields are enclosed by a combination of drystone walls, large woodland blocks, and many smaller wooded copses and hedgerows.

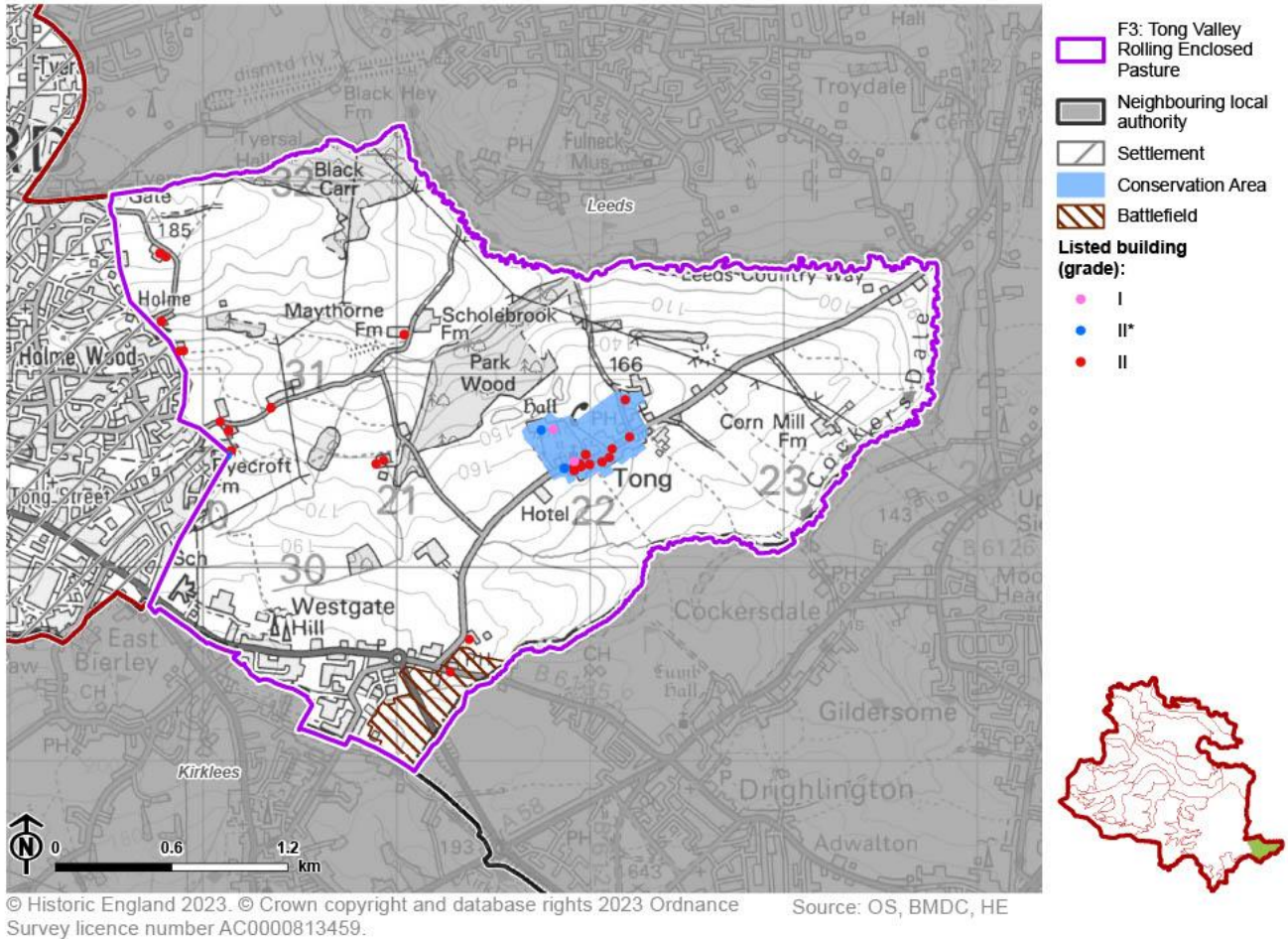
Figure 3.132: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA F3



### 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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-12<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

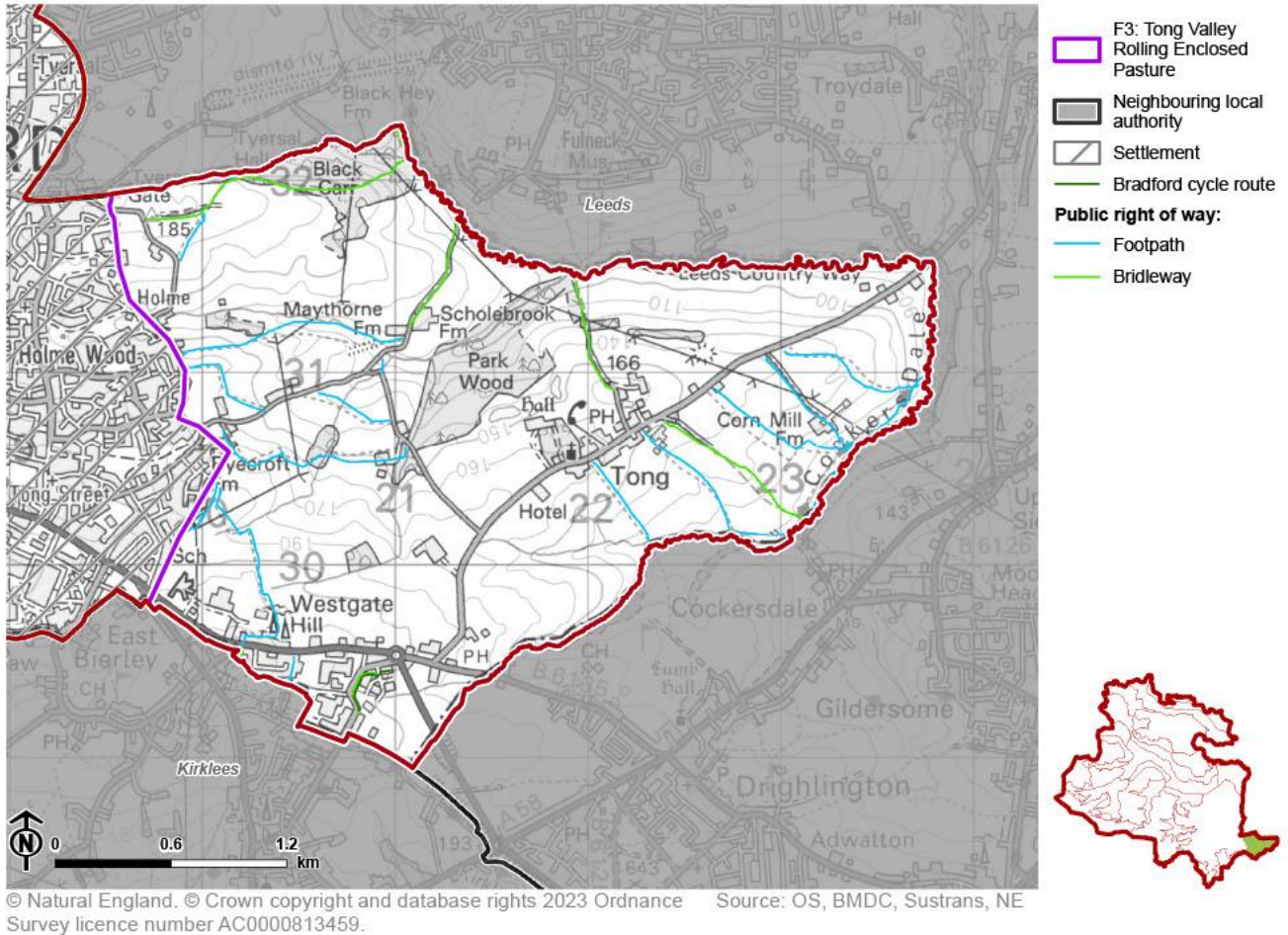
Figure 3.133: Cultural heritage of LCA F3



### 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: New development and supporting infrastructure in the Tong Valley area 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - F2: Proposals for the development of the Wharfedale Greenway should be sensitively managed but recognise the potential to enhance the recreational and access offer.
  - 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.

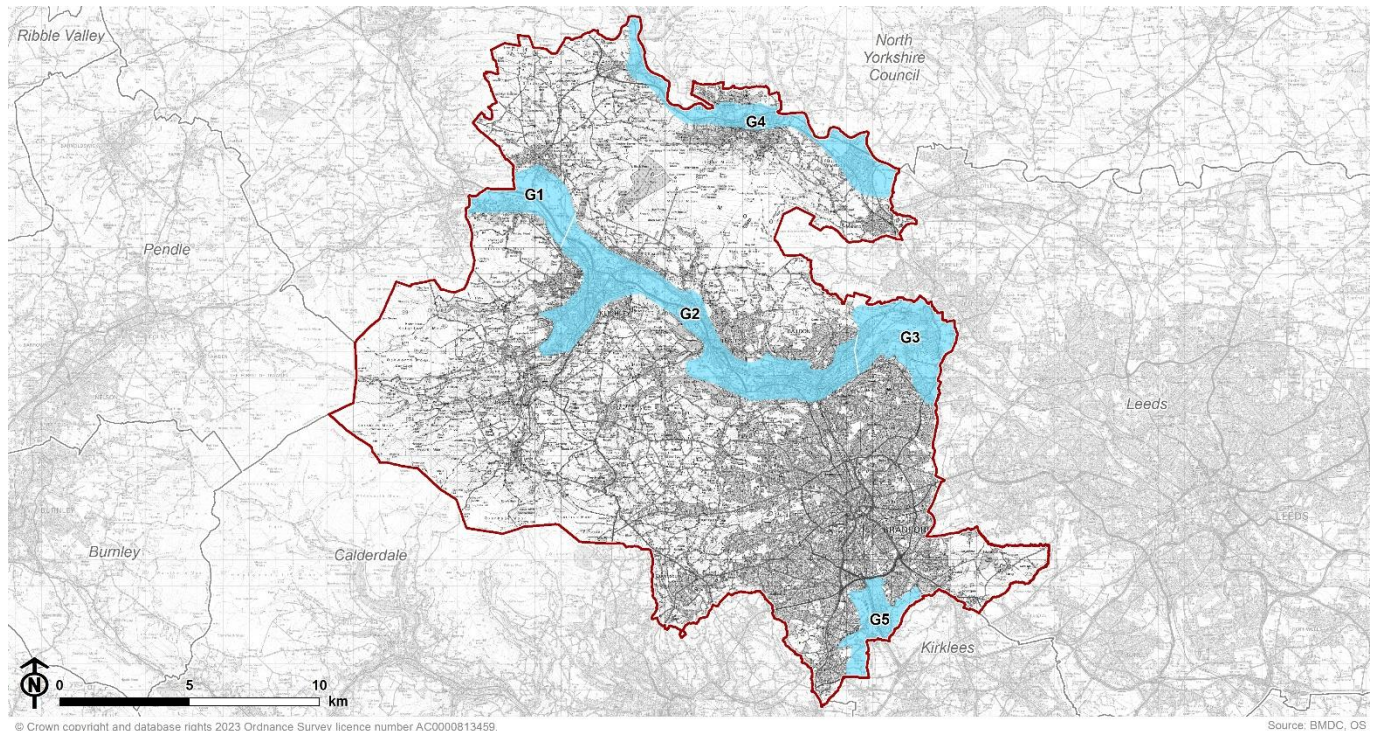
- F2: Ongoing concerns over fly tipping along Skipton Road and other rural lanes that extend from the settlements, and have limited community oversight.
- F3: Increasing fly tipping, particularly along the western edge of the LCA along roadside verges, adjacent to new developments.

## 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.
- Improve habitat connectivity through the planting of hedgerows, particularly in areas which have become fragmented.
- Enhance and widen corridors of riparian habitat mosaic (including grassland and rush habitats) adjacent to the waterways.
- In LCA F2 consider the opportunities for species rich grassland restoration particularly around Addingham Moorside.
- 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. Consider siting necessary development adjacent to existing built form in areas with minimal topographic diversity.
- 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.
- Assess the archaeological potential (including through consultation with the Historic Environment Record) of developed and undeveloped land particularly in relation to the risks posed by any proposed development schemes or environmental mitigation strategies.
- In LCA F3, specific consideration should be given to the archaeological importance of the Adwalton Moor battlefield, with specialist evaluation being undertaken as part of any development or landscaping proposals.

## 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:

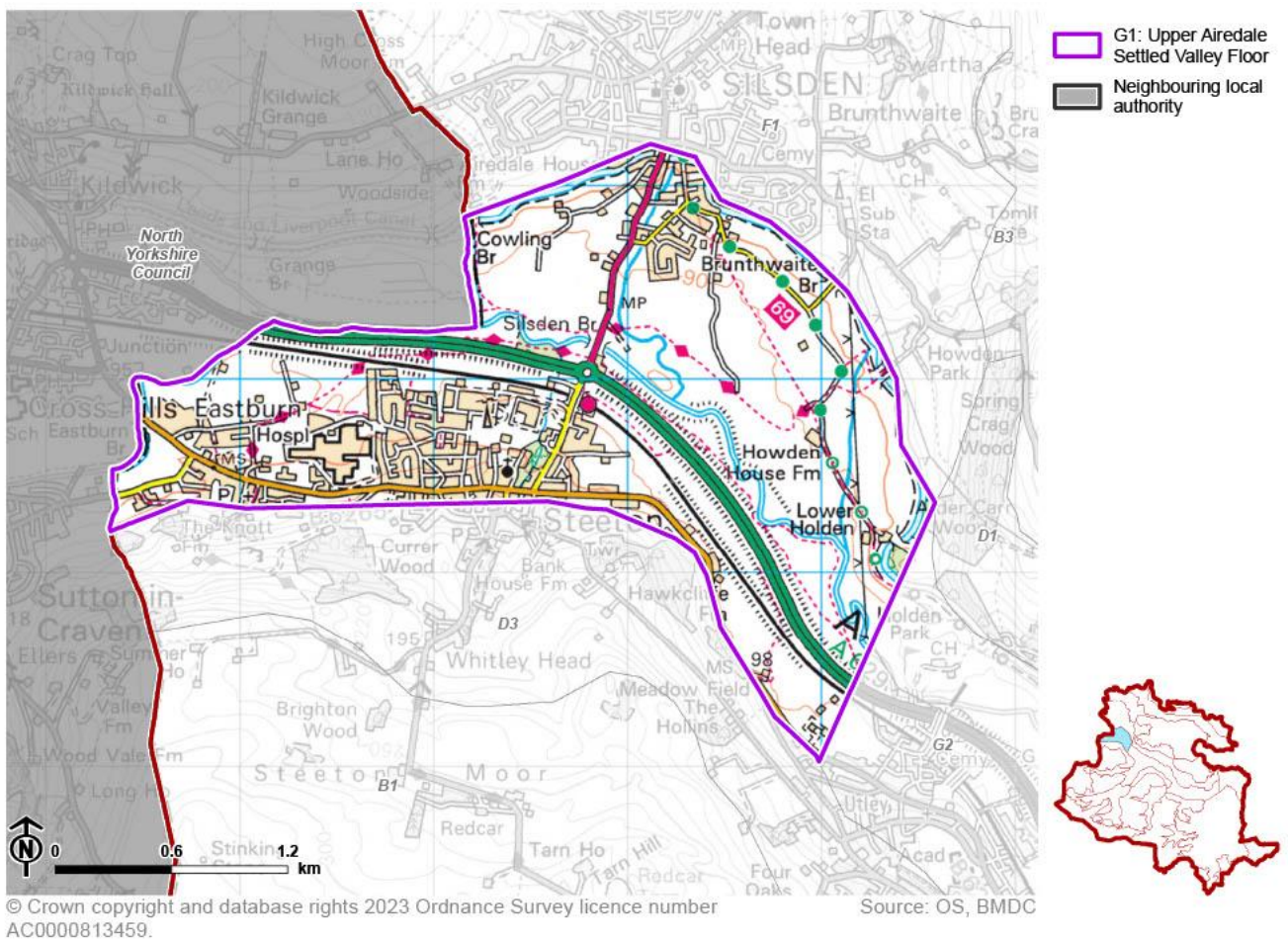
- G1: Upper Airedale Settled Valley Floor
- G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor
- G3: Esholt Settled Valley Floor
- G4: Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor
- G5: South Bradford Settled Valley Floor

## 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.



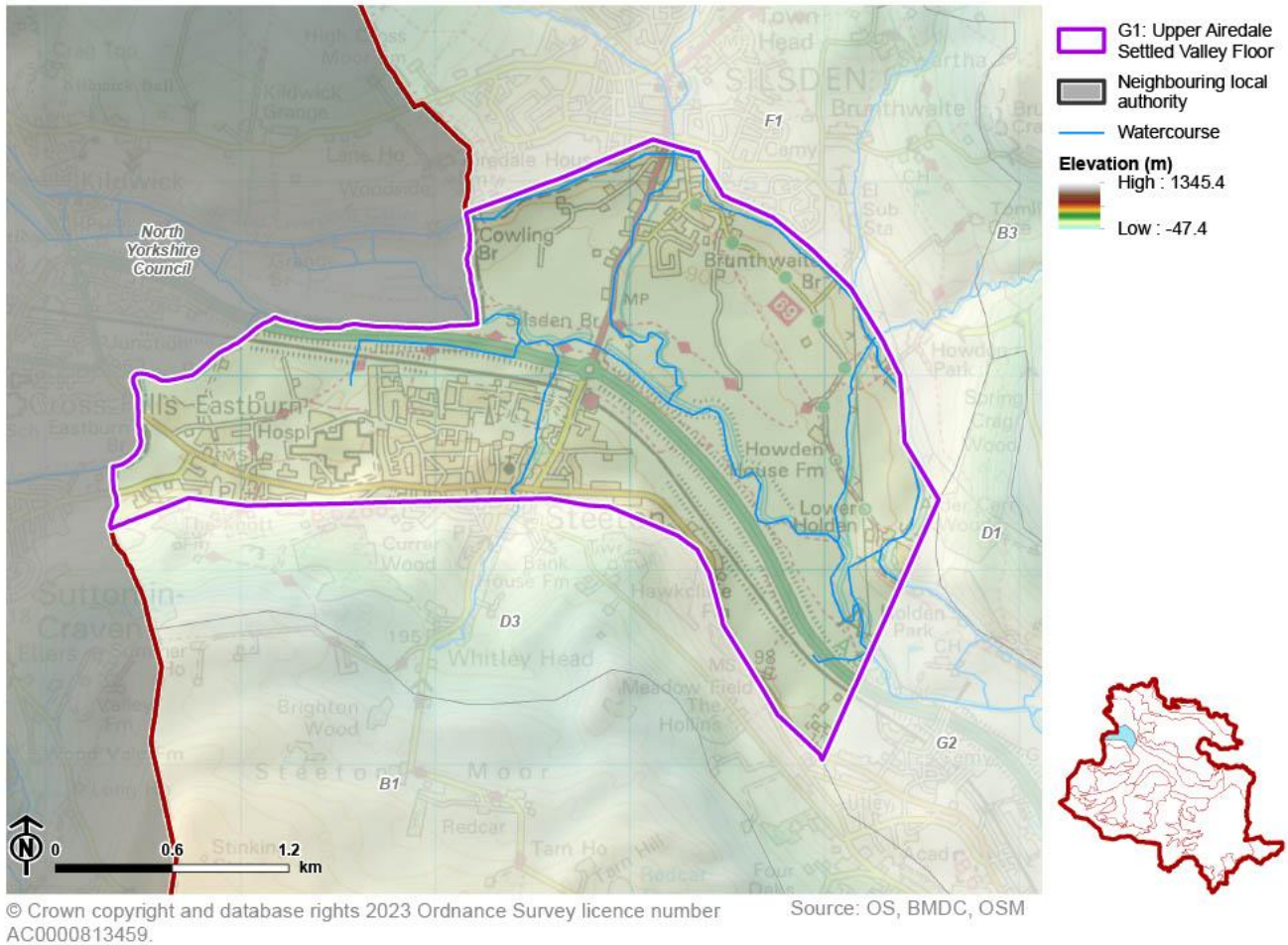
The River Aire as seen from the promoted Millennium Way.



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

Landscape Character

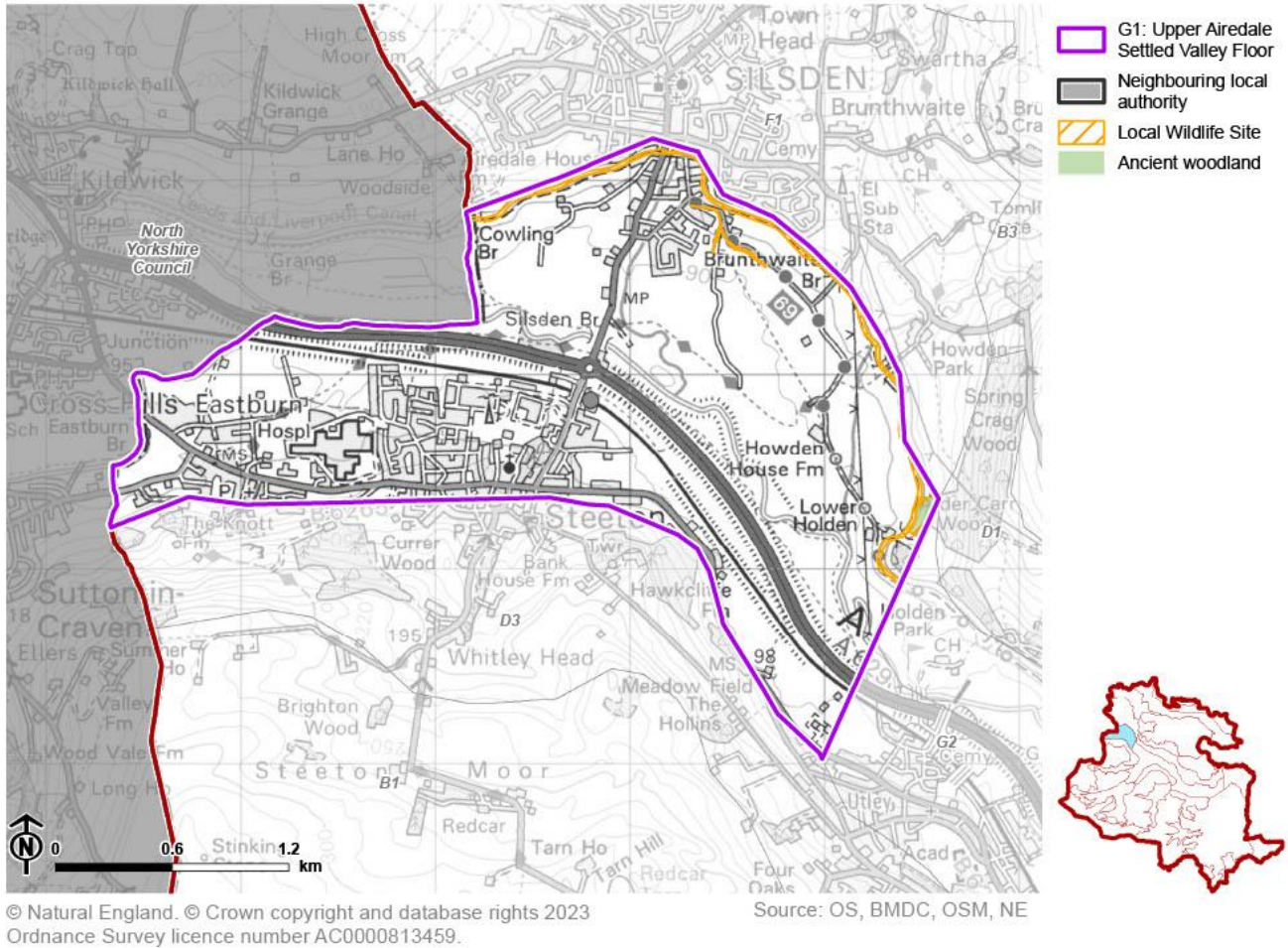
Figure 3.138: Topography of LCA G1



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.

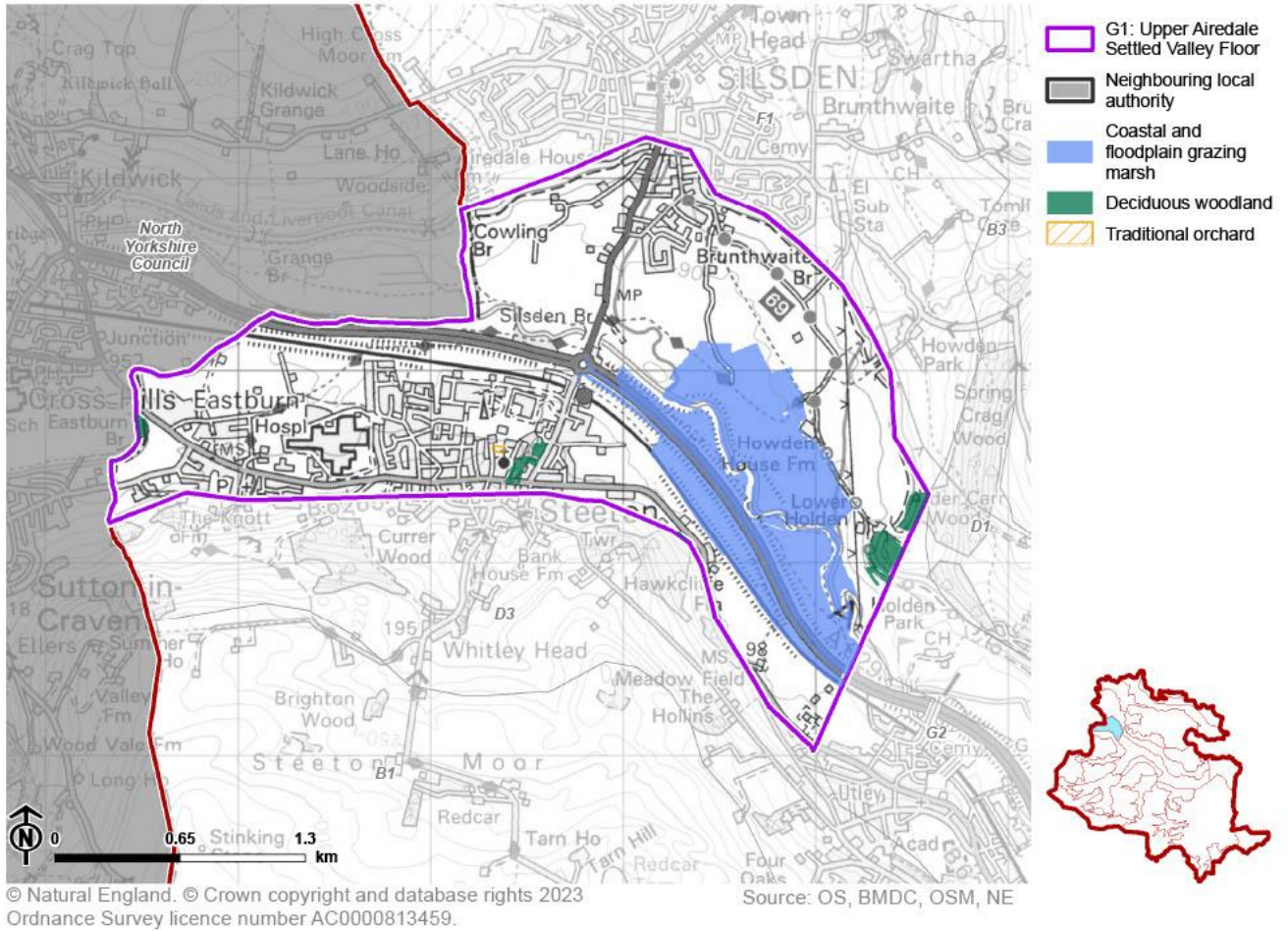
Figure 3.139: Natural heritage of LCA G1



### 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).

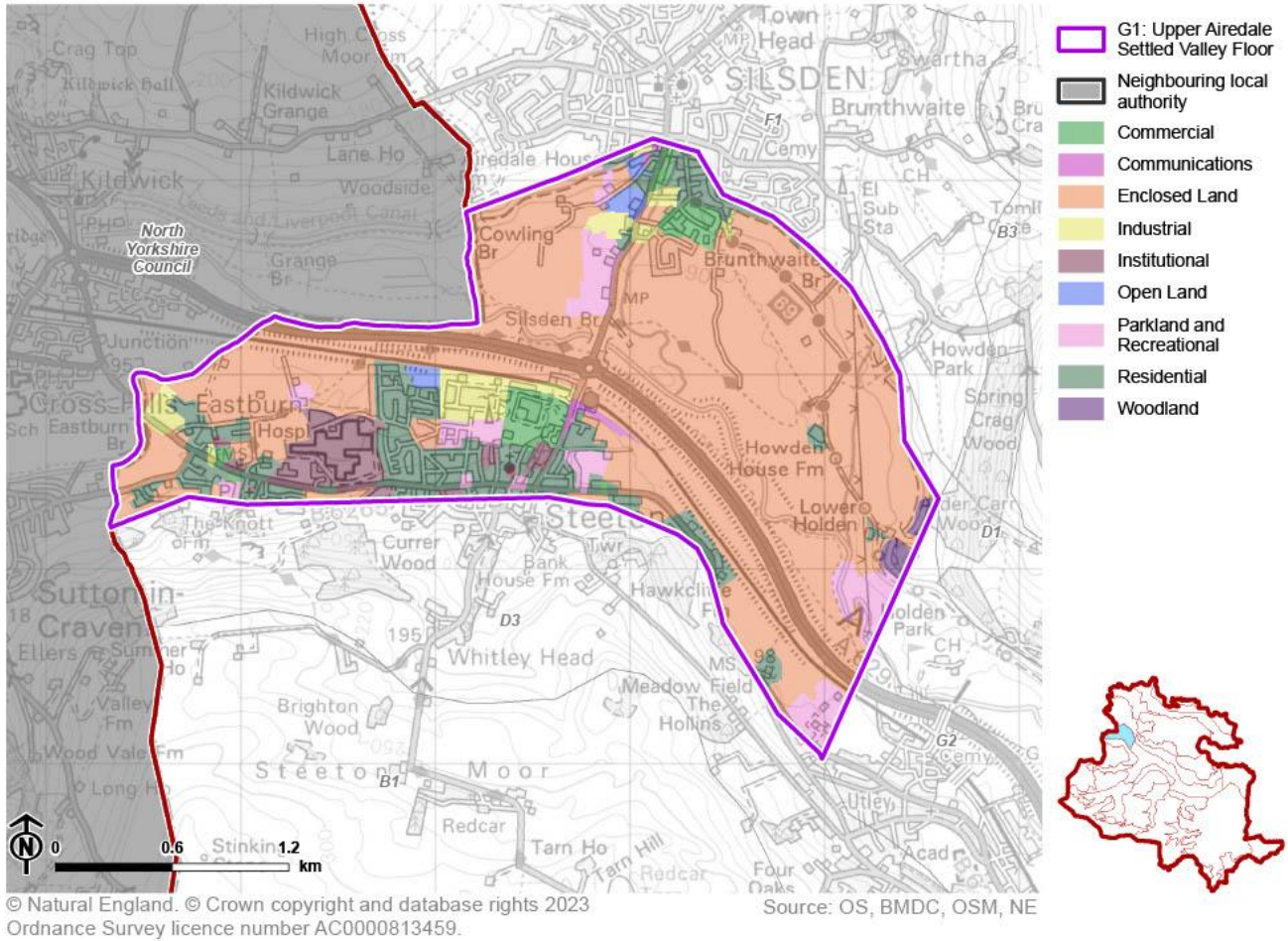
Figure 3.140: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G1



### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

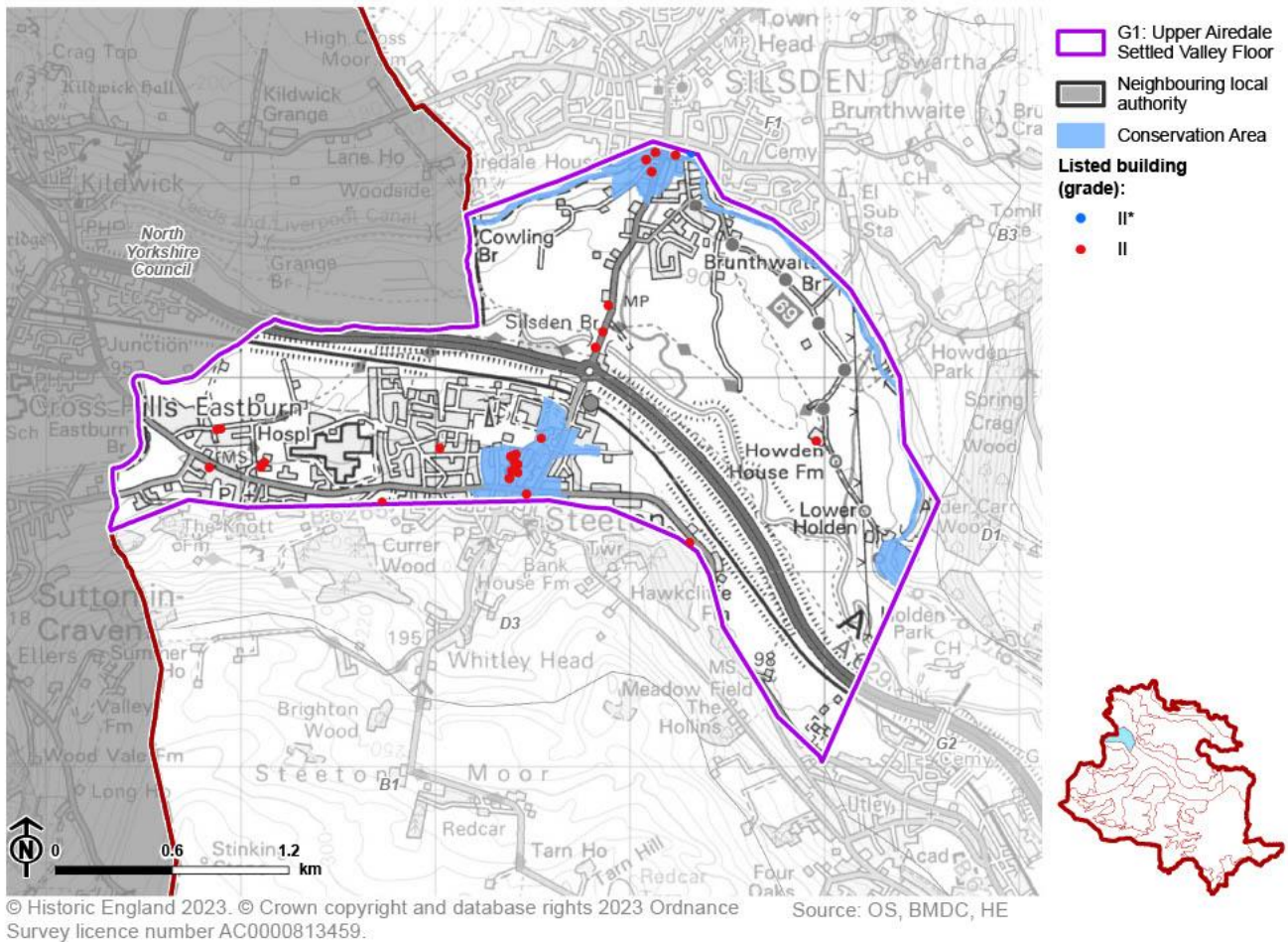
Figure 3.141: Historic landscape classification of LCA G1



### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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).

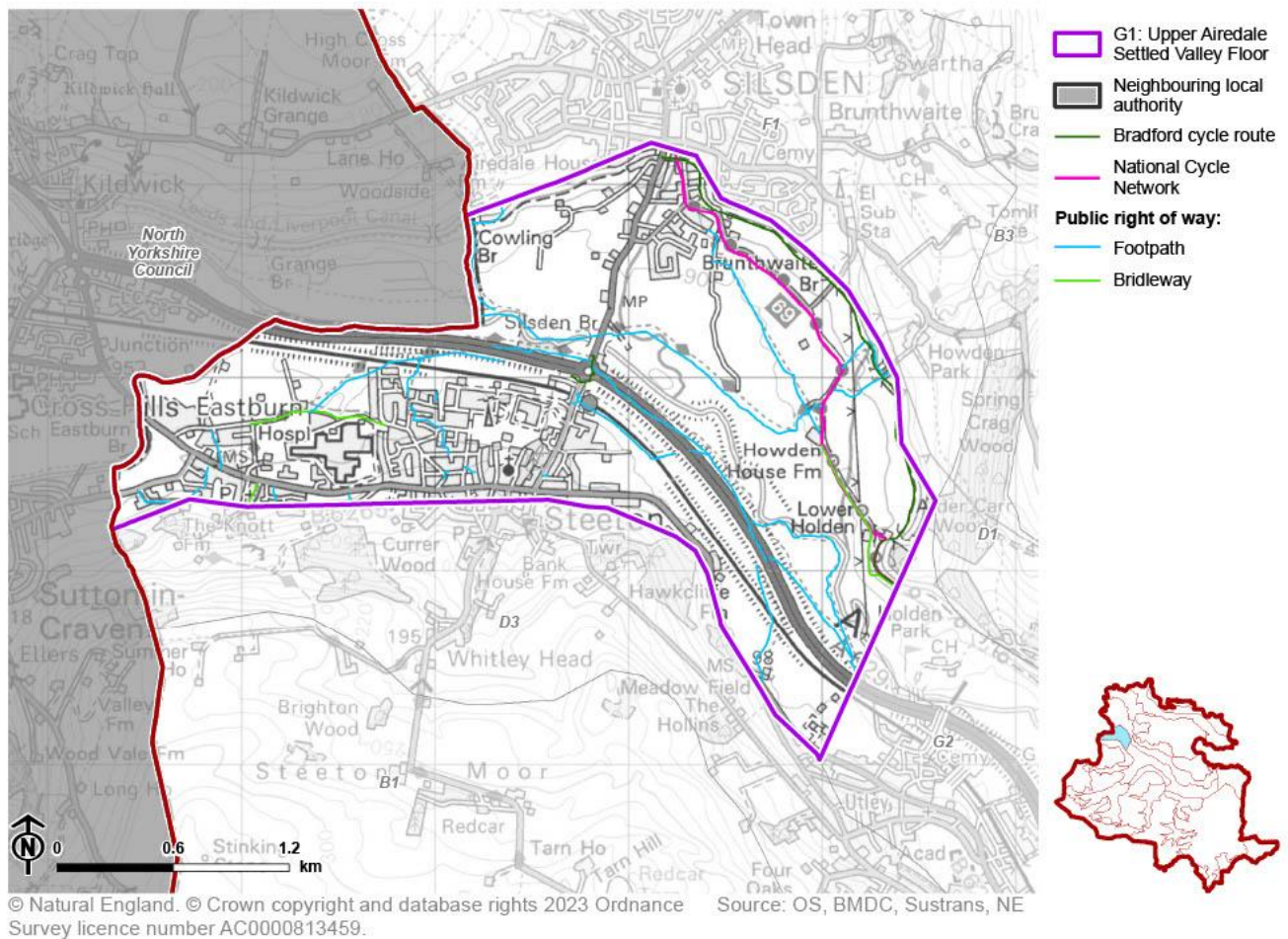
Figure 3.142: Cultural heritage of LCA G1



### 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. The West Yorkshire Cycle Route also passes through this area linking Steeton and Silsden.
- 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.

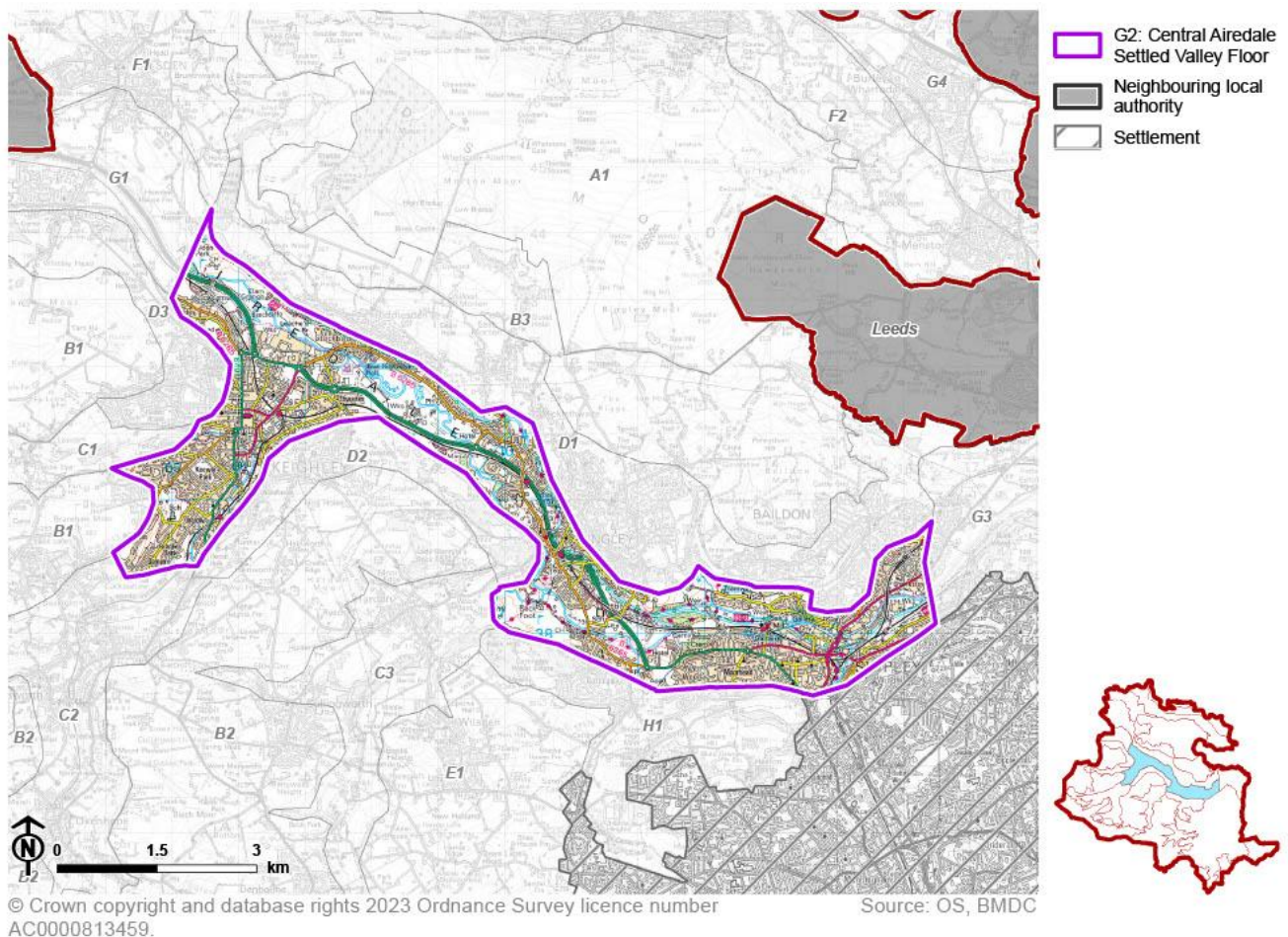
- The pastoral qualities and views from within and along the floodplain pastures provide a sense of tranquillity, particularly in the east of the LCA, although human influence is still apparent.

## 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). Parts of these areas are also included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- 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.



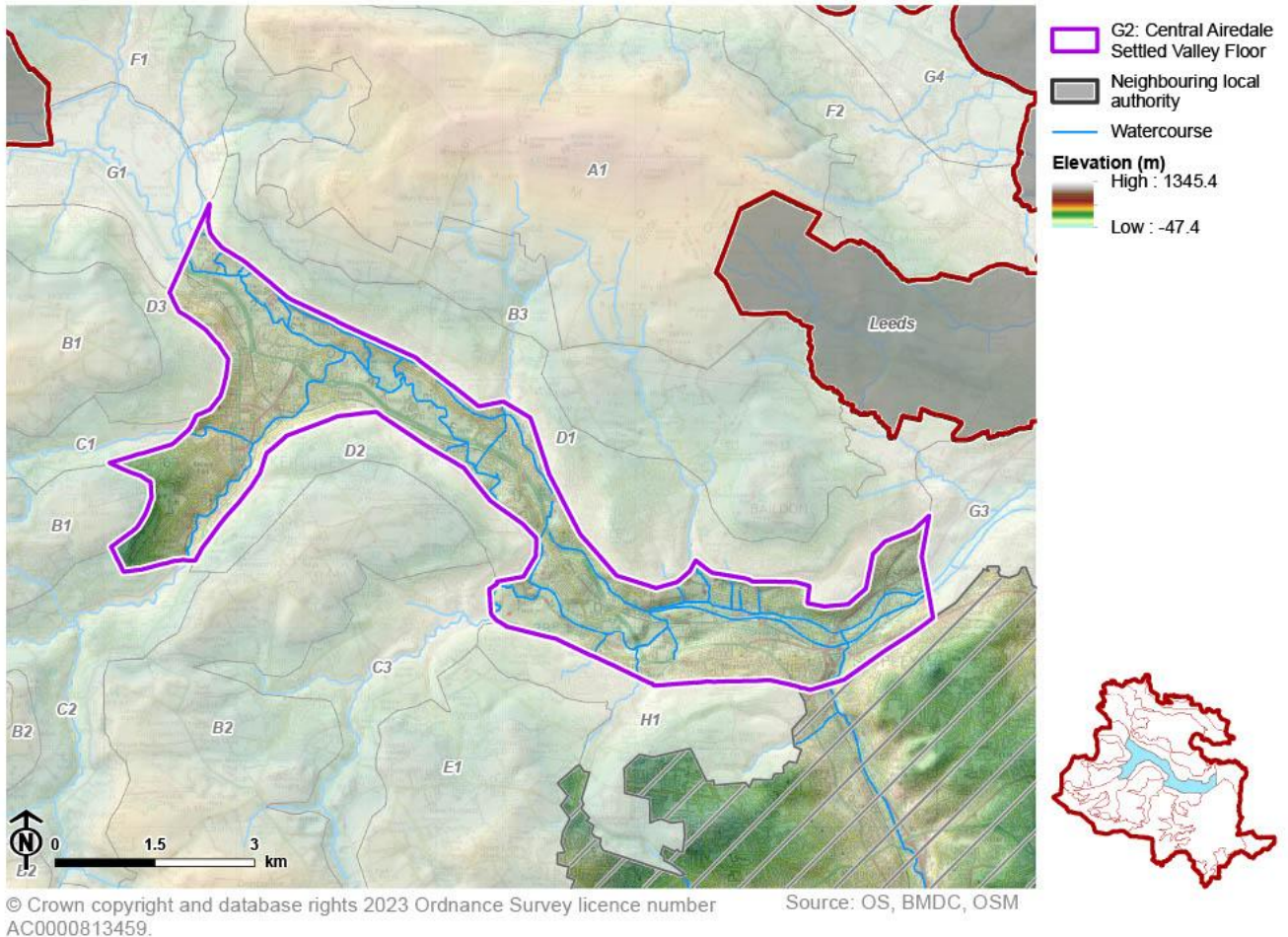
Industrial sandstone vernacular on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.



Modern industrial development within the floodplain.

## Landscape Character

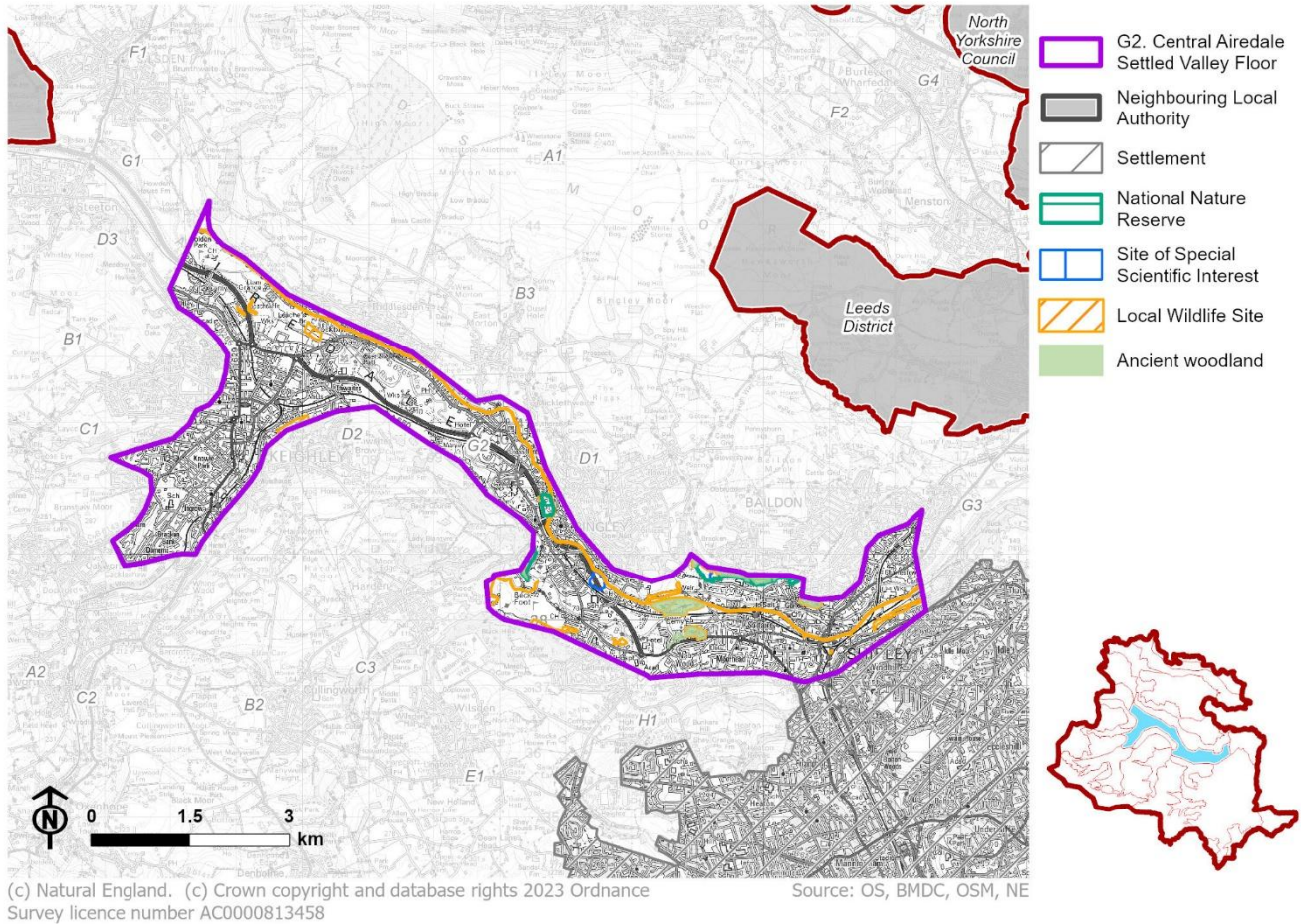
Figure 3.146: Topography of LCA G2



### 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.

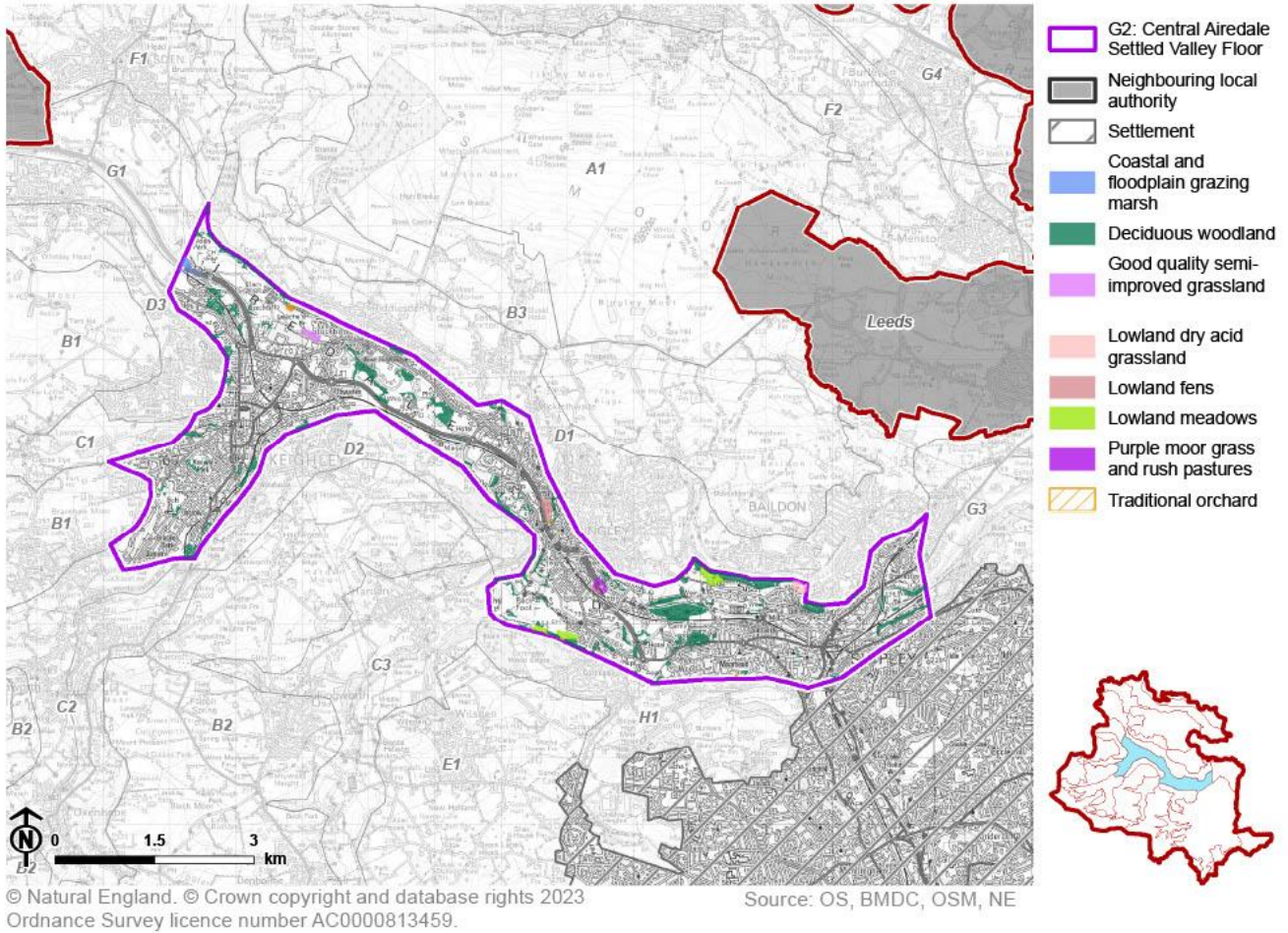
Figure 3.147: Natural heritage of LCA G2



### 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. Parts of this LCA are also included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- 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.

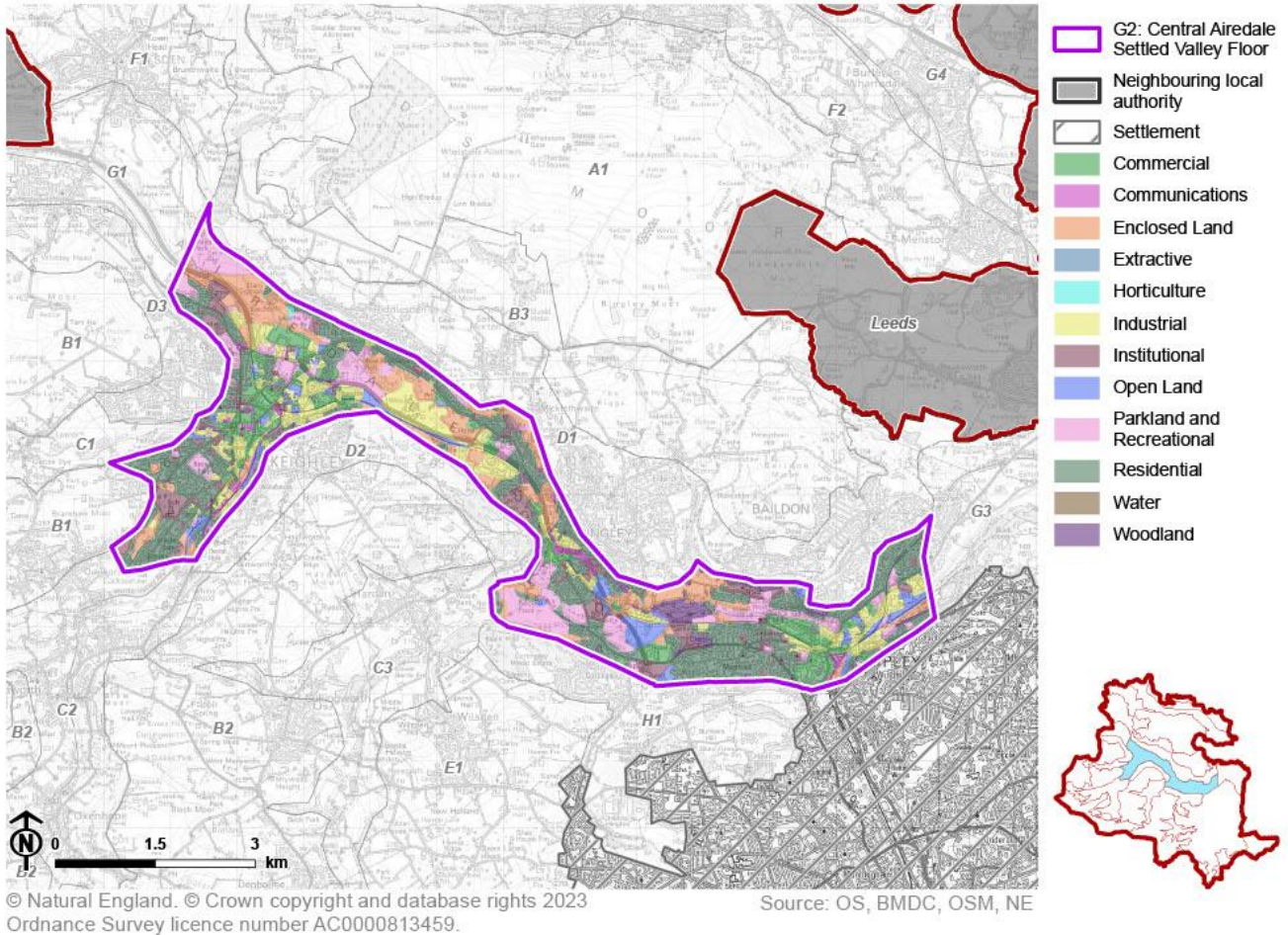
Figure 3.148: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G2



### 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.

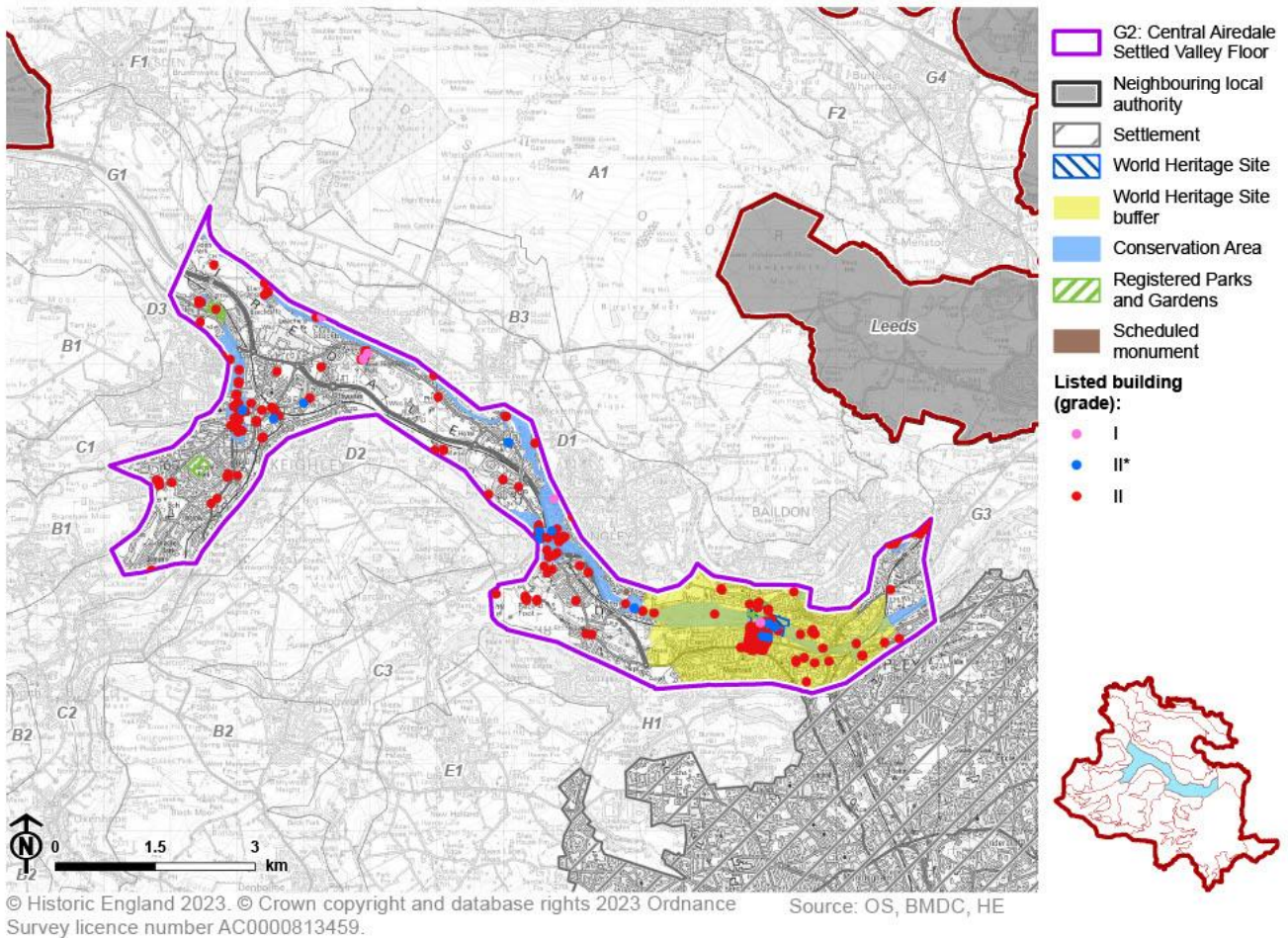
Figure 3.149: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G2



### 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.

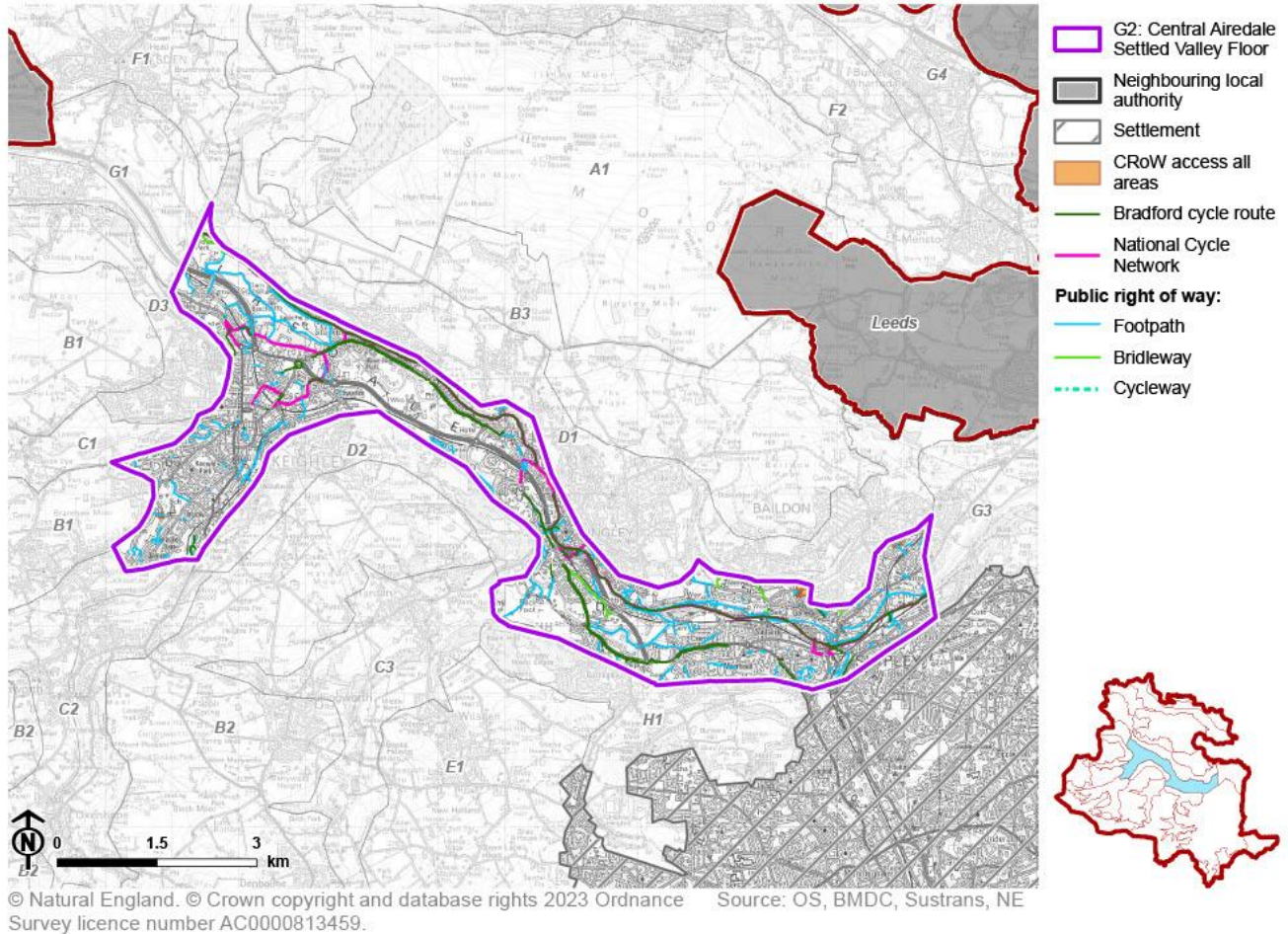
Figure 3.150: Cultural heritage of LCA G2



### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. The Worth Way promoted walking route also passes through this 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). Connections from the main route link to Utleigh and Keighley Town centre.
- 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

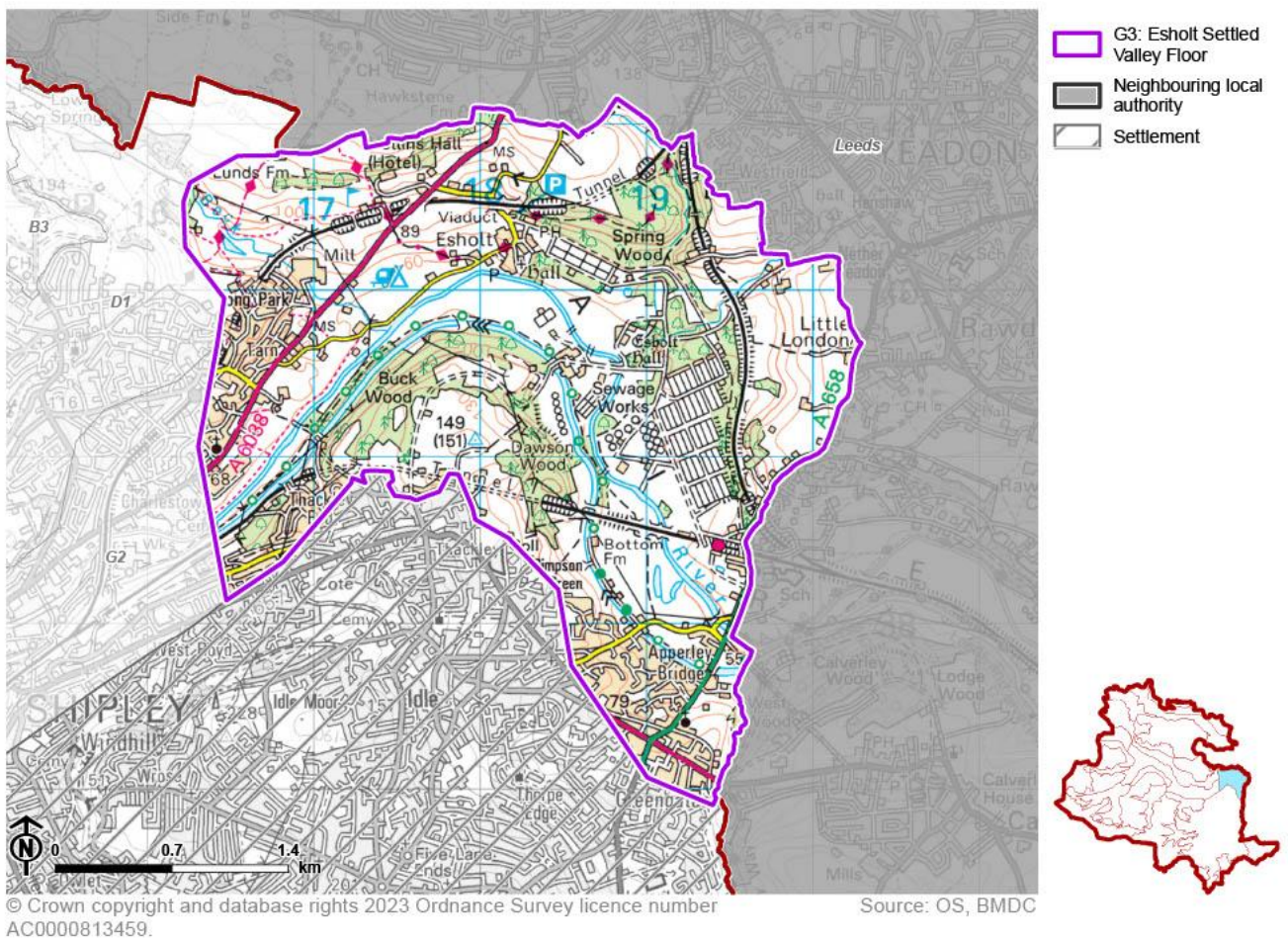
- A diverse LCA, containing a patchwork of settlement, industry, farmland, woodland and wetland all contained within a narrow valley floor, which result in very different experiences in different areas.
- A rich wealth of historic assets which contribute to a distinct sense of place, juxtaposed with 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.



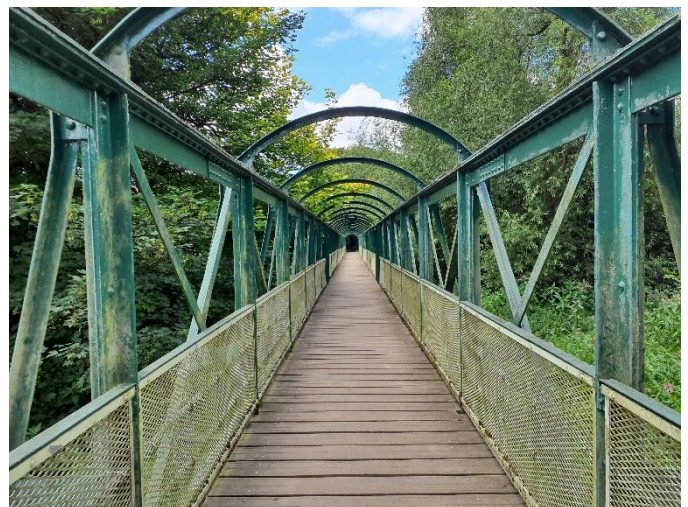
Vernacular properties give a rural character to Esholt.



Viaduct at Esholt remnant from rail industry.



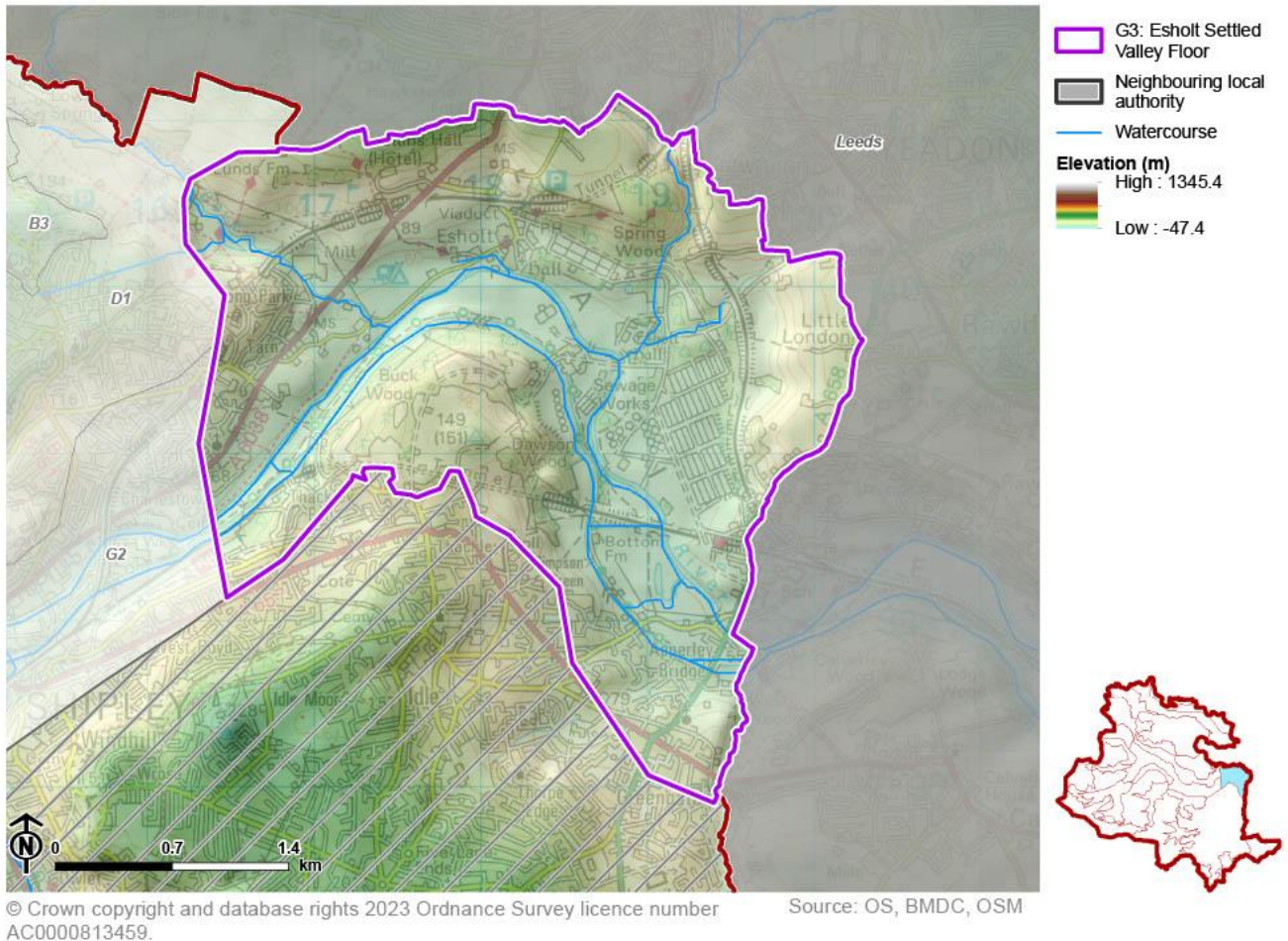
Views along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal framed by wooded valley sides and dominated by pylons.



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

## Landscape Character

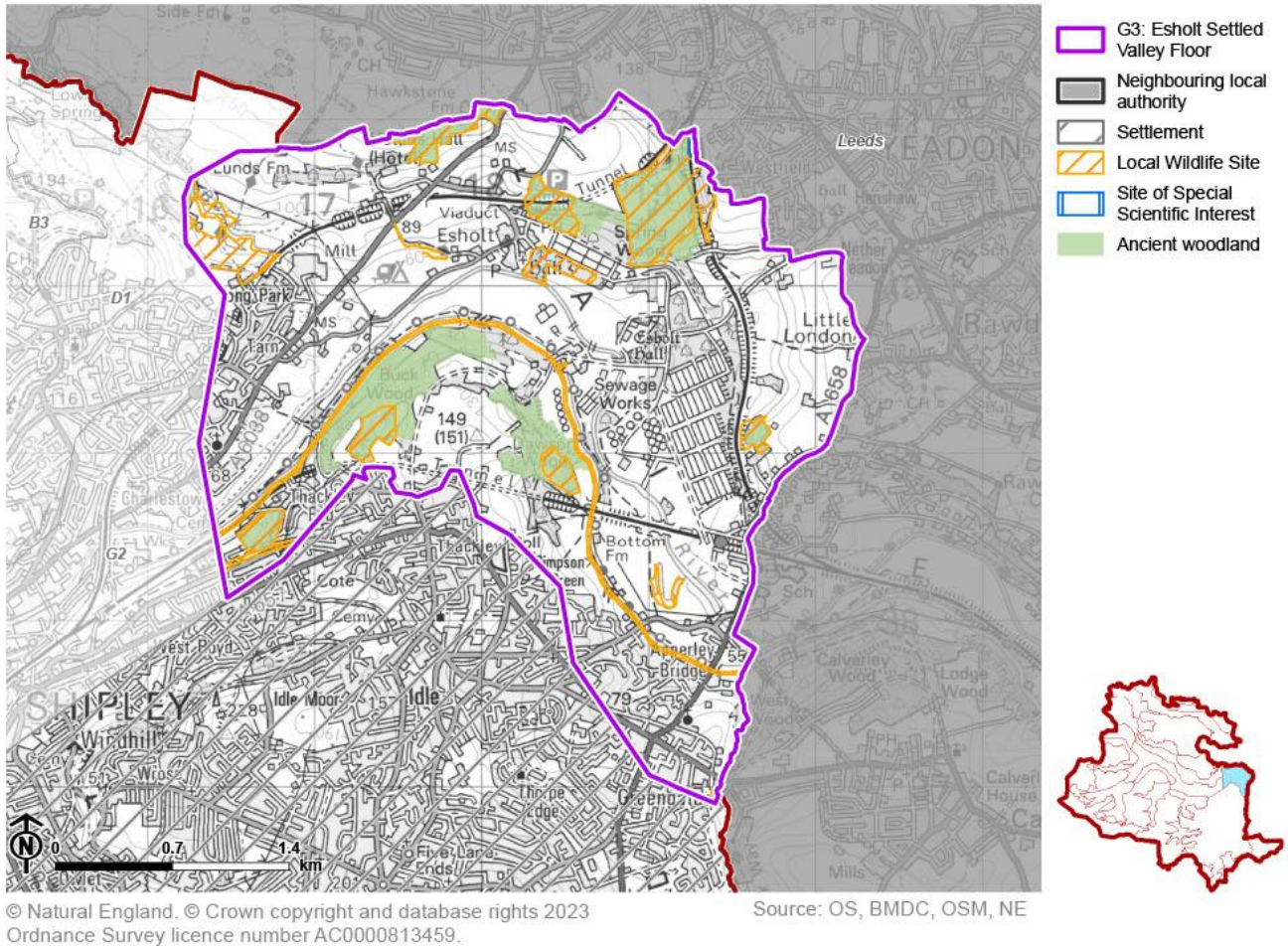
Figure 3.154: Topography of LCA G3



### 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.

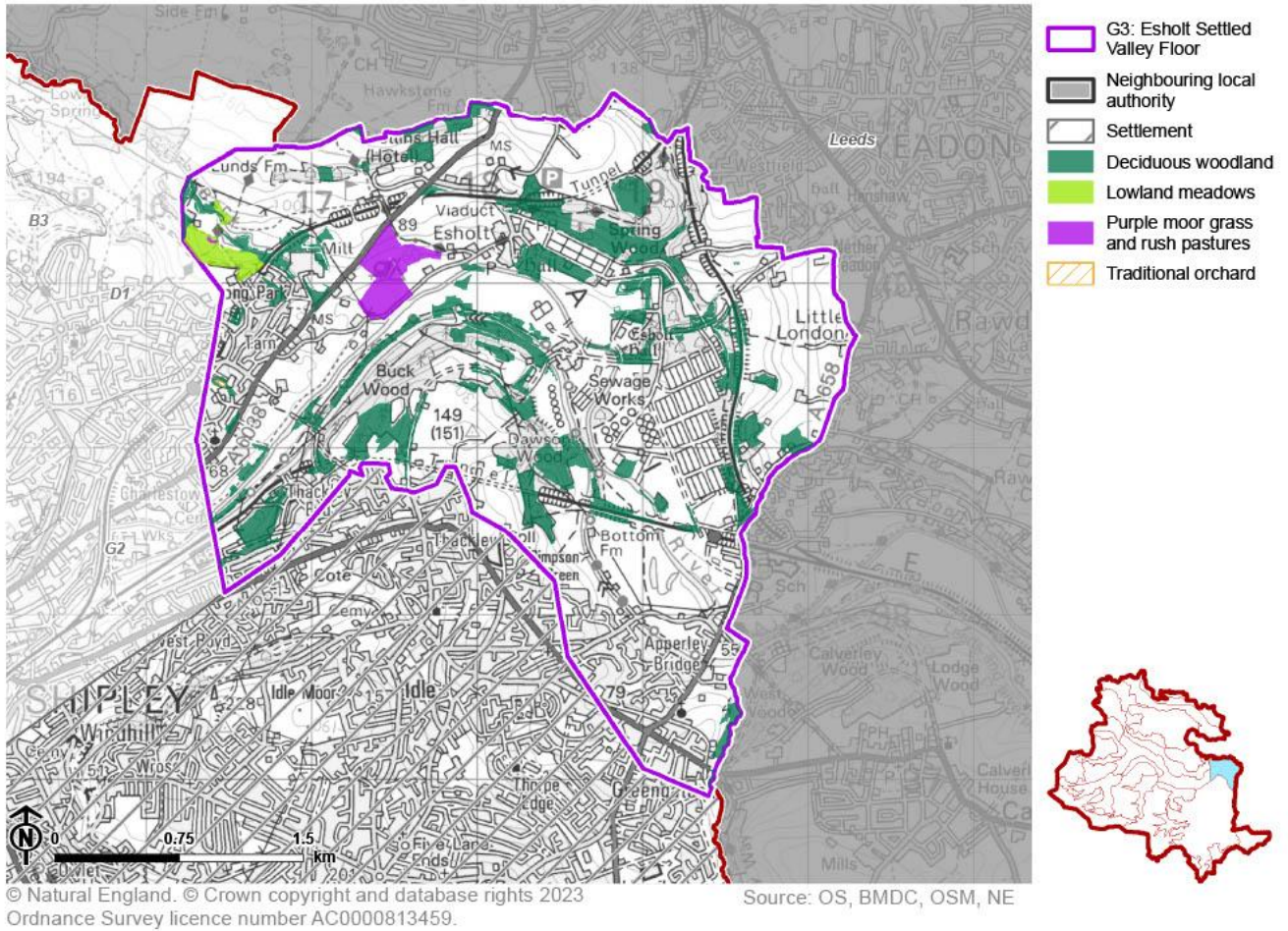
Figure 3.155: Natural heritage of LCA G3



### 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 Hawkswood) 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.

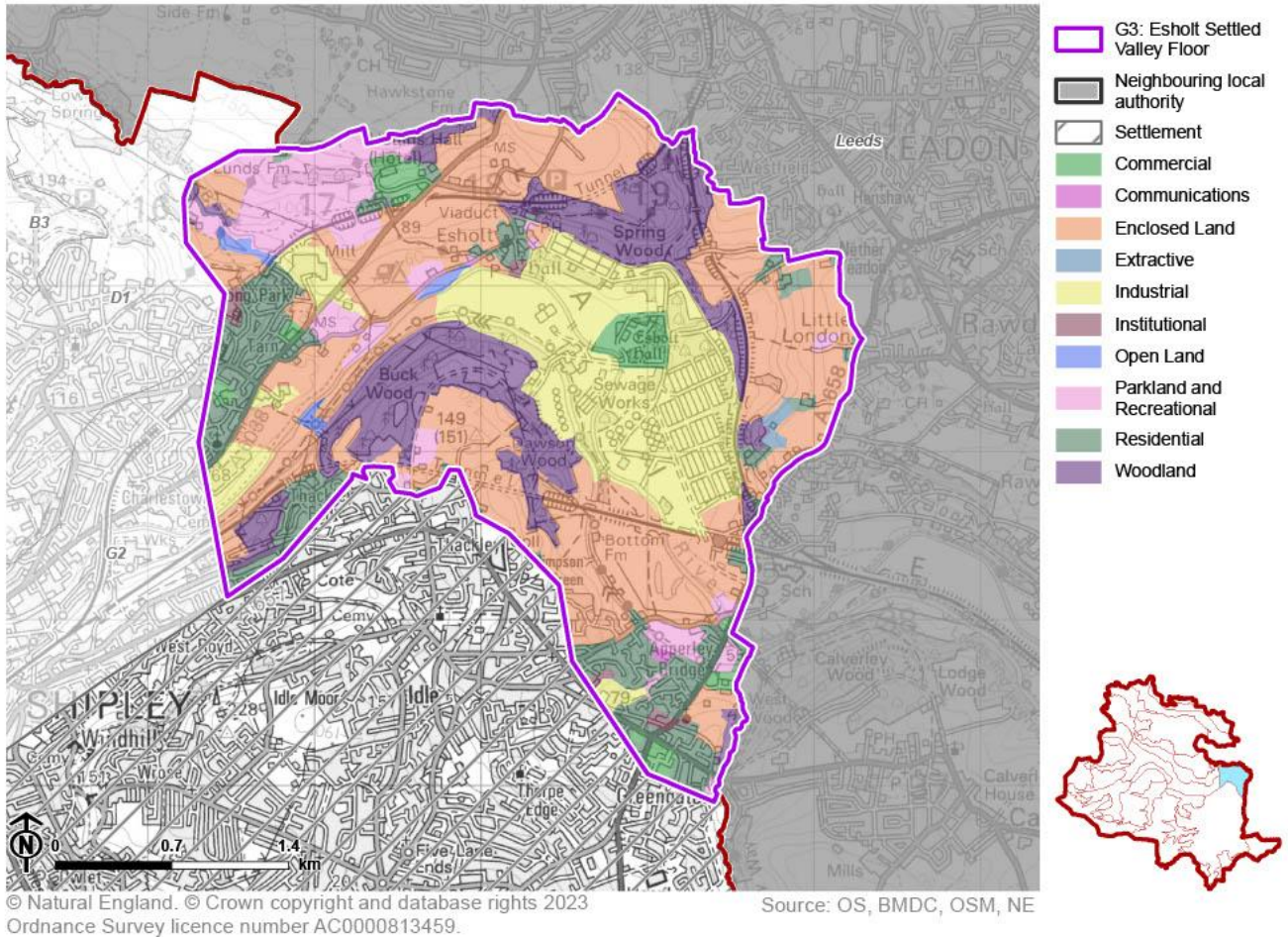
Figure 3.156: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G3



### 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.

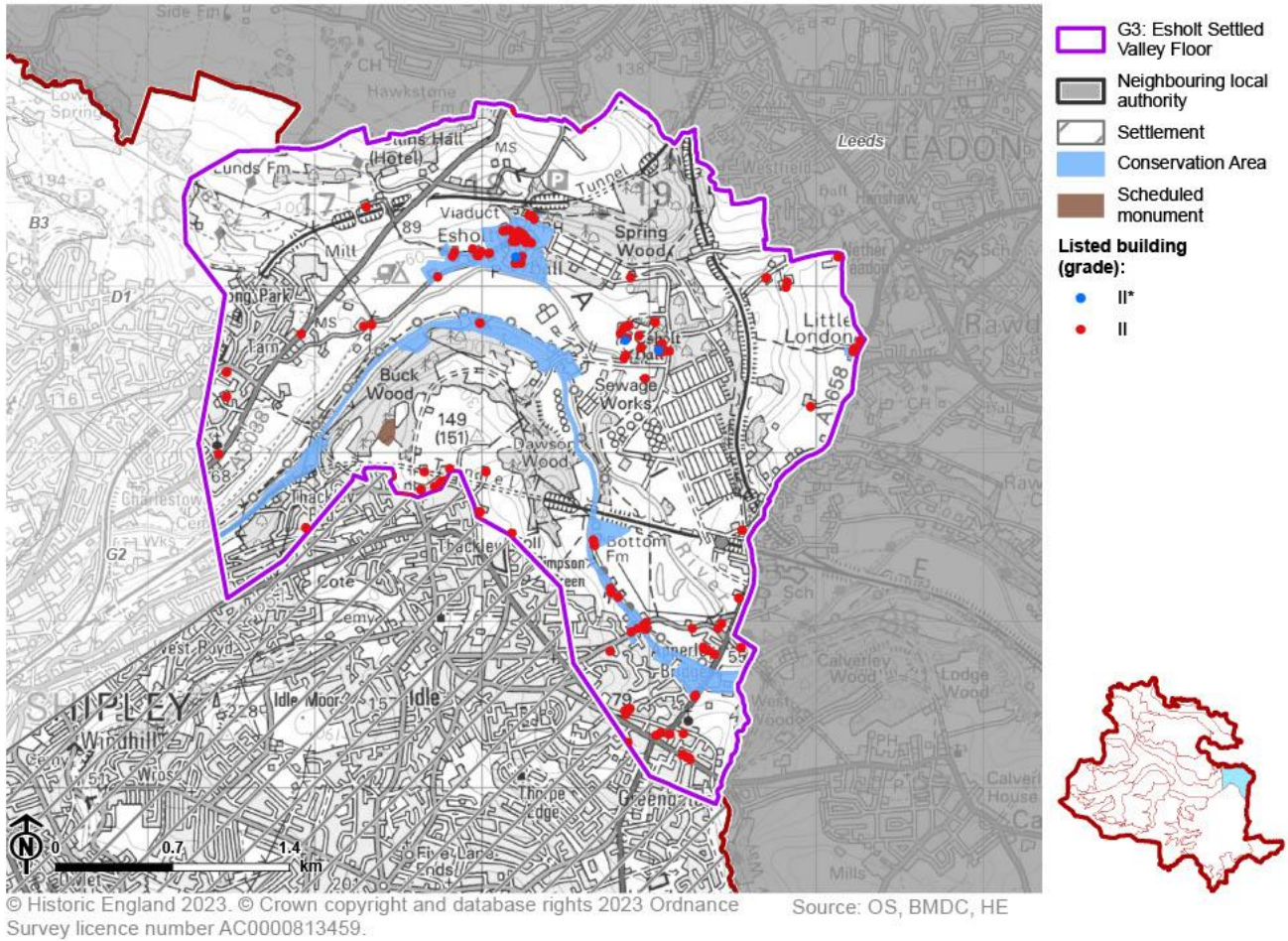
Figure 3.157: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G3



### Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Aire 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.

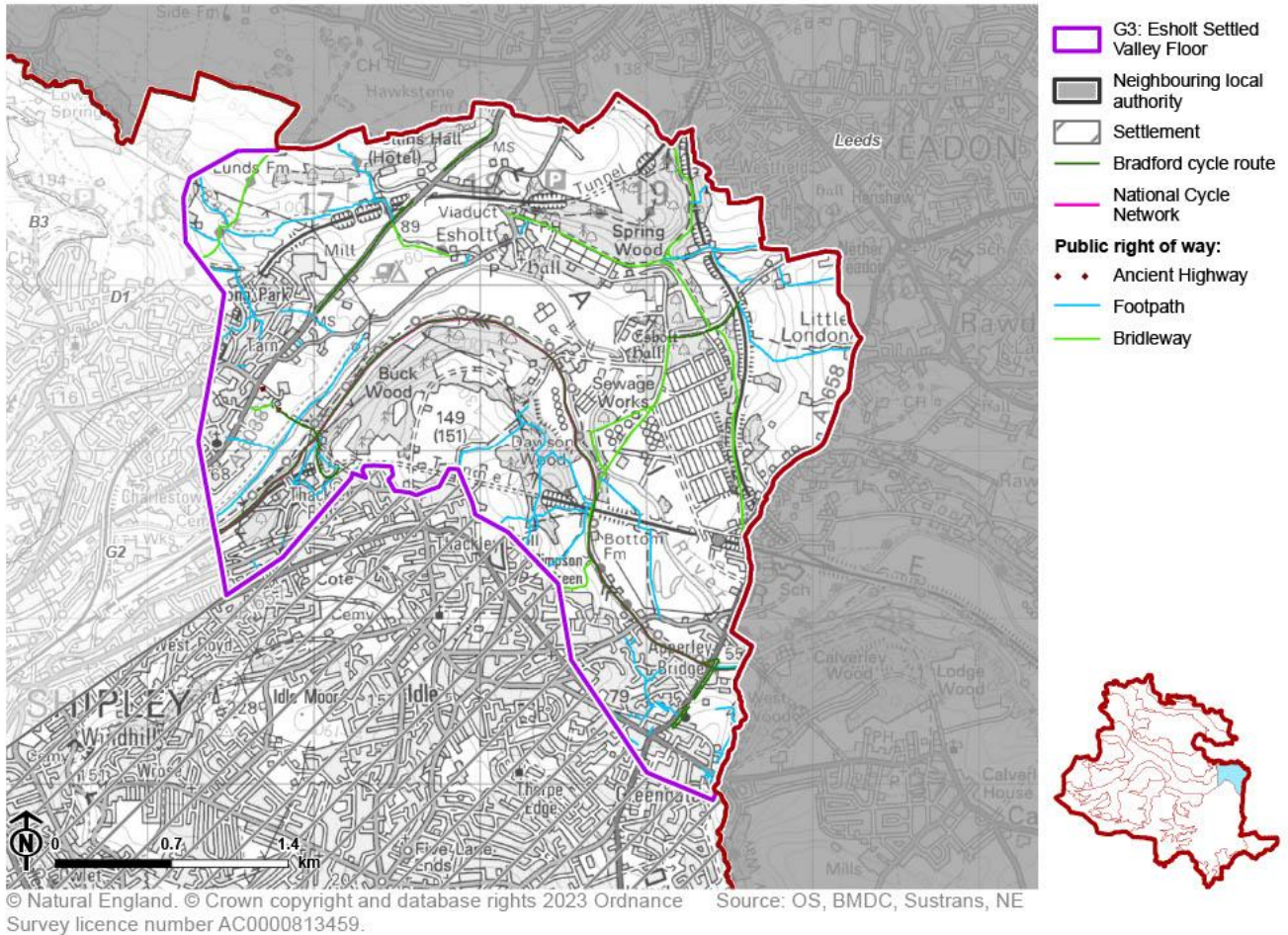
Figure 3.158: Cultural heritage of LCA G3



### 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.
- Spring Wood and Buck Wood offer popular areas for mountain biking with dedicated trails.

### 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.

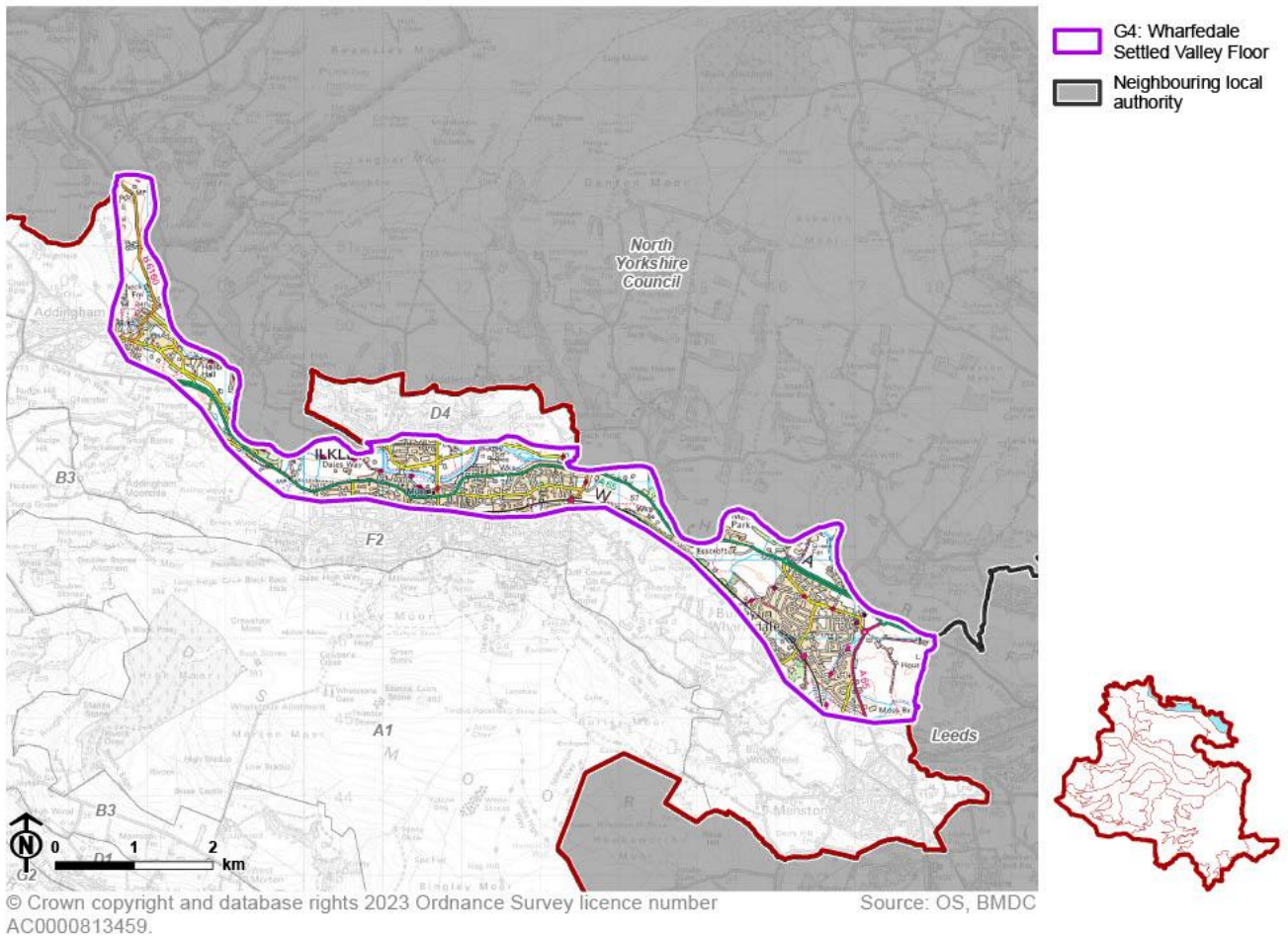
- The noise of the Esholt Urban Quarry and smells from the sewage works are experienced in the south west of the LCA. Glimpsed views are available to the sewage works and to pylons on ridgetops.
- Channelled views along the River Aire and Leeds to Liverpool Canal are experienced from footbridges.
- The 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. The eastern area of Addingham includes a rich heritage associated with the textile industry particular between the Low Mill and High Mill areas. Historic farmsteads are also scattered across the area.
- 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.
- The open valley floor to the north of Addingham provides views and the setting of the Yorkshire Dales National Park (including Beamsley Beacon) and the Nidderdale National Landscape.

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.



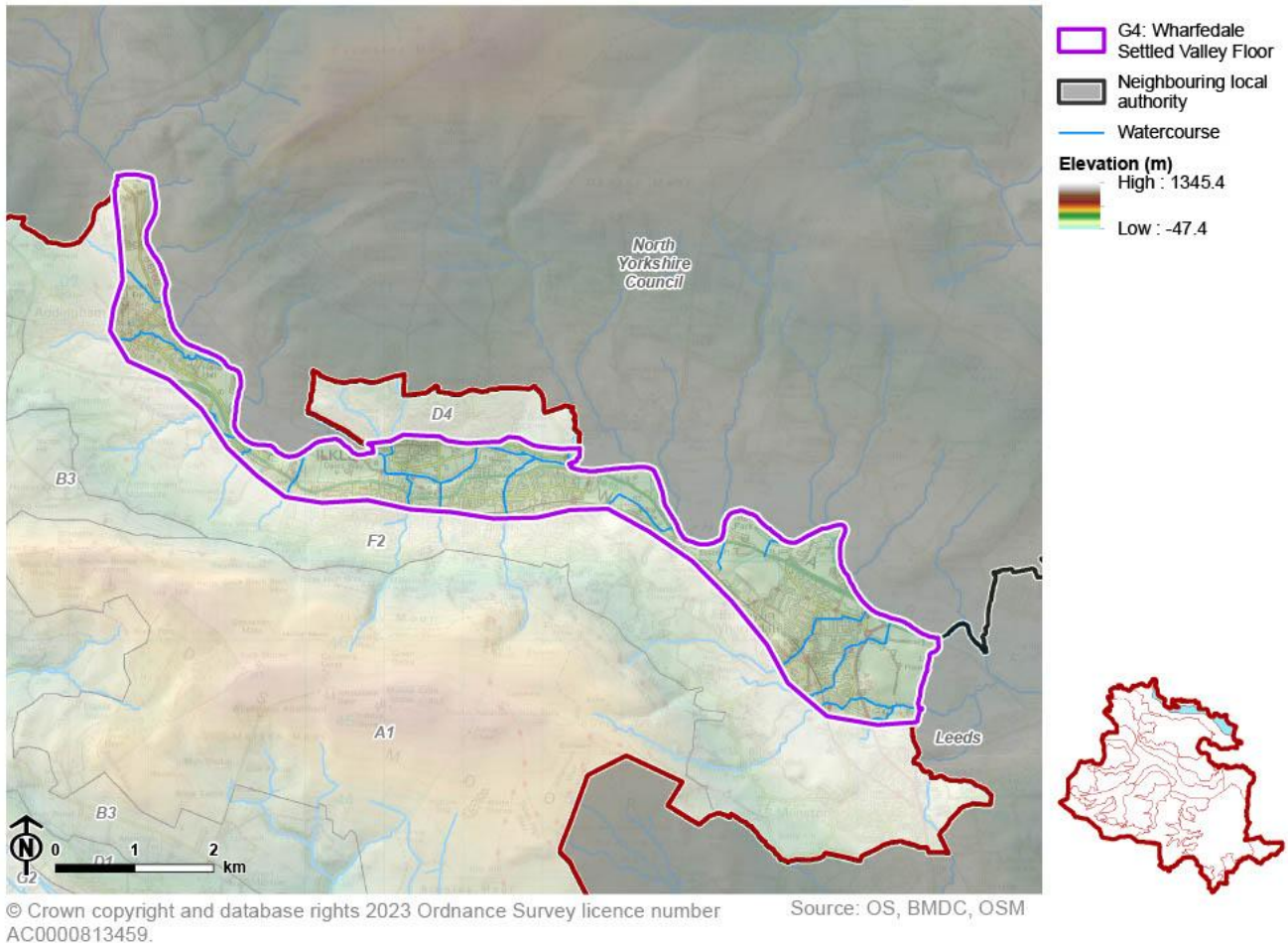
Recreational amenity alongside the River Wharfe.



Historic signage along the Dales Way long distance walking route.

## Landscape Character

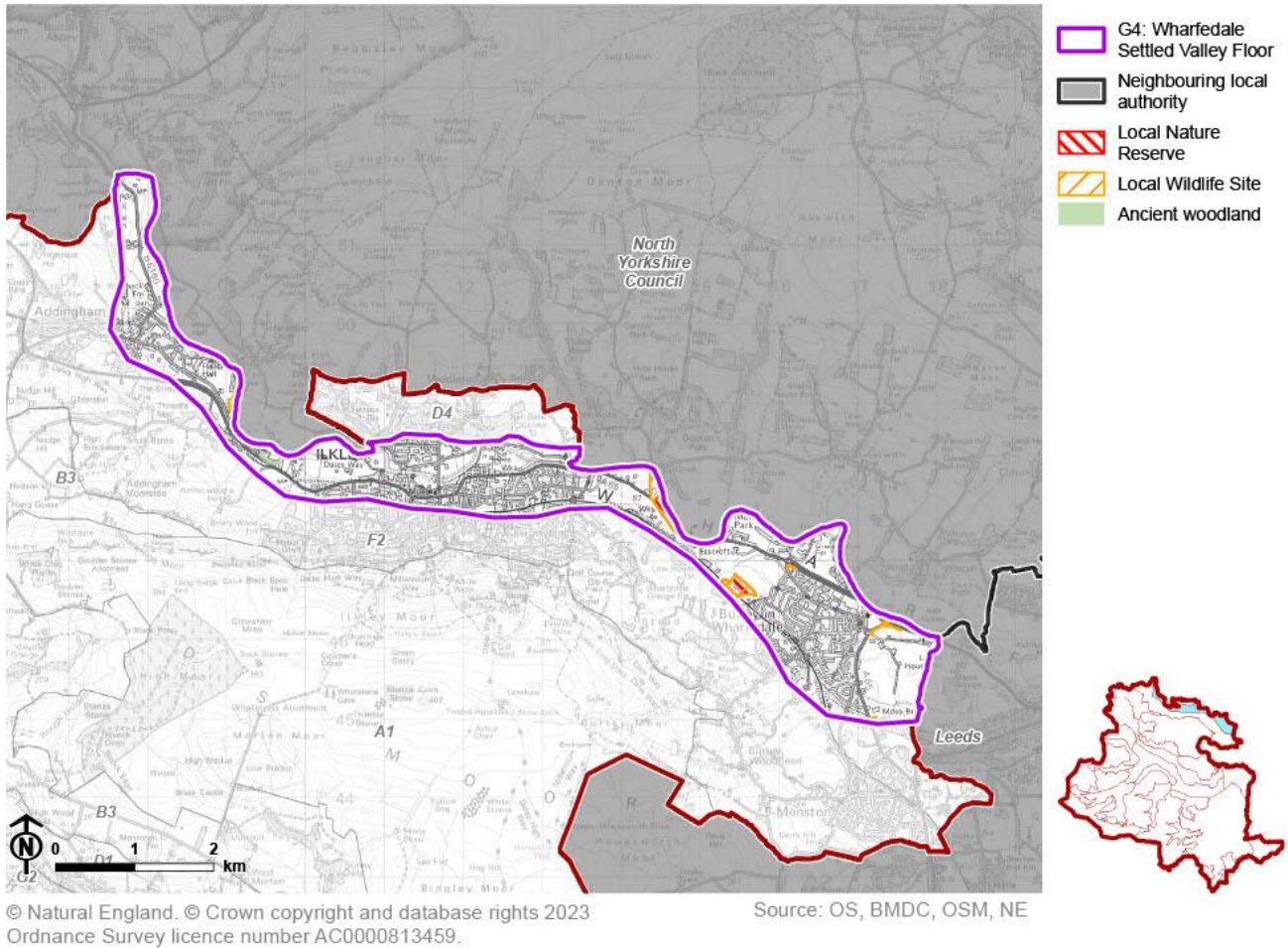
Figure 3.162: Topography of LCA G4



### 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.

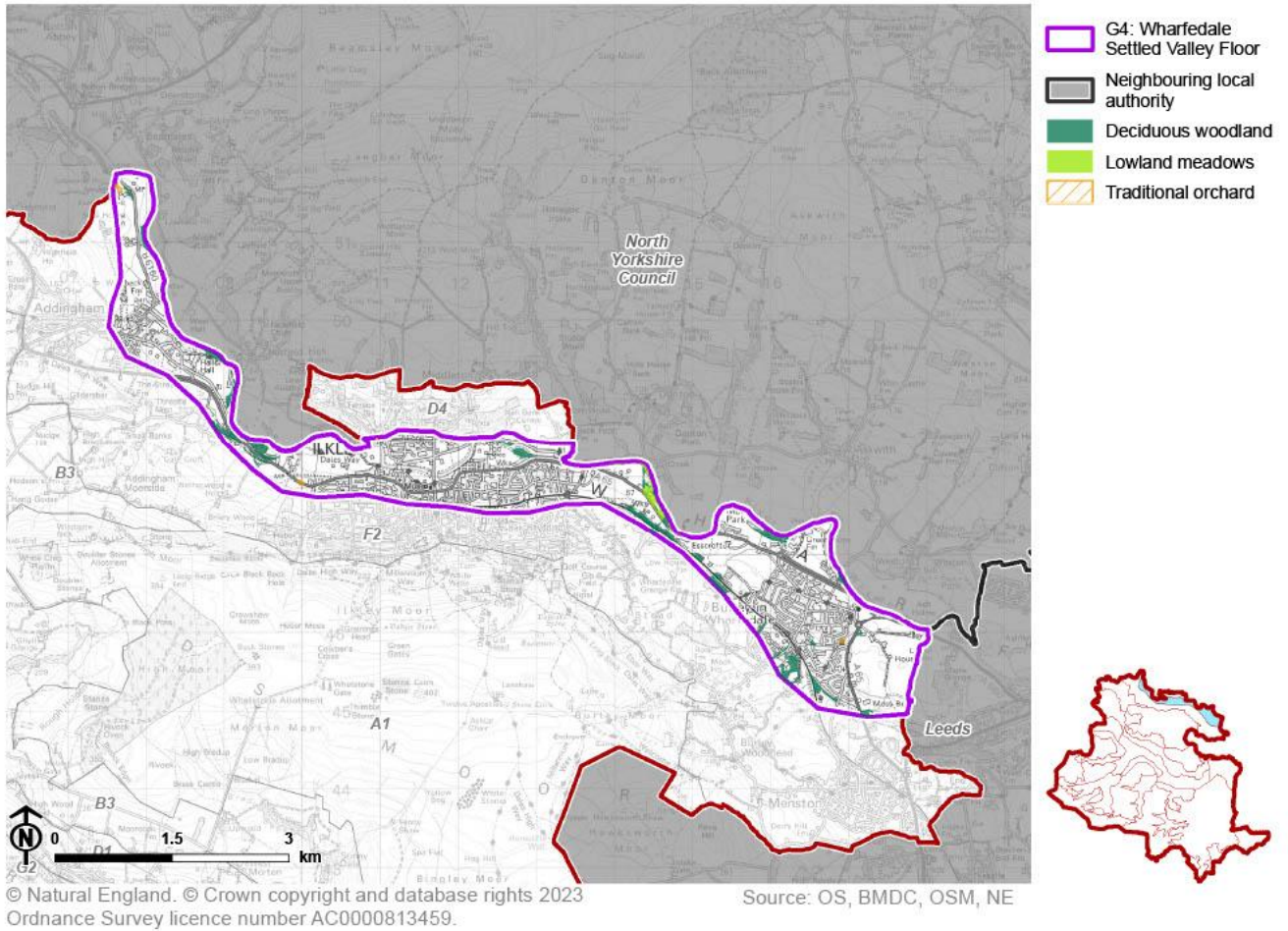
Figure 3.163: Natural heritage of LCA G4



### 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.

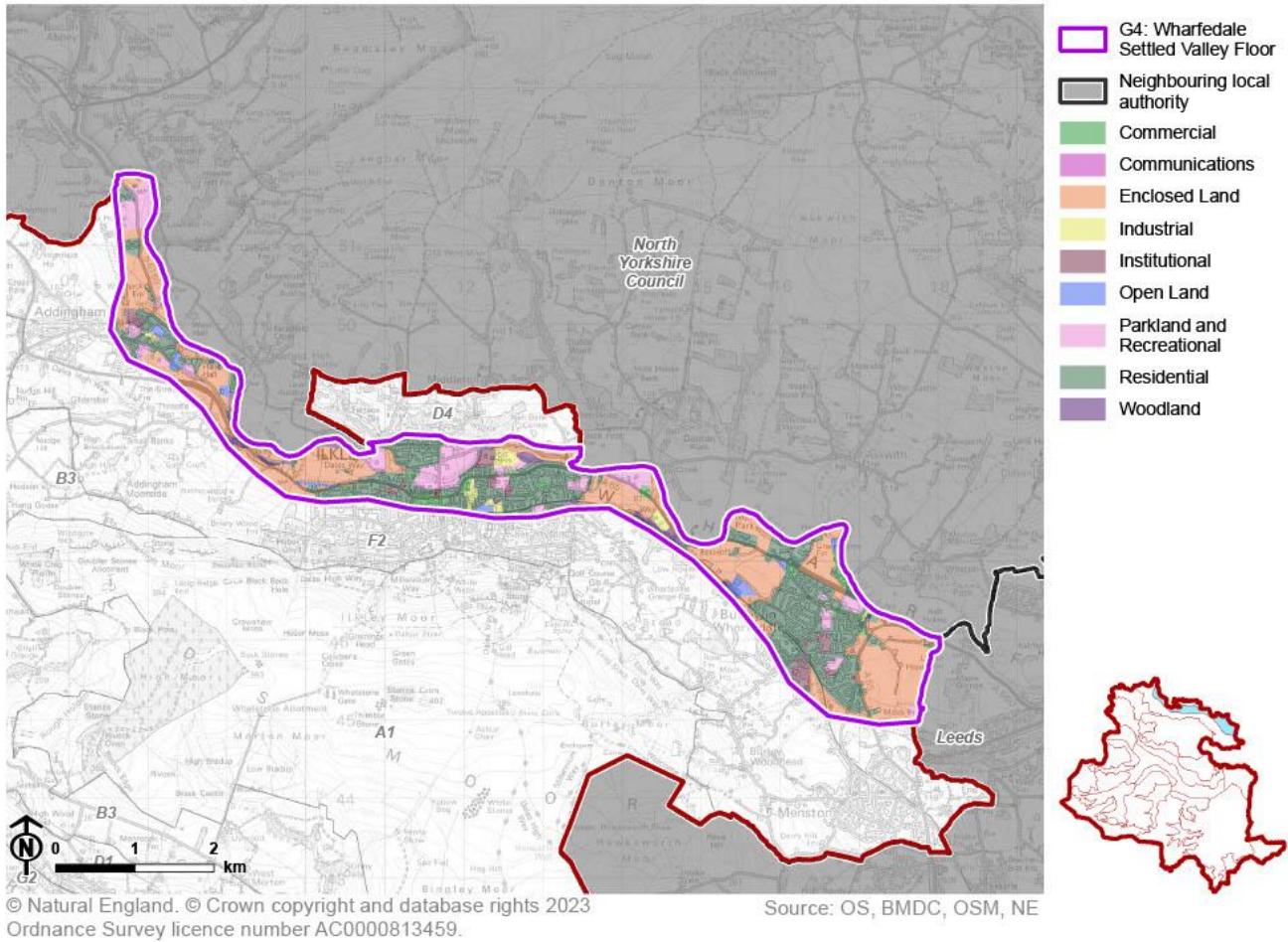
Figure 3.164: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G4



### 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.

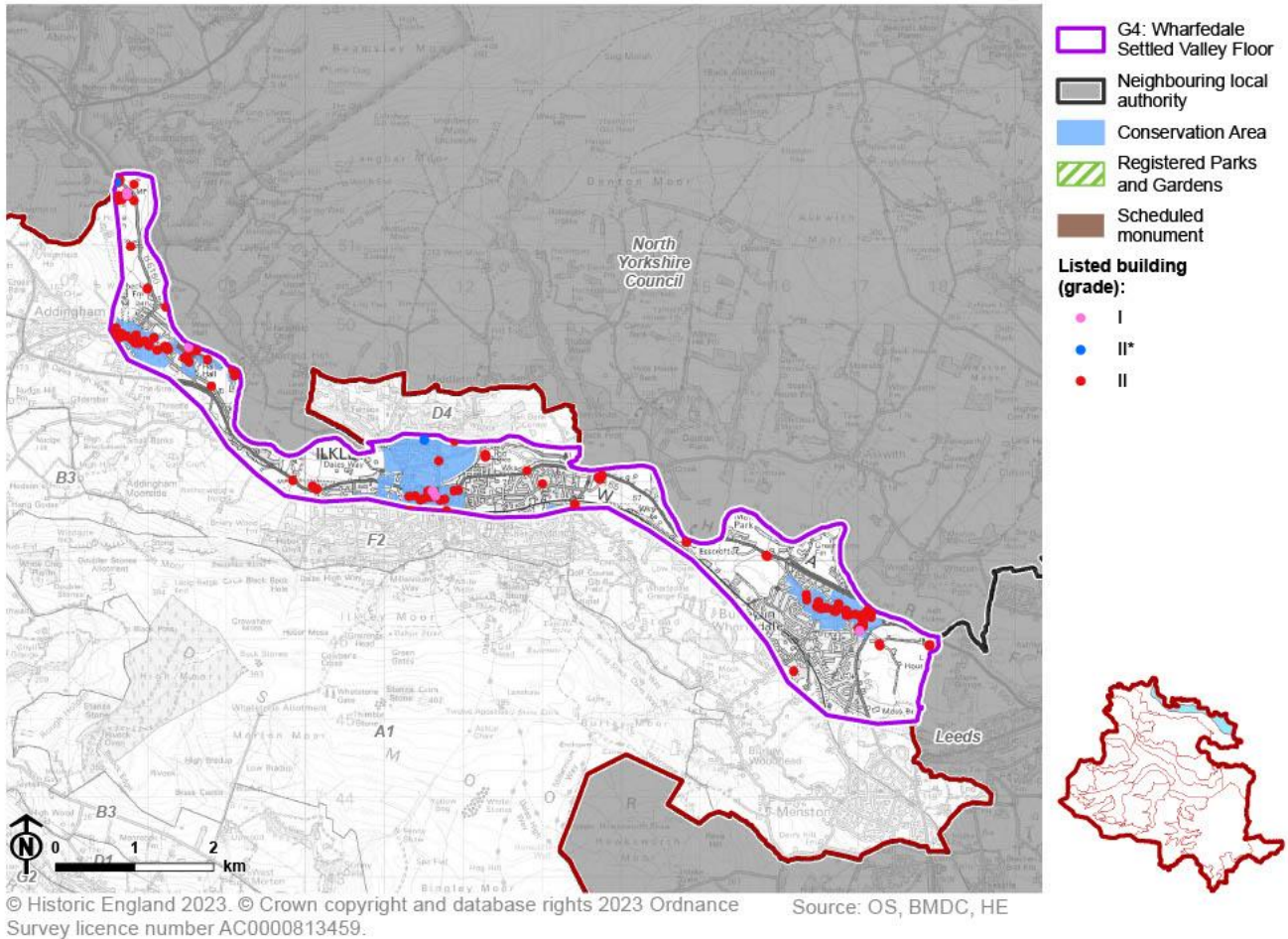
Figure 3.165: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G4



### 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

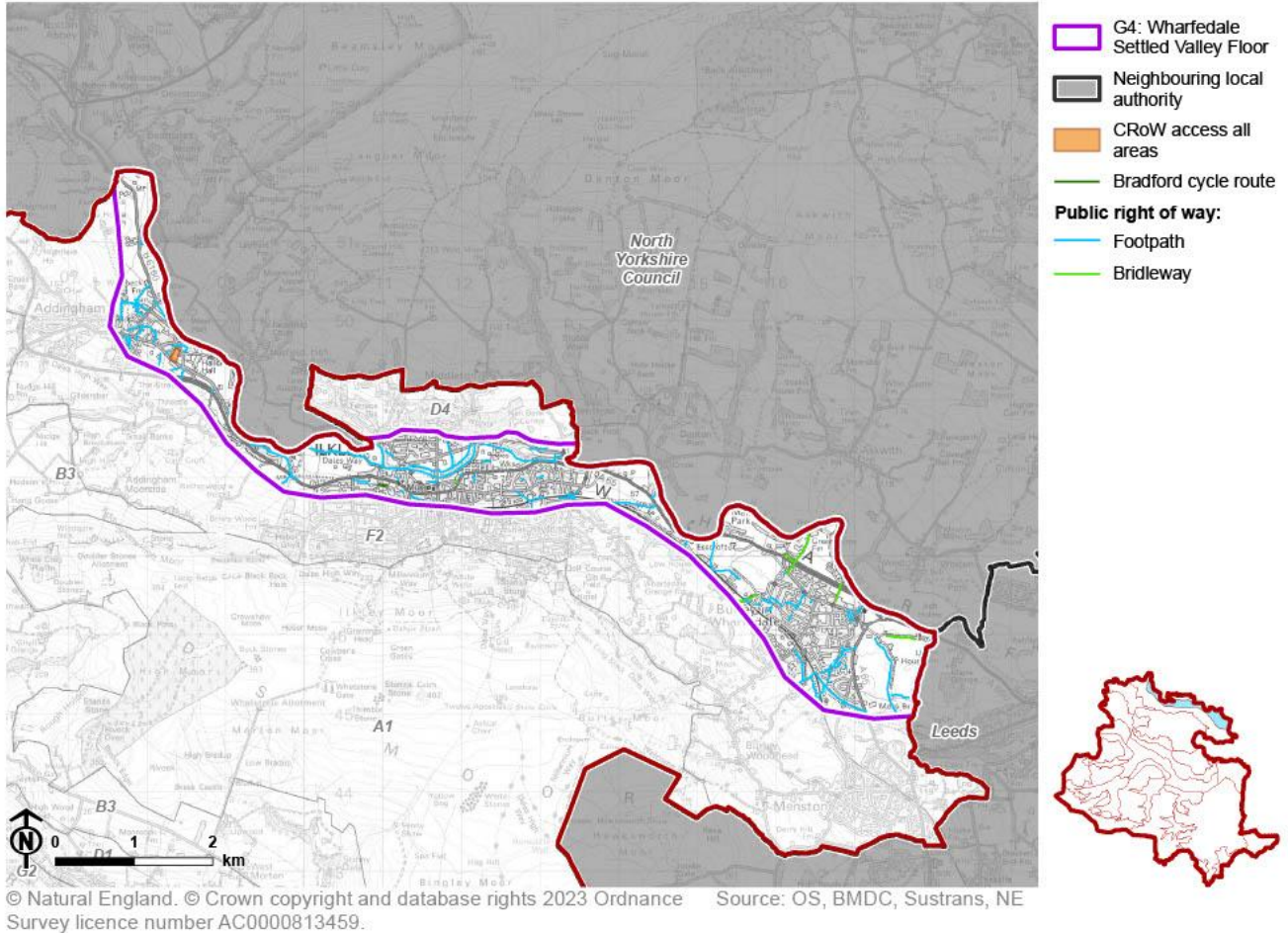
Figure 3.166: Cultural heritage of LCA G4



### 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 nature of the landscape has led to these settlements being of a linear character, this is particularly the case in Addingham and Ilkley.
- 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 into 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

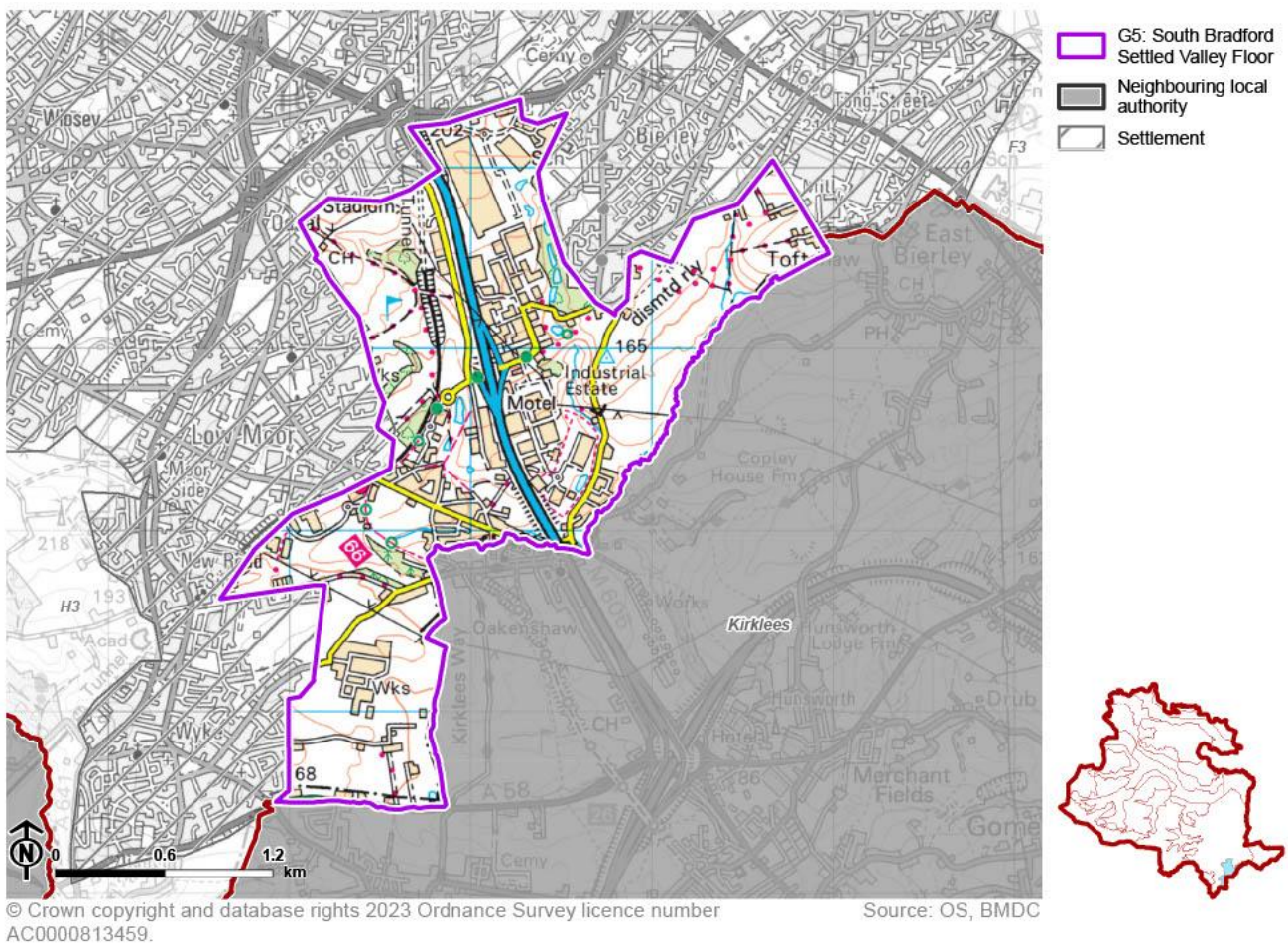
- The floodplain pastures can be viewed from a number of prominent positions, notably on the adjacent Rombalds Moor, and there is strong intervisibility along the length of the A65 trunk road to the elevated moorlands in the south. Within Ilkley south of Skipton Road, the landform rises sharply and views north across the valley are available towards the Nidderdale National Landscape.
- 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



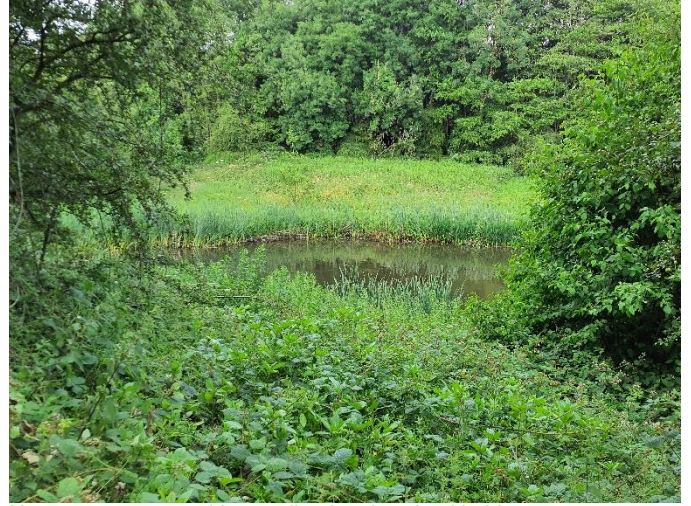
### Key Characteristics

- 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.



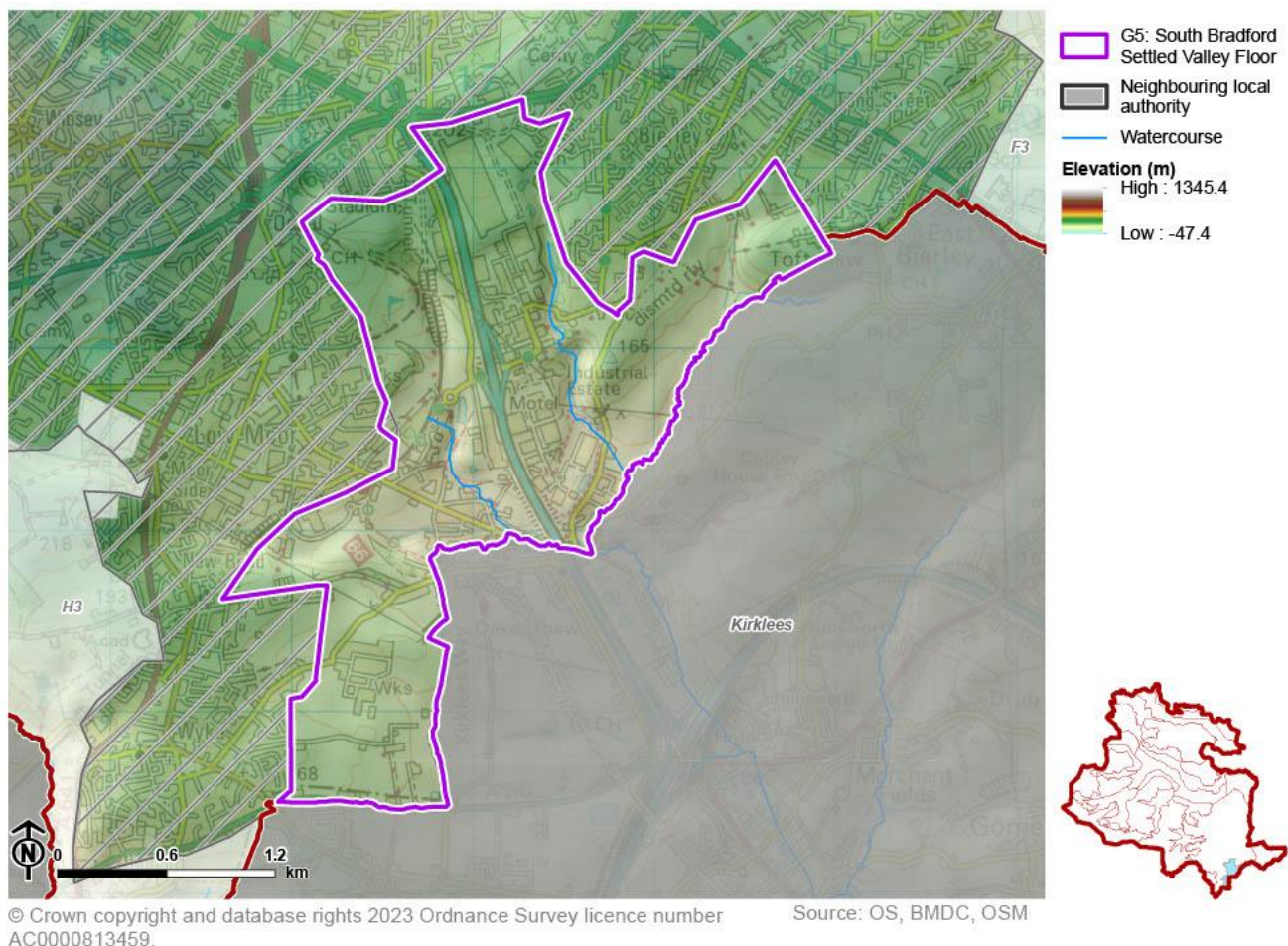
Pylons and large storage sheds are visible across the transport corridor.



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

## Landscape Character

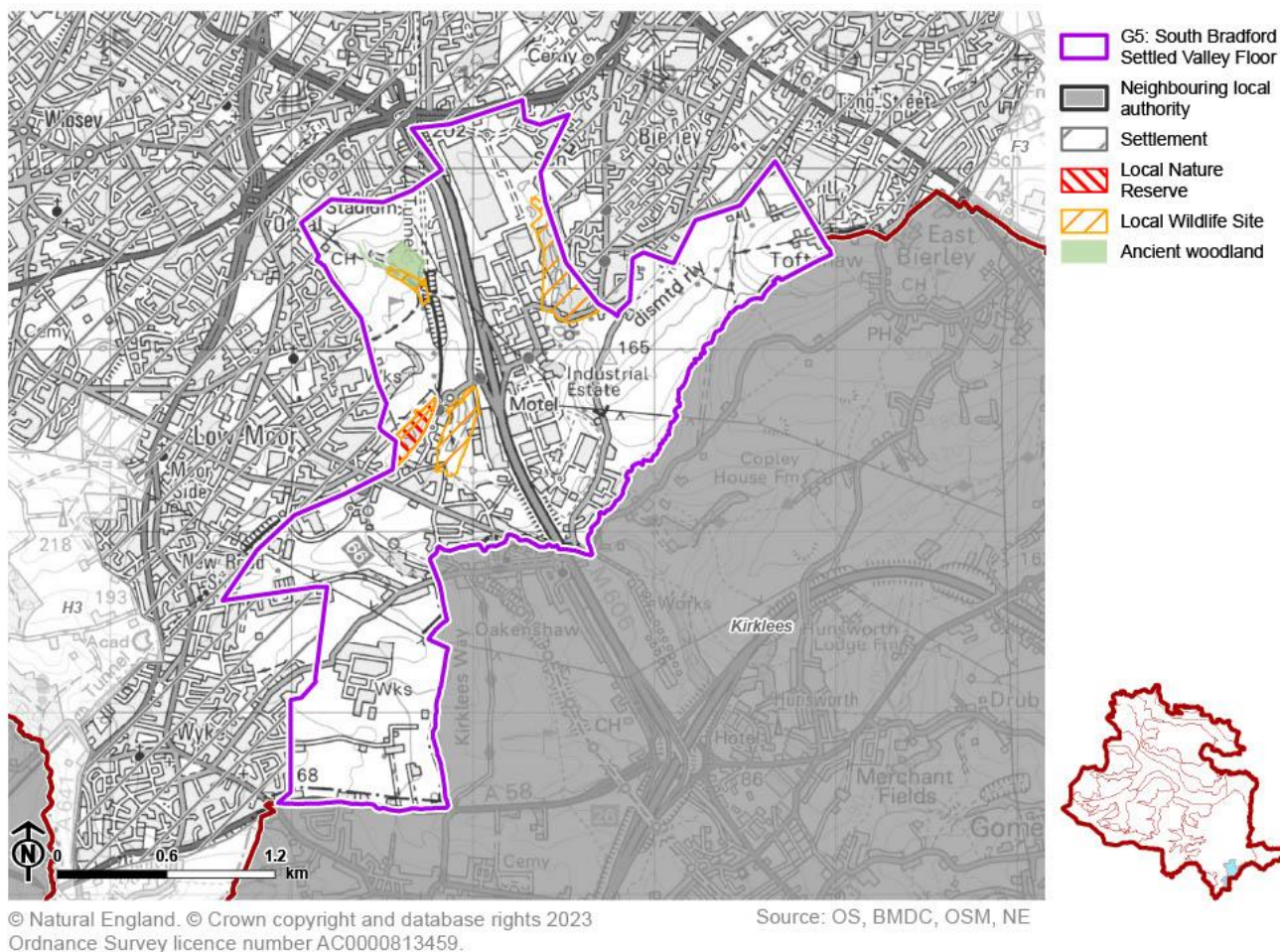
Figure 3.170: Topography of LCA G5



### 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.

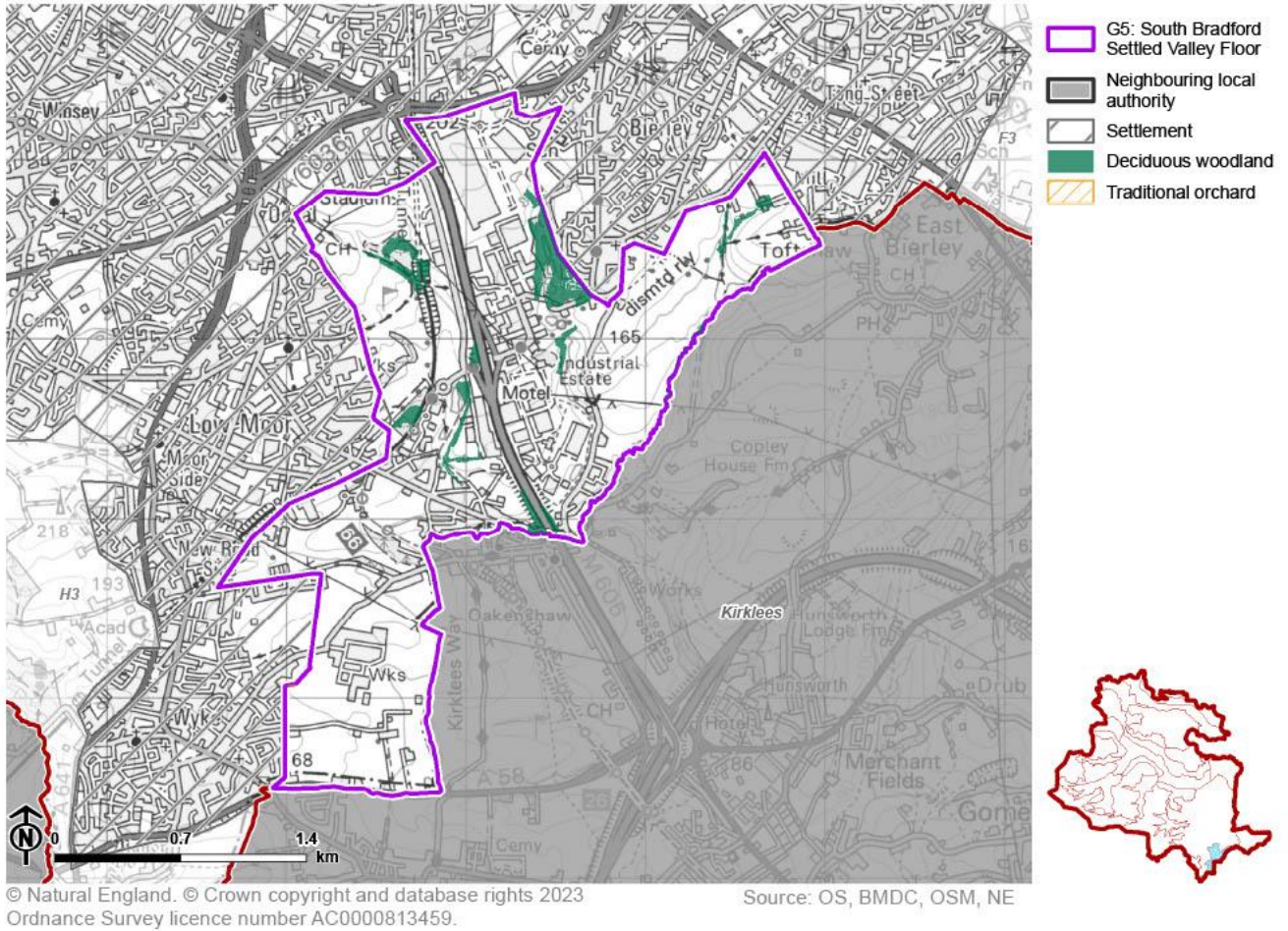
Figure 3.171: Natural heritage of LCA G5



### 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.

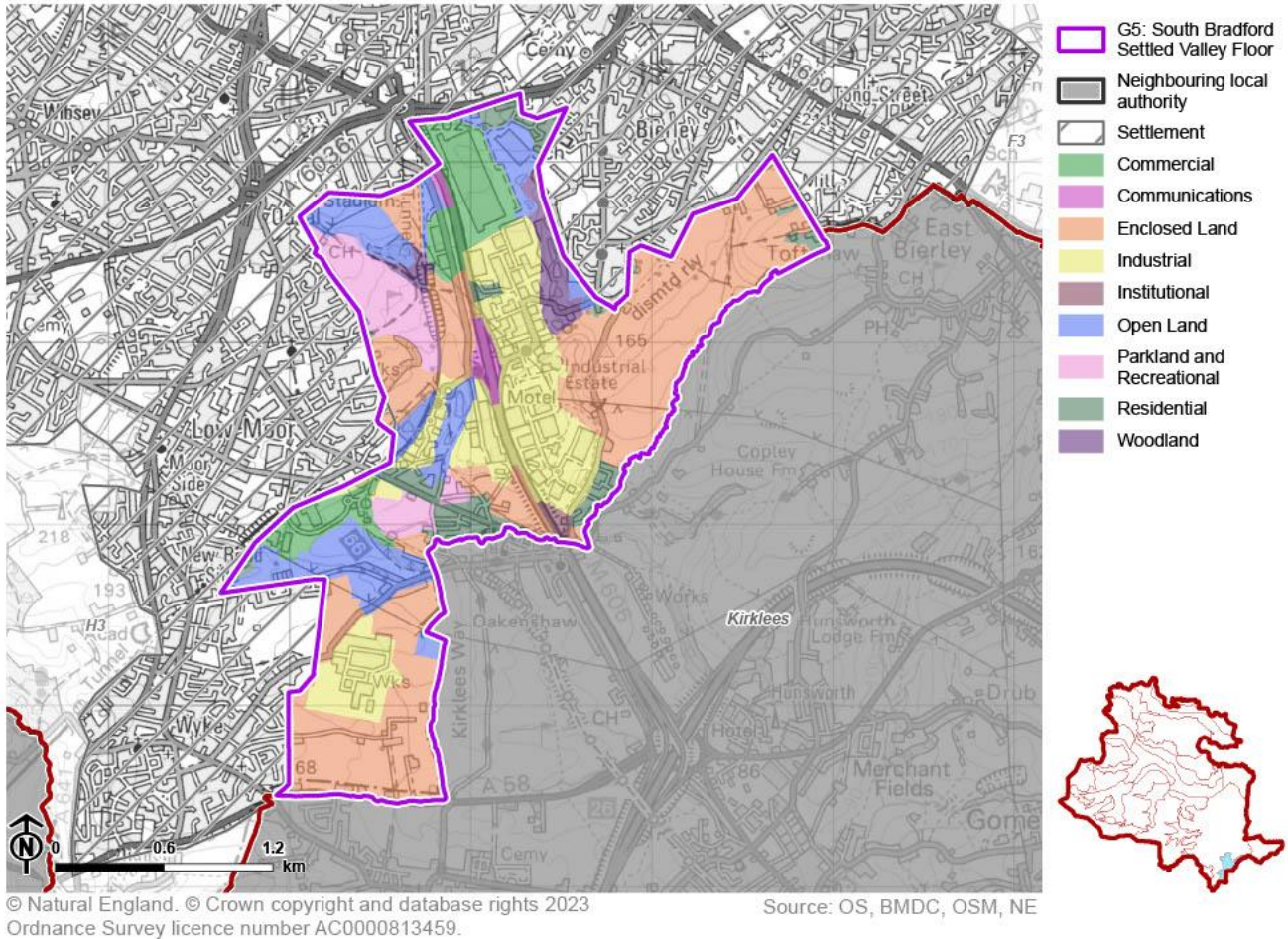
Figure 3.172: Priority habitat inventory of LCA G5



### 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.

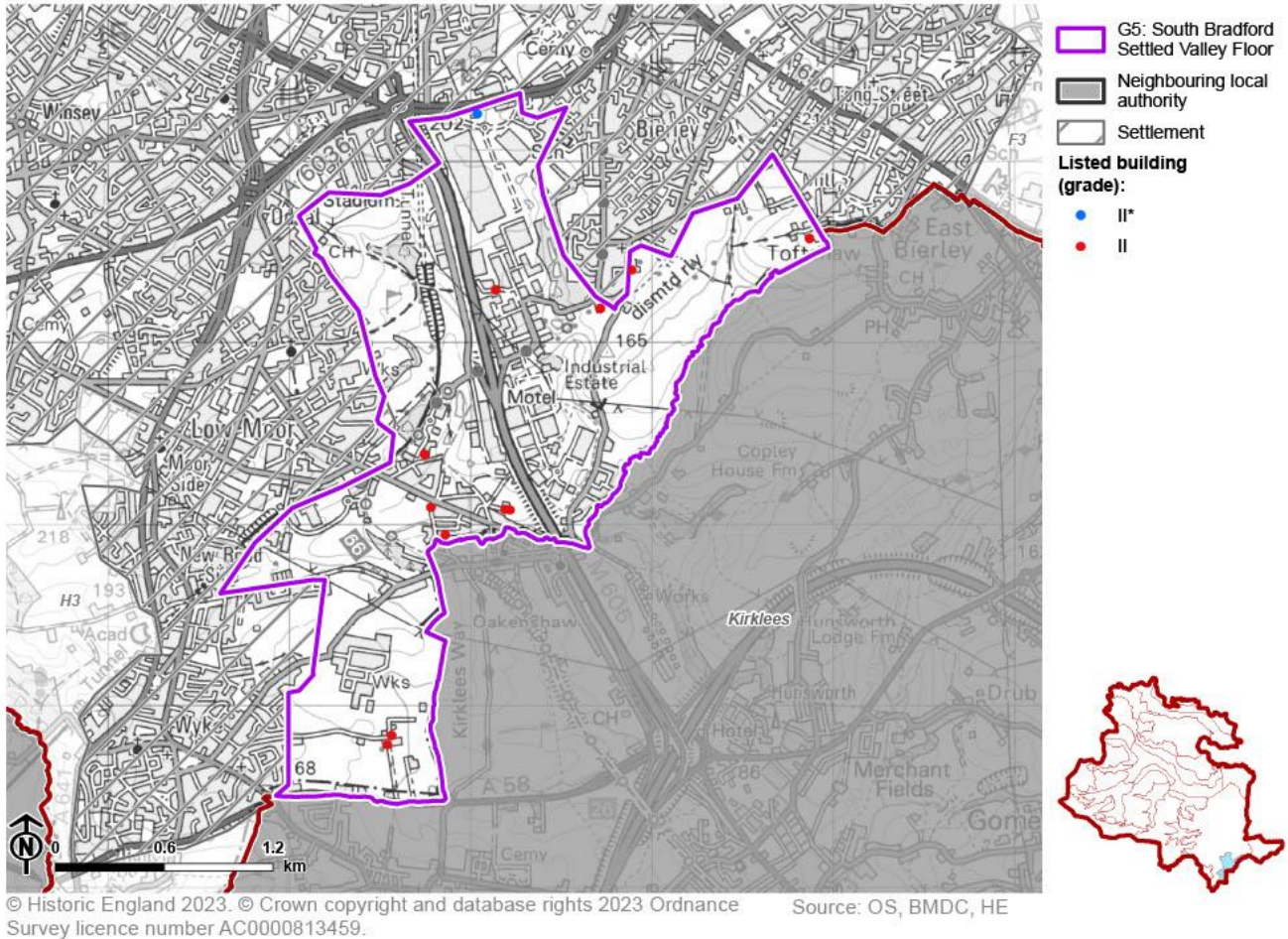
Figure 3.173: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA G5



### Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The area has a long history of industrial use, including 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> century. Victoria Park was established in 1900.

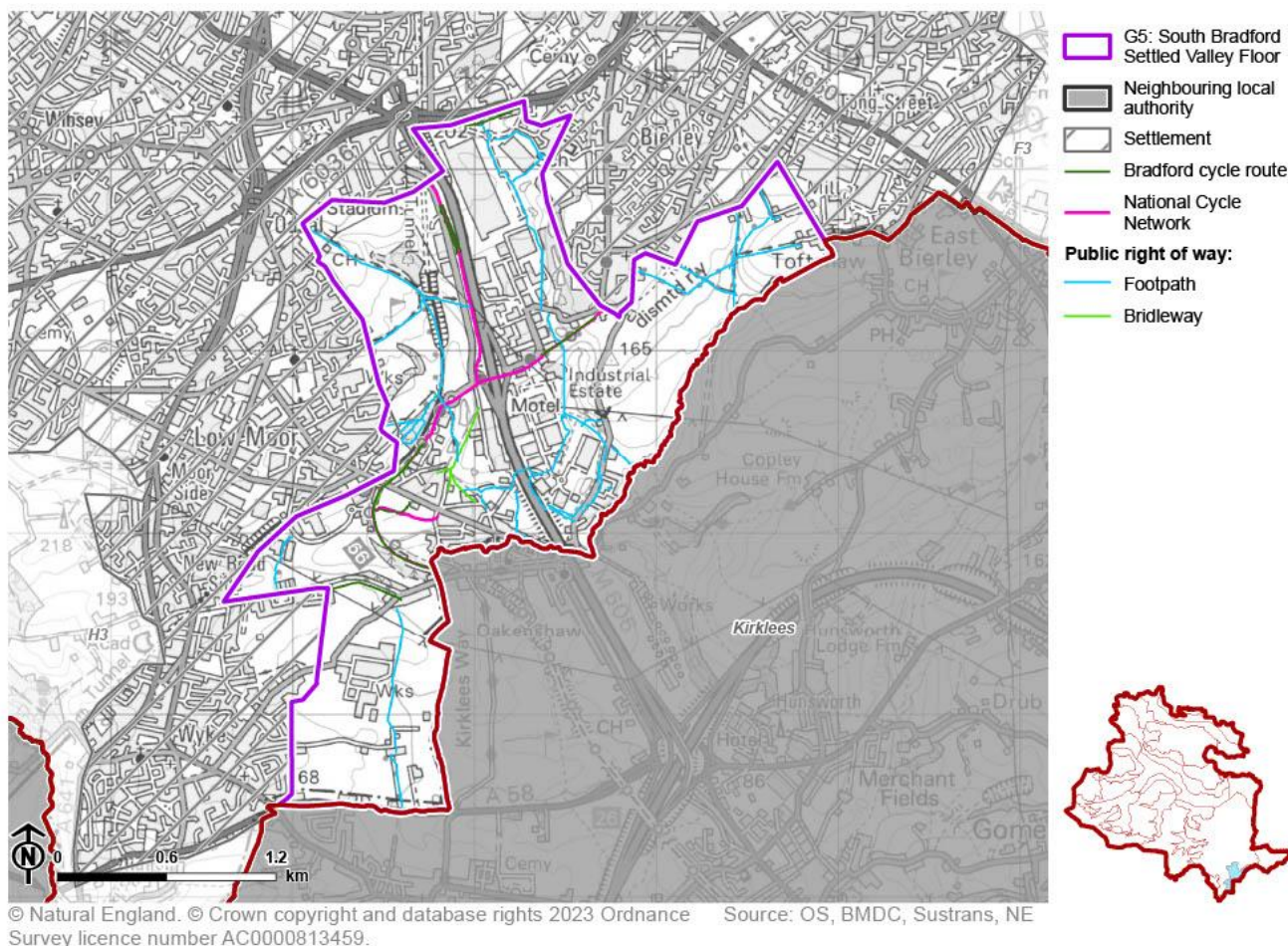
Figure 3.174: Cultural heritage of LCA G5



### 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.
  - G4: There is development pressure on the edges of Ilkley, Burley-in-Wharfedale and Addingham, which needs to be carefully managed to avoid coalescence of these settlements.
  - 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.

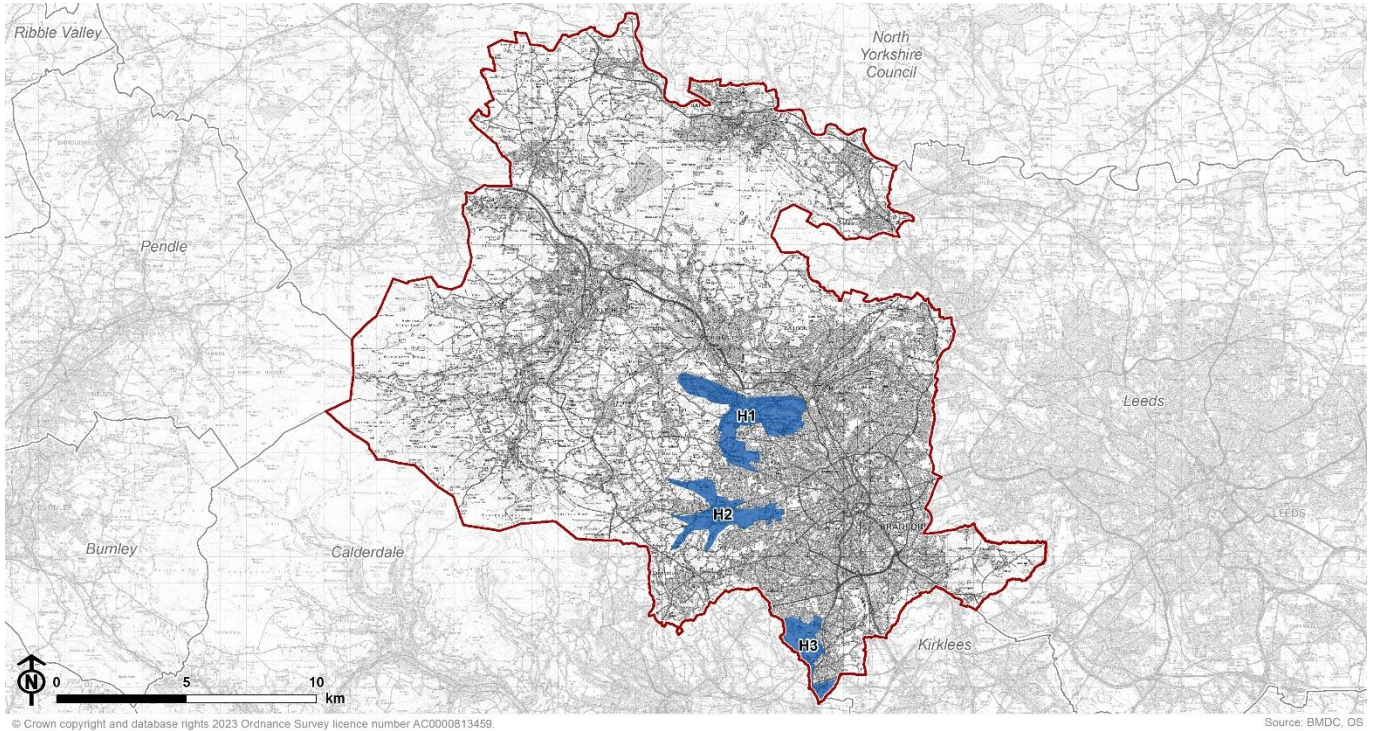
## Guidance

- 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 (including the proposed Wharfedale Greenway). 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.

- Assess the archaeological potential (including through consultation of the Historic Environment Record) of developed and undeveloped land particularly in relation to the risks posed by any proposed development schemes or environmental mitigation strategies.
- Ensure that any development within the river valleys adequately identifies, preserves and/or adequately records any geoarchaeological deposits.
- 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.
- Ensure that any conversion or redevelopment of industrial heritage adequately assesses and records the historic environment, including any below-ground power and water management systems, which are integral to understanding a site's technological history.

## Landscape Character Type H: Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

Figure 3.176: Location of the Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes



### LCT H Overview

The Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes character type forms an important rural fringe to Bradford, drawing down from the more exposed elevated upland plateau to the west and extending fingers of countryside into the urban core. These small incised valleys contain concentrations of broadleaved woodland, providing semi-natural habitat and a valuable recreational resource for surrounding settlements, reflected in a density of local wildlife sites. The abundant riparian woodland adds structure and texture to the landscape, helping to delineate the modest becks that run along the valley floors. Outside of the wooded valley floors there are pockets of enclosed pasture which largely retain their rural qualities despite the proximity to Bradford, and former estate parkland features prominently, some of which has been converted into golf courses.

There are three LCA within this LCT:

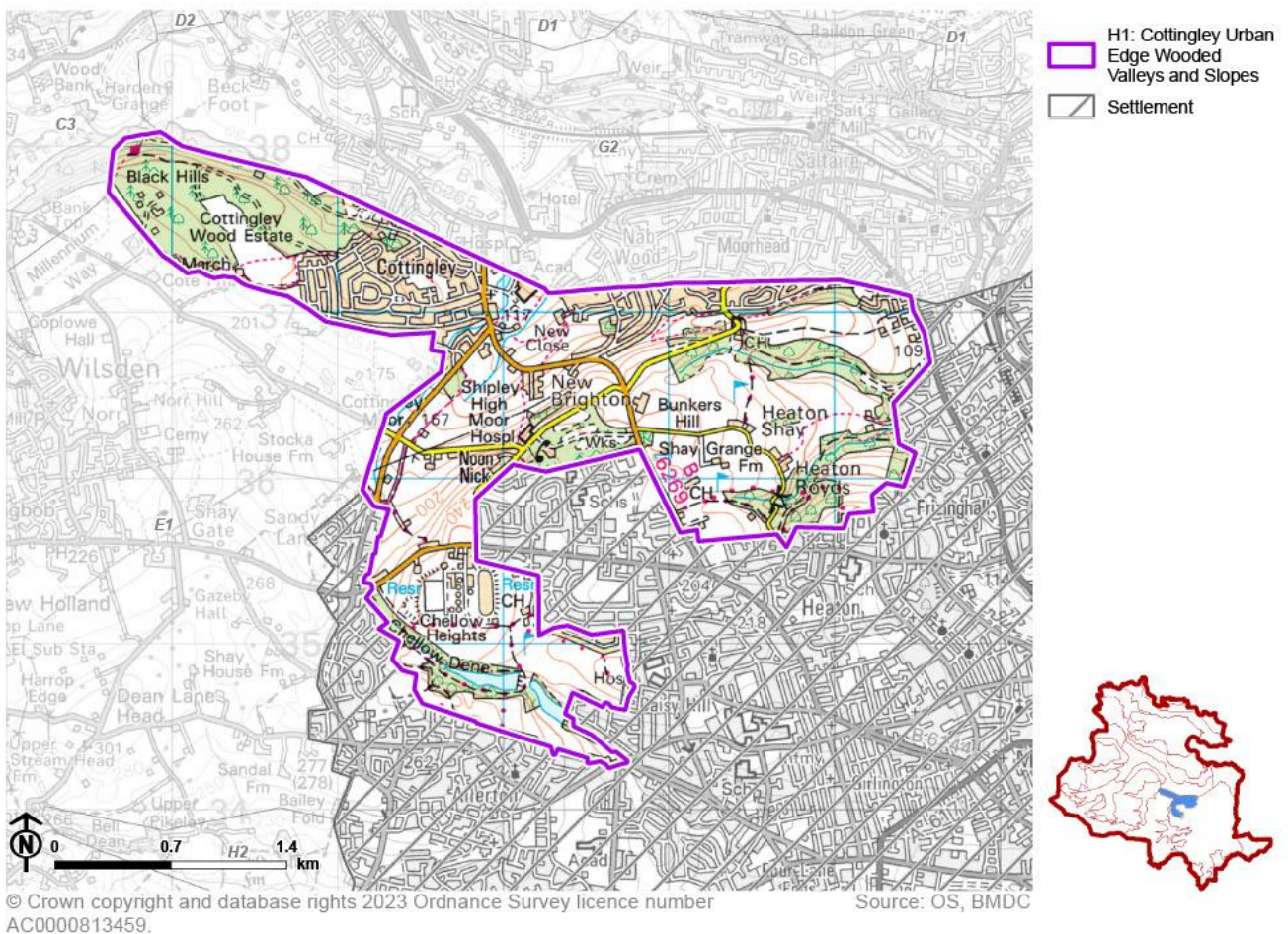
- H1. Cottingley Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes
- H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes
- H3. Royds Hall Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

## H1. Cottingley Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

### Location, Context and Summary

The Cottingley Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes LCA is found at the north western edge of Bradford, encompassing a T-shaped area centred on the shallow valley of the Cottingley Beck, between Cottingley and Heaton. The area forms a transition between the elevated upland pasture to the west, the urban edge of Bradford to the east, and the broad, settled Airedale Valley to the north. Broadleaved woodland cover is extensive across the LCA in blocks, bands and on field boundaries. At the urban edge, broadleaved woodland is concentrated on the steep slopes of a number of small incised valleys, contrasting with the more manicured appearance of golf courses occupying the elevated ground above. To the west, the area's boundary is primarily defined by the transition to mixed upland pasture surrounding Wilsden. To the south and east the LCA forms two small extensions of countryside dividing the urban areas of Shipley and Heaton, and Heaton and Allerton. To the north, it meets the upper slopes of G2. Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor.

Figure 3.177: Location of LCA H1



### Key Characteristics

- Central valley of Cottingley Beck was formed by glacial processes and rises steeply to the west, facilitating long distance views into the broad, settled Airedale Valley.
- Tree cover is frequent throughout, including large plantations, hedgerow trees, shelterbelts and steep, densely wooded valleys which provide structure and texture within the landscape.
- Agriculture is limited to small pockets of mixed and enclosed pasture, with woodland and parkland being the dominant landcover.
- The area encompasses two fingers of countryside which reach into the north western corner of Bradford, providing valuable green space and habitat for wildlife.
- Outdoor recreation is a key land use across the area, with extensive areas of semi-natural woodland and parkland utilised for this purpose, in particular golf courses.
- Includes a large proportion of Cottingley and the edge of Nab Wood which both extend into the Airedale Valley below, otherwise settlement is limited to occasional farmsteads and hamlets.
- The mixed plantation of Cottingley Wood Estate forms a large-scale, unifying feature in the landscape, which is prominent in views from within, and towards, the LCA.
- Though rural and tranquil in its more enclosed parts, the LCA is surrounded by urban settlement with large pylons and utility infrastructure apparent, particularly in the Cottingley Beck valley.
- The road network is limited to B-roads and minor roads, which often traverse steep inclines.

Figure 3.178: Example photos from LCA H1



Frequent woodland providing structure and a degree of enclosure.



Long distance views from valley sides.



Gently undulating topography and a mix of woodland, urban influences and pasture.



Distinctive views down into the Airedale Valley.



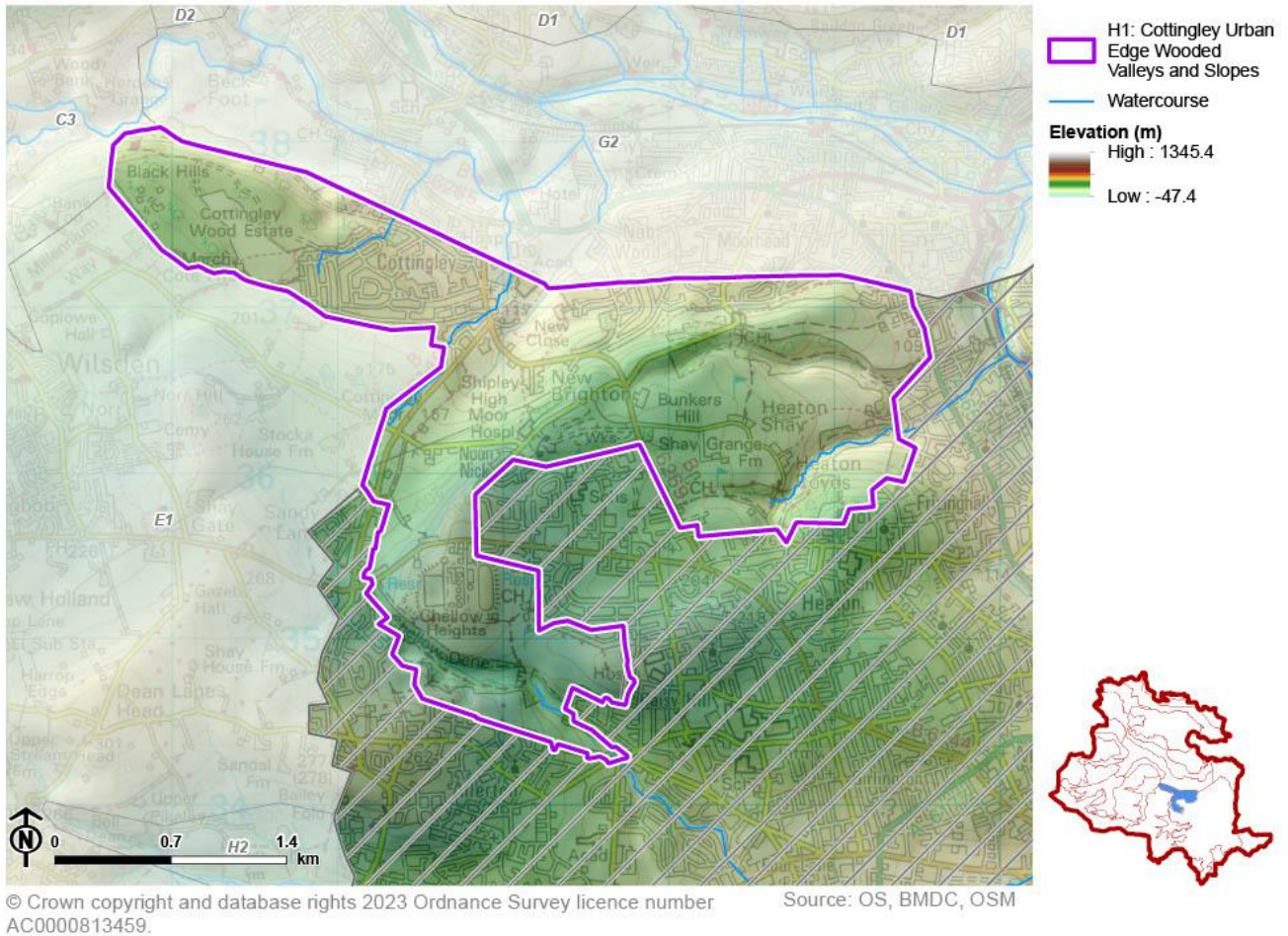
Overhead electricity lines can be seen on horizon.



Looking north east across important recreational area of Chellow Dene.

Landscape Character

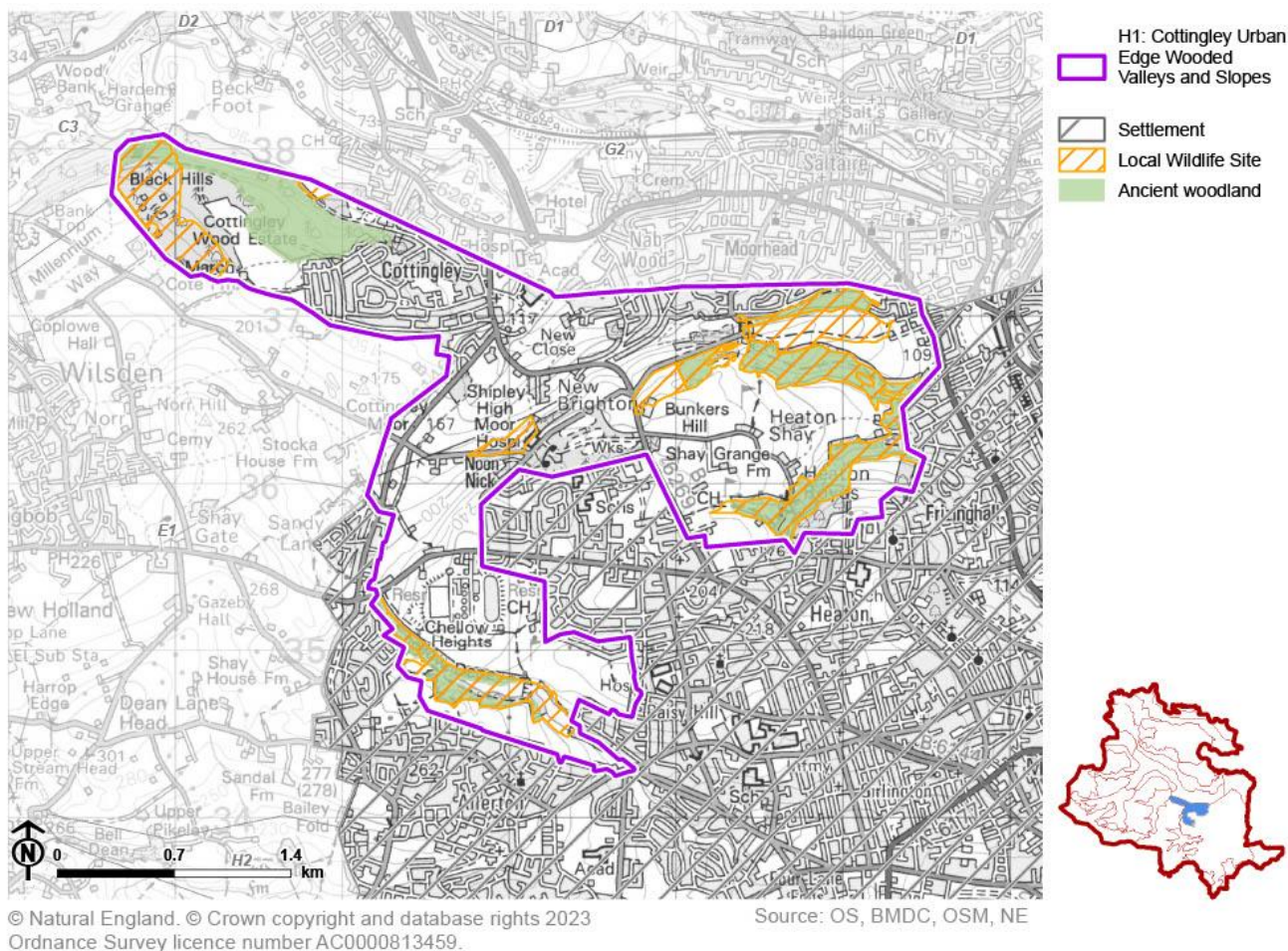
Figure 3.179: Topography of LCA H1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The LCA forms a rough t-shape, centred on the shallow valley of Cottingley Beck which rises steadily east and west towards Heaton and Cottingley respectively. The valley floor rises from approximately 100m AOD at its lowest point east of Cottingley to approximately 208m AOD at Heaton Allotments.
- The central valley of the LCA, Cottingley Beck, sits on bedrock of the Pennine Lower Coal Measure Formation. To the east and west of the valley, the underlying bedrock is sandstone, with Millstone Grit Yeadonian sandstone outcrops present at Cottingley.
- These rocks break down into loamy and clayey acidic soils. The soils impede drainage and are seasonally wet. On higher ground in the east of the LCA the loamy soils are freely draining.
- The area is heavily influenced by glacial erosion, with overflow channels occurring at Cottingley Beck and Noon Nick/Nailor Rough where the Cullingworth-Cottingley Lake drained into the Bradford Lake during the last Ice Age. These channels are unique to the Bradford area within West Yorkshire.

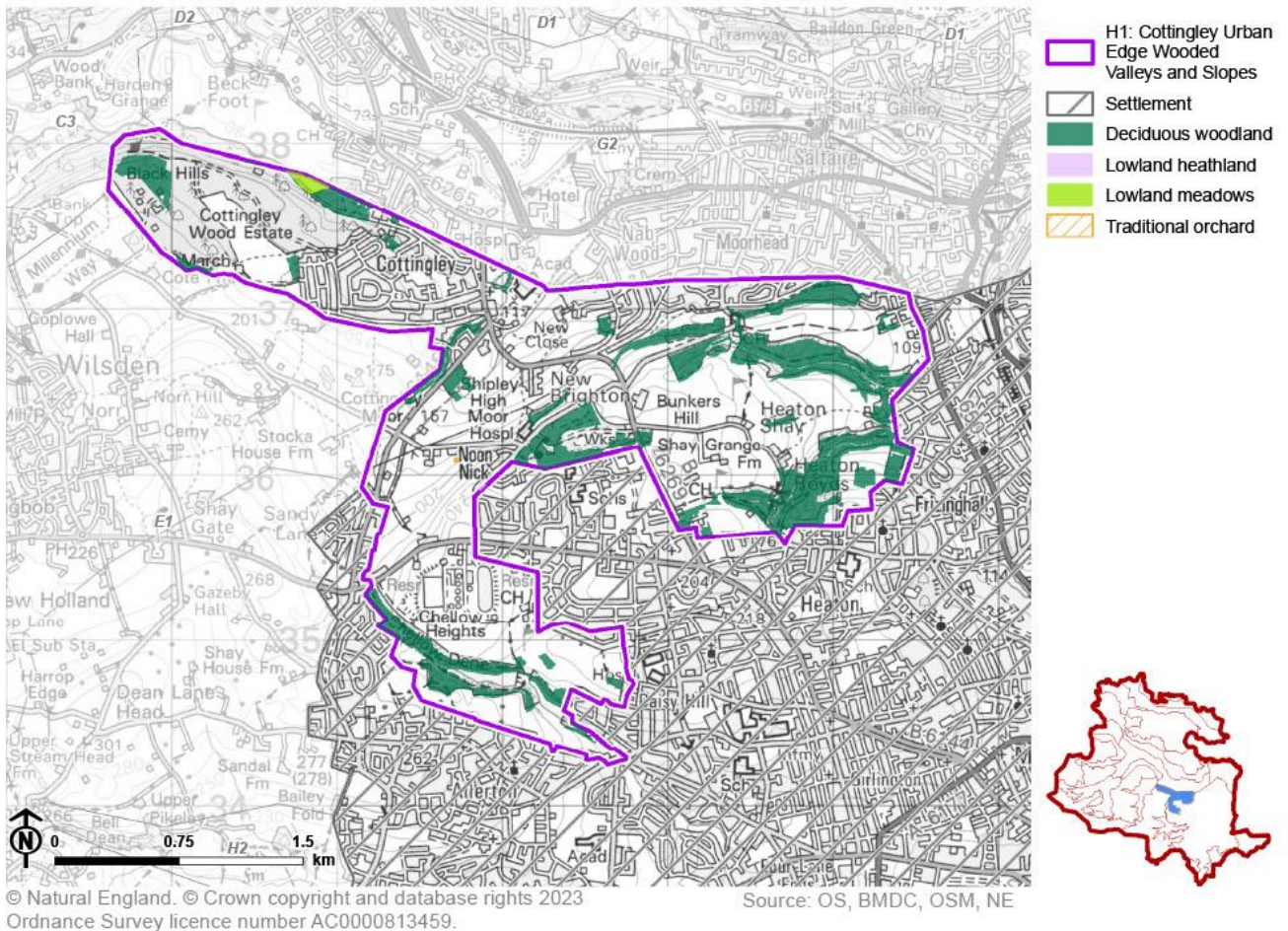
Figure 3.180: Natural heritage of LCA H1



### Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The LCA is well wooded, the largest area being the mixed plantation of Cottingley Wood Estate (Ancient Replanted Woodland) which occupies the steep valley side in the north west of the area.
- Broadleaved riparian tree cover is extensive, concentrated in the steep wooded valleys of Chellow Dean, Heaton Royds and Northcliffe Wood. These Ancient, Semi-Natural Woodlands provide important wildlife corridors and habitat for a variety of flora and fauna.
- Wooded parkland (golf courses), small woods and shelter belts on higher ground and hedgerow trees in small pockets of pasture land all contribute to tree cover across the LCA forming a relatively connected habitat network.
- Much of the deciduous woodland across the LCA is listed on Natural England's Priority Habitat Inventory and has been designated as local wildlife sites including Black Hills; Hazel Beck; West of Shipley High Moor; Miles Rough; Noon Nick; Heaton Woods, Northcliffe Woods and Old Spring Wood; and Chellow Dean Woods and Reservoir.
- Chellow Dean woodland is important for populations of all three native woodpeckers, and the waterways contain a variety of fish including roach, perch, bream, carp, eels and pike.

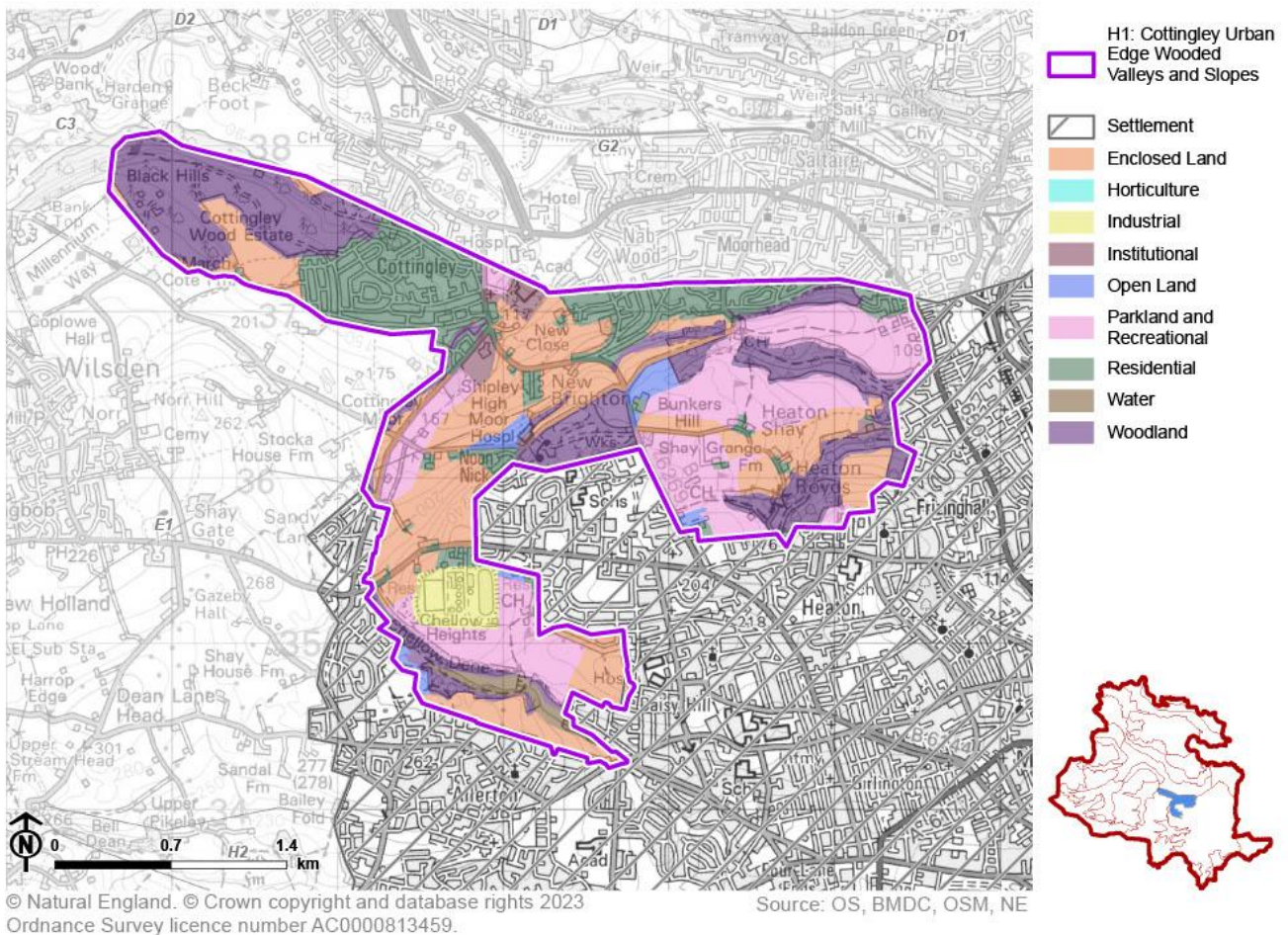
Figure 3.181: Priority habitat inventory of LCA H1



### Land Use and Field Patterns

- There are small pockets of pasture land within the LCA, mainly focused in the shallow valley of Cottingley Beck. These pockets are continuous with the larger area of mixed upland pasture in the adjacent E1 Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden Mixed Upland Pasture to the south west. Small-scale, rectilinear field patterns are well defined by gritstone walls and, to a lesser extent, hedgerow trees.
- There are areas of flatter more enclosed, tree-lined pasture elevated above the steep wooded river valleys, at Heaton Royds and to the north of Chellow Dean.
- Outdoor recreation is a key land use across the area, with former areas of parkland now utilised as three golf courses: Northcliffe Golf Club and the Express Golf Centre in the east, and West Bradford Golf Club in the south. The manicured grassland, ornamental planting and parkland trees of the area's golf courses are somewhat congruent with adjacent pockets of enclosed pasture.
- Land use in the LCA is also influenced by its close proximity to Bradford, with the large Chellow Dean Reservoirs and Chellow Heights Water Works located in the southern finger of the area, between Allerton and Heaton.

Figure 3.182: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA H1

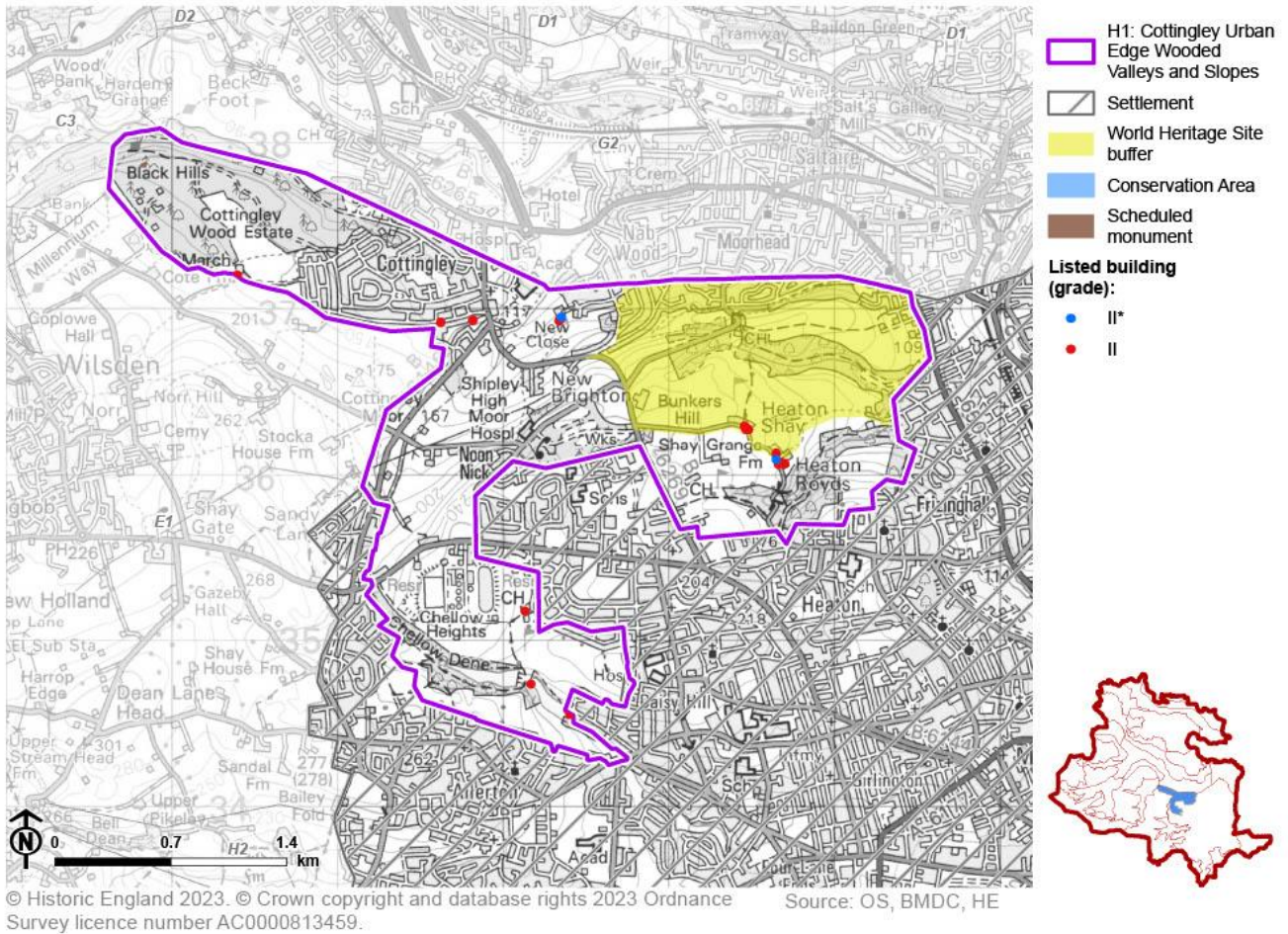


### Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The pastoral parts of the LCA possess a moderate sense of historic continuity due to the presence of traditional gritstone walls and occasional vernacular farmsteads and hamlets. However, these enclosed pasture lands are found only in small pockets. In more open areas such as the shallow valley of Cottingley Beck, historic character has been lost due to the presence of modern settlement, roads and infrastructure.
- There is a scattering of listed buildings across the LCA, mainly vernacular farm buildings in pockets of enclosed pasture land concentrated at Heaton Royds and Heaton Shay, as well as New Close between Nab Wood and Cottingley.
- Due to the difficulty in developing the steep wooded valleys in the LCA, they have remained relatively unchanged for many centuries, with the exception of Chellow Dean, which was dammed to create Chellow Dene Reservoirs in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Though mixed plantation woodlands such as Cottingley Wood Estate have been subject to greater change in the course of management, felling and replanting than the more natural wooded valleys, the site has a long history of woodland cover, which defines the skyline in this LCA and in parts of the Airedale Valley.
- The parkland landscapes of the area's two golf courses which lie adjacent to its wooded valleys, are long standing. Northcliffe Golf Club was established in 1896 and West Bradford Golf Club in 1900. The Northcliffe Golf Club along with Northcliffe Woods and Norman Rae Playing Fields formed part of the Northcliffe Estate.

- Woodland along Cottingley Beck, adjacent to Cottingley Moor Road, is associated with the true story about two young girls, who in 1917, convinced the world that they had photographed fairies at the bottom of their garden. The hoax was not discovered until many years later.
- Undeveloped areas, particularly permanent pasture and moorland, may contain significant subsurface archaeological remains that are well-preserved due to a lack of modern disturbance or truncation.

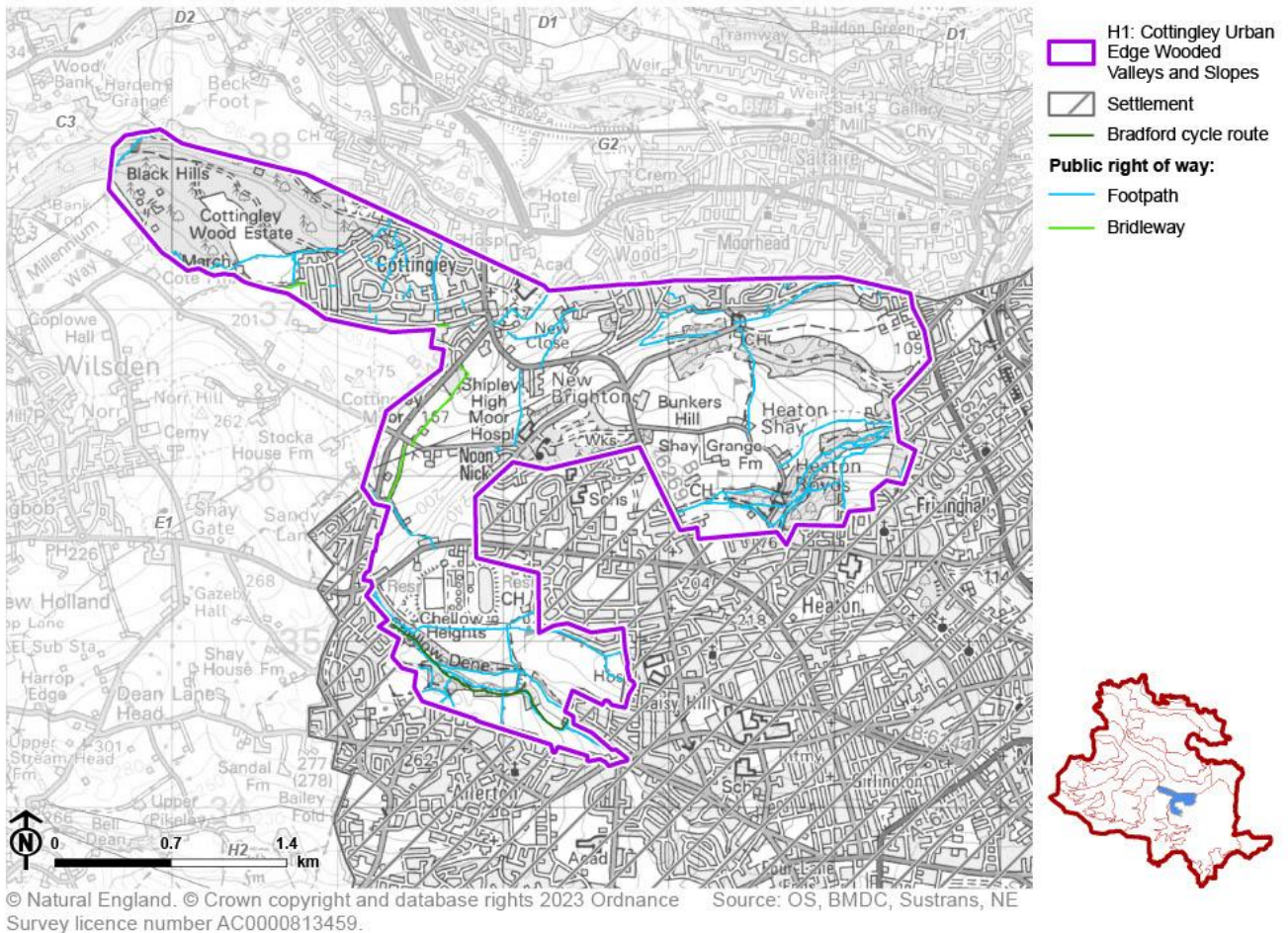
Figure 3.183: Cultural heritage of LCA H1



### Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlement in the LCA includes a large proportion of Cottingley, and the southern extent of Nab Wood and Moorhead which descend down the steep slopes of the Airedale Valley onto the valley floor.
- Due to the high concentration of woodland and parkland in the LCA, rural settlement is limited. However, there are occasional farmsteads and small hamlets, such as New Brighton and Heaton Shay amongst pockets of pasture land.
- The central valley of Cottingley Beck acts as the primary transport corridor through the LCA, with a number of B-roads such as the B6269 traversing the steep slopes and valley bottom to link up with the A650 in the Airedale Valley. The minor road of Shay Lane crosses the steep slopes of Heaton Wood to provide access to the pasture and parkland to the north.

Figure 3.184: Access and recreation of LCA H1



### Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by a public rights of way network which provides access to its woodland, parkland, pasture, and numerous local wildlife sites. In particular Chellow Dene and Heaton Woods offer popular walking areas.
- The area provides a valuable natural resource that extends two green fingers into the north western edge of Bradford. This is evidenced in the widespread recreational use of the LCA in the form of golf courses, playing fields, woodland reserves, fishing ponds and allotments.
- The upper of the two Chellow Dene Reservoirs is a fishing lake.
- Blackhills Scout Campsite is located in the large, mixed plantation of Cottingley Wood Estate.

### Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Higher ground at the edge of the Heaton plateau affords fairly long distance views towards Cottingley and into the broad, settled valley of Airedale beyond. Large pylons are prominent in these views which accentuate the developed nature of the landscape.
- East of the B6269, the area has a more enclosed, tranquil, rural character due to the high frequency of woodland and parkland and the absence of any B-roads and large pylons.

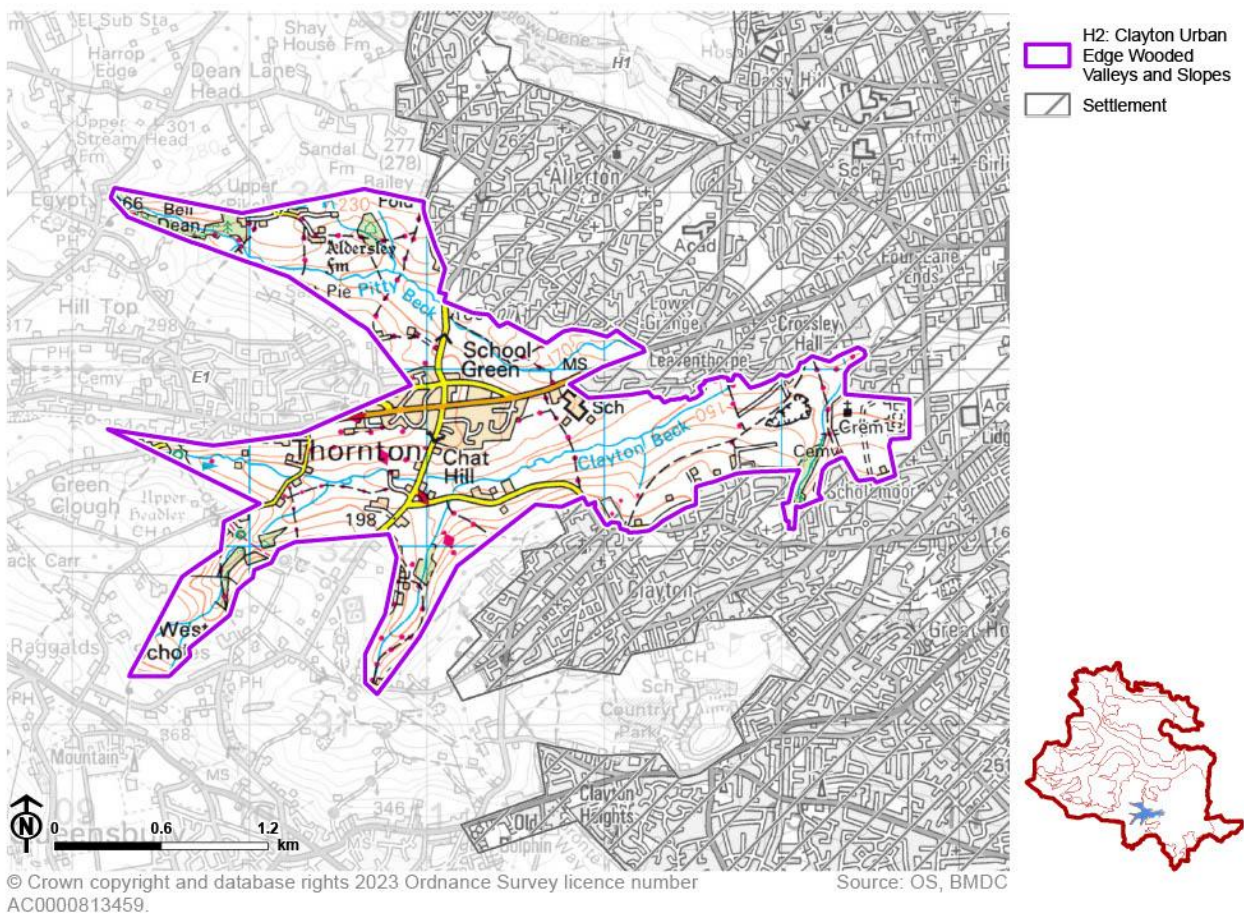
- The bold pattern of woodland emphasises variations in the landform, giving a strong structure to the landscape. In general, the wooded valleys are viewed in the landscape as bold, dark green blocks of trees which run along the stream valleys. These areas have a very enclosed character from within.
- In comparison to the wooded valleys, shelterbelts and small groupings of broadleaved woodland, Cottingley Wood Estate is a very bold, large-scale, unifying feature in the landscape with no subdivision. It is an enclosing feature which limits and defines views in the vicinity.

## H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

### Location, Context and Summary

The Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes LCA comprises a number of small river valleys that descend eastwards from the Thornton and Queensbury plateau to converge on Clayton Beck. The LCA represents a transition from the elevated upland pasture to the west and extends fairly deeply into the urban core of Bradford between the historically rural settlements of Clayton and Allerton. Riparian woodland is abundant along the various watercourses with gritstone walls and tree-lined pasture occupying the valley sides. The landscape character contrasts with the exposed upland plateau to the west and the lower-lying urban core of Bradford to the east, for which it acts as a rural hinterland.

Figure 3.185: Location of LCA H2



### Key Characteristics

- A series of wooded valleys that draw down eastwards from the Thornton and Queensbury plateau and converge on the central valley of Clayton Beck.
- Agricultural land dominates the LCA in the form of improved grassland, reflecting the poor quality acidic soils.
- Field patterns are small-medium scale and well-defined by both drystone walls and hedgerows, reflecting piecemeal and strip enclosure.
- Some notable areas of woodland provide important semi-natural habitat and recreational value.
- Riparian woodland provides structure and texture to the landscape, helping to delineate the modest becks that run along the valley floors.
- Views along the pastoral Clayton Valley provide a strong sense of place, with notable architectural landmarks such as Thornton Viaduct adding historic character to the landscape.
- An extensive public rights of way network provides access to the area's pasture lands and wooded valleys, some of which are designated as local wildlife sites.
- Despite proximity to Bradford, the area retains its character as a rural hinterland that extends into the urban core.
- Enclosed, intimate wooded valleys are sequestered from surrounding settlement and transport corridors and are tranquil in nature.
- The enclosed and partly wooded nature of the valley, in conjunction with characteristic drystone walls and long-distance views from the elevated valley sides, creates a distinct sense of place very different from the urban area to the east or the open plateau to the west.

Figure 3.186: Example photos from LCA H2



Folds of the valley with the Thornton viaduct widely visible.



Pastoral valley slopes with drystone walls in mixed condition.



Settlement of Thornton is distinctive on horizon.



Small-scale piecemeal field pattern of pasture.



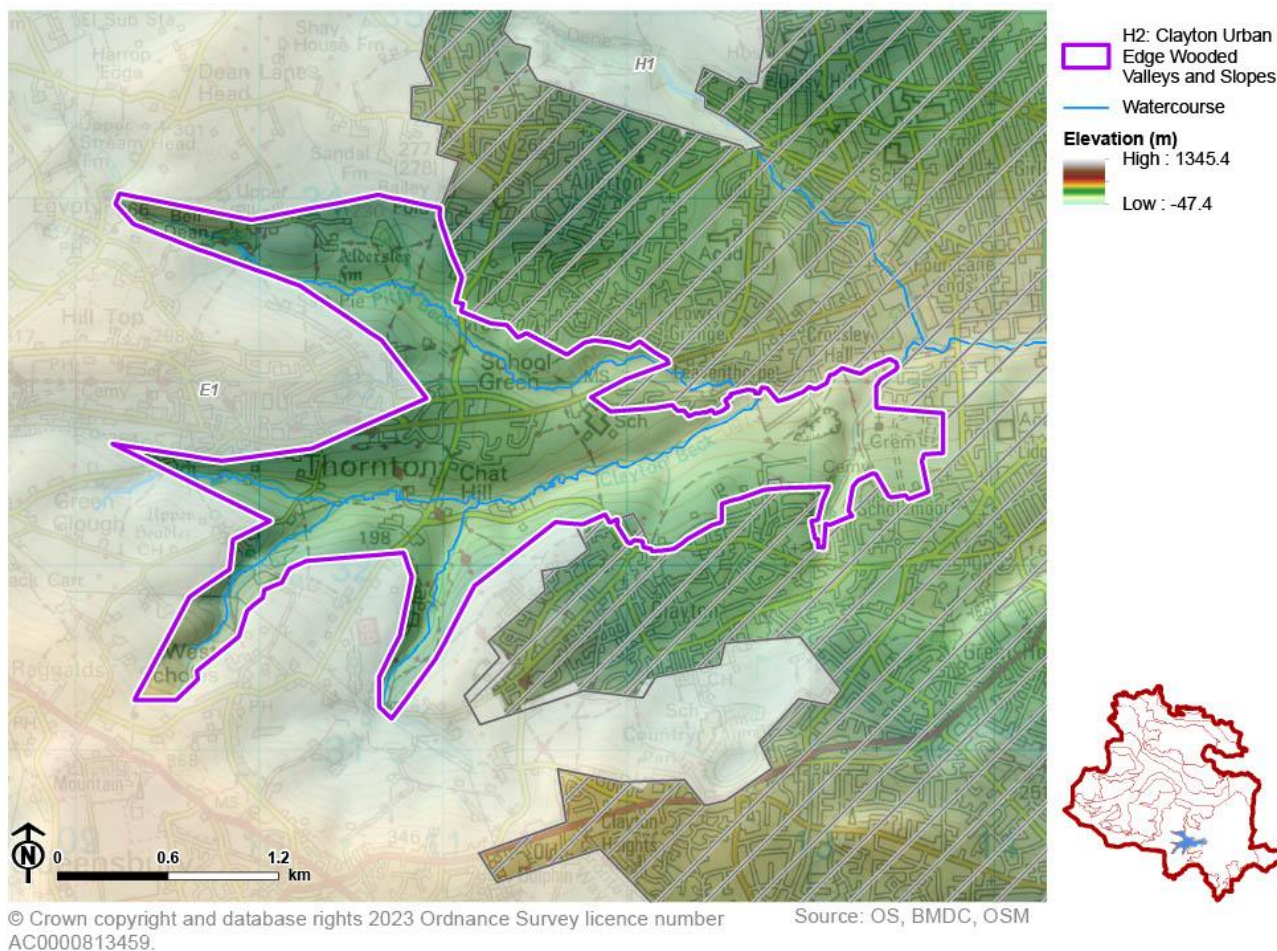
Horse pasture common throughout.



Church of St James key feature on skyline.

## Landscape Character

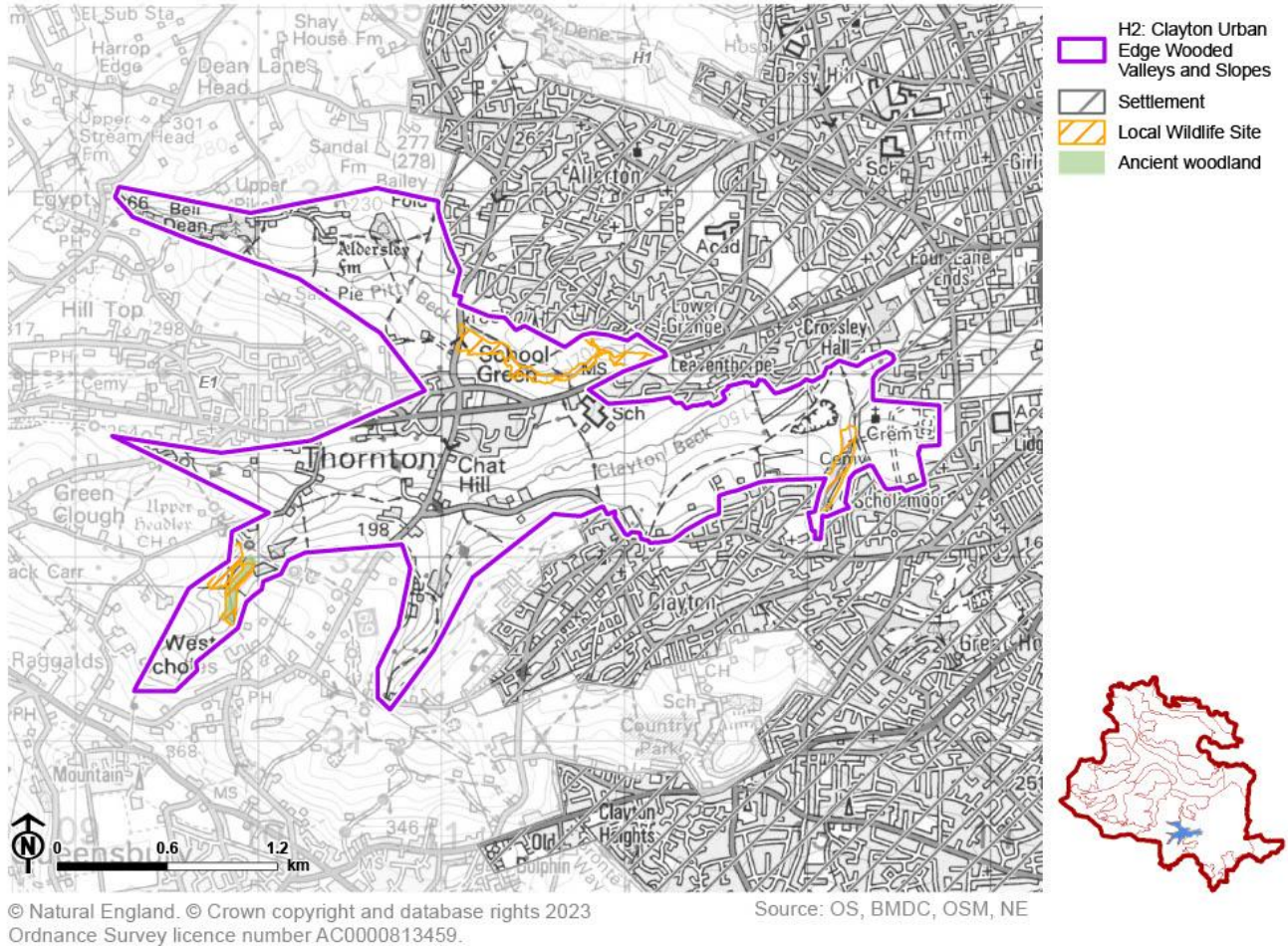
Figure 3.187: Topography of LCA H2



### Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology is primarily mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Formation and a combination of Elland Flag, 48 Yard Rock and 80 Yard Rock sandstone.
- There are occasional alluvial deposits along the area's watercourses as well as glacio-fluvial deposits in the Pitty Beck valley.
- The underlying geology and superficial deposits have resulted in low-fertility loamy and clayey soils, which are primarily freely draining, though in the valley head south of Thornton and along much of Pitty Beck the soils impede drainage and are seasonally wet.
- The topography is characterised by narrow, steep valleys which slope eastwards from the Thornton and Queensbury plateau from a high point of approximately 320m AOD to converge on the broader, shallow valley of Clayton Beck which descends to approximately 130m AOD at its eastern extents. A spur of landform on which the eastern extent of Thornton is situated divides the upper valleys of the Pitty Beck and Pinch Beck.

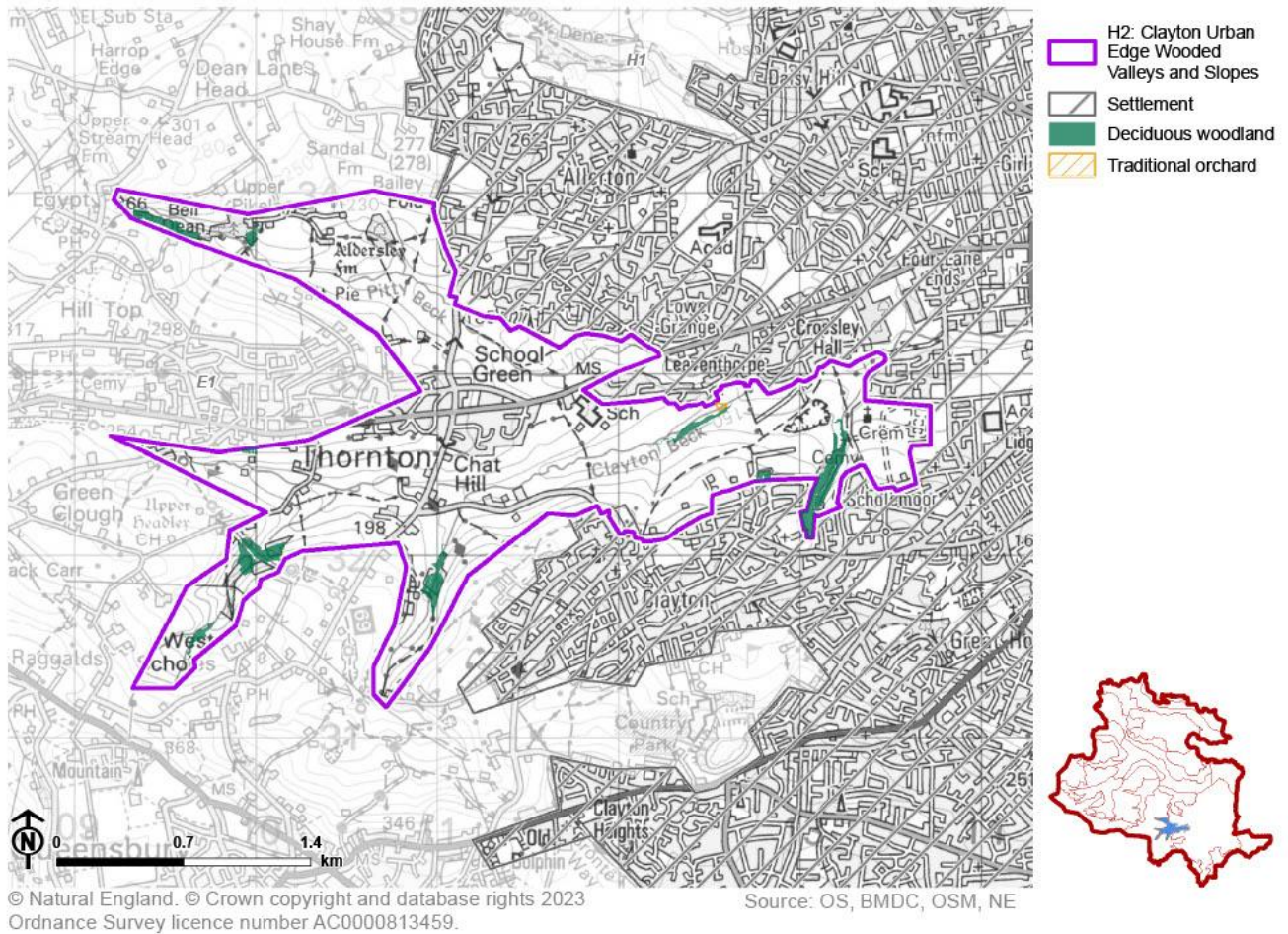
Figure 3.188: Natural heritage of LCA H2



### Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Semi-natural habitat is predominantly provided by broadleaf woodland blocks and tree belts throughout the area, in particular riparian woodland. There are limited substantial blocks of woodland, but tree cover is scattered throughout. Priority habitat for deciduous woodland tends to be concentrated in the steep furrows of the stream valleys upper extents.
- Notable areas of woodland include Bull Greave Beck in the east, Birks Wood in the west (which is recognised as Ancient Woodland) and Pitty Beck at Broom Hill, all of which have been designated as local wildlife sites. Bull Greave Beck and Pitty Beck have wetland habitats which support a range of wildlife.
- Over 60 species of birds have been recorded along the Pitty Beck valley, including finches and warblers, heathland scrub birds and waders.
- There is a small area of traditional orchard priority habitat adjacent to Clayton Beck, south of Leventhorpe.

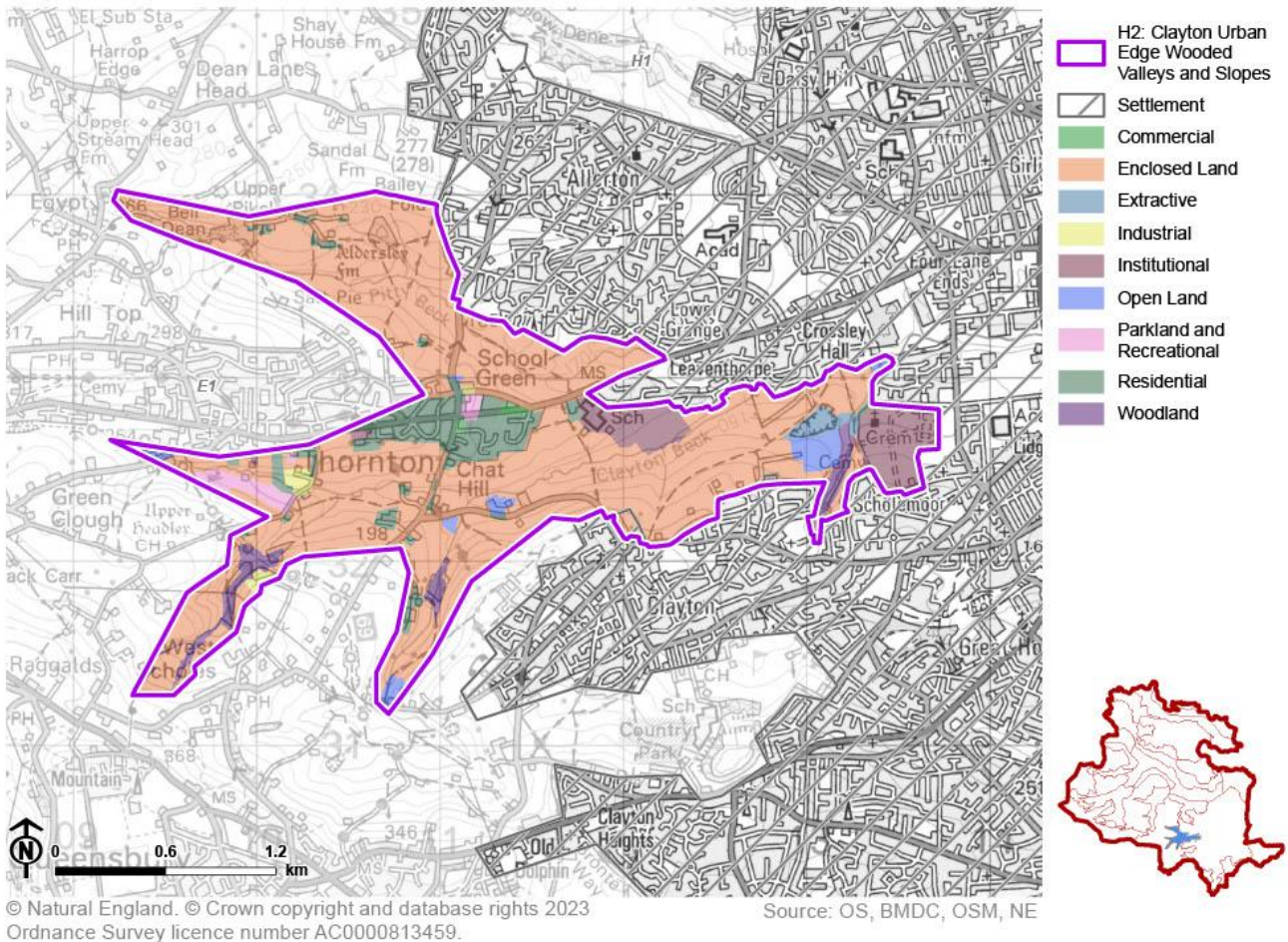
Figure 3.189: Priority habitat inventory of LCA H2



### Land Use and Field Patterns

- Agricultural land dominates the LCA in the form of improved grassland, reflecting the poor quality acidic soils. They are often heavily grazed, with little species diversity. Horse pasture is common throughout.
- Field patterns are generally small-medium scale and well-defined by drystone walls and occasional hedgerows, the latter more common at lower elevations. Rectilinear strip enclosure is present on the valley sides of Clayton Beck while in the steeper tributary valleys such as Pitty Beck and High Birks Beck piecemeal enclosure of former moorland has resulted in more irregular field patterns.
- There is a fairly high density of farms, most with 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century origins, for example Dye Royd Farm south of Thornton. These farmsteads are connected by a network of historic green lanes, many of which are not formal parts of the road network.

Figure 3.190: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA H2

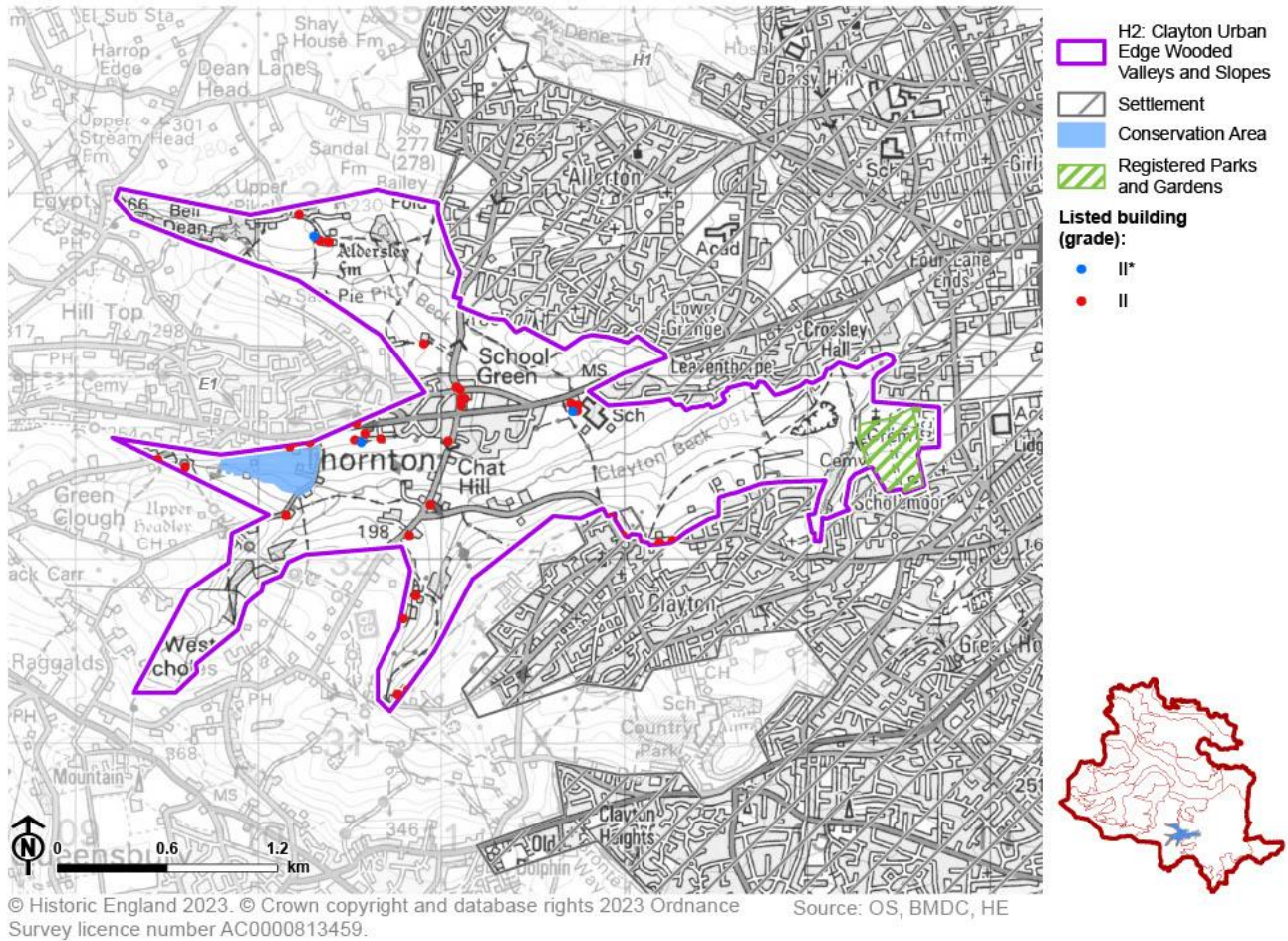


### Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- This rural area possesses a moderate sense of historic character due to the combination of distinctive, historic field patterns defined by traditional drystone walls and the presence of traditional vernacular farmsteads in sympathetic settings, such as the Grade II\* Listed Leventhorpe Hall and Grade II Listed Upper Green Farmhouse and Barn in the Pitty Beck valley.
- The LCA includes the southern half of the Thornton Conservation Area, consisting of a series of wooded ornamental gardens extending down the valley side towards Pinch Beck. Buildings at the southern edge of Thornton contribute to the historic character of the landscape, such as the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Grade II\* Listed Thornton Hall and the Grade II Listed Church of St James, which is a key feature in views from the Clayton Beck valley.
- A large, disused sandstone quarry in the east of the LCA serves as a reminder of the role that quarrying and extraction has played in shaping the landscape, with disused collieries and shafts scattered throughout.
- Other reminders of the area's industrial past include Thornton Viaduct which forms a prominent architectural feature as it crosses the head of Pinch Beck, and an ornate brick chimney stack on the valley side above Hole Bottom Beck, a remnant of the Clayton Fireclay Works.
- The large Scholemoor Cemetery at the eastern edge of the LCA is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. Mature trees line its central avenue and its boundary, which merges with the heavily wooded Bull Greave Beck immediately to the west.

- Thornton has literary associations as the birthplace of the Brontë sisters, whose father, Rev Patrick Brontë became the incumbent of St James Chapel in 1815. Now known as the 'Old Bell Chapel', the ruins of the chapel are a Grade II Listed Building.
- Undeveloped areas, particularly permanent pasture and moorland, may contain significant subsurface archaeological remains that are well-preserved due to a lack of modern disturbance or truncation.

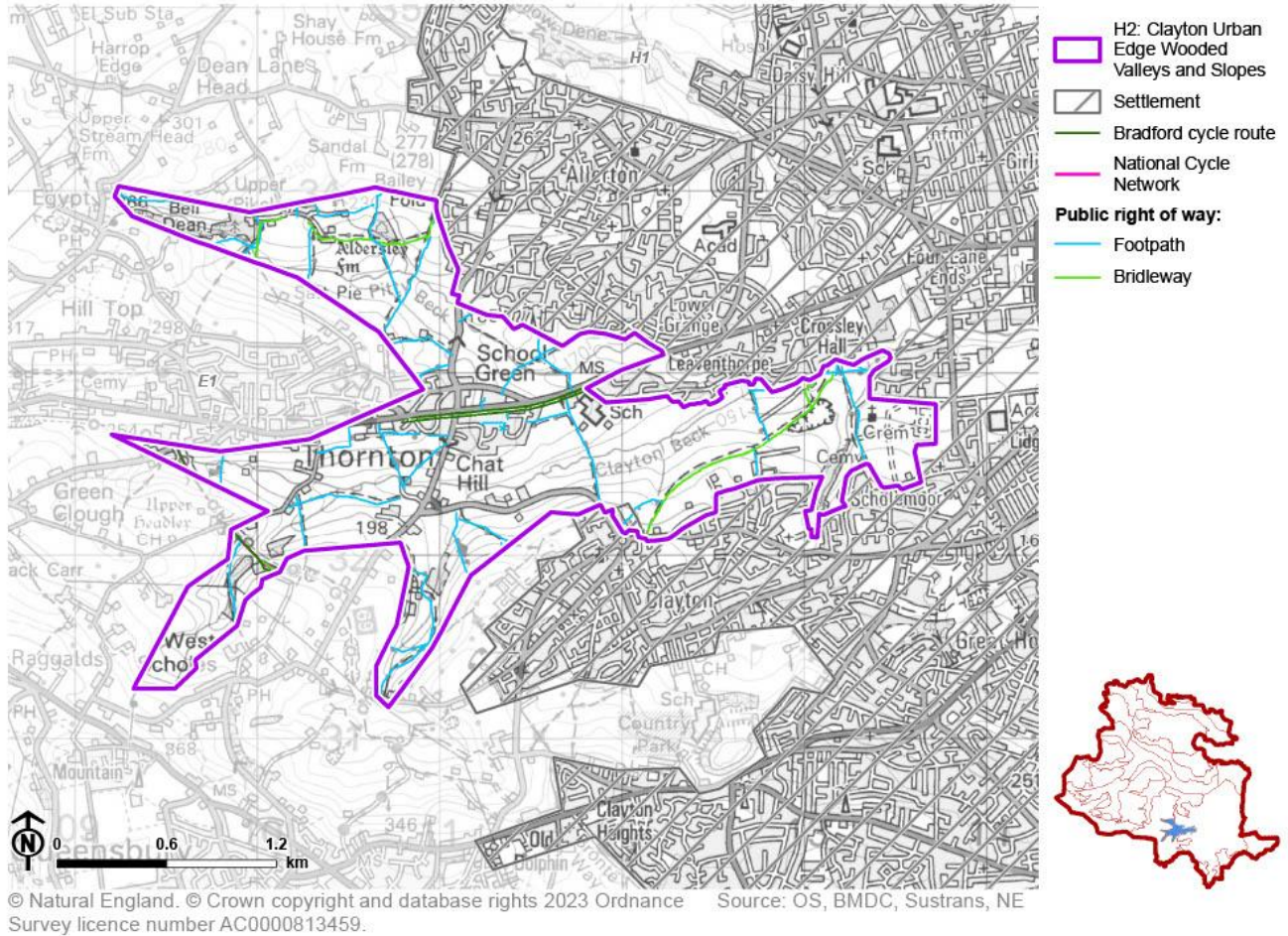
Figure 3.191: Cultural heritage of LCA H2



### Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The relatively complex landform and steep valley sides have limited settlement across the LCA, providing a break between the urban sprawl of Bradford and historically rural settlements such as Thornton.
- With the exception of Chat Hill and School Green which form the eastern extent of Thornton, settlement across the area is limited to occasional farmsteads scattered throughout pastoral land.
- A limited network of roads converges on the edge of Thornton, linking the surrounding settlements of Allerton, Thornton and Clayton. The busiest road in the area is Thornton Road (B6145) which travels west from Bradford, between the Pitty Beck and Clayton Beck valleys.

Figure 3.192: Access and recreation of LCA H2



### Access and Recreation

- An extensive public rights of way network provides access from Thornton and the edge of Bradford to the area's pasture lands and wooded valleys, some of which are designated as local wildlife sites. The right of way and lane network is historic and links traditional farmsteads throughout the landscape. Routes along Deep Lane (Clayton) and Pity Beck are popular with walkers.
- The Brontë Way long distance walking route crosses the valley of the Clayton Beck, passing the Ruins of the Chapel of St James.
- The Great Northern Railway Trail and National Cycle Route 69 cross over Thornton Viaduct. When completed, the Great Northern Railway Trail will extend 10km between Cullingworth and Queensbury.
- A number of recreational playing fields are located adjacent to Beckfoot Thornton School, with fine views over the Clayton Beck valley.

### Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Despite its proximity to Bradford, the small valleys, field patterns and gritstone walls of traditional pasture all contribute to a sense that the area retains its rural character, distinct from the exposed plateau to the west and the urban core to the east.
- In the Clayton Beck valley, the overriding impression is of open, sloping fields and riparian woodland charting the course of Clayton Beck. The spire of St James' Church and Thornton Viaduct form notable architectural features in the landscape.

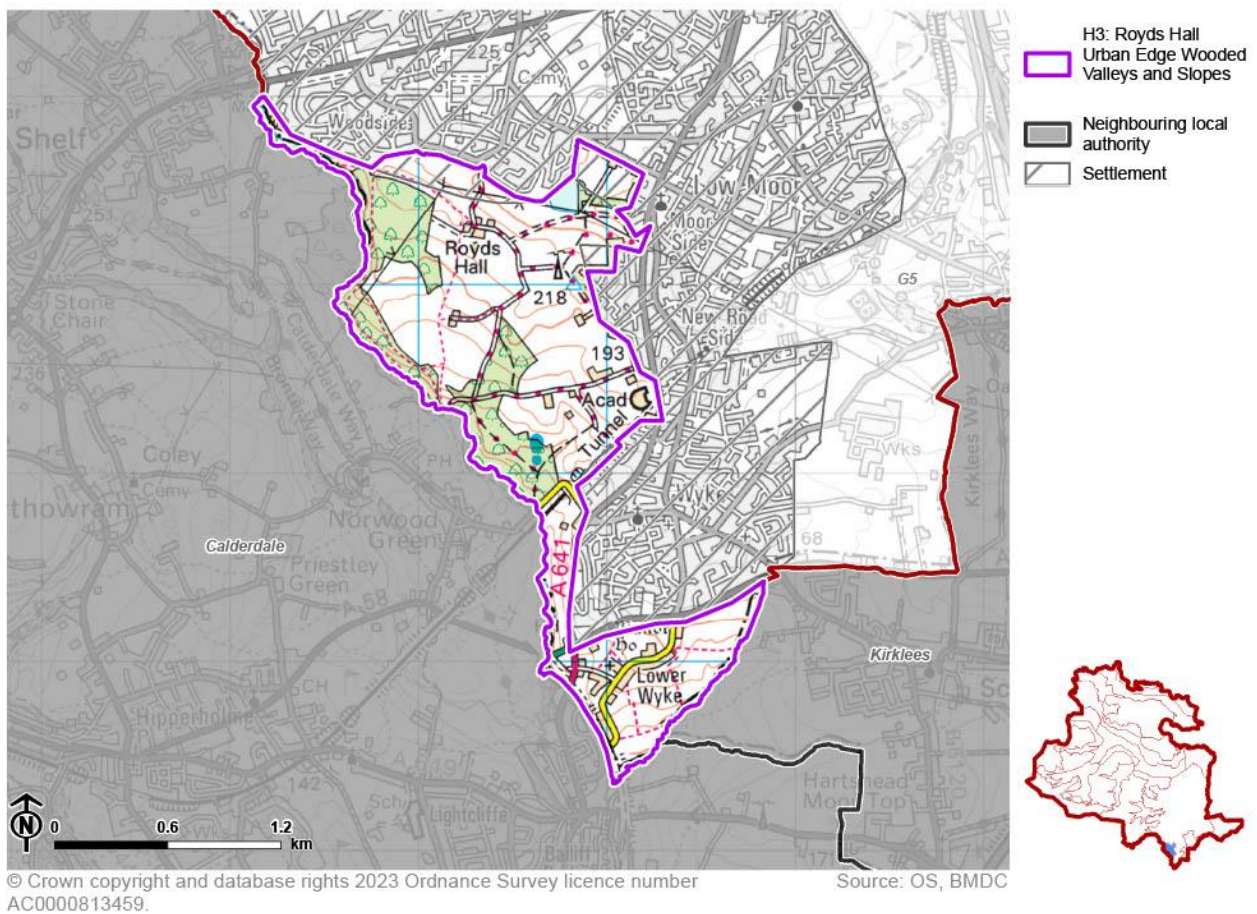
- In views to the west, large pylons and wind turbines in the E1: Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden Mixed Upland Pasture LCA form prominent vertical features on the skyline.
- The steeper, wooded tributary valleys such as Pitty Beck, High Birks Beck and Hole Bottom Beck have a more intimate, enclosed character than Clayton Beck. A sense of tranquillity is greatest in these valleys, relatively sequestered from surrounding settlement and the busy Thornton Road (B6145).
- Dark skies are limited due to the proximity of the area to Bradford.

### H3. Royds Hall Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

#### Location, Context and Summary

The Royds Hall Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes comprises the heavily wooded eastern side of Royds Hall Beck Valley and adjacent farmland at the south western corner of Bradford. The area encompasses higher ground to the east both of the Coley Beck valley and the settlement of Norwood Green in neighbouring Calderdale. The long wooded valley of Royds Hall Beck dominates the area. Long distance views are generally available beyond the woodland fringe to Calderdale from the elevated valley sides. At Lower Wyke, woodland cover is less dominant and largely confined to field boundaries, ceding to enclosed pasture. This area reflects a shift in landscape character, transitioning from the more exposed character of the Bradford District into the lower lying, deeply incised fringes of the Calderdale Valley.

Figure 3.193: Location of LCA H3



### Key Characteristics

- Sloping north to south, the landscape is bounded to the west by the incised river valley of Royds Hall Beck, providing an important rural fringe to Bradford.
- Acidic, low-fertility soil and steep slopes has restricted farming to pockets of enclosed pasture.
- Well defined piecemeal enclosure surrounding Lower Wyke Conservation Area provides a sense of time-depth and provides a rural setting for the medieval farming settlement.
- Royds Hall Manor House has played an important role in shaping the physical and cultural landscape. Its former grounds were subject to piecemeal enclosure and in the Victorian era its woodlands were landscaped as public gardens.
- The large area of deciduous woodland along Royds Hall Beck (referred to as Judy Woods) provides valuable semi-natural habitat and has high recreational value.
- With the exception of Lower Wyke, the area contains no settlements, with just a few scattered farmstead buildings, but it shares a boundary with the Bradford urban fringe which influences the wider character.
- There is a limited road network, with only a few minor roads providing local access. Major roads skirt the area, including the A58 which briefly passes through Lower Wyke.
- A connected network of public rights of way and lanes traverses the area's woodland, parkland and pasture, providing access from surrounding settlements such as Low Moor and Wyke into the rural fringe landscape.
- Long range views towards Calderdale from higher elevations, often framed by Judy Woods which forms a distinctive and important green edge to the district boundary.
- Tranquillity and dark skies are limited due to the proximity of Bradford.

Figure 3.194: Example photos from LCA H3



Pastoral fields standing above Royds Hall Beck and Judy Woods.



Close association with urban edge.



Rural character remains around Royds Hall Manor House and farm.



Park Dam and the urban edge of Low Moor.



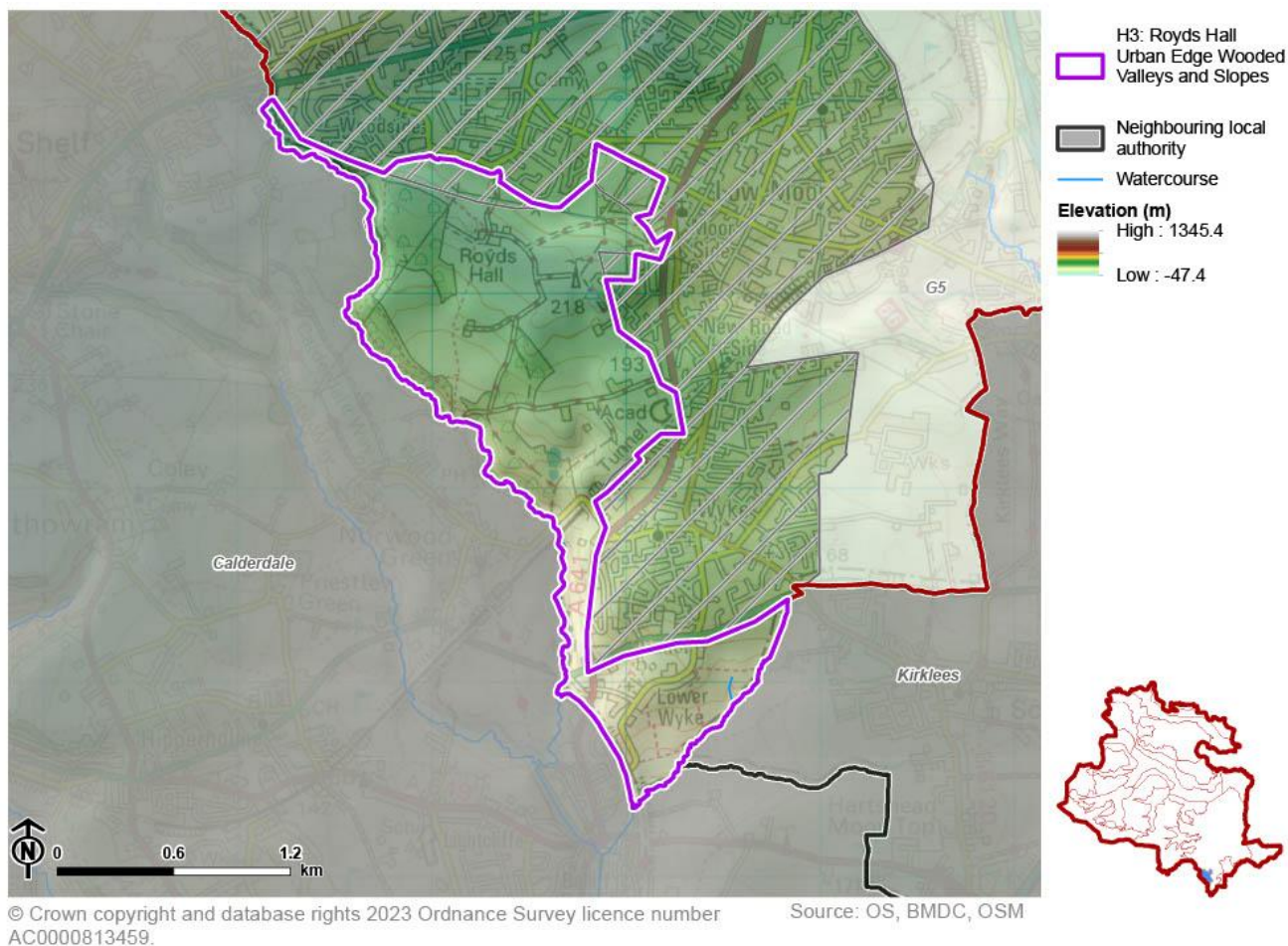
Sense of elevation above Calderdale District to the south west.



Pylons and the urban fringe of Bradford influence wider character.

## Landscape Character

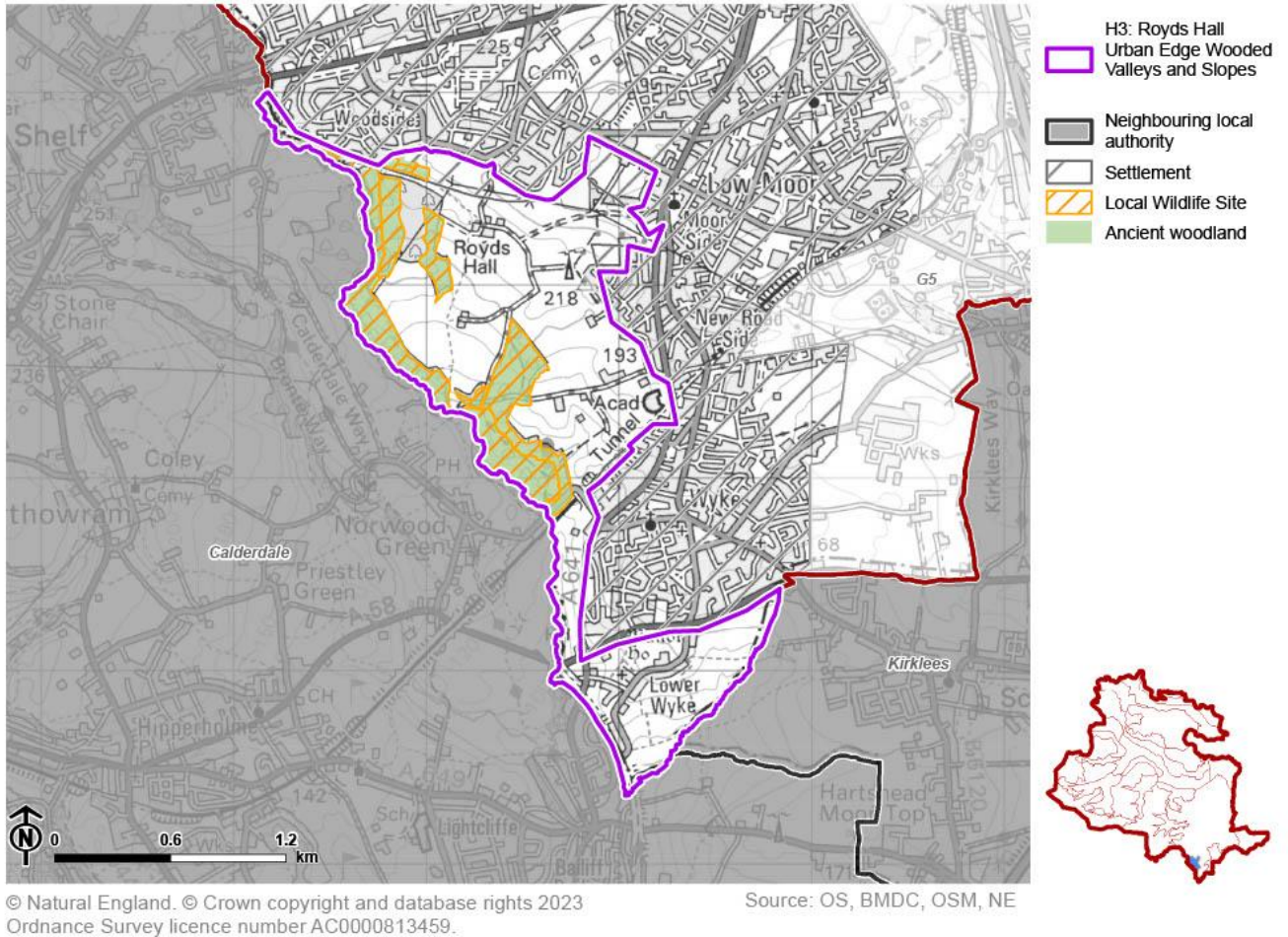
Figure 3.195: Topography of LCA H3



### 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. Ironstone nodules are found within the bedrock. The underlying coal measure geology has informed a different character to much of the wider Bradford District which is predominantly gritstone.
- 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 a smaller area of freely draining loamy soil in the vicinity of Royds Hall.
- There is a small area of soft landslip adjacent to Royds Hall Beck and close to Royds Hall Great Wood.
- Royds Hall Beck flows north to south along an incised wooded valley at the western edge of the area. The stream has eroded a small gorge and a waterfall has formed where harder sandstones overlay softer rock. Wyke Beck and some other minor watercourses are present in the south of the area. Royds Hall Dam forms the only large body of water.
- The landform broadly dips north to south from a high point of approximately 226m AOD at Royds Hall Great Wood to a low point of approximately 100m south of Lower Wyke.

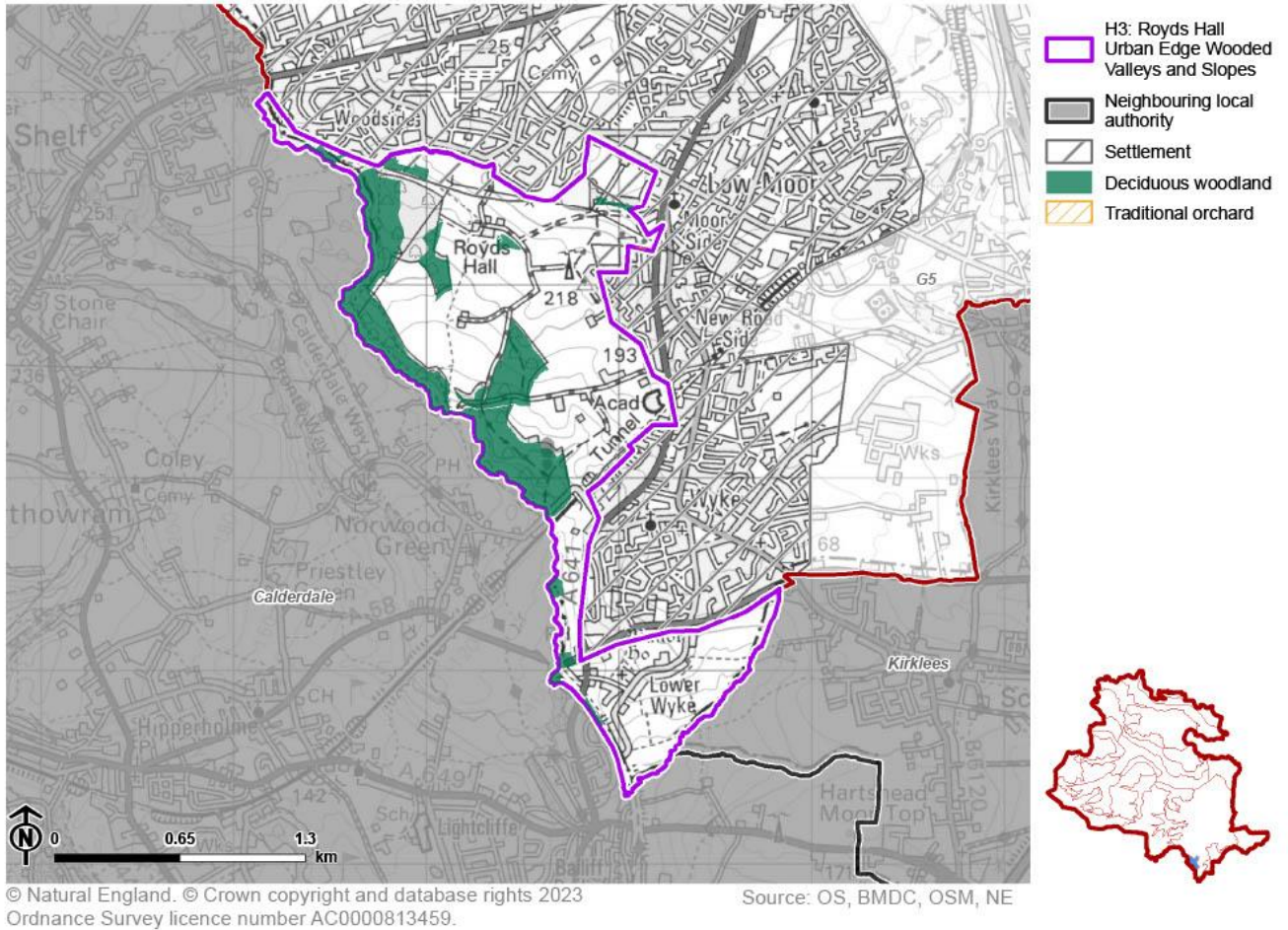
Figure 3.196: Natural heritage of LCA H3



### Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- There is some significant woodland cover in the area, mainly focused around the incised lower valley sides of Royds Hall Beck. The woodland is known collectively as Judy Woods and includes North Brow Wood, Royds Hall Great Wood, Jagger Park Wood, Gannerthorpe Wood, Old Hanna Wood and Low Wood. The entirety is classed as Ancient Woodland and Priority Habitat and has been designated as a local wildlife site (Judy Woods and Judy Woods Complex).
- These woodlands, most of which were probably re-planted during the Victorian era, consist mainly of deciduous species, including large areas of beech and sycamore woodland within Low Wood. The tree cover is generally dense and the woodland consequently has well defined edges due to their even age structure.
- Judy Woods provides important semi-natural habitat. Four species of bats have been recorded in the woods, as well as a variety of bird species, including the green and greater spotted woodpecker, jackdaw, nuthatch, tawny owl, and seasonal visitors such as chiffchaff, willow warbler and blackcap.

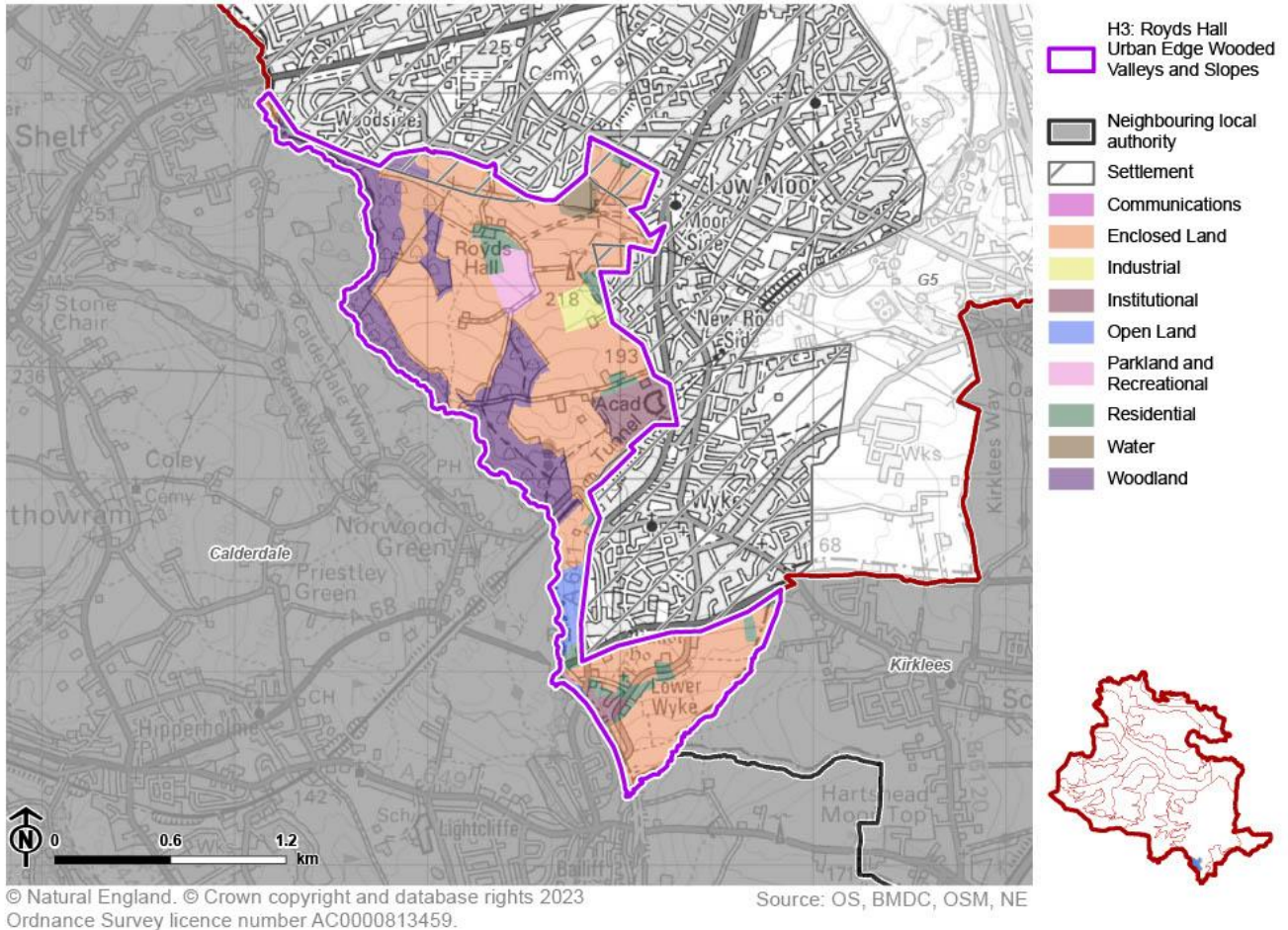
Figure 3.197: Priority habitat inventory of LCA H3



### Land Use and Field Patterns

- Land use comprises a combination of woodland, parkland and some areas of enclosed pasture, the most significant being at Lower Wyke.
- Field patterns around Royds Hall are a result of assarted and piecemeal enclosure, some of which formerly constituted the private grounds of the Hall. Some boundary loss has occurred resulting in larger fields. An area of enclosed pasture at Lower Wyke is more coherent, with a smaller scale field pattern and little boundary loss since piecemeal enclosure. Boundaries are defined by drystone walls and or/hedgerows, which tend to be sparse and are often reinforced by post and wire fencing.
- The grasslands in the area are agriculturally improved and have little ecological value. Silage crops are taken off the grasslands around Royds Hall. Much of the enclosed pasture is grazed, mainly by cattle. Livery stables are also a feature.

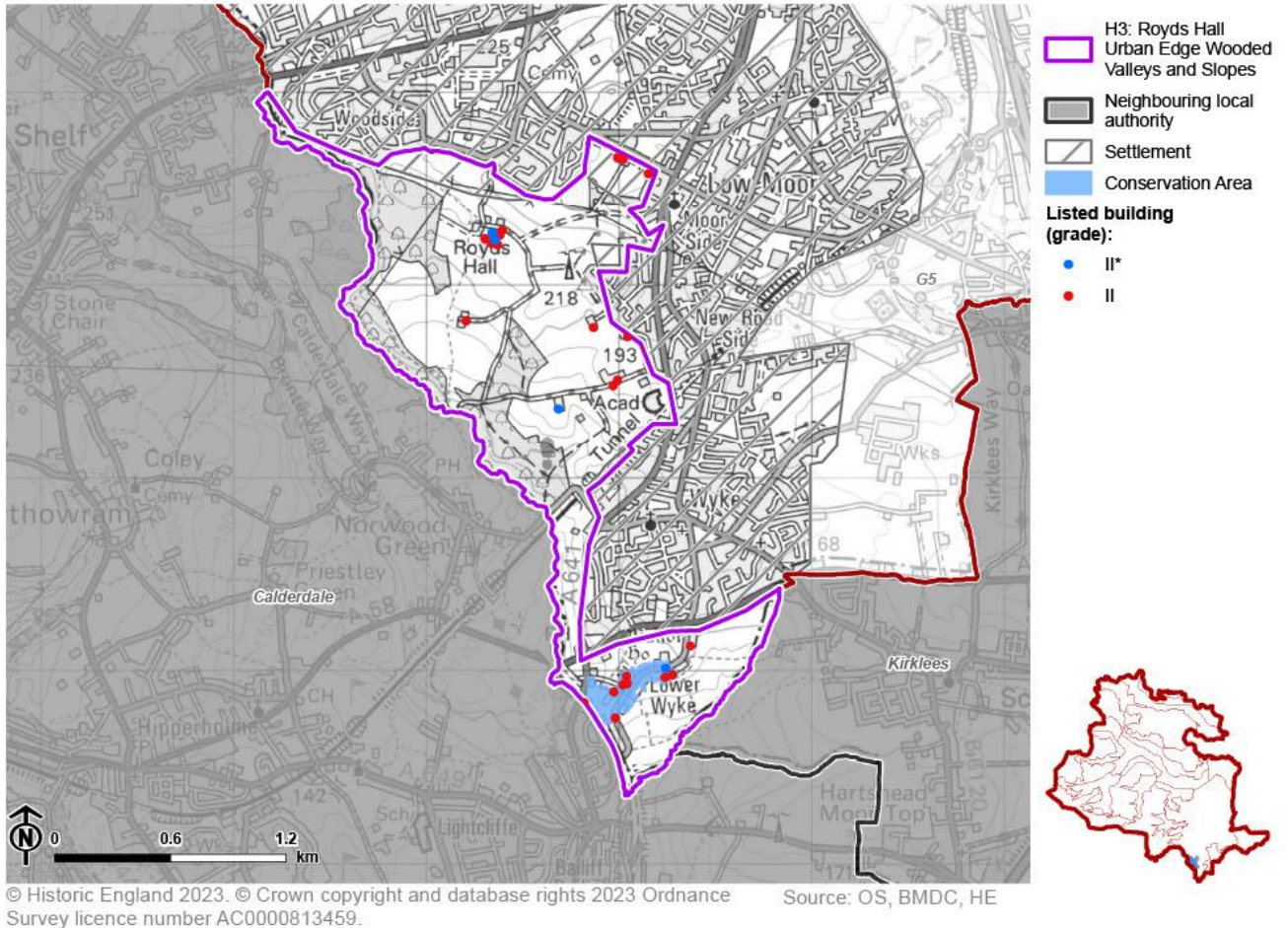
Figure 3.198: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA H3



### Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The Grade II\* Listed Royds Hall originates from 1640 and is one of the best surviving manor houses in the Bradford area. The Low Moor Iron Company bought the estate during the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it became the residence of their Chief Technologist, Rev Joseph Dawson, until his death in 1813. The estate, Royds Hall Farm, also includes stables, coach house, barn and late 18<sup>th</sup> century court room as well as estate cottages know as Horse Close to the south of the Hall.
- In the Victorian era the woodlands around Royds Hall Beck were landscaped for use as public gardens and planted with beech trees, which still make up much of the woodlands composition today.
- Coal was mined for centuries around Royds Hall Beck and remains of bell pits can be found nearby. There are also scattered areas of collier spoil, two disused railway sidings and the site of an old ironworks. Iron smelting was an important local industry.
- Lower Wyke Conservation Area is located amongst the enclosed pasture in the south of the LCA and includes the Grade II\* Listed Old Manor House on Lower Wyke Lane.
- Undeveloped areas, particularly permanent pasture and moorland, may contain significant subsurface archaeological remains that are well-preserved due to a lack of modern disturbance or truncation.

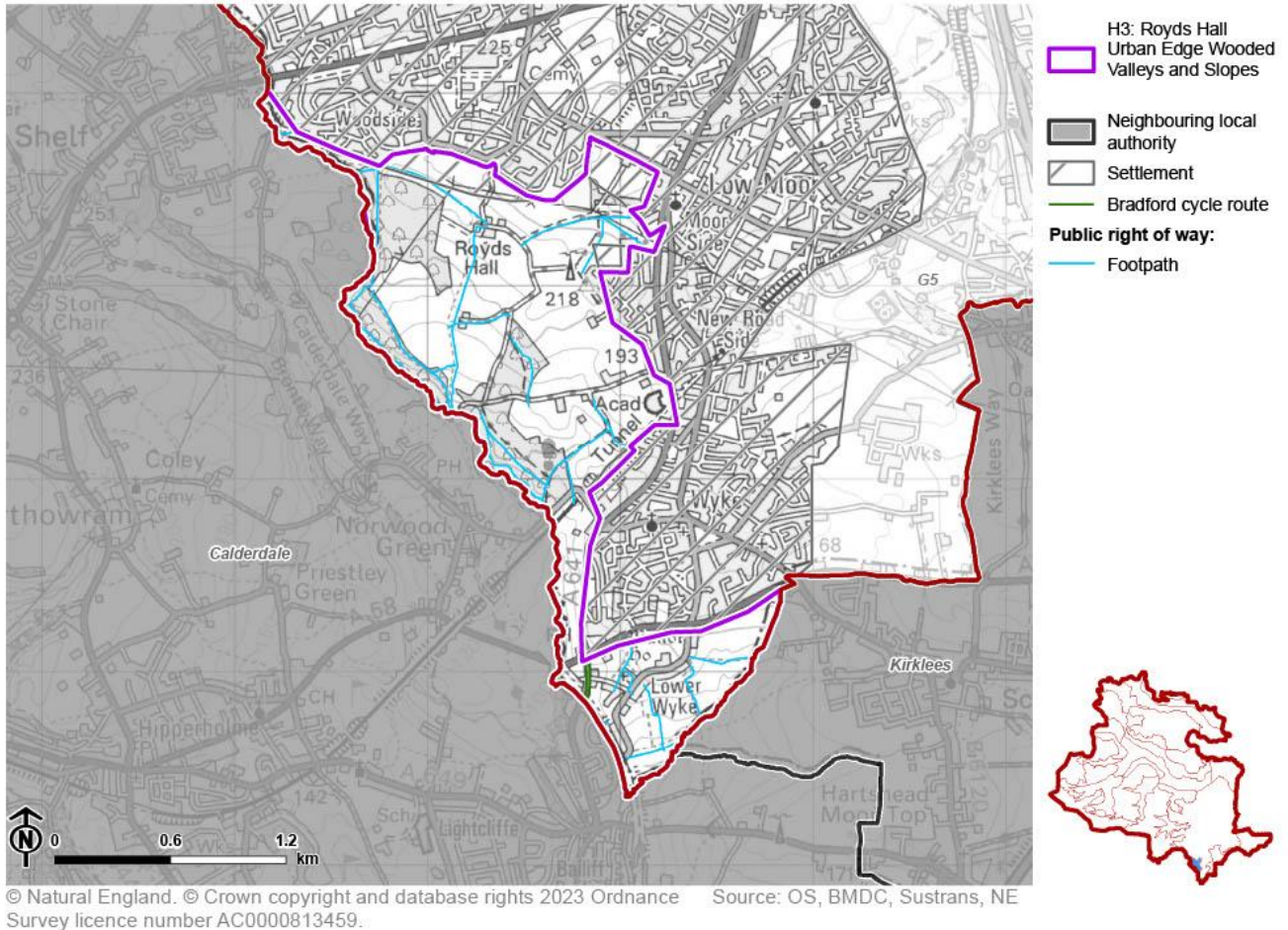
Figure 3.199: Cultural heritage of LCA H3



### Settlement and Transport Pattern

- There is limited settlement within the LCA, although the urban edge of Bradford is a dominant feature in the east of the area. There are occasional farmsteads in the pasture land east of Judy Woods including Woodside Farm.
- The village of Lower Wyke is the only distinct settlement within the LCA. Due to the traditional architecture, organic development pattern, wooded lanes and gardens, it is well integrated into the surrounding landscape of enclosed pasture.
- Due to the relatively continuous areas of woodland, recreational parkland and pasture, the road network is limited, with only a few minor roads providing local access. The A641 and A58 which fringe Wyke pass briefly through the south of the LCA as does the Calder Valley Railway Line.

Figure 3.200: Access and recreation of LCA H3



### Access and Recreation

- A connected network of public rights of way and lanes traverses the area's woodland, parkland and pasture, providing access from surrounding neighbourhoods within Bradford such as Low Moor and Wyke into the wider landscape.
- Judy Woods is very well used for walking and other informal recreation. It is owned and managed by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, and a community group established in 2002, The Friends of Judy Woods, promotes public interest, responsible use and conservation of the woods.
- Royds Hall Dam is a recreational fishing lake, with access administered via the Bradford Angling Association.

### Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The sloping landform in the LCA means that views are generally oriented away from Bradford into neighbouring Calderdale.
- In the wooded parts of the LCA such as Judy Woods, views are very enclosed and result in a perception of intimacy and enclosure.
- In external views, Judy Woods comprises a narrow uneven woodland strip forming a distinctive and important green edge to the district boundary, which is highly visible from the surrounding area. The woodland often frames outward long range views across Calderdale from higher elevations such as High Fernley Road.

- Around Lower Wyke, the well-defined pasture fields with grazing cattle, woodland, and traditional architecture in the village contribute to a rural scene that belies its proximity to Bradford.
- Due to the proximity of the LCA to Bradford night blight is fairly widespread though some darker skies are available in the vicinity of Judy Woods. Tranquillity is also limited due to the proximity of settlement and transport corridors and is highest in and around Judy Woods.

## Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT H: Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

### Climate Change

- Climate change is expected to result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall, potentially causing flooding issues particularly within the narrow valleys.
- The becks which traverse this LCT although small, are a key part of the character of the area, supporting belts of riparian vegetation. Climate change is anticipated to increase periods of drought in summer months, which may result in lower water levels and damage riparian vegetation.
  - H1: Woodland vegetation concentrated along small becks at Northcliffe Woods, Heaton Royds and Chellow Dene.
  - H3: Judy Woods close to Royds Hall Beck.

### Agricultural Change

- Changes in agricultural subsidies will have uncertain impacts on agriculture within this LCT. The effects could include reducing the presence of traditional characteristic drystone walls if funding for their maintenance is reduced.
- Intensive horse grazing on the urban edge has caused poaching and soil compaction. Increasing development and population could push grazing closer to river edges, damaging riverbanks and increasing sedimentation in water courses.
  - H2: Clayton Beck and Pitty Beck have a lack of riparian vegetation to buffer the rivers from erosion.

### Development

- The proximity to Bradford increases the pressure for development within this LCT. This includes residential, industrial and road infrastructure.
- New development could impact on areas of accessible greenspace close to the large urban settlement of Bradford which offer recreational value, as well as key views to and from historic and designated features.
  - H1: Development on Nab Wood Middle School informal greenspace site.
  - H1: New developments along the eastern edge of Cottingley may potentially impact on important views to and from the WHS.
- Some existing settlements retain the sense of separation from the expanding conurbation of Bradford, with open landscape enhancing this sense of separation. Development could reduce these important open gaps.
  - H1: The south eastern flank of Cottingley Beck separates Cottingley from the north western expansion to Heaton and Daisy Hill on the northern edge of Bradford.
  - H2: Thornton is on more elevated landform perched above the valleys of Clayton Beck and Pitty Beck.
  - H3: Lower Wyke is currently well integrated into the landscape by trees.

### Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- 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.
- Habitat connectivity along water courses could be impacted by a general trend of deteriorating river condition in England. These river courses are important for retaining biodiversity close to the city.
  - H1: Cottingley Beck and small becks around Chellow Dene, Royds Cliffe Wood and Northcliffe Woods.
  - H2: Pitty Beck and Clayton Beck.
  - H3: Royds Hall Beck forming the western border of the LCA.

- Increase in tree planting could obscure characteristic pattern of drystone walls on higher ground.
- Increasing development, including creation of roads, could impact on remaining natural habitats and connectivity, particularly across the deciduous woodland within this LCT.
  - H1: Connectivity between Royds Cliffe Woods and Northcliffe Woods, and towards Chellow Dene further west.
  - H3: Continuous extent of woodland at Judy Woods.

### Heritage at Risk

- Thornton Conservation Area is on the Heritage at Risk Register, where it is identified as being in a 'very bad' condition and 'deteriorating'.

### Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Increased pressure on recreational assets close to the larger settlements could impact the diversity and quality of landscapes.
  - H3: Recreation pressure on Judy Woods.
- Increased popularity of 'wild swimming' resulting in increased use of reservoirs for this purpose.
  - H1: Chellow Dene Reservoirs have become a valued spot for wild swimming, despite prohibition of swimming in the reservoirs.

### Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- Enclosed woodland with limited sightlines and close to more populated areas could become sites of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping, reducing their recreational role. In addition, recreational sites are often managed by 'Friends of' groups which can be an uncertain type of management over the long term.
  - H1: Friends of Northcliffe and Friends of Chellow Dean undertake management including litter picks and emptying bins.
  - H3: Friends of Judy Woods is already affected by rubbish dumping and vandalism of drystone walls. Whilst the active 'Friends of' group deal with these issues, this type of management is not secured over the long term.

### Guidance

- Encourage 'slow-the-flow' natural flood management techniques, particularly within the steep-sided river valleys, to reduce flood risk and enhance natural habitats.
- Enhance native riparian vegetation, including with drought tolerant species, natural grassland and rushes.
  - H2: Create vegetation buffers along Clayton and Pitty Becks.
- Manage extent of horse pasture and grazing, particularly on steep slopes.
- Conserve and enhance the characteristic field pattern and retain and repair drystone walls, in the local style and with local material.
- Integrate native tree species and woodland areas within new development to provide connectivity and integrate development into the landscape.
- Avoid development within river valleys, which form linear natural corridors separating the sprawling urban development.
  - H2: Around Thornton is particularly sensitive due to the conservation area designation.
- Assess the archaeological potential (including through consultation with the Historic Environment Record) of developed and undeveloped land particularly in relation to the risks posed by any proposed development schemes or environmental mitigation strategies.

- Support community involvement in management of woodland sites to ensure longevity of management and resilience to cope within increasing visitor numbers.
- If demand for golf courses reduces, consider exploring opportunities for bringing these into public ownership, increasing accessible open spaces within proximity to Bradford.

## Principles Applying to Open Landscape within Urban Areas

**3.2** Within the urban area of the City of Bradford there are open landscapes which have been preserved from development for various reasons. These landscapes are important in separating different localities; maintaining the identity of historic villages or hamlets which have been absorbed into the urban area; and providing a range of health and well-being benefits to local residents.

**3.3** These large areas should be treated as potentially valuable areas of distinct landscape character in their own right. Their character is not of lesser value due to being surrounded by built form. The LCAs within LCT H: Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes have key qualities in common with these swathes of open landscape albeit the swathes within the urban area are entirely landlocked by urban development. LCT H comprises a series of valleys which extend into the urban area of Bradford and are often largely surrounded by development, providing easy access to substantial open green space. Their open character should be respected and factored into conservation, management and development decisions.

### Open Landscape in Urban Area Example: Idle Hill, Wrose Hill and Gaisby Hill

**3.4** An example of a large swathe of open landscape within the city of Bradford is the wider area around Idle Hill, Wrose Hill and Gaisby Hill. Forming part of the southern valley side of the Airedale Valley, this area consists of a mix of steep slopes, belts of deciduous woodland and a field pattern of surveyed and piecemeal enclosure. It provides a recreational asset to the surrounding residential area and breaks up the wider urban form. It is prominent in views from the northern side of the Airedale Valley.

Figure 3.201: Example photos from Idle Hill, Wrose Hill and Gaisby Hill



Pylons and mast at Idle Hill.



Network of PRoW across the wooded slopes.



Elevated views towards urban form of Bradford.



Some vernacular properties enhance the rural qualities.