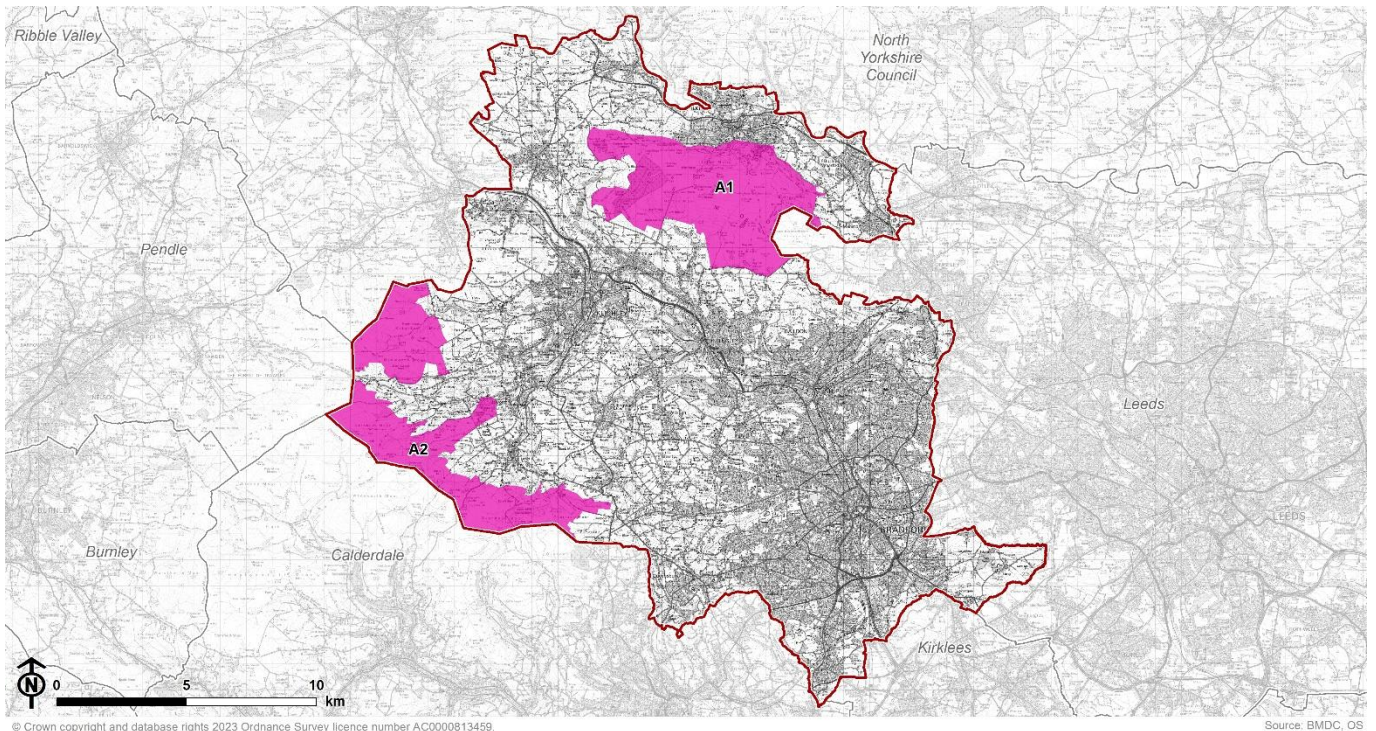


Chapter 3

Landscape Types and Area Profiles

Landscape Character Type A: Moorland Plateau

Figure 3.1: Location of the Moorland Plateau



LCT A Overview

The Moorland Plateau landscape character type comprises large, elevated plateaus in the north and west of the district, generally located between 300m AOD and 450m AOD. Defined by an underlying Millstone Grit geology, visually prominent, undulating landforms with steeply sloping sides of exposed gritstone and crag outcrops create a dramatic backdrop to the open landscape. Vegetation within this character type is consistent across the dispersed LCAs, and mainly comprises heather, moorland grasses and bracken. The elevated plateaus and low growing vegetation result in a visually open character, with expansive views across the district and to the Nidderdale National Landscape in the north. Few watercourses are found across this character type, except for small stream tributaries flowing down towards the Rivers Aire and Wharfe. There is little to no settlement within this character type, however a strong network of public rights of way criss-cross the plateaus and connect down into the settled valleys.

There are two LCAs within this LCT:

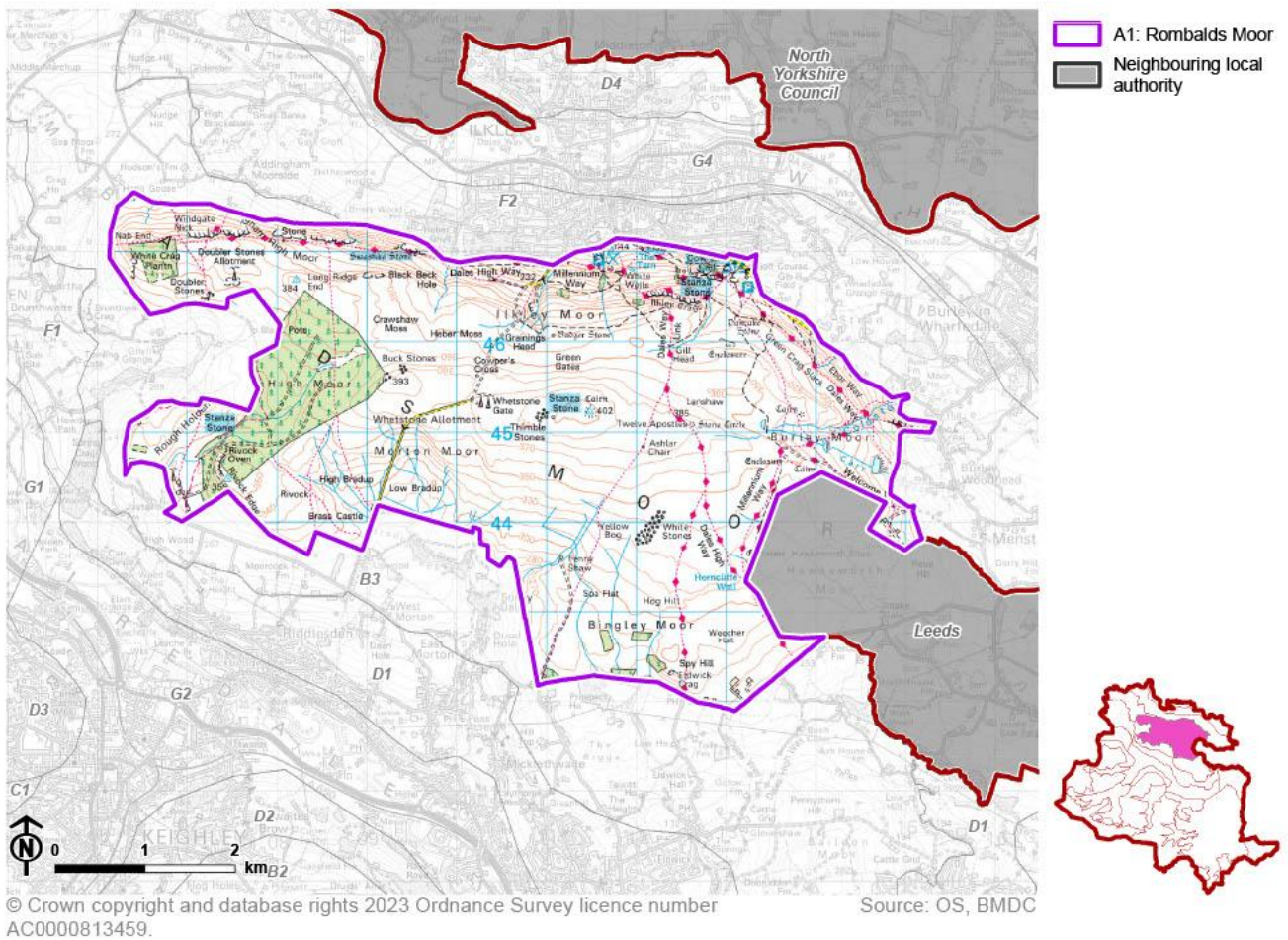
- A1: Rombalds Moor
- A2: Haworth Moorland Plateau

A1. Rombalds Moor

Location, Context and Summary

The Rombalds Moor LCA consists of an elevated upland plateau covering approximately 90 square kilometres. It is situated between the River Aire in the south and River Wharfe in the north. The plateau encompasses the northernmost high point within the district, and steep slopes descend from the plateau on all sides, creating a clear transition to the surrounding areas. Intermittent blocks of forestry and drystone enclosed pasture fields on these descending slopes contrast against the elevated undulating landform and unbroken stretches of moorland. These highlight the distinct differences in between the character of the upland plateau and the surrounding valley sides, and reinforce the boundary to the adjacent landscape types.

Figure 3.2: Location of LCA A1



Key Characteristics

- Glacial processes and subsequent fluvial erosion have created a large, elevated landform between Airedale and Wharfedale valleys to the north and south, with rocky outcrops along the fringes.
- Acidic, low fertility soils and the elevated, broad topography have resulted in a remote and open landscape, with expansive views across the surrounding valleys.
- Across the upper reaches of the plateau the field pattern is largely unenclosed common land, but transitions into large, irregular fields defined by relatively intact drystone walls further down the slopes.
- Vegetation across the LCA generally consists of large mosaics of heather, moorland grasses, blanket bog, and bracken which is uniform in its low profile and provides good habitat for ground breeding birds, leading to its designation as part of the South Pennine Moors Special Protection Area (SPA)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- The moorland plateau is rich with evidence of the prehistoric human settlement, with numerous examples of Neolithic carved rocks (eg cup and ring marked boulders), and evidence of settlement boundaries.
- Woodland across the LCA is limited and contained within conifer plantations on falling slopes to the south and west.
- Sparse remnants of industrial heritage can be found on slopes to the north and east at dams and reservoirs, and now defunct quarries at Hanging Stones, Graining Head Quarries, and smaller scattered extraction sites across the LCA. Peat extraction areas have also been found in the boggy areas at Hollins Hall.
- Settlement is sparse and contained along the northern edge of the LCA in proximity to Ilkley and Burley in Wharfedale.
- The elevated landform affords panoramic views across the surrounding valleys and countryside, including north to the Nidderdale National Landscape, with views unobstructed by topography or vegetation.
- Uniformity in topography, vegetation, and landscape elements across the plateau contributes to the wild upland character and a sense of place that is distinct from the wider district.
- Variation in rock formations, vegetation and field enclosures are present along the edges of the LCA, introducing smaller-scale elements and forming the transition zone to adjacent character types.

Figure 3.3: Example photos from LCA A1



Panoramic views across the settled valleys below.



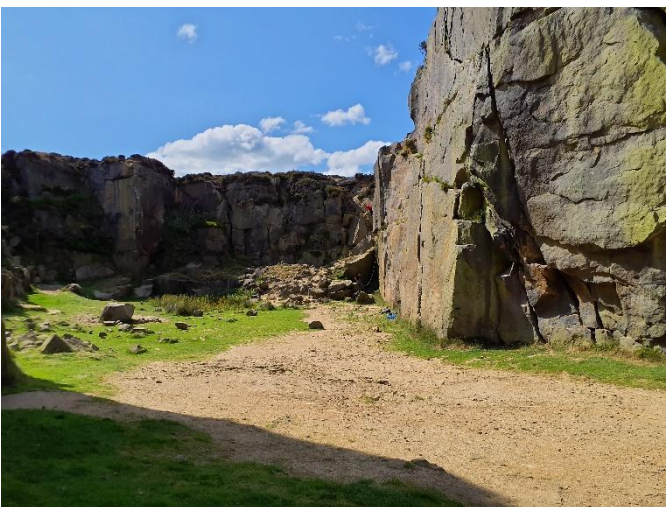
A well-connected network of footpaths crossing the moorlands.



Cup and ring marked boulders remnants of prehistoric settlement.



Landcover is primarily upland heath and bracken.



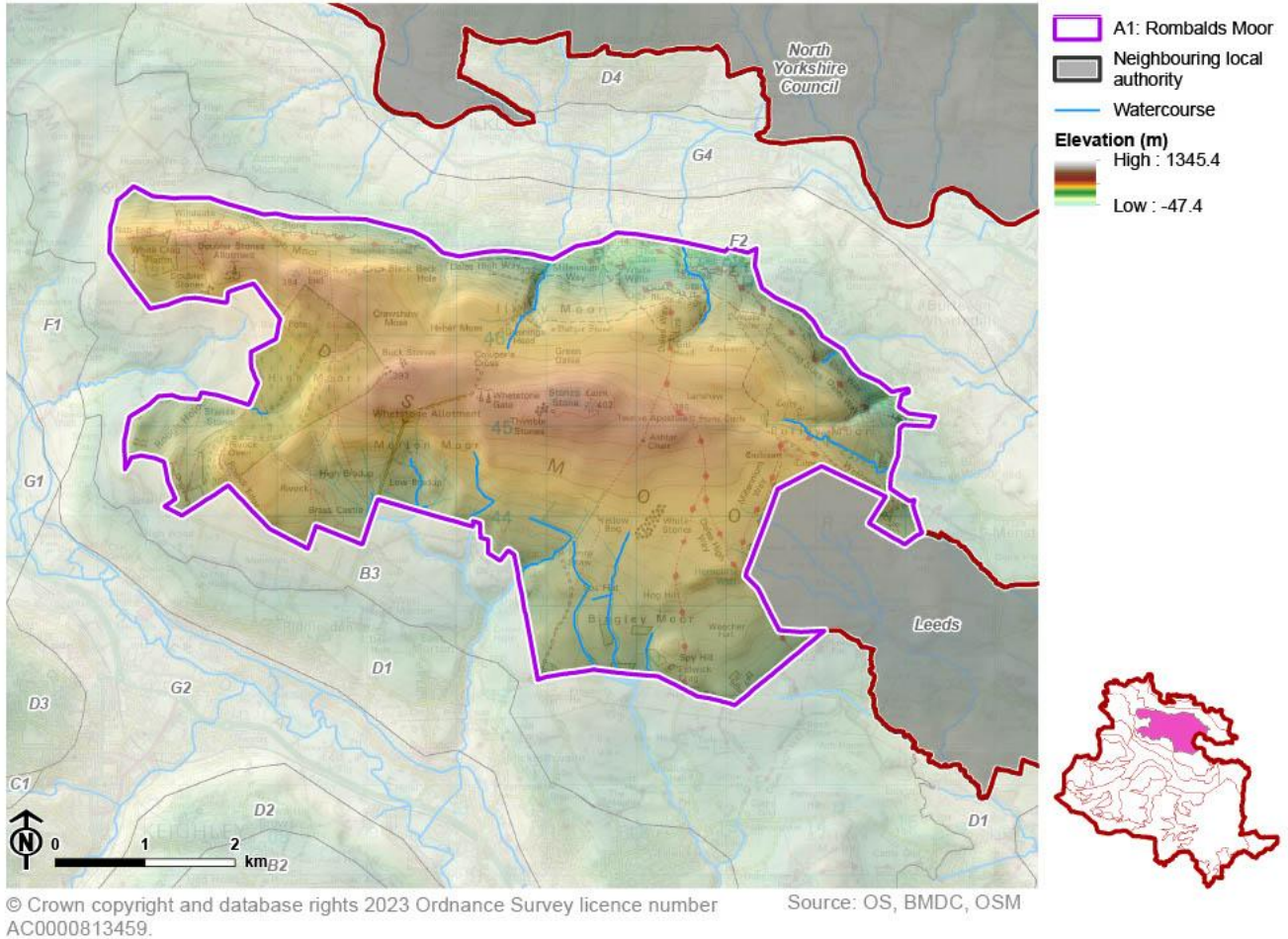
Recreation, including climbing at Cow and Calf rocks.



Views north towards Nidderdale National Landscape.

Landscape Character

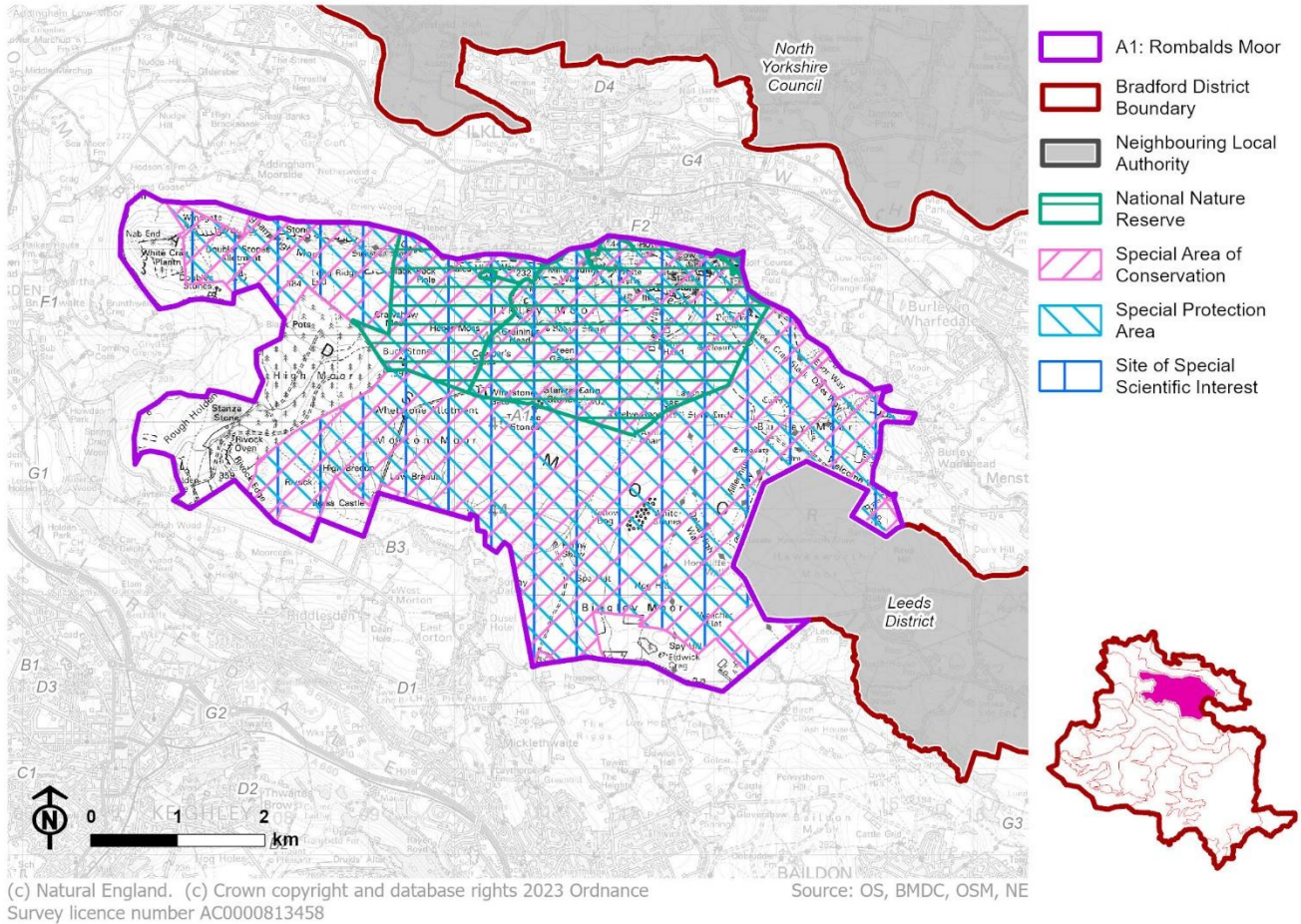
Figure 3.4: Topography of LCA A1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises a mix of shales and sandstone, in alternating bands. The northern edge of the plateau consists of Addingham Edge Grit.
- Extended ice coverage and subsequent movement and melt contributed to the boggy qualities in patches across the moor where clay soils were deposited. These areas now form peat bogs and are important areas of carbon sequestration within the LCA and wider region.
- The elevated moor rises to 402m AOD at its highest point and falls to approximately 285m AOD on the descending slopes fringing the plateau to the south.

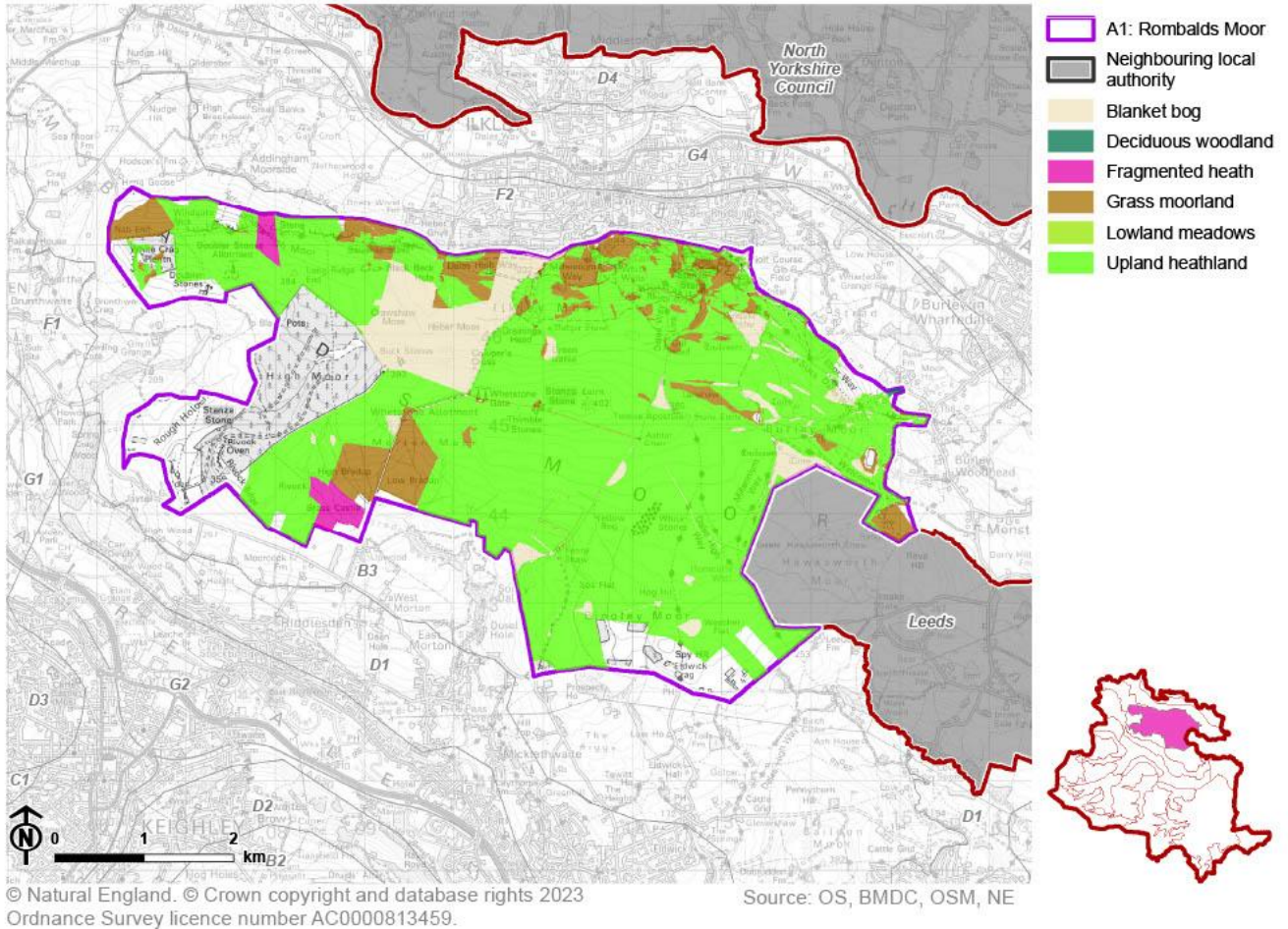
Figure 3.5: Natural heritage of LCA A1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Vegetation across the moor generally consists of plants that thrive in more acidic conditions. Species growing in the elevated stretches of upland heathland habitat are largely uniform in scale, and comprise heather, tufted grasses, bilberry and bracken, and areas of muir. The wetter patches in bog conditions include rush, bog cotton, sphagnum moss and sedges.
- There are small areas of semi-improved and unimproved acidic and neutral grassland on the fringes of the plateau. These areas border and transition into adjacent character types and areas of improved pasture on the lower slopes. Small patches of scrubby vegetation can also be found in these areas including birch, hazel, oak and ash.
- Blocks of conifer plantation are located along slopes to the south, at Rivock Edge Plantation, White Crag Plantation, with smaller groupings to the south east near Graincliffe Reservoir.
- The ecological importance of the core upland heathland habitat supports important breeding bird species such as curlew, lapwing, meadow pipit among others, and contributes to the area's status as a SSSI, SPA, SAC and NNR.

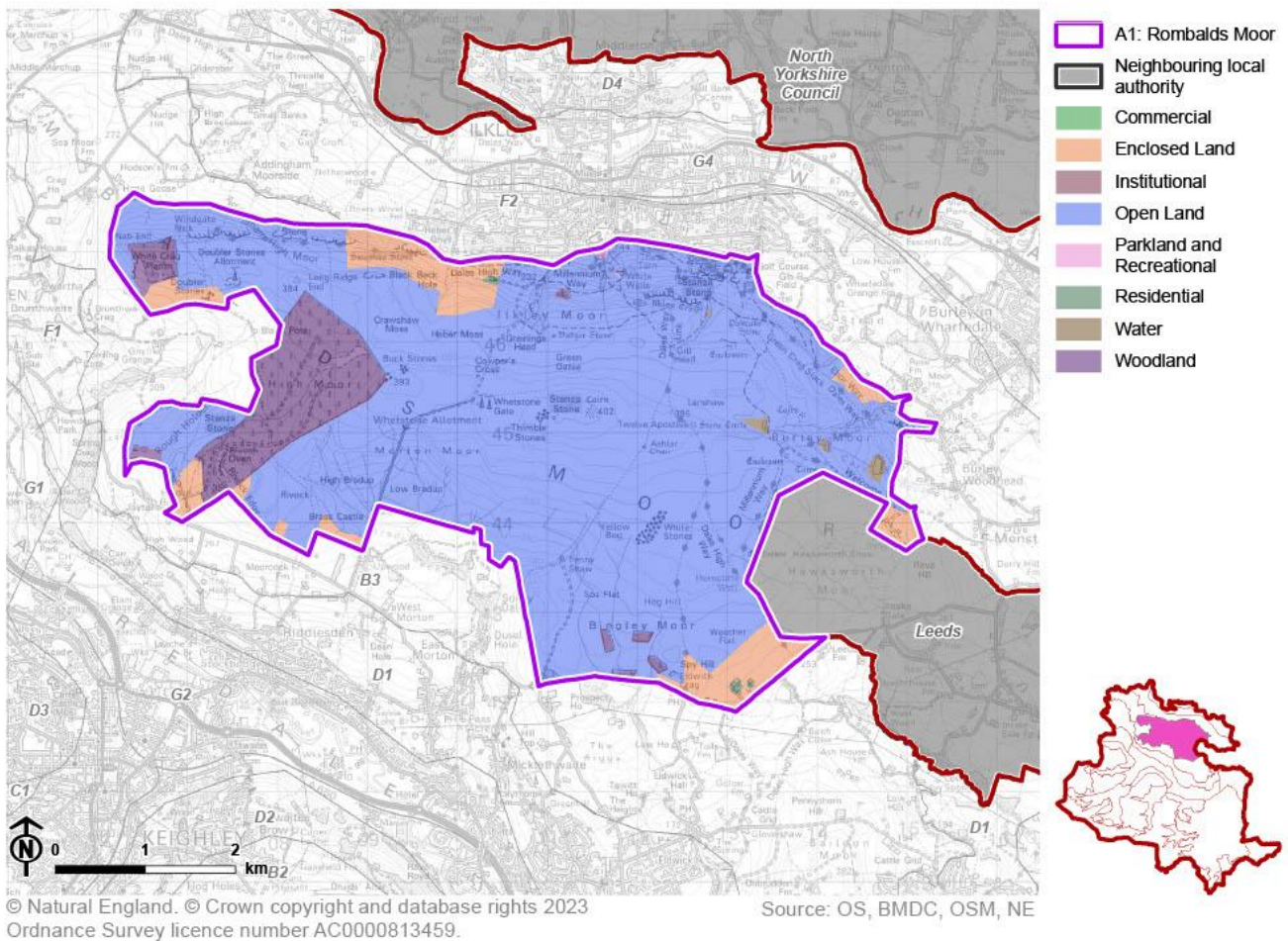
Figure 3.6: Priority habitat inventory of LCA A1



Land Use and Field Patterns

- As a result of poor quality acidic soils with areas of blanket bog, the landscape is primarily used for rough grazing, with smaller fragments along the lower slopes comprising improved pasture and conifer plantation.
- Extensive area of muirburn are located across the south and south eastern slopes of the moors and are indicative of the grouse moor management strategies that have developed over the 20th century. Grouse shooting on areas of the moor under Bradford Council control ended in 2018, however burn patterns are still evident across the heather from past management and recent wildfires.
- Recent management has shifted to rewetting and restoration of blanket bog and mechanical management of heather, resulting in improved diversity of vegetation structure and improved habitat for birds.
- The landscape across the moors is largely undivided, with expansive horizons and unbroken stretches of heather and moorland vegetation. This character begins to transition at the edges of the LCA, with drystone walls forming large scale irregular field boundaries and blocks of conifer woodland breaking up the landscape.
- Increasingly, the dominance of peat on the moorlands enhances the role of the moorlands for carbon sequestration.

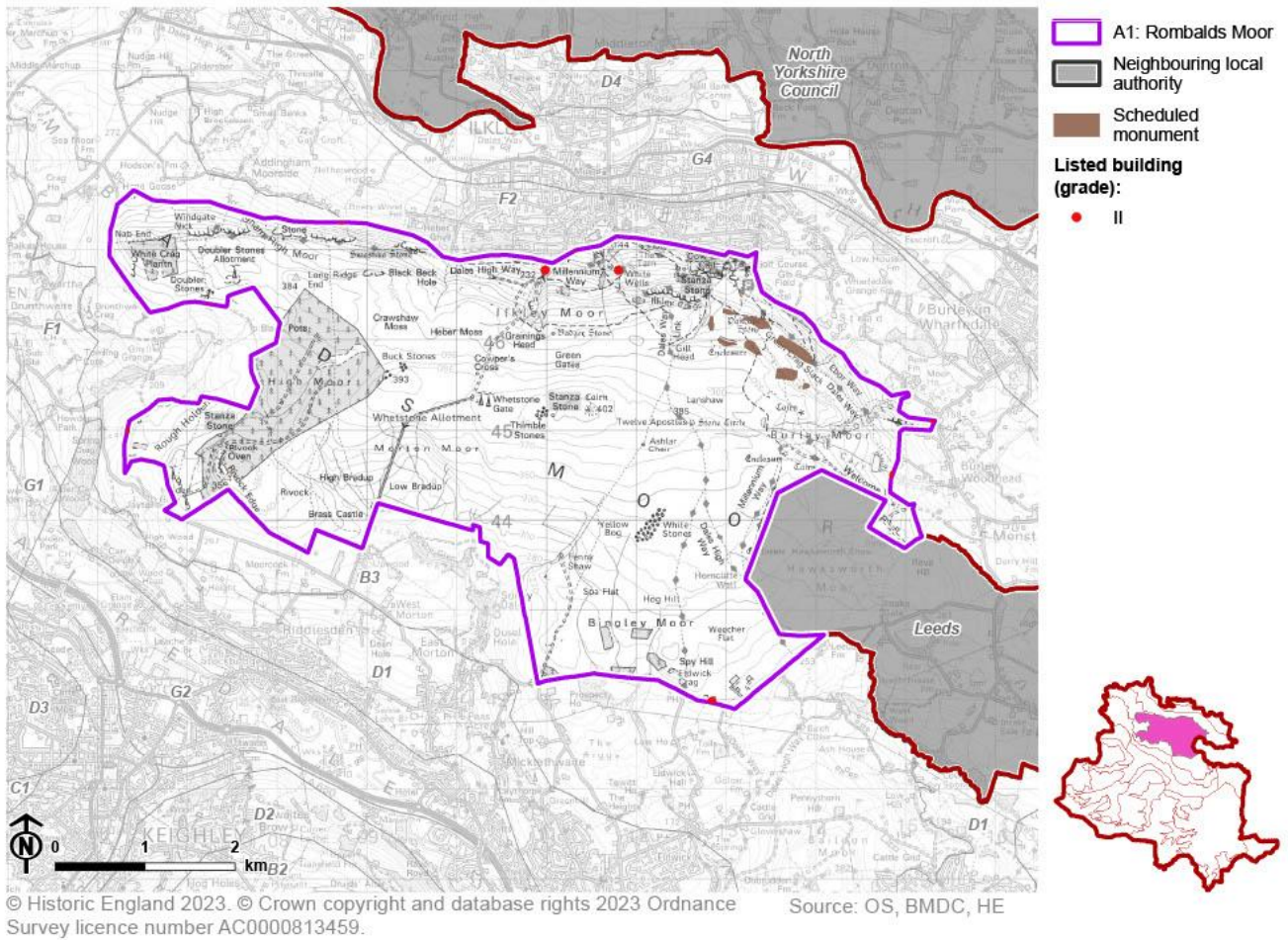
Figure 3.7: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA A1



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The LCA is strongly remote in relation to the rest of the district, due to the limited settlement pattern, rural land uses, and wild open character.
- Areas of open land cover the majority of the LCA, with smaller areas of enclosure occurring around the peripheries.
- The moorland plateau is rich with prehistoric rock carvings, enclosures and cairns, with several scheduled monuments along the north eastern slopes at Backstone Beck, Green Crag, Hangingstones, and Cow and Calf Rocks. Cup and ring marked boulders and outcrops are dotted across the moor, and indicative of the prehistoric human settlement that once occurred across the plateau.
- Distinctive rock outcrops and boulders at the fringes of the plateau have long held interest, with numerous gritstone crags and old quarries providing visual variety and recreational use today in the form of rock climbing.
- Remnants of the closely linked relationship between the physical environment and the development of industry are still evident in the landscape. Now defunct quarries are dotted across the landscape and demonstrative of valuable geologic imprints. A series of reservoirs were built in the 1800s to support the growing populations in surrounding valley-bottom towns and can be found in the east of the LCA along Carr Beck, a tributary of the River Wharfe.

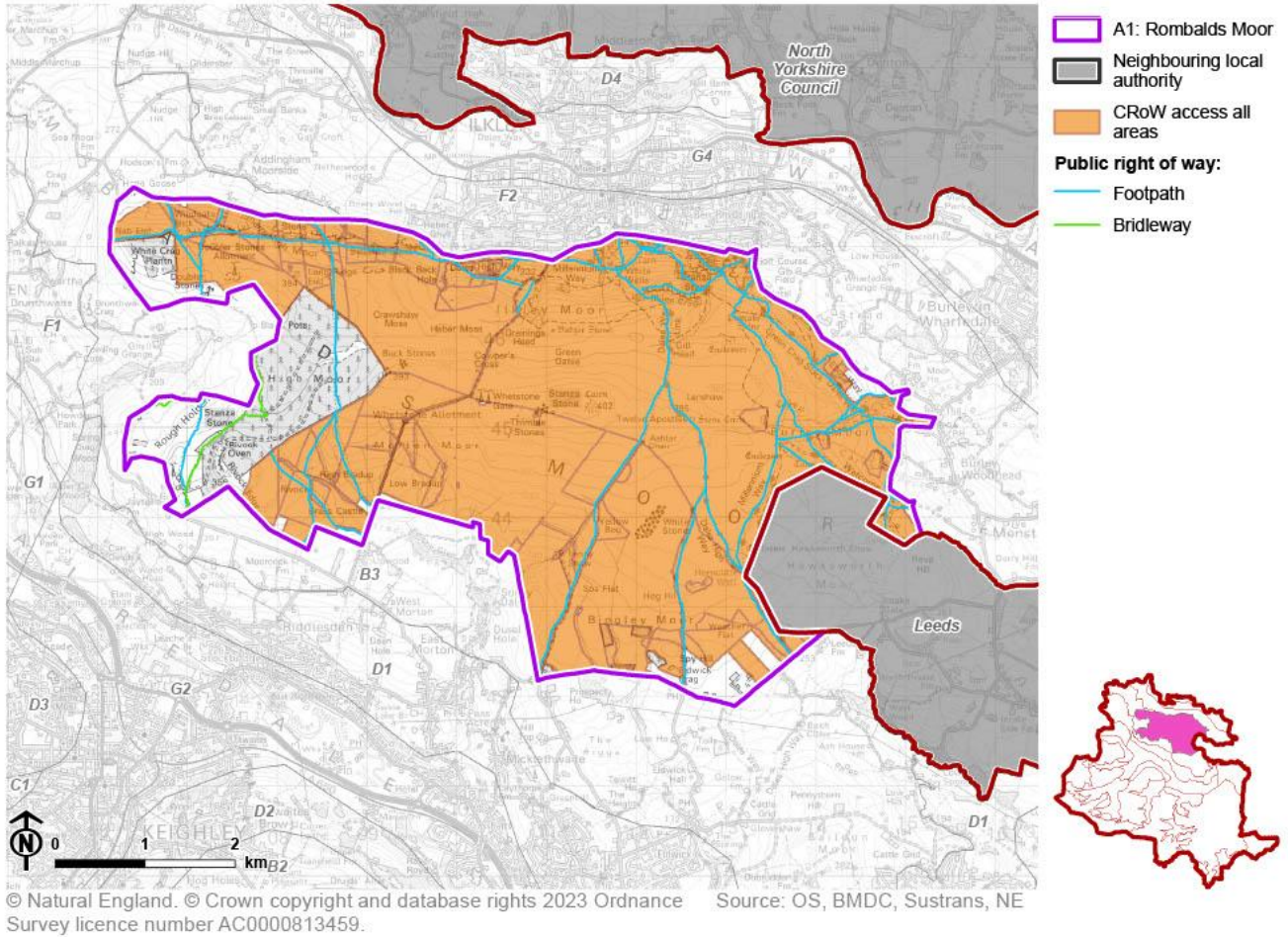
Figure 3.8: Cultural heritage of LCA A1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The moors host little to no settlement, with isolated farmsteads and residential properties at the northern slopes, near Ilkley.
- There is one service track, Ilkley/Keighley Road, which crosses north-south over the centre of the plateau. This road is unmetalled in places and not suitable for general traffic use. Informal forestry tracks are found in the large blocks of conifer plantation on the western slopes.

Figure 3.9: Access and recreation of LCA A1



Access and Recreation

- Offering extensive areas of Open Access Land, the moorland plateau has long been recognised as providing valued recreational opportunities within a remote and secluded landscape. These qualities provide a sense of escapism to local communities, across a well-connected and used network of footpaths.
- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way. There are a number of long-distance walking routes passing through the LCA, including the Millennium Way, Dales Way, Ebor Way, and Welcome Way. Keighley/Ilkley Road is a popular route for mountain bikers.
- A section of the promoted Stanza Stones walk, associated with the poet Simon Armitage, passes along the northern edge of Ilkley Moor between the settlements of Haworth and Ilkley.
- The Hanging Stones Quarry, Twelve Apostles Stone Circle, Swastika Stone, and Cow and Calf Stone are key cultural and recreational attractions within the LCA.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Panoramic views are afforded from the moorland plateau, with long-distance views of the surrounding rural landscape, across pastoral slopes and settlements along the valley floor to the north and south. The low-growing vegetation across the 'moorscape' allows unencumbered views.

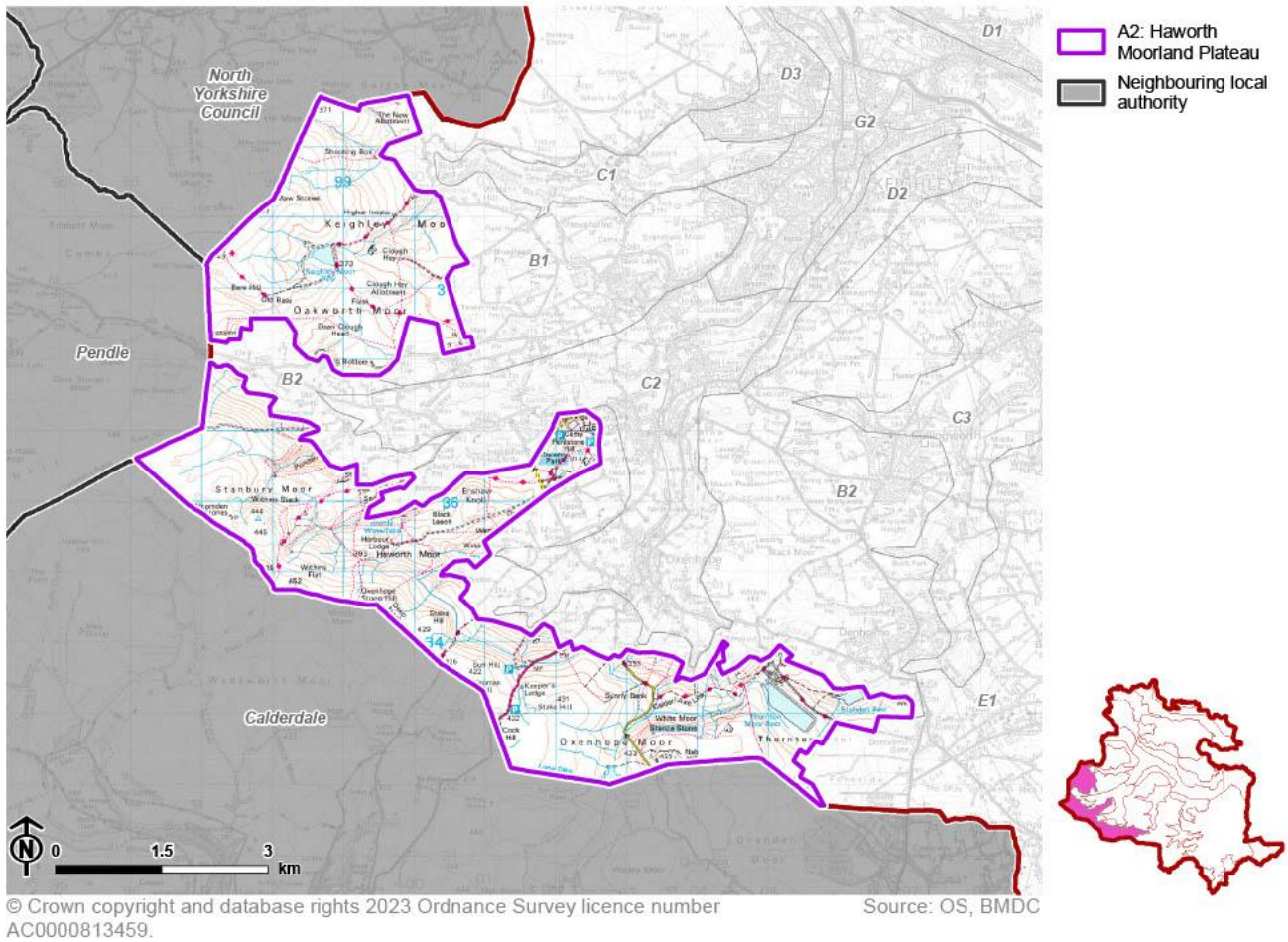
- The plateau topography, expansive vistas across undivided fields, and broad swaths of heath, bog and muir contribute to the strongly remote and wild moorland character. Along the descending slopes fringing the plateau this character begins to transition into a more pastoral landscape, with smaller scale features and field patterns.
- Distinctive rock formations along the craggy slopes to the north and numerous rock formations across the plateau contribute to a strong sense of time-depth.
- There are some vertical elements including a wood pole overhead line and communication masts visible within the area and a number of wind turbines visible outside of the area. However, these do not detract from the general character and visual amenity.
- The LCA retains a strong experience of dark night skies and tranquillity, particularly the centre and western slopes of the plateau. Though at a distance, the settled valley floors to the north, south, and east introduce some human activity and light pollution at those edges, with minimal effects on dark night skies and tranquillity.

A2. Haworth Moorland Plateau

Location, Context and Summary

The Haworth Moorland Plateau LCA consists of an elevated upland plateau forming the north west edge of Bradford district. The LCA is split into two distinct blocks, separated by lower ground surrounding Two Laws Road which forms part of the moorland fringe. Blanket bog and upland heath dominate the moorland landscape. The absence of infrastructure and woodland permit characteristic open views across the moorland and towards the wooded valleys further east. Higher elevation, unenclosed land and open access distinguish the moorland plateau from the moorland fringe to the east.

Figure 3.10: Location of LCA A2



Key Characteristics

- Wide sweeps of upland moorland, forming part of the wider South Pennine Moors, underlain by carboniferous sandstones.
- High rainfall and peat deposits result in blanket bog soils and numerous small water courses which form gullies.
- Across the upper reaches of the plateau the field pattern is largely unenclosed common land.
- Priority habitats for blanket bog, upland heath, grass moor and fragmented heath dominate, and most of the LCA falls within the South Pennine Moors SPA, SAC and SSSI designations. A small part of the LCA is also included in the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Deciduous woodland across the LCA is limited and mostly found within the steeper, water course eroded gullies.
- Planted coniferous shelter belts and woodland blocks are present in places and stand out along the skyline.
- Remnants of historic agriculture and industrial heritage can be found in the forms of abandoned farmsteads, dams and reservoirs, and remains of quarries.
- Settlement is absent with only very limited isolated farmsteads resulting in a strong sense of remoteness.
- A valuable recreational landscape, due to the right to roam across the moorlands.
- The elevated landform affords panoramic views across the surrounding valleys and countryside, including west across the wider South Pennine Moors upland landscape.
- Uniformity in topography, vegetation, and landscape elements across the plateau contributes to the wild upland character and a sense of place that is distinct from the wider district.
- There are important cultural associations between this bleak landscape and the Brontës and Wuthering Heights.

Figure 3.11: Example photos from LCA A2



Public rights of way around Keighley Moor Reservoir.



Wetland and watercourses within the moorland landscape.



Coniferous plantation prominent along the skyline.



Native tree planting to create some shelter belts along rural lanes.



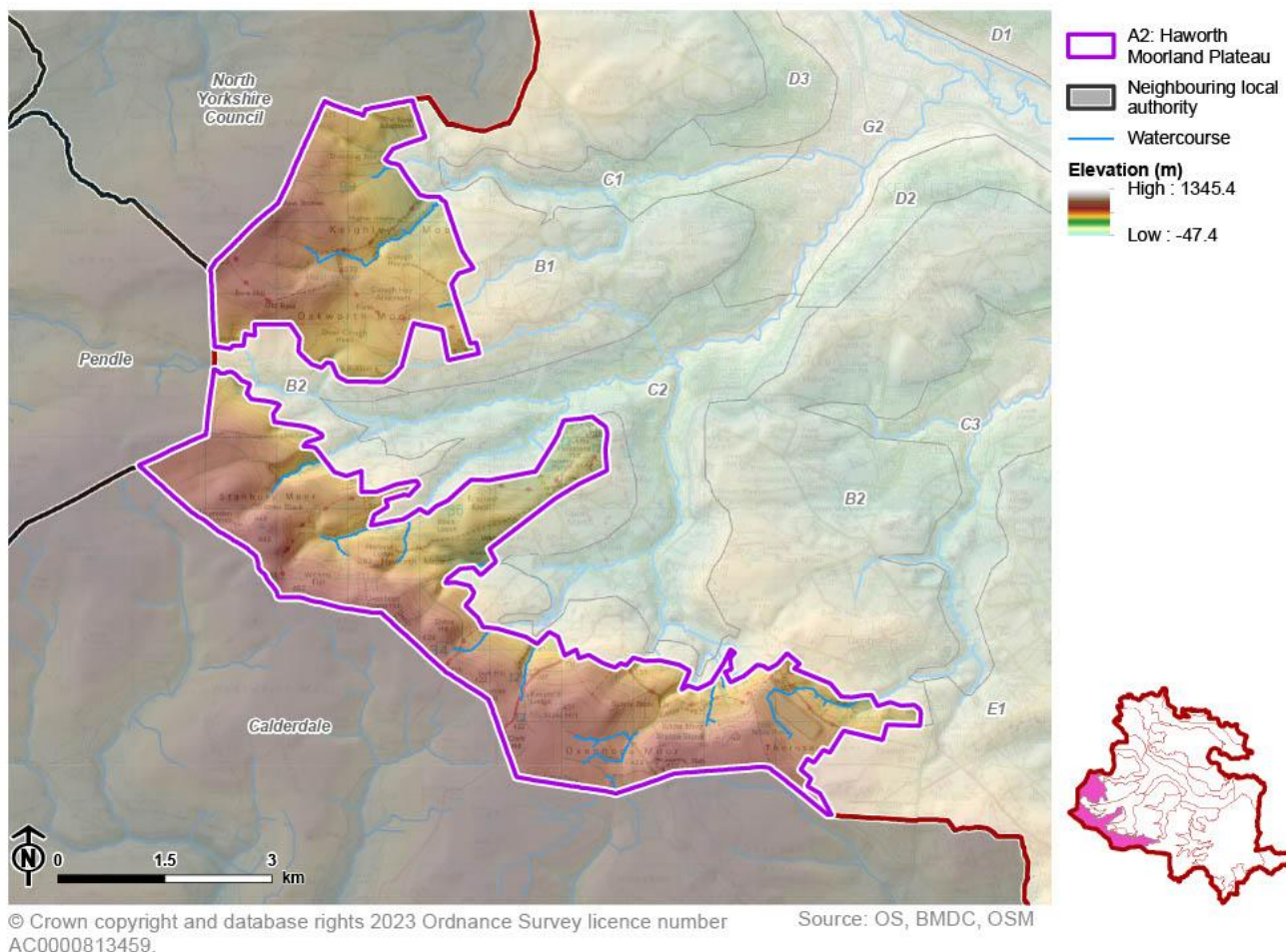
Penistone Hill Country Park welcome sign.



Drystone structures associated with grouse shooting.

Landscape Character

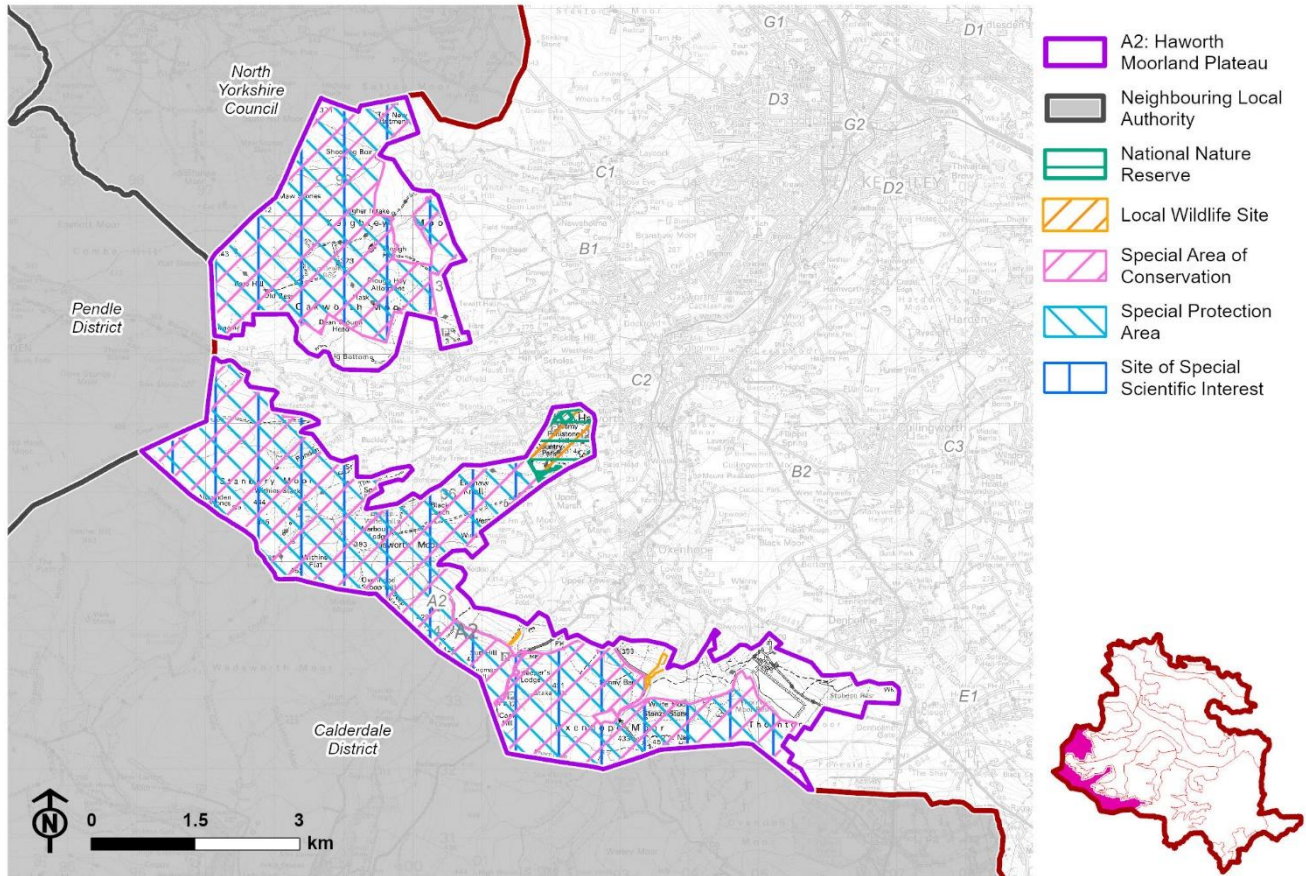
Figure 3.12: Topography of LCA A2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, primarily within the Millstone Grit Group. There are some areas of slightly younger Rough Rock sandstone, particularly in the south.
- Distinctive rock outcrops created by frost weathering during the cold periglacial periods of the last Quaternary. The Alcomden stones in the west of the LCA exemplify this.
- There are superficial deposits of peat within the LCA in the north and along the western and southern boundaries. This has influenced the presence of blanket bog with peaty soils which are naturally wet. These peat bogs play an important role in carbon sequestration within this LCA and the wider Pennine Moors.
- Springs and small water courses permeate the landscape as a result of the high water table. These form small gullies across the moor. In the south this includes artificial drainage channels and conduits. Rewetting work across parts of the moorland increase surface water, for example around Keighley Moor Reservoir.
- The upland landform reaches heights of 440m. At higher elevations the topography is generally flat. At lower elevations, in the east, rolling landform and some steeper slopes around water courses add local topographic variation.

Figure 3.13: Natural heritage of LCA A2

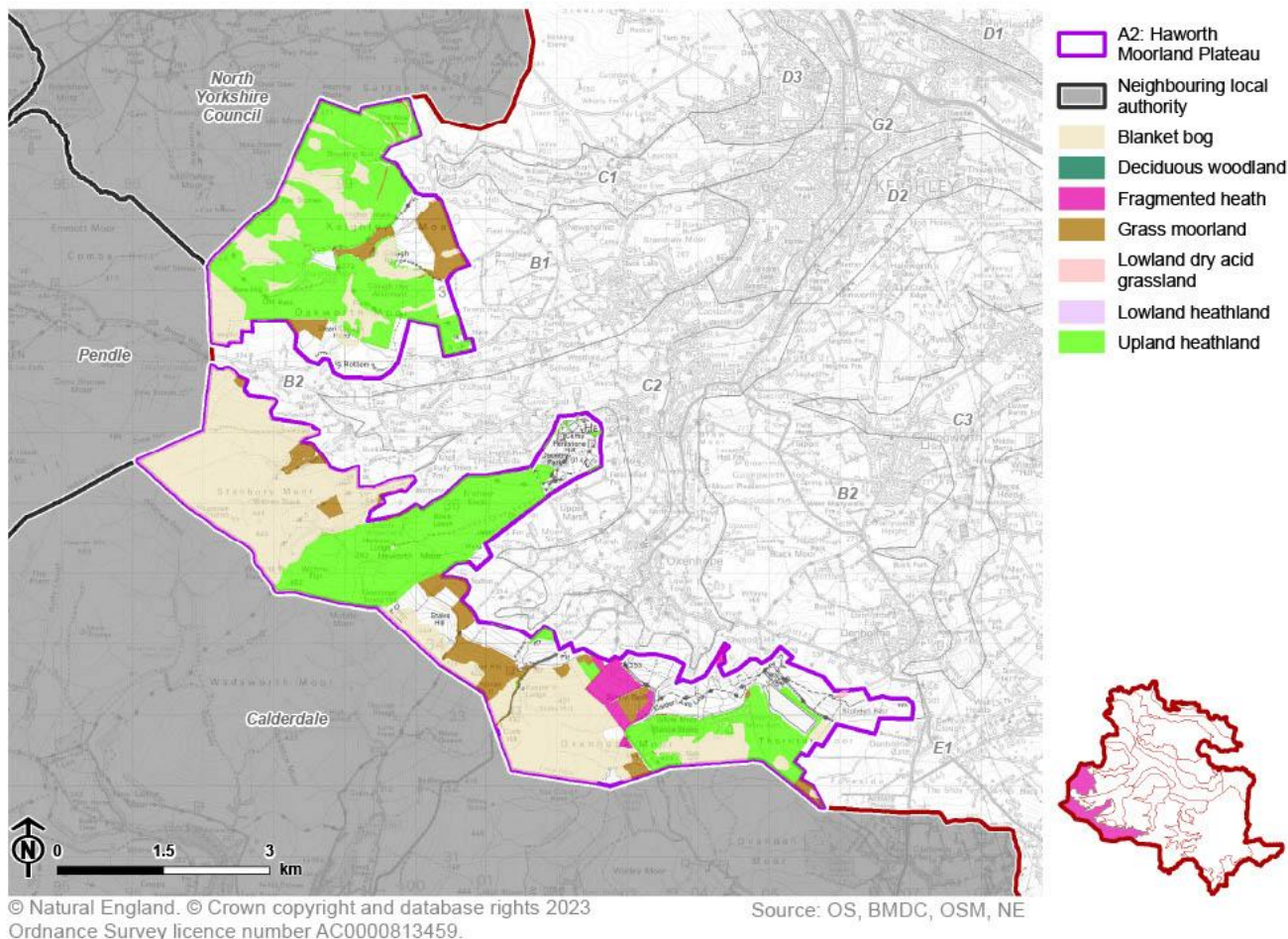


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Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Natural habitats associated with upland moorland dominate. This includes priority habitats for blanket bogs, upland heath, grass moorland and fragmented heath. Together, these habitats create an important habitat mosaic valued by a number of breeding birds.
- The majority of the area falls within the South Pennine Moors SPA, SAC and SSSI. The major habitats within this area are blanket bog, including both wet heath, with dwarf shrub, cotton grasses and mosses such as sphagnum, and dry heath. More dominant grass moor habitat across the Haworth Moorland Plateau is distinct from the dominant bracken and heath to the north at Rombalds Moor.
- The SPA is designated for populations of merlin, golden plover and twite (also known as the Pennine finch). Penistone Hill Country Park Local Wildlife Site has been designated for its notable heath habitat. This area is also included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- In addition, there are several local wildlife sites, predominantly in the south. This includes Nan Scar Clough and Sun Hill Clough, which are associated with steep gullies, water courses, more dense vegetation and some clough woodland. These larger watercourses and clough woodlands distinguish this LCA from Rombalds Moor.
- There is a general lack of tree cover and woodland throughout. Where native tree cover does exist, it is concentrated within steep gullies and consists of stunted wet woodland species and hawthorn. Coniferous shelter belts are associated with farmsteads.

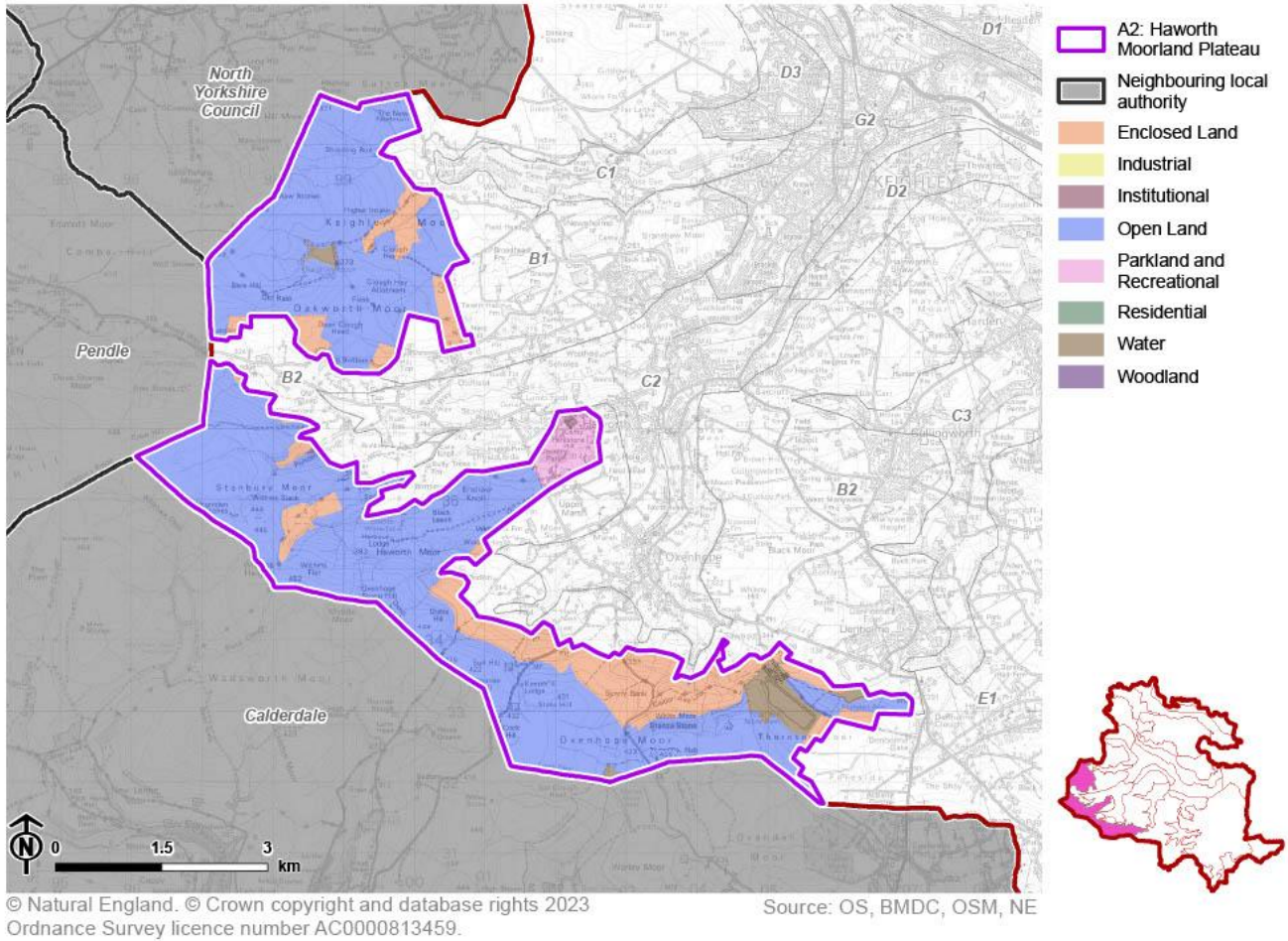
Figure 3.14: Priority habitat inventory of LCA A2



Land Use and Field Patterns

- The majority of the LCA is unenclosed moorland, forming part of a wider area which extends to the west outside of the Bradford District. This also includes areas of registered common, at Keighley Moor and Haworth Moor.
- The primary land holder is Yorkshire Water. The capture and storage of drinking water is a crucial role of the landscape.
- Moorland in this area has historically been, and in places continues to be, managed for grouse shooting. This includes draining moorlands and rotational burning to promote the growth of young heather.
- In the south, at Bentley allotments, historic enclosure has reverted to moorland, although geometric drainage ditches and remnants of drystone walls remain.
- On lower slopes, in the east, parliamentary enclosures are present, reflecting late 19th century enclosure characterised by straight-edged field pattern bounded by drystone walls. As a result of poor quality acidic soils with areas of blanket bog, the landscape is primarily used for rough grazing, predominantly for sheep.
- Increasingly, the dominance of peat on the moorlands enhances the role of the moorlands for carbon sequestration.

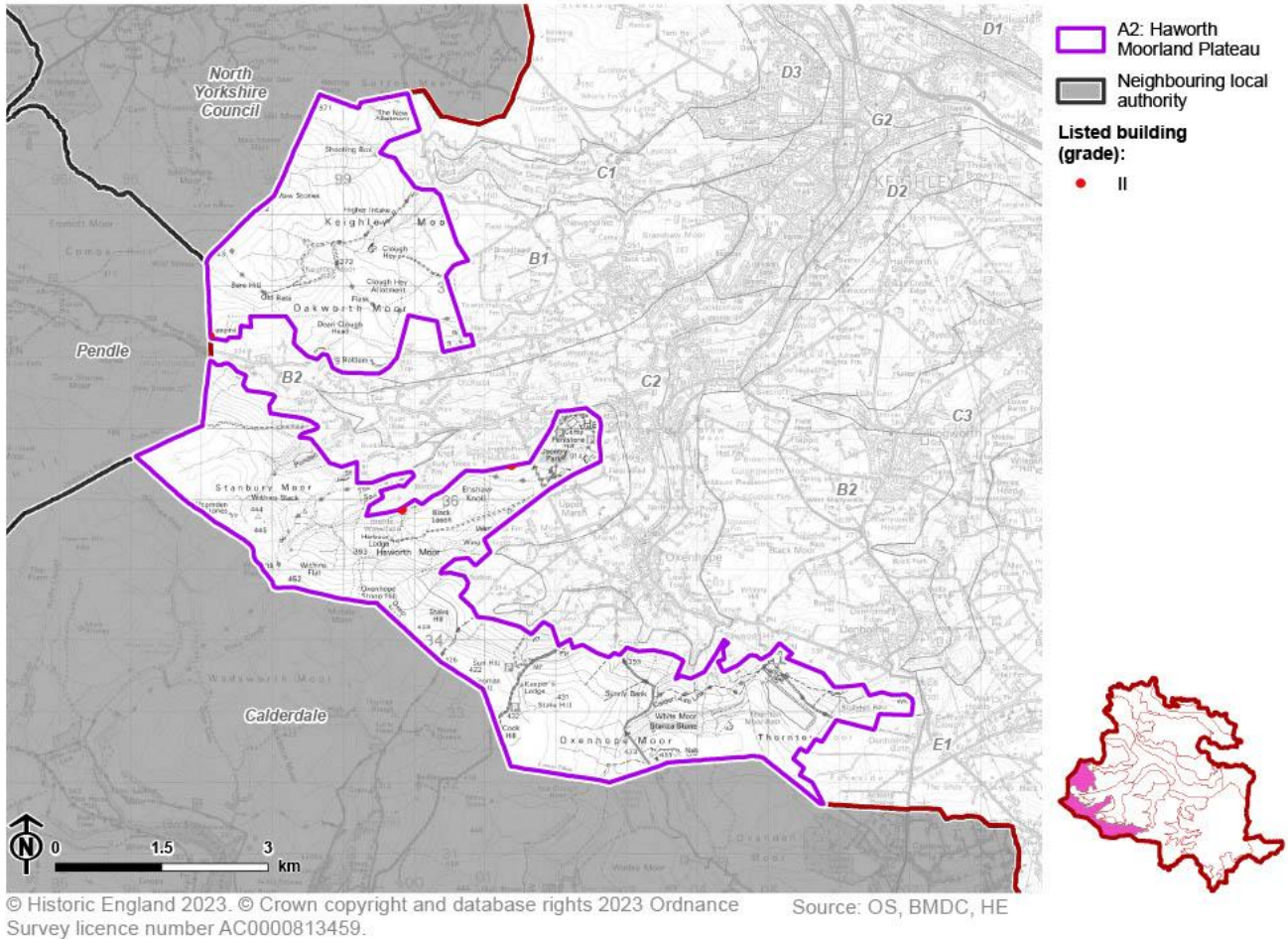
Figure 3.15: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA A2



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Despite the natural appearance, the tree-less landscape is a man-made product of grazing which has taken place since the bronze age. Historically, crop cultivation also took place after deforestation. This resulted in nutrient depletion and, along with cooler and wetter conditions reduced the potential for arable cultivation and resulted in the population moving into the valleys.
- Historic ties between climatic variability and agriculture on the moors have resulted in abandoned farmsteads and drystone walls present in the LCA.
- The LCA is strongly remote relative to the rest of the district due to the limited settlement pattern, rural land uses, and wild open character. The cultural links between this dramatic landscape and the work of the Brontës (especially Wuthering Heights) enhances the cultural and recreational value of the area.
- The landscape also shows evidence of more recent industrial activity. This includes the presence of reservoirs such as Keighley Moor Reservoir and Thornton Moor Reservoir. Remnants of historic quarries are present, with associated spoil heaps boulders and pond formation. These supported the industrial revolution and growing populations in the adjoining river valleys.

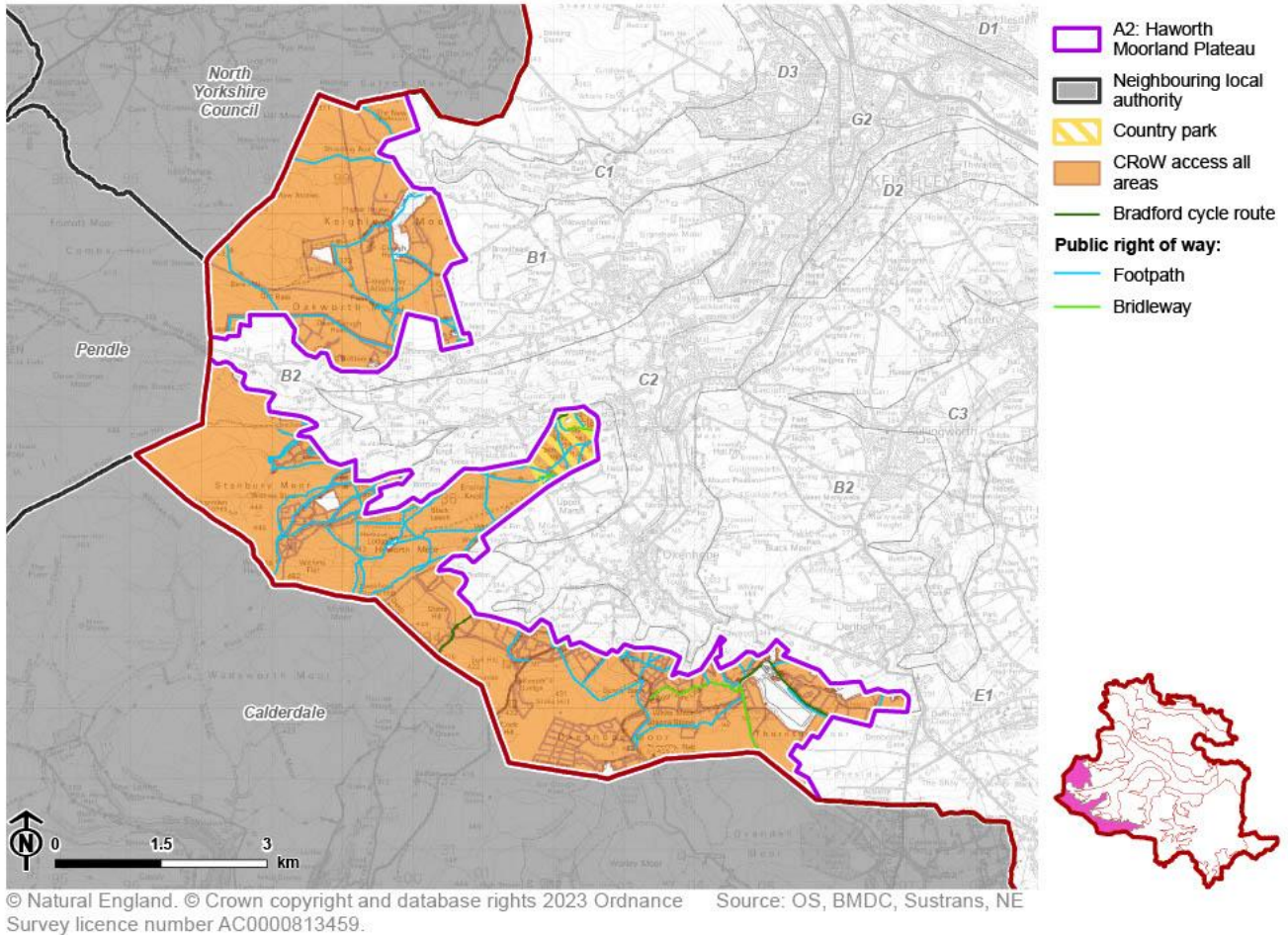
Figure 3.16: Cultural heritage of LCA A2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- There are no settlements on the moors and isolated farmsteads are sparse.
- The road network is relatively sparse and generally comprises minor lanes. In the south east of the LCA the A6033 is a notable exception, providing connectivity from Keighley to the south west towards Hebden Bridge in neighbouring Calderdale.
- The main infrastructure within the area is associated with the reservoirs, including access roads, dams and drains.
- There is some limited infrastructure associated with grouse shooting, primarily drystone shooting butts.

Figure 3.17: Access and recreation of LCA A2



Access and Recreation

- The vast majority of the LCA is open access land which forms an important recreational asset, bolstered by its literary connections to the Brontës, highlighted by the Brontë Waterfalls, Brontë Bridge and Brontë Stones Walk which links together a number of memorial stones to the sisters within the landscape between Thornton and Haworth.
- In addition, an extensive network of public rights of way serves the area. The Millennium Way, Calder Aire Link and Brontë Way long distance walking routes, as well as the Pennine Way National Trail pass through the LCA. The West Yorkshire Cycle Route also passes through this LCA along Harehills Lane and to the south of Oakworth Moor along Dean Edge Road.
- In the east, Penistone Hill Country Park is easily accessed from Haworth and is served by a number of car parks.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Panoramic views are afforded from the moorland plateau, with long-distance views of the surrounding rural landscape, across pastoral slopes and settlements along the valley floor in the distance to the east. The low-lying vegetation across the 'moorscape' provides uninterrupted, open views.
- The moorland plateau forms a vast expanse which links to a perception of 'wildness'. During winter months this can create the perception of a bleak landscape characterised by roaring winds and biting rains.

- The rolling topography, expansive vistas across unenclosed land and broad swaths of heath and bog contribute to the strong moorland character. Along the descending slopes in the east this character begins to transition into a more pastoral landscape.
- The LCA retains a strong experience of dark night skies and tranquillity, particularly the centre and western slopes of the plateau. Though at a distance, the settled valley floors to the north, south, and east introduce some human activity and light pollution at those edges, with minimal effects on dark night skies and tranquillity.
- The A6033 locally reduces the sense of tranquillity and remoteness as it passes across the moors in the south.

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT A: Moorland Plateau

Climate Change

- Climate change leading to increased periods of drought, could result in changes to the water table and reduce soil water content and the presence of springs and small becks across the LCT.
 - A1: Reduced streamflow on falling slopes to the east and west may affect water levels, and subsequently heath and riparian vegetation at Burley Moor, Carr Bottom Reservoir, and Cranshaw Moss.
- As temperatures rise and the moorland becomes drier, the risk of wildfires is increasing significantly posing a threat to wildlife and the substantial carbon sink of the moorland's underlying peat.
- Conversely, climate change is expected to increase winter rainfall which has the potential to cause flooding at lower elevations. This puts pressure on the importance of rewetting within moorland areas, increasing water storage and slowing the flow downstream.
- Climate change may result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall, potentially causing erosion issues along the sandstone escarpments. These could potentially disturb habitats and iconic rock features along these edges.
 - A1: Key formations such as Cow and Calf may be more susceptible to erosion.

Agricultural Change

- Diversification of upland farms on the moorland edge leading to renovations and extensions to agricultural holdings may detract from rural character in places. Diversification can also increase rewilding practices, increasing the natural value but may also impact on the sense of time-depth and sense of place provided by the characteristic network of grazed, regular fields bounded by drystone walls.
- Recent decreases in grazing pressure across the moors has resulted in more tree growth, mostly concentrated across the slopes. Uncertainty over changes to agricultural funding may lead to further changes in grazing pressure and subsequent impacts on moorland edge grassland character.

Development

- In response to climate change there is an increase in pressure for renewable energy. The exposed character of the moorlands makes them favourable locations for wind turbines from a technical perspective. This would create vertical intrusions on the skyline and reduce the remote qualities of the LCT.
 - A1: Pressure for wind energy development includes areas north east of the lower-lying Sandwith Moor in neighbouring Harrogate, which is visible from the elevated areas at Ilkley Moor.
 - A2: Pressure for wind energy development includes uplands in proximity to Keighley and further south around Ovenden Moor and in neighbouring Calderdale District.
- The moorland is currently undeveloped and unsettled and any development would represent a step change in the settlement form and reduce the remote character.

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.
- Grazing reductions have resulted in the emergence of a mosaic of heath, bracken, scrub and trees in areas across the moors, requiring management. Rewetting of peat will assist in preventing trees and bracken from colonising.
- 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 could detract from the exposed character of the moorlands. There is a balance to be struck between enhancing carbon sequestration on peat moorlands through re-wetting, and enhancing biodiversity value within woodland.
 - A1: Natural tree regeneration occurring on the northern slopes may have impacts on moorland and heather vegetation.
 - A2: Tree planting, particularly shelter belts along roads and near farmsteads are becoming more commonplace, detracting from the open vistas and large skies.
 - A2: Rewetting the moorland, including through sphagnum regeneration and leaky dams may reduce public access across the moors particularly during winter.
- Previously areas of moorland were managed for grouse shooting and changes to this practice will give rise to new management regimes and habitat creation opportunities.
 - A1: Grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor ended in 2018 after the lease expired.
 - A2: Yorkshire Water have announced they will review leases for grouse shooting on their land when they come up for renewal. This includes parts of Keighley Moor and Haworth Moor.

Heritage at Risk

- Archaeological findings of national importance, most notably rock carvings, stone circles, and evidence of prehistoric settlement (and including features not fully explored or understood) are impacted by recreational pressures across the open moors.
 - A1: Prominent and well-known prehistoric sites across Rombalds Moor have been damaged by footfall and other recreational pressures, notably the Twelve Apostles stone circle.
 - A2: The Mesolithic landscape is sealed below the peat and not fully understood. Changes to the water table and drying out of blanket bog could expose these historic landscapes and put them at risk from damage from recreation and weathering.

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Most of the moorland is accessible and increased pressure from recreation (including the potential for commercial dog walking) is likely to be concentrated around key sites. Across the LCT recreational pressures have the potential to affect habitats through erosion, changing the character of the plateaux.
 - A1: The numerous historical rock formations and carvings across the plateau, and defunct quarries on the north face are a key visitor destination. The area contains a limited number of car parks to cater for visitors. Pressure for further recreational infrastructure and pressure on existing footpaths could impact on the area's rural character.
 - A1: Pressure from off-road mountain biking has impacted semi-natural habitat on the northern slopes.
 - A2: Recreational pressures around Alcomden Stones, including from off-road vehicles.

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- Increased development and visitor numbers increases the risk in relation to littering and anti-social behaviour (including fly tipping).
 - A1: Litter frequently seen around key attractions such as Cow and Calf stones and paths in the vicinity.
 - A2: Increasing concerns over littering and anti-social behaviour due to increased development at Cullingworth.

Guidance

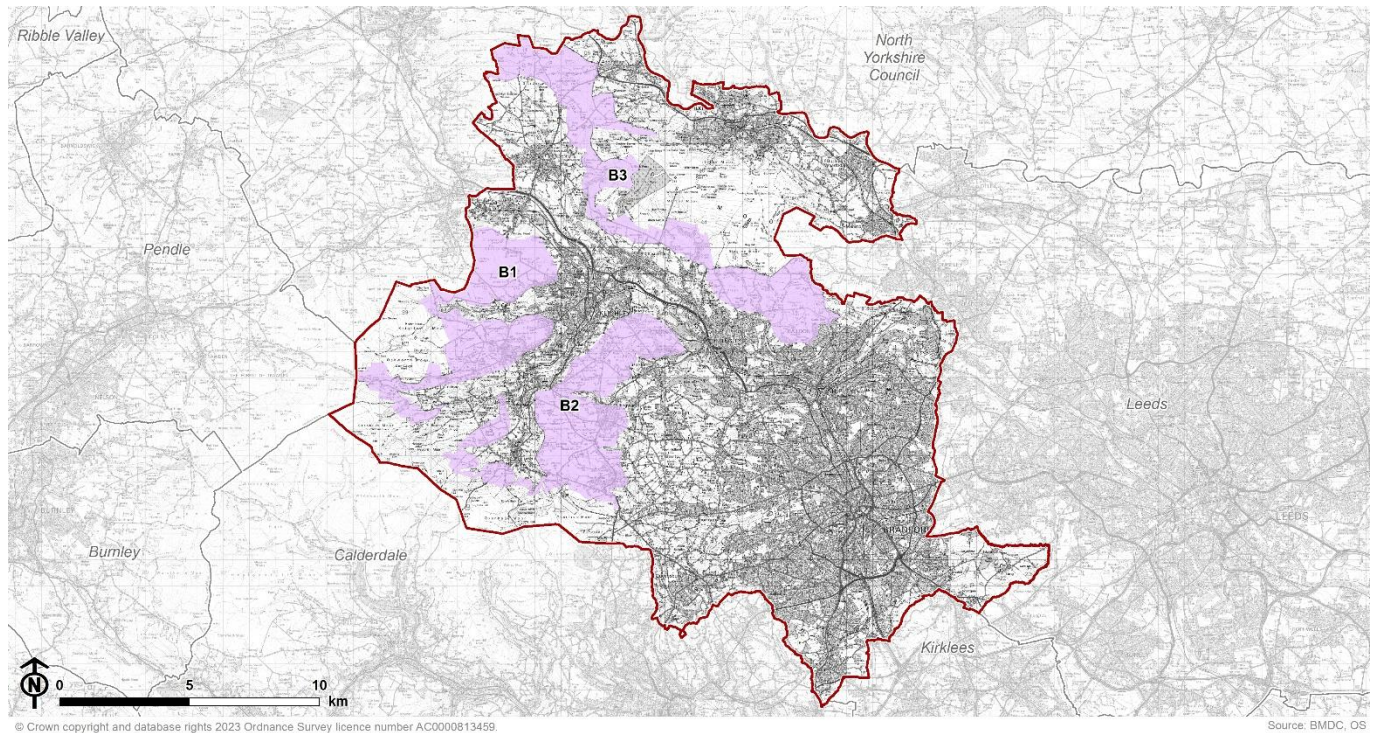
- Sensitively manage potential flood prevention schemes, ensuring they respect cultural heritage and provide opportunities to increase natural heritage.

- Conserve the characteristic field pattern on the highly visible valley sides. Maintain the drystone walls, repair where necessary ensuring that restoration is carried out sensitively and with due regard to local style and construction.
- Avoid development creep along the fringes of the LCAs, which would fundamentally alter the isolated and remote characteristics of the landscape.
- Make efforts to limit intervisibility to new renewable schemes in the wider context, which may affect the remote characteristics.
- Ensure that the siting of any new renewable energy schemes takes into consideration the presence of blanket bog and peatland habitats. Any negative impacts on such habitats should be avoided or adequately mitigated using proper management and restoration techniques.
- Enhance areas of bog and carry out peatland restoration. Particularly consider opportunities to remove conifer plantations and replace with bog restoration. The aesthetic impact of these projects should be considered in their implementation. Consider species which may be more drought tolerant and therefore resilient to climate change.
- Enhance and widen corridors of riparian habitat mosaic (including grassland and rush habitats) adjacent to the waterways.
- Rewetting moorland, 'slowing the flow', and other Natural Flood Management options to reduce downstream flooding.
- Increased wildfire risk on moorlands due to climate change can be managed through rewetting strategies, education and peatland firebreak design.
- Conserve the exposed character of the moors by limiting the impact of woodland on the skyline and concentrating tree planting and regeneration along cloughs and becks. This will allow an increase in tree cover without conflicting with landscape character. Tree planting on the exposed open moorland should be avoided. Tree species should include a range of diverse species, using native species where possible given projected changes to climate.
 - A2: Opportunities for clough woodland planting in valleys associated with becks near Round Hill, Morkin Beck, Middleclough Beck, Ponden Clough Beck, South Dean Beck, and near Grinding Stone Hole.
- Avoid tree planting in areas with important and rare grassland or fungi communities.
 - A2: The moorland fringe along the border with neighbouring Calderdale host international important CHEGD grassland fungi communities.
- Conserve the ancient character of the moor. Manage recreational pressure around scheduled monuments, historic rock formations and carvings, and maintain valued footpaths.
 - A1: Key features such as Twelve Apostles and Cow and Calf should be protected from excess recreation pressure and restored where possible.
- Balance the potential conflicting interests between moorland restoration and archaeology, avoiding restoration works that may disturb deeper soil layers and affect undiscovered/unexplored archaeological features. An archaeological assessment will need to be carried out as part of any peatland restoration project to understand the presence of any archaeological features⁷.
- 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.
- Work with relevant partnerships and interested groups to manage visitor pressure on rights of way and open access land along the moorland fringes.
- Celebrate the area's history and cultural associations beyond the Brontë connection through interpretation.
- Avoid or ensure sensitive use of lighting within new developments to maintain dark night skies and the tranquillity of this LCT.

⁷ Projects should consult the Historic England guidance on [peatland restoration and the historic environment](#).

Landscape Character Type B: Moorland Fringe

Figure 3.18: Location of the Moorland Fringe



LCT B Overview

Comprised of sloping landforms descending from the moorland plateaus, the pastoral and rural fields of this LCT lie adjacent to the areas of elevated landform in the north and west of the district. Smoothly sloping fields from 250m AOD to 150m AOD form visually open expanses and provide a scenic backdrop to the more densely settled valleys below. Almost exclusively in pastoral use, improved grasslands form unbroken belts across the hillsides. There are fragmented patches of Open Access moorland amidst the enclosed field system, as well as unimproved grasslands which support important CHEGD fungi. Woodland cover consists of isolated patches across the landscape, and drystone walls trail up the hillsides to form a striking pattern across this character type. Settlement is sparse and limited to isolated farmsteads, indicative of the long-standing agricultural land use of the area. Despite the unpopulated character, there are numerous public rights of way, connecting the remote upland plateaus with the settled areas below.

There are three LCAs within this LCT:

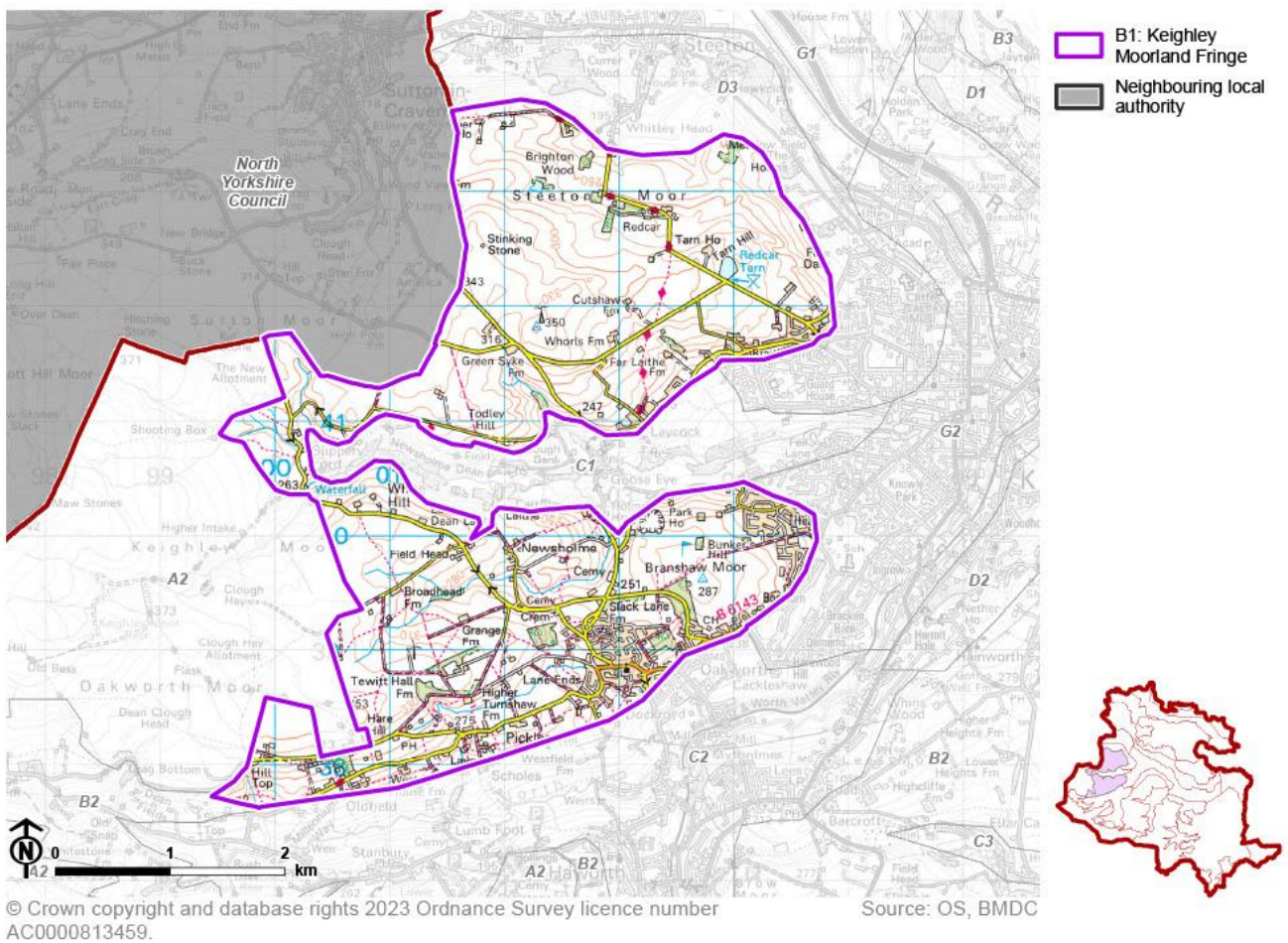
- B1. Keighley Moorland Fringe
- B2. Cullingworth and Haworth Moorland Fringe
- B3. Addingham, Silsden and Baildon Moorland Fringe

B1. Keighley Moorland Fringe

Location, Context and Summary

The Keighley Moorland Fringe LCA encompasses hilly upland, incorporating parts of Steeton Moor in the north, Branshaw Moor in the south and parts of Keighley Moor in the west. The area lies north west of Keighley and features an expansive network of improved grassland with a regular pattern of drystone walls and, an exposed open character. This represents 18th and 19th century enclosure from moorland. Pockets of deciduous woodland are infrequent and typically associated within narrow incised cloughs and around reservoirs. The LCA forms a plateau which slopes gently from more elevated areas adjacent to Keighley Moor in the west, to the urban edge of Keighley in the south east. The wooded valleys of North Beck and Worth Beck intersect the LCA.

Figure 3.19: Location of LCA B1



Key Characteristics

- Undulating upland landform underlain predominantly by carboniferous sandstones.
- Acidic, low fertility soils and sloping topography support a predominantly grazed landscape.
- A prevalent geometric field pattern of small to medium-scale rectilinear fields defined by drystone walls; often originating from 18th and 19th century surveyed enclosure.
- Landcover is primarily improved grasslands, with fragmented areas of upland heath and moorland providing important supporting habitat used by birds to forage within the extensive moorland plateaux further up the slopes.
- Woodland and riparian vegetation is concentrated around cloughs, reservoirs, and older farmsteads or clusters of cottages. Limited canopy cover at higher elevations informs a stark, exposed character.
- Settlement includes dispersed farmsteads within the LCA. More suburban development is present at lower elevations where settlements spill onto the moorland fringes from the valleys. These often have pre-industrial agricultural origins.
- The impact of the industrial revolution resulted in growing settlements, including Laycock and Oakworth, with built development connecting this area with neighbouring river valleys downslope.
- More recent farm diversification and expansion has increased the presence of modern development, including large storage barns and isolated wind turbines.
- Long-distance views of the surrounding valleys are afforded from the slopes, with clear intervisibility to the densely settled valley floors.
- Associations with the upland moors, with increasing sense of remoteness to the west.

Figure 3.20: Example photos from LCA B1



Cattle grazing on sloping pasture near Oakworth.



Drystone walls define straight-edged field margins.



Intervisibility across North Beck wooded valley to the urban edge of Keighley.



Recreational use at Oakworth Cricket Club.



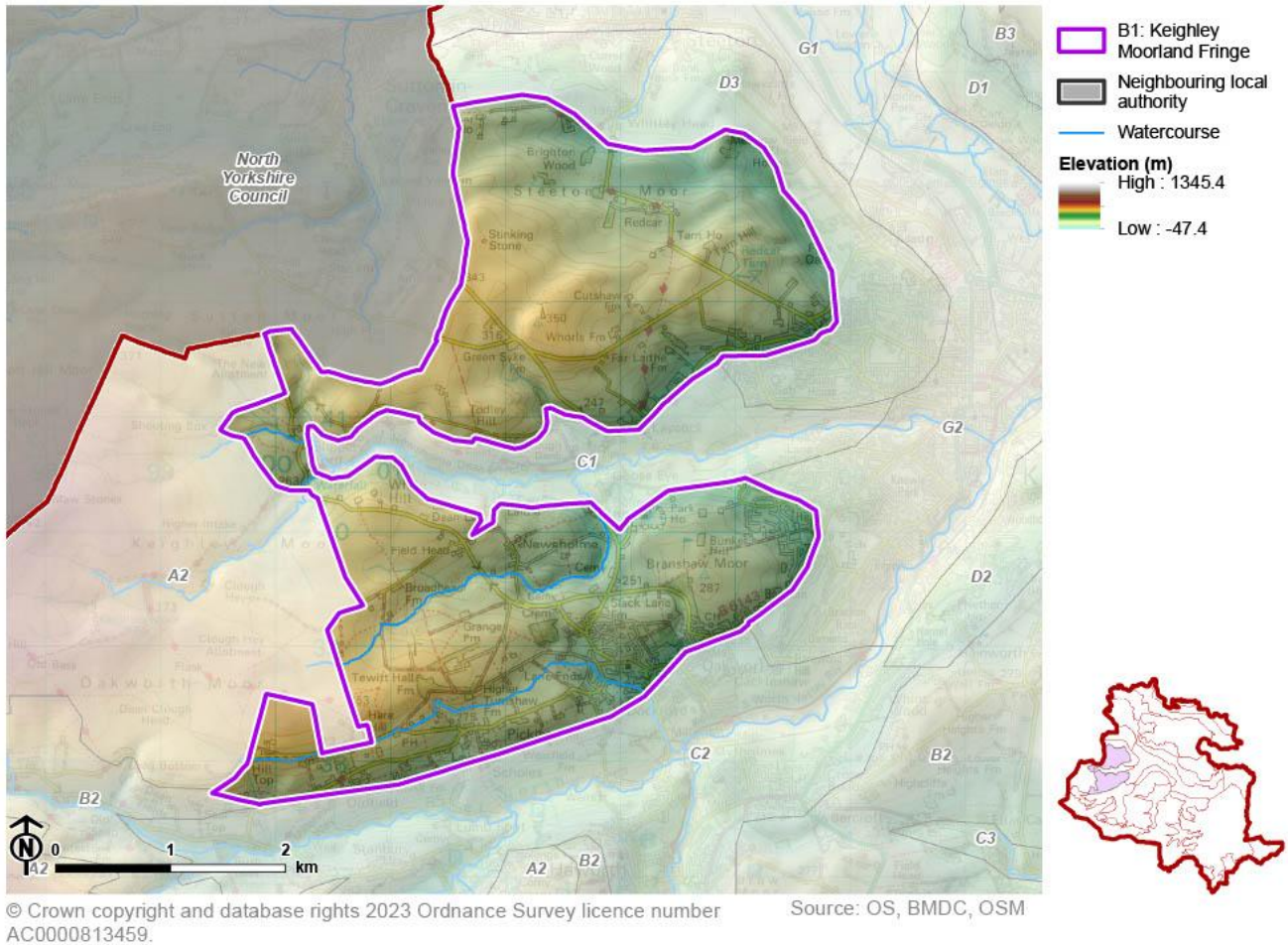
Redcar Tarn popular picnic spot.



Laycock Conservation Area.

Landscape Character

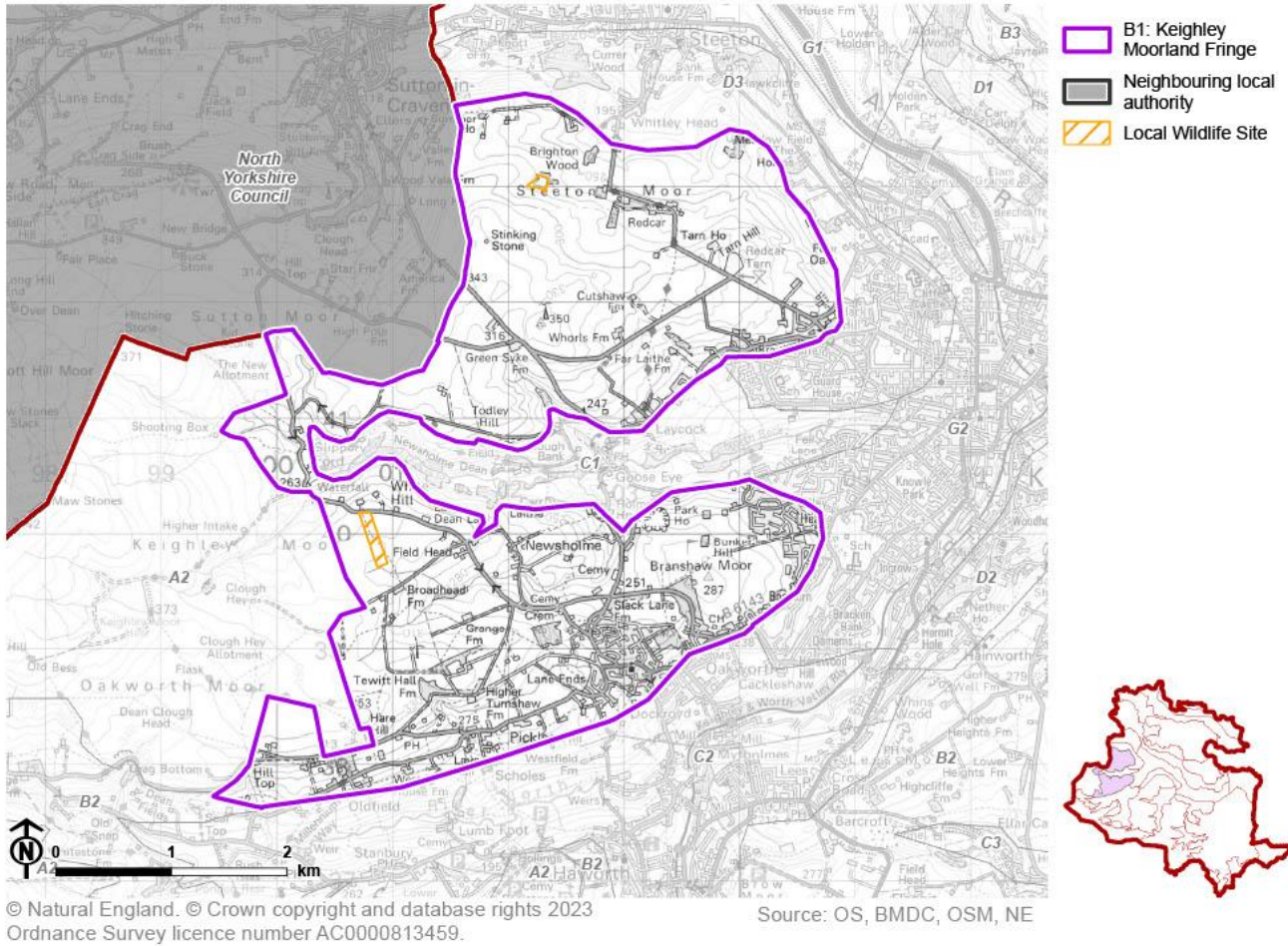
Figure 3.21: Topography of LCA B1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises a mix of Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, chiefly comprising the Millstone Grit Group. These sedimentary rocks are composed of primarily siliceous minerals.
- The acidic siliceous minerals have resulted in acidic soils throughout the area. In places areas of blanket bog and peat accumulation impede drainage and result in naturally wet surfaces.
- Springs and tarns permeate the landscape as a result of the high water table associated with these soils. Some of these form coherent watercourses which flow into the surrounding river valleys, including Nook Beck which becomes Newsholme Beck a watercourse which is associated with some alluvium deposits.
- The Devensian glaciation which took place north of the Airedale Valley has resulted in Quaternary deposits of till across the area.
- The topography forms an undulating and varied upland plateau which fluctuates between approximately 200m AOD and 350m AOD, with higher elevations in the west.

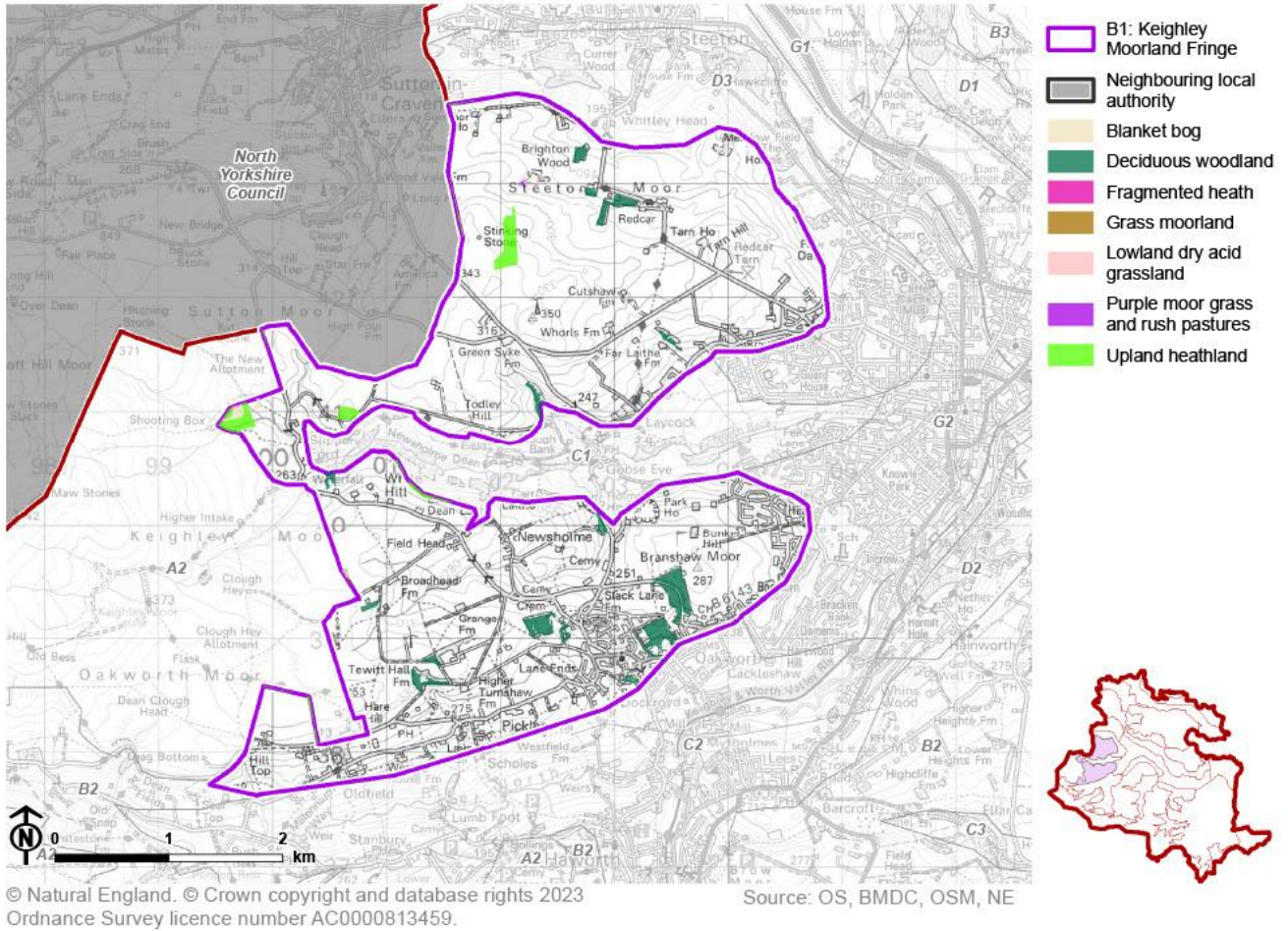
Figure 3.22: Natural heritage of LCA B1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The landcover across the area is generally consistent, comprising large areas of improved grassland with limited biodiversity value. Key areas of unimproved grassland supporting CHEGD fungi remain particularly on more inaccessible slopes. These open areas are uninterrupted by pockets of woodland or settlement.
- Areas of priority upland heathland are present in fragmented blocks in the north west. Additional areas are identified as being within the moorland line, representing the presence of semi-natural grazing or rocky outcrops within the northern part of the LCA and near Branshaw Quarries. Although moorland, these areas differ from the character of open continuous moorland in LCT A Open Plateau Moorland due to their small scale and close association with neighbouring enclosed land.
- Blocks of deciduous woodland are limited and tend to be concentrated around Oakworth and at Steeton Moor. Woodland tends to be linked with parkland and notable farmhouses. The limited woodland cover reduces the ecological connectivity across the area.
- There are two local wildlife sites: Steeton Reservoir (which incorporates priority habitat for purple moor grass and rush pasture and lowland dry acid grassland) and White Hill.

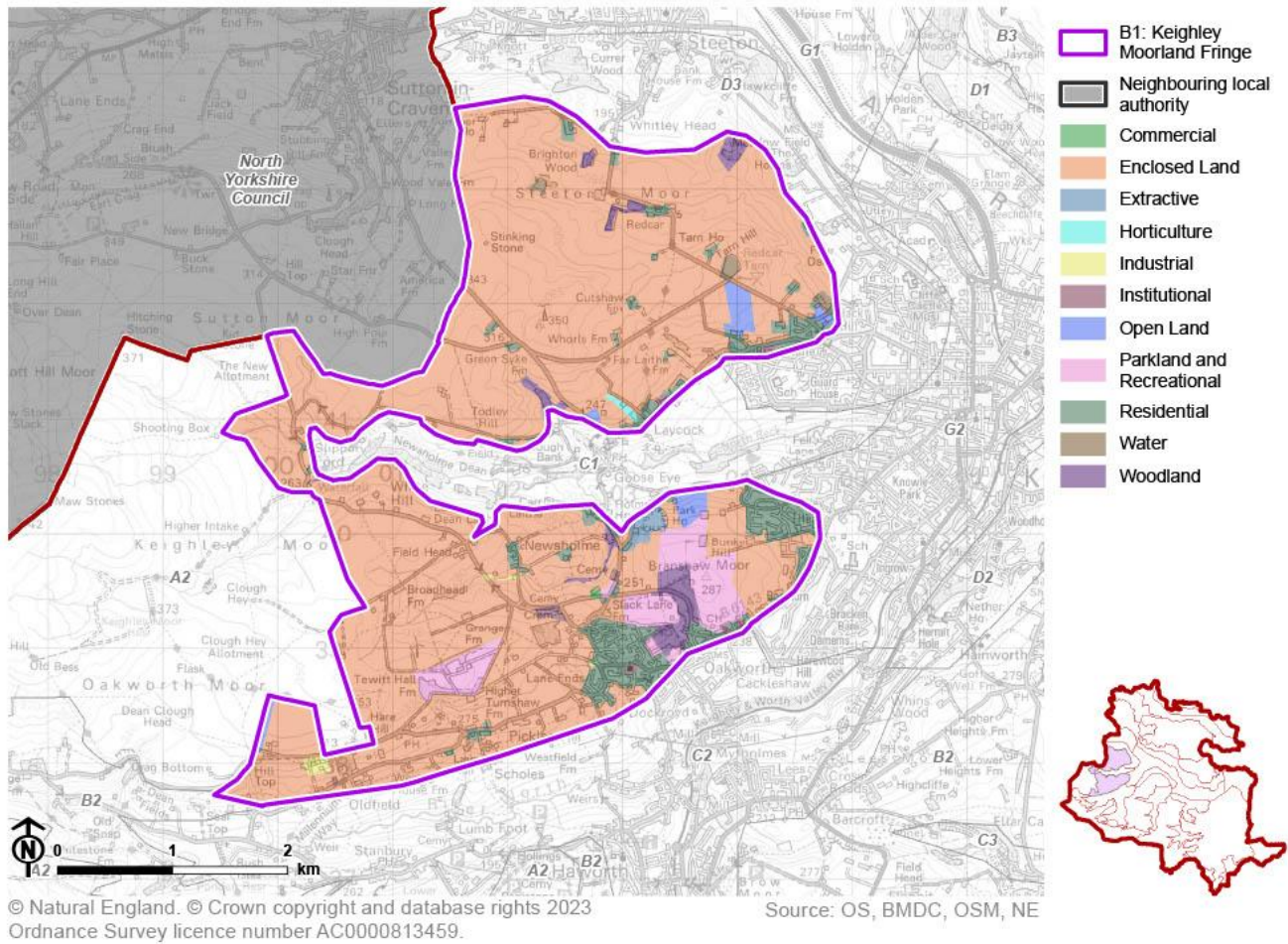
Figure 3.23: Priority habitat inventory of LCA B1



Land Use and Field Patterns

- The acidic, wet soils have low fertility creating grade 4 (poor) and grade 5 (very poor) agricultural land. As a result, the dominant land use is pasture, supporting sheep and cattle grazing.
- The field pattern is predominantly small to medium-scale with straight-sided, regular, drystone wall boundaries, creating a geometric mosaic across the landscape. This reflects the extensive 18th and 19th century surveyed enclosure from moorland. This strict geometric pattern is a dominant characteristic in the landscape and informs a strong sense of place.
- Smaller areas of older piecemeal enclosure near to the wooded slopes and water courses reflect the older agricultural history closer to the valleys and slopes. These are prominent at Newsholme, along the southern boundary of the LCA and Slippery Ford. These older enclosures also feature relatively straight field boundaries.
- Around Laycock, narrow, regular strip fields also reflect this older agricultural history closer to the wooded slopes.

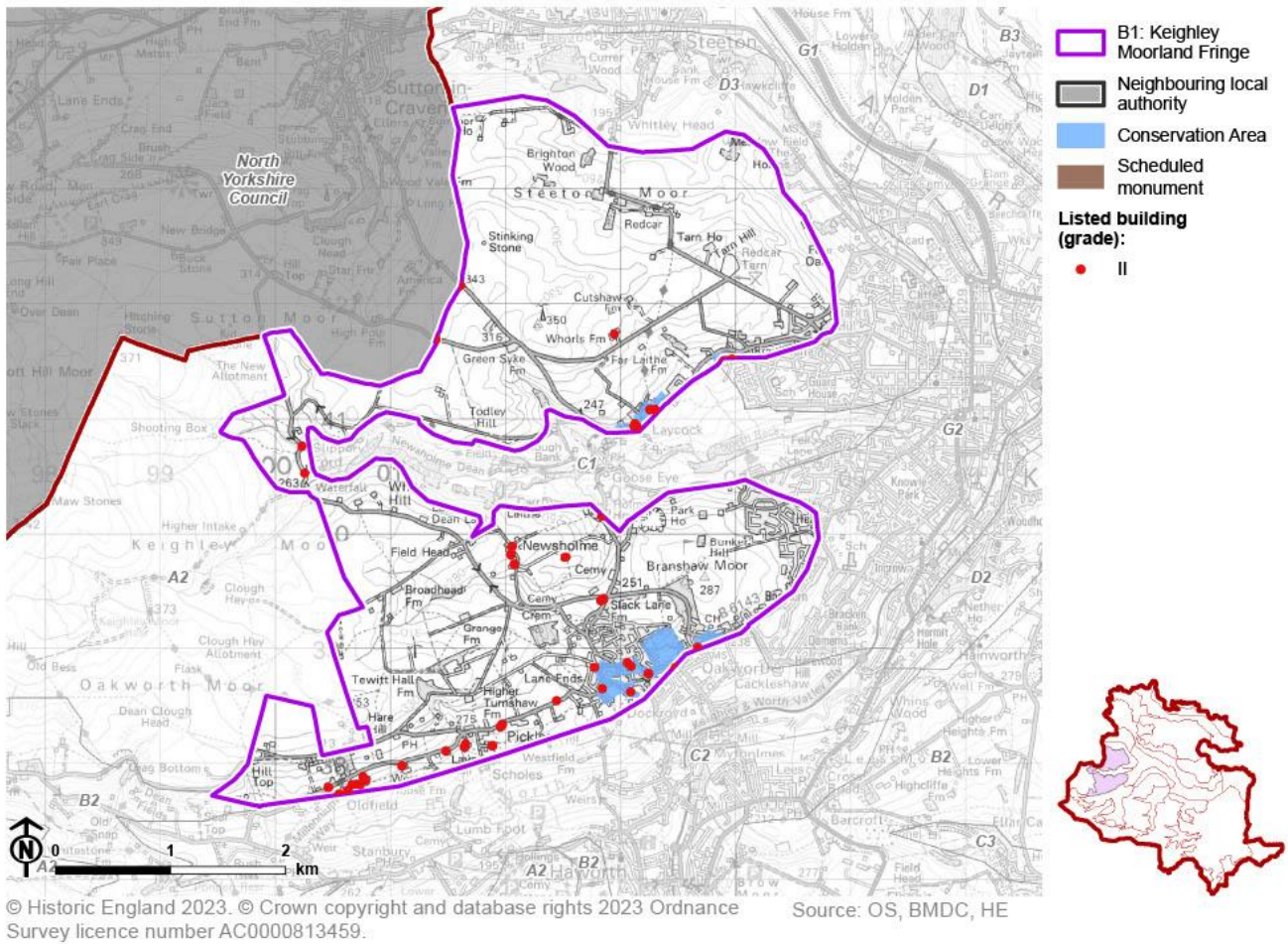
Figure 3.24: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA B1



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The distinctive, 18th and 19th century field patterns are defined by traditional drystone walls, which in many places are intact. This, as well as the numerous listed farmsteads concentrated within the piecemeal enclosure contribute to a strong sense of time-depth within the LCA. There is a concentration of listed buildings near the historic hamlets of Newsholme and Oldfield in the south.
- Parts of two conservation areas lie within the LCA: Oakworth to the south and Laycock and Goose Eye to the north. Oakworth originated as several agricultural hamlets which converged to form an industrial mill settlement. Laycock also has agricultural roots and is now part of a larger settlement together with the industrial Goose Eye in the neighbouring valley.
- Tewitt Hall and associated parkland were located west of Oakworth. The formal parkland character has been lost due to the area's current pastoral land use. The original building has been retained, though modern farm structures have been added around it. Remnants of the previous parkland character include thick tree belts in the otherwise open landscape and an avenue approaching the house.
- Bradshaw Plantation formed part of the parkland associated with Oakworth House which was located in what is now known as Holden Park in Oakworth. Oakworth House burnt down in 1909.
- 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

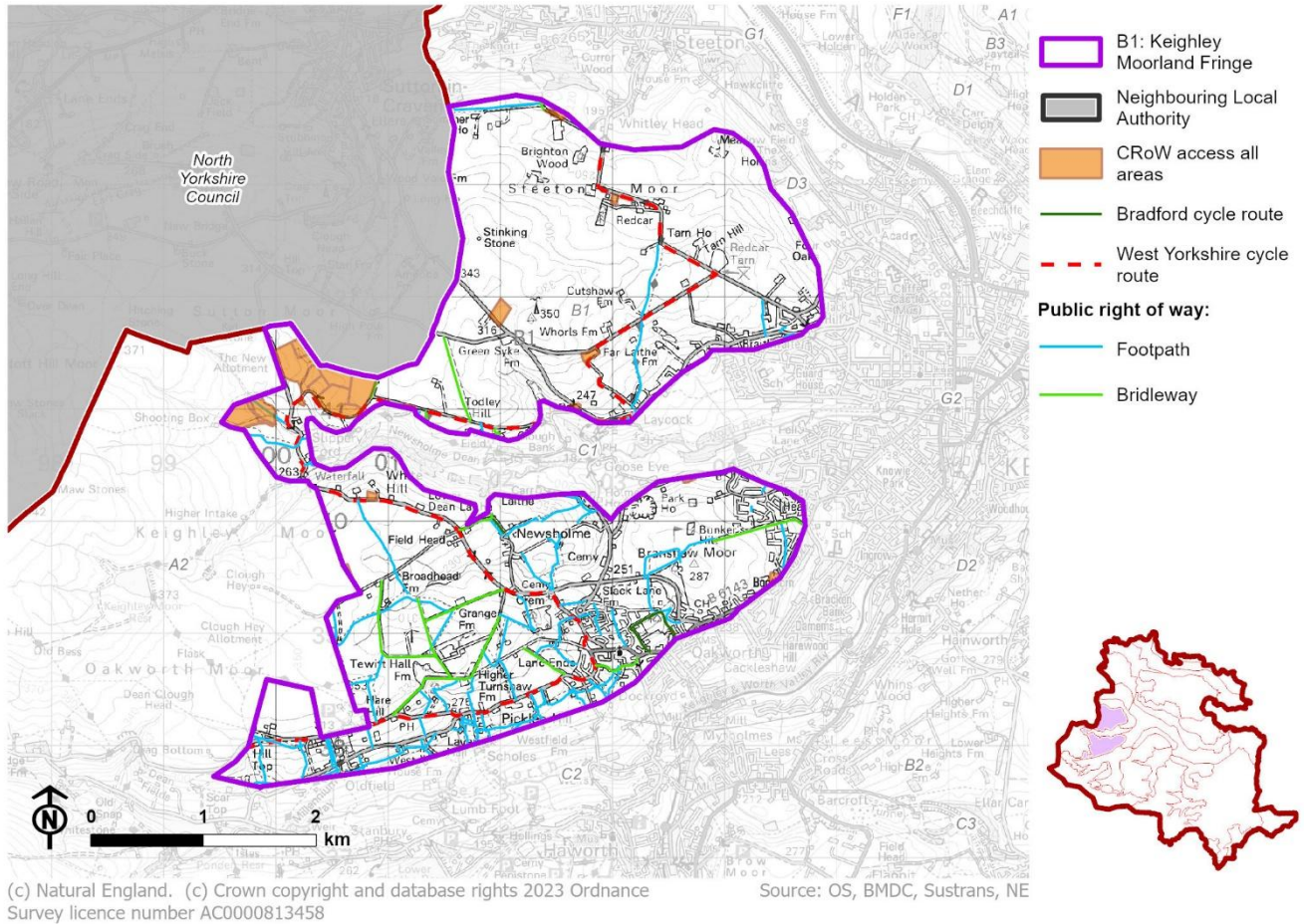
Figure 3.25: Cultural heritage of LCA B1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlements within the area are primarily found on the edge of the wooded valley slopes of the surrounding LCAs (C2, C1, D3). Industrial expansion has resulted in these settlements converging with industrial development further down the slopes and also the settlements in the valleys encroaching onto higher ground. The resultant effect is that the settlements appear to 'spill over' from the wooded valley slopes up onto the stark moorland fringe.
- Tree cover is present within the settlements which in places helps to integrate them into the landscape. However, the larger settlement of Keighley is characterised by straight abrupt edges which are generally poorly integrated by vegetation.
- Away from the wooded slopes, settlement is sparse, limited to isolated farmsteads and cottages along rural lanes and associated with the surrounding pasture. These reflect the local sandstone and gritstone vernacular, characteristic of West Yorkshire.

Figure 3.26: Access and recreation of LCA B1



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way and rural lanes, particularly in the south. This includes the Millennium Way promoted long distance walking route. Short, unconnected sections of cycle route form a fragmented cycle network in the LCA, although the West Yorkshire Cycle Route runs through this LCA.
- Redcar Tarn, in the north, is close to the Millennium Way and has become a popular picnic spot. The site offers striking views across the surrounding moorland.
- The settlement of Oakworth benefits from good open space provision, including Branshaw Golf Course to the north east and Holden Park within the settlement.
- There are fragments of open access land, remnants from when moorland common was more prevalent throughout the area. The most notable of these is at Grey Stones Hill in the north west, which forms a continuous, large expanse of common land in the adjoining Craven District and on the Haworth Moorland Plateau.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The lack of tree cover and elevated position creates an open, expansive character with distant views across nearby valleys to surrounding moorland.
- In some cases, farm enterprises have grown to include large storage barns, renewable energy generation and stables which detract from the remote rural qualities of the area. This is more prevalent in the north.

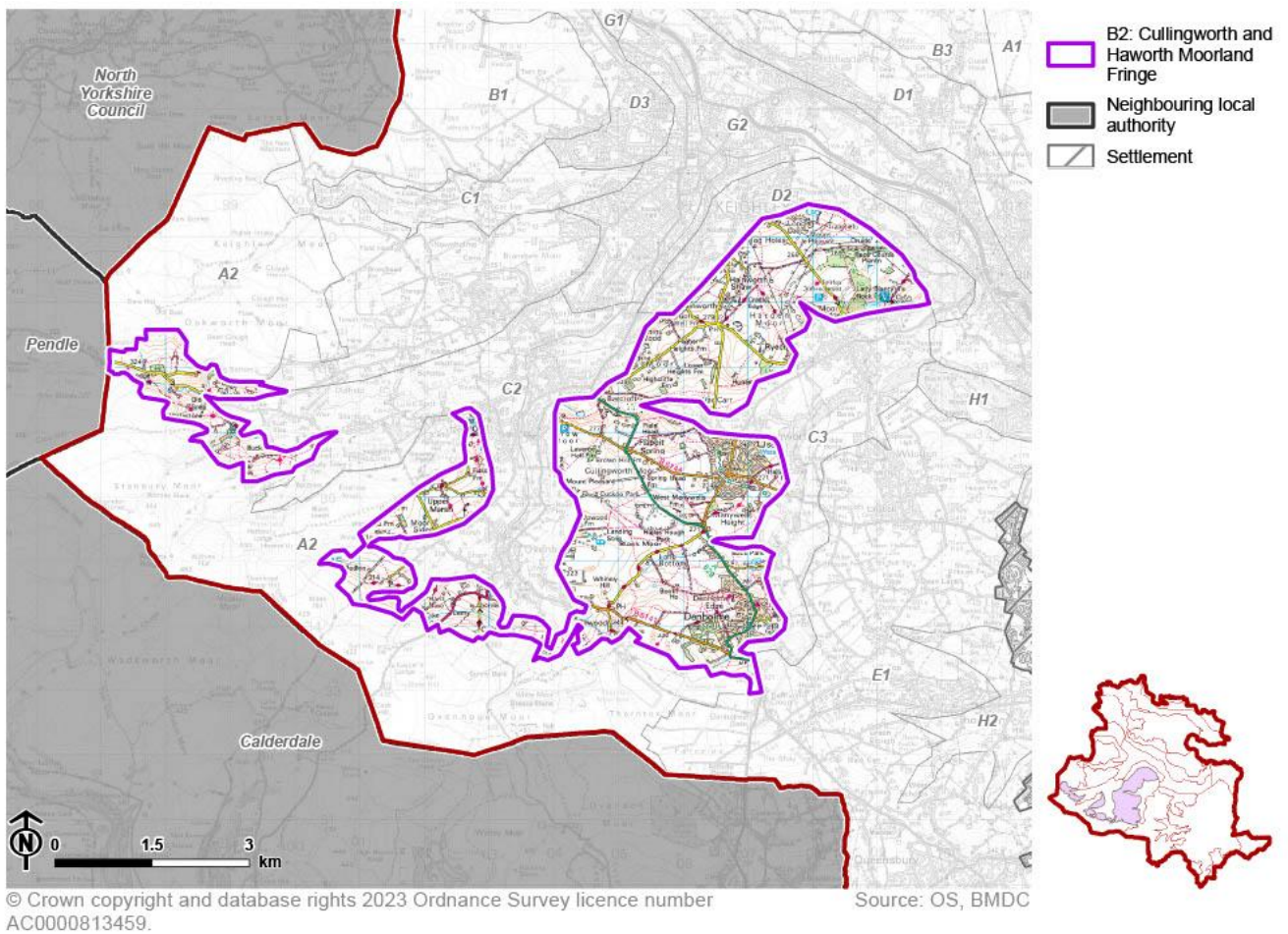
- The network of drystone walls and local vernacular are typical of the upland Yorkshire landscape and inform a strong sense of place.
- Away from major roads and settlements, the perception of wildness is greater and there is a sense of connection to the upland moorlands. Vernacular farmsteads and grazing within a network of narrow lanes provide a rural quality.
- Tranquillity is generally higher in the west and lower in Oakworth and near the urban edge of Keighley. The level of night blight (according to CPRE's dark skies mapping) shows a similar east-west gradient. Darker skies are found in the north west.

B2. Cullingworth and Haworth Moorland Fringe

Location, Context and Summary

The Cullingworth and Haworth Moorland Fringe LCA encompasses the rolling upland landscape surrounding the Worth Valley, south west of Keighley. The area features predominantly improved grassland, punctuated by clough woodland and localised areas of unenclosed moorland. Locally built development incorporates older agricultural dwellings and drystone walls as well as 18th and 19th century industrial development. These are built from local, distinctive gritstone. The landform provides a transition from the steeper, more densely wooded valleys associated with the Worth Beck and Harden Beck to the north and south and unenclosed moorland of Haworth Moor to the west.

Figure 3.27: Location of LCA B2



Key Characteristics

- Upland undulating landform underlain predominantly by Carboniferous sandstones.
- Acidic, low fertility soils and sloping topography have resulted in a mostly grazed landscape, with blocks of unenclosed moorland further east.
- Unenclosed moors provide habitat interest, including priority habitat for upland heath, grass moorland, upland flushes, fens and swamps and blanket bog.
- The distinctive field pattern made up of small to medium-scale rectilinear fields is defined by drystone walls, originating from 18th and 19th century surveyed enclosure. This creates a distinctive geometric pattern across the landscape.
- Woodland cover is limited and tends to be concentrated around cloughs, reservoirs, and older farmsteads or clusters of cottages. Ancient woodland is present at Deepcliffe Woods.
- Settlement across the area is limited to dispersed farmsteads and villages at the lower elevations in proximity to the valley floors and near water courses. These often have pre-industrial agricultural origins.
- The impact of the industrial revolution on the landscape is evident in the form of expansive settlements, including Cullingworth and Denholme.
- St Ives Estate is a valued recreational asset in the east which showcases the local wealth that accumulated as a result of the industrial revolution. The Estate together with the adjacent Harden Moor have been included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Infrastructure is more prominent in the east, including the A629 and electricity pylons. This detracts from the sense of remoteness and otherwise isolated character of the area.
- The contrasting textures between rough unenclosed moorland and geometric pasture informs a unique sense of place and adds depth and interest to the landscape.

Figure 3.28: Example photos from LCA B2



Drystone walls and isolated turbines south of Long Lee.



Disused quarry alongside the Worth Way.



Sheep grazing within enclosed pasture.



Moorland habitat and open access land at Sugden Brow.



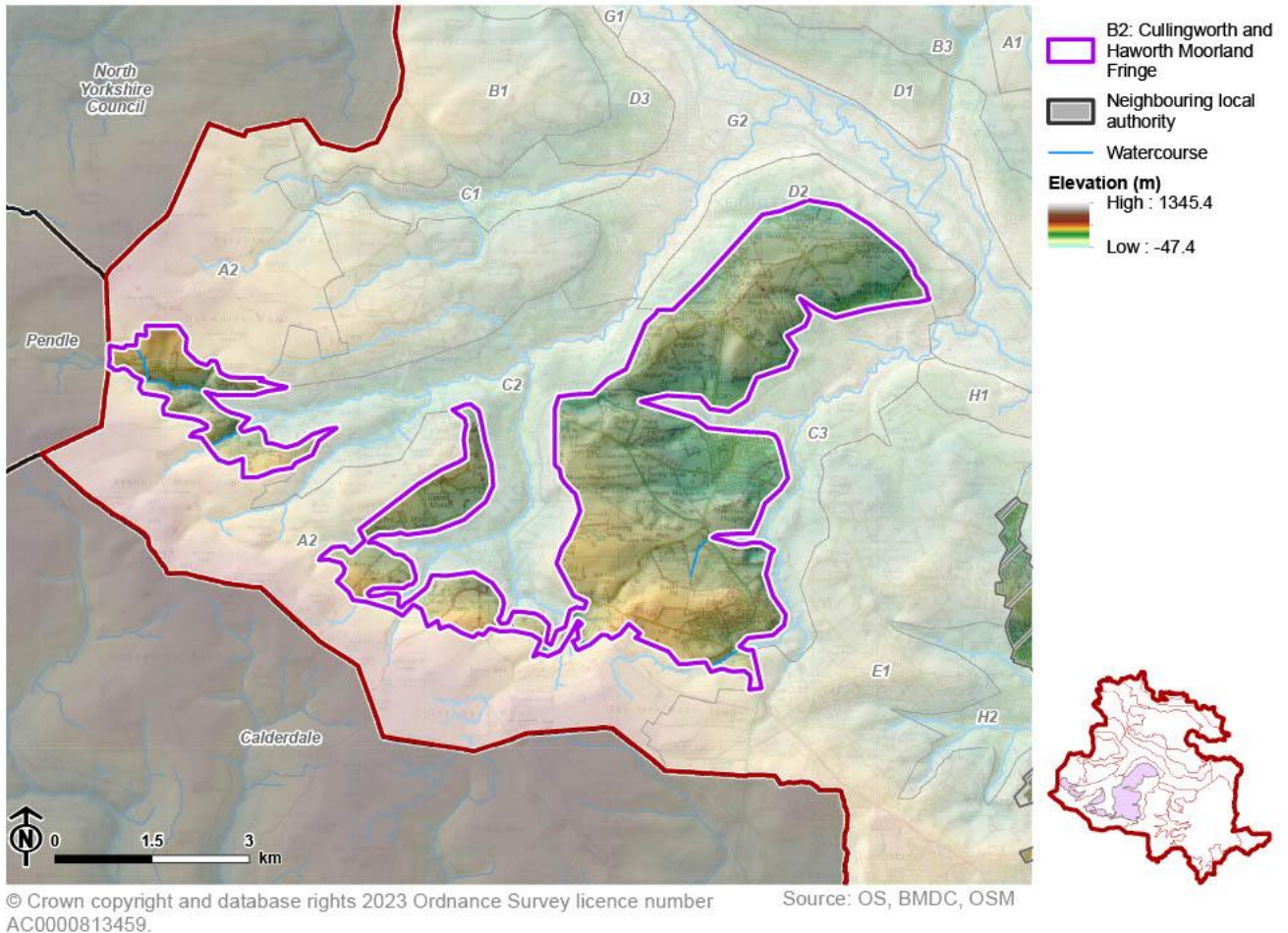
Contrast between unenclosed moorland and geometric enclosure at Brow Moor.



Historic buildings at the St Ives Estate.

Landscape Character

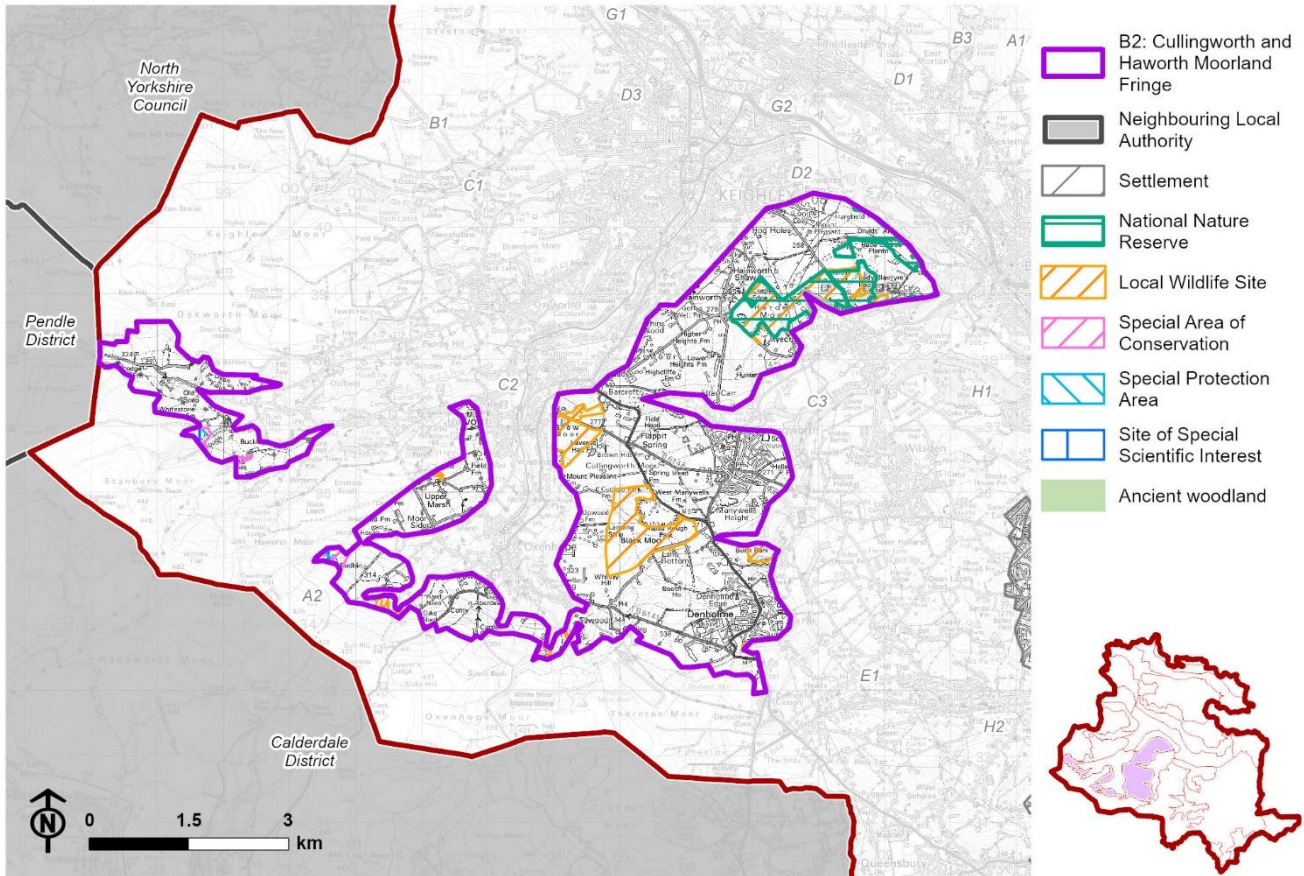
Figure 3.29: Topography of LCA B2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises a mix of Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, chiefly comprising the Millstone Gritgroup. In the south east, there are larger outcrops of slightly younger Rough Rock and Forty-Eight Yard sandstones and the Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation. These sedimentary rocks are composed of primarily siliceous minerals.
- The acidic siliceous minerals have resulted in acidic soils throughout the area. This includes soils with a peaty surface in places which impedes drainage. Freely draining acidic soils are also present, particularly around Cullingworth and Denholme.
- Springs and becks traverse the area, particularly further west and north due to the high water table associated with the soils and run-off from peatland moors to the west. Examples include the upper reaches of the River Worth, Ponden Clough Beck, and Manywells Beck.
- The Devensian glaciation north of the Airedale Valley has resulted in Quaternary deposits of till across the area.
- The upland landform is undulating, ranging from between approximately 380m AOD to 180m AOD. Generally, landform slopes from west to east, descending from the higher elevations of high open moorland plateau (LCT A), to lower elevations of the valleys to the east (LCT C, LCT G).

Figure 3.30: Natural heritage of LCA B2

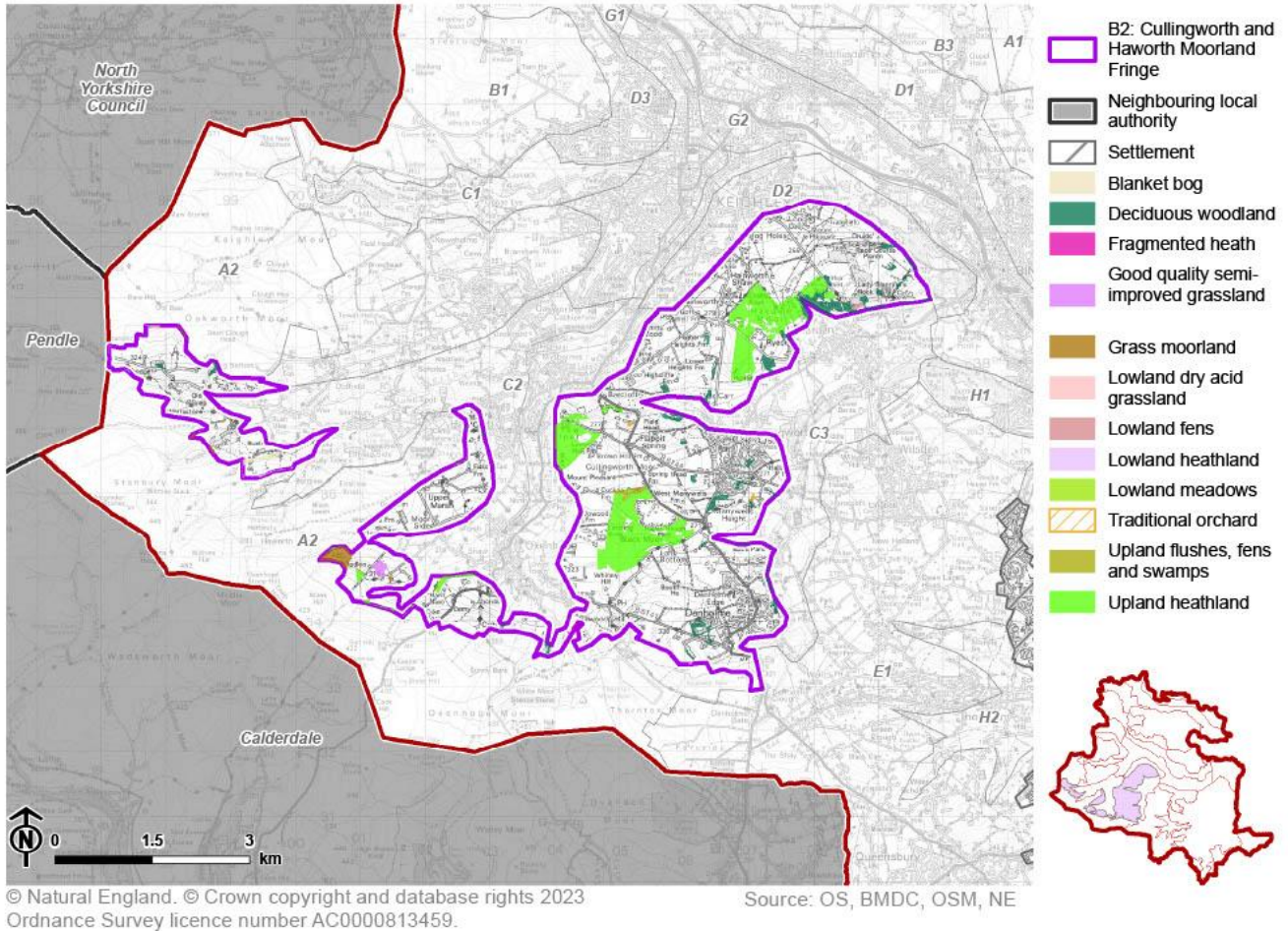


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Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The landcover across the area is generally consistent, comprising large areas of improved grassland with limited biodiversity value. This is unbroken by woodland or settlement through most of the LCA. There are limited tree belts and hedgerows in the area, reducing ecological connectivity.
- Areas of priority habitat for upland heathland are present in large, fragmented blocks in the south and east. These are particularly prominent at Black Moor, Brow Moor and Harden Moor, all of which are identified as local wildlife sites.
- Additional upland habitats include pockets of priority habitat for grass moorland, upland flushes, fens and swamps and blanket bog. Many of these habitats are also identified as being within the moorland line, which indicates the presence of semi-natural grazing or rocky outcrops.
- Blocks of deciduous woodland tend to be concentrated around settlements and watercourses, including clough woodland at Dean Clough and Nan Scar. These are particularly dense at Deep Cliffe Woods which is the only ancient woodland within the area. This area forms part of Harden Moor and Deepcliffe Woods Local Wildlife Site.
- More extensive areas of woodland occur within St Ives Estate, including at Cuckoo Nest Wood, Race Course Plantation and the Coppice. These designed woodlands form part of the parkland in the south. Cuckoo Nest Wood is also part of St Ives Estate Local Wildlife Site.
- The St Ives Estate and Harden Moor have been included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR designation reflecting the importance of the habitats present in these locations.

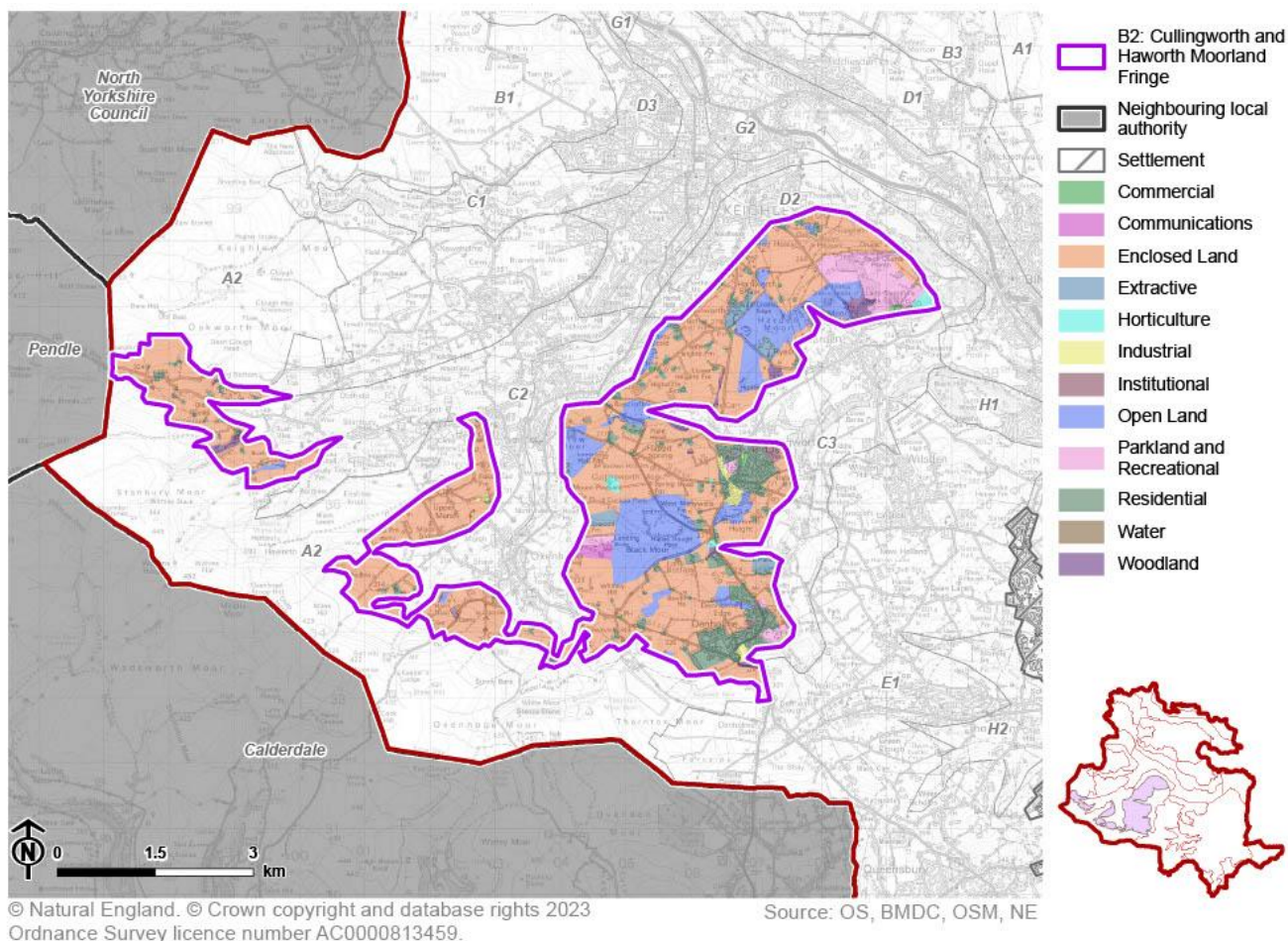
Figure 3.31: Priority habitat inventory of LCA B2



Land Use and Field Patterns

- The acidic, wet soils are not very fertile and land within the area is identified as grade 4 (poor) and grade 5 (very poor) agricultural land. As a result, the dominant land use is pasture including for sheep, cattle and horses.
- The majority of the landscape is enclosed from moorland. Close to Denholme, Ryecroft, Leeming and Ponden Hall this is dominated by piecemeal enclosure, strip fields and medieval surveyed enclosure. These are characterised by a mix of regular and irregular fields interspersed by clough woodland.
- Away from the lower slopes and settlements at higher elevations, 18th and 19th century surveyed moorland enclosure is more common. This is characterised by very straight, regular field boundaries.
- In the south and east, unenclosed heathland remains at Black Moor, Brow Moor, Catstones Moor and Harden Moor, which have been quarried in places, resulting in localised broken and varied landform.
- Parkland associated with St Ives Estate is present in the east. This includes areas of woodland and plantation, as well as 'wilder' moorland at Heather Park.

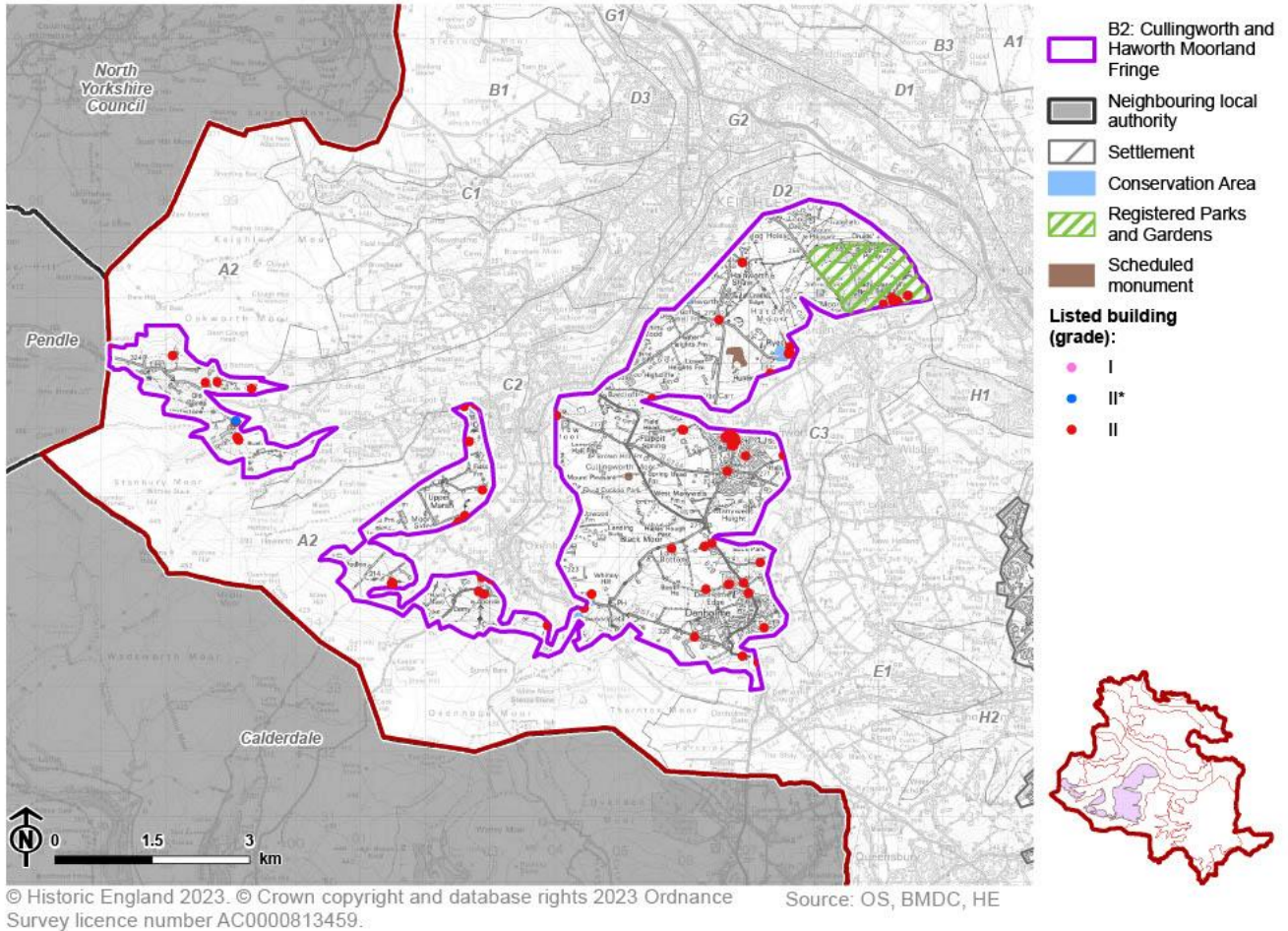
Figure 3.32: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA B2



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Castle Stead Ring and Catstones Ring scheduled monuments represent prehistoric moorland settlements that were consistent across the moors for millennia.
- Grade II listed buildings are present across the area. The majority of these are old farmsteads, barns and cottages, representing the agricultural heritage of the moorland fringe. This agricultural history is also present in some of the conservation areas. Ryecroft, in the east of the LCA, originated as a 17th century farming development, evolving into a small hamlet and the nearby core of Cullingworth still has a rural feel due to the presence of converted barns and cottages.
- In the north west, the 17th century Grade II* Listed Building Ponden Hall is of particular cultural significance as the inspiration behind Thrushcross Grange, the fictional home featured in Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. The promoted route 'The Brontë Way' also runs through this part of the landscape.
- Part of the St Ives Estate, Registered Park and Garden lies in the east. This features several grade II listed buildings, including the 17th century Old Grange Hall and the 19th century St Ives Mansion House. The 19th century development of the estate reflects the local wealth accumulation in the area as a result of the industrial revolution. Parkland associated with the estate was influenced by William Ferrand (a former politician), with a vision for highlighting the importance of the past, reflected in the wilder characteristics at Heather Park.
- 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

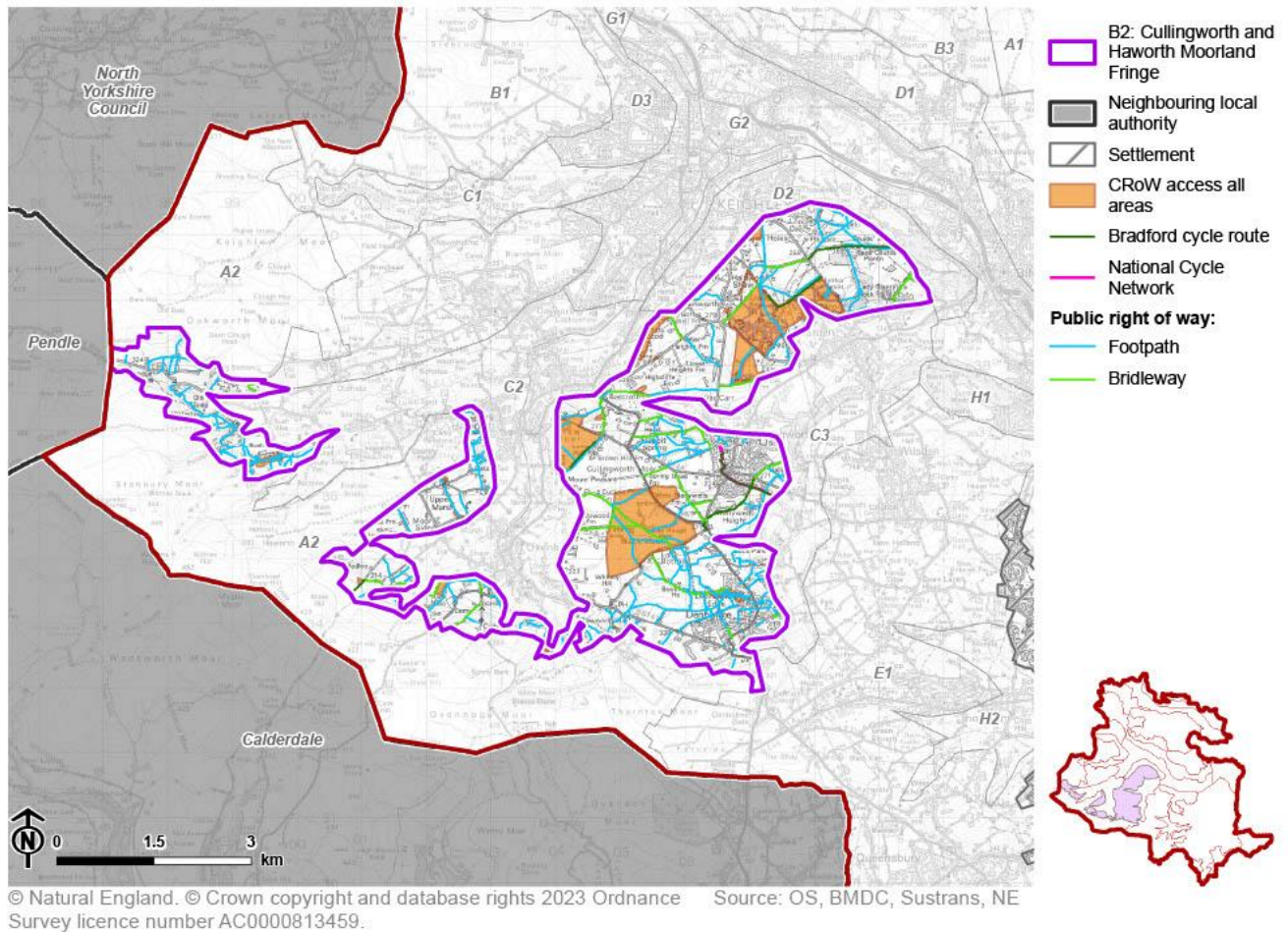
Figure 3.33: Cultural heritage of LCA B2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- In the north and west, settlement is sparse and limited to isolated farmsteads, cottages and hamlets located along rural lanes. Many of these are associated with the surrounding grazed enclosures. Vernacular sandstone cottages and farmhouses are common in the smaller hamlets, including Ryecroft and Flappit Spring.
- Larger settlements are found on the lower elevations, generally in the east. The largest of these are Cullingworth and Denholme. The oldest parts of these settlements reflect small agricultural hamlets, which grew into established settlements as a result of industrialisation.
- Tree cover is present within the settlements but is generally absent in the surrounding landscape, thus having a limited role in integrating settlement edges which stand within the open landscape.
- A number of country lanes and larger roads cross the moorland fringe and form a notable transport network. This includes some major roads, such as the A629 which is aligned north-south through the LCA, linking Cross Roads to Denholme.

Figure 3.34: Access and recreation of LCA B2



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way and rural lanes. This includes the part of the Brontë Way long distance walking route and the Pennine Way National Trail. The Calder/Aire Link bridleway (connecting into the Pennine Bridleway outside the District) passed through the St Ives Estate.
- Sections of cycle routes include part of a 3km isolated stretch of National Cycle Route 69 and short, unconnected sections of local cycle routes.
- Open access land exists on the unenclosed heathlands present in the south and east. Public rights of way also provide connectivity into the larger expanses of common land on moorlands to the west. Harden Moor is noted as a popular spot for mountain biking with links to the St Ives Estate.
- St Ives Estate is an important park and attraction in the area. It includes a café, playground, picnic location and signed walks. In addition, there is a golf course, equestrian centre and archery club offering a wide range of recreational pursuits.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Clough woodland and limited hedgerows create varied texture and views across the undulating topography.
- Fragmented areas of remnant moorland in conjunction with the distinctive geometric field pattern create a varied mosaic of upland land uses and textures which adds visual interest.

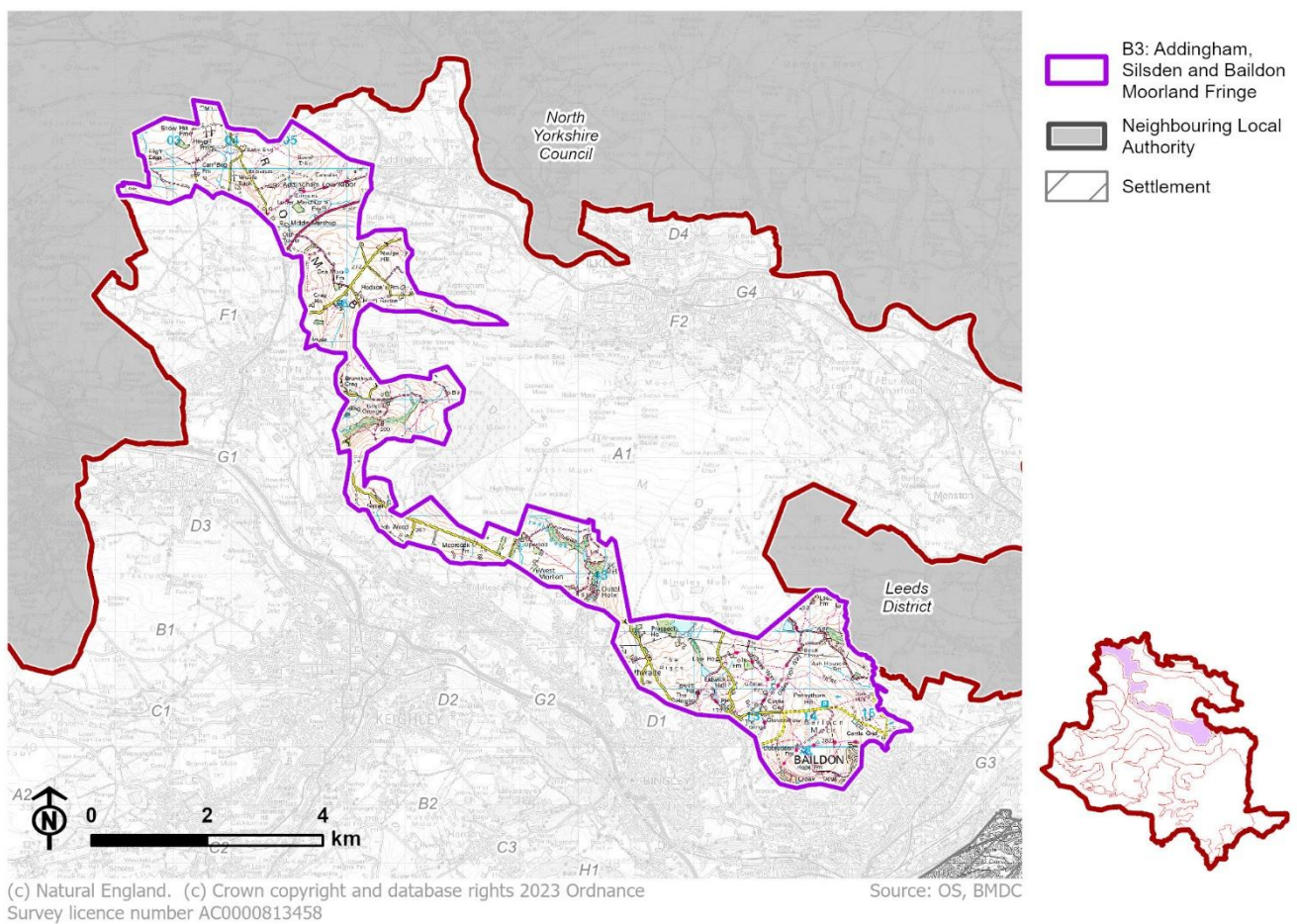
- This transitional landscape is influenced both by the notable settlements at lower elevations and a sense of wildness and connection to the upland moors. The variety is reflected in the perceptual qualities of the landscape, with visual and aural intrusion from settlements prominent in exposed areas to the east. Localised pockets of high tranquillity are present within cloughs and further west.
- The presence of 'A' and 'B' roads and expanding settlements detract from a sense of tranquillity. The effect of this is most notable around Cullingworth and in proximity to Haworth and Denholme.
- Tranquillity is higher in the north west and at higher elevations, which tend to be away from more human influences. Tranquillity and night blight (according to CPRE's dark skies mapping) have a greater influence from human activity between Cullingworth and Cross Roads.
- In the east, two overhead electricity lines add vertical intrusions into views and a modern day human element into the remote character of the area. Views to wind turbines at Ovenden Moor and isolated wind turbines within the LCA add to this.

B3. Addingham, Silsden and Baildon Moorland Fringe

Location, Context and Summary

The Addingham, Silsden and Baildon Moorland Fringe LCA encompasses a sloping strip of pastoral land south and west of Rombalds Moor, stretching from north of Silsden in the north west to the town of Baildon in the south east. Forming a thin transition zone between the remote moorland plateau in the east and the more-settled valley to the west, the area mainly consists of improved grassland with a regular pattern of drystone walls, interspersed with meandering belts of deciduous woodland along cloughs and reservoirs. The landform transitions from more elevated areas adjacent to Rombalds Moor in the east to lowland areas in proximity to the valley floor in the west. Baildon Moor is an outlier and rises to 253m AOD in the south east of the LCA.

Figure 3.35: Location of LCA B3



Key Characteristics

- Acidic, low fertility soils and sloping topography have resulted in a mostly pastoral, rural landscape, apart from an elevated area of moorland at Baildon moor, which is considered an outlier in the area. The area around Addingham Moorside also features a distinct craggy outcrop with evidence of millstone grit quarrying.
- The field pattern comprises small to medium-scale rectilinear fields as defined by drystone walls or hedgerows, and generally originating from medieval enclosures, creating a strong sense of upland 'Yorkshire' landscape.
- Landcover is primarily improved grasslands, with areas of acid and semi-natural grassland, and small areas of mire and heath in localised areas of elevated landform in the far north and south. Some of these habitats on Baildon Moor have been recognised through the designation of the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Woodland and riparian vegetation is concentrated around cloughs and reservoirs forming sinuous bands within the landscape, and occasionally around farmsteads or clusters of cottages.
- Settlement across the area is limited to dispersed farmsteads, as well as small clusters of properties at the lower elevations in proximity to the valley floors.
- Agricultural heritage is evident throughout, in the form of medieval farmsteads and well-defined field boundaries, some of which are of ancient origin.
- Prehistoric cairns, earthworks and enclosures found across the slopes and are indicative of the long history of human settlement and agricultural workings in the area. These contribute to the sense of time-depth in the landscape.
- Long-distance views of the surrounding valleys are afforded from the upper slopes with clear intervisibility between these parts of the landscape and the densely settled valley floors. Of note are the long-distance views to and from the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape.
- The extensive pastoral fields with strong rectilinear field patterns, sense of connection to the moors, and broad views across the settled valleys below conveys a sense of remoteness and rurality.
- An extensive network of footpaths crosses this LCA (including the Dales Highway long distance walking route located along the north eastern edge) and links this area with the wider surrounding landscapes including into the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Figure 3.36: Example photos from LCA B3



Areas of semi-natural grassland, and smaller areas of heath across elevated areas.



Views from within settlements are directed out across falling slopes and towards rising upland moors.



Intervisibility to the settled valley below.



Field pattern delineated by dry stone walls and hedgerows.



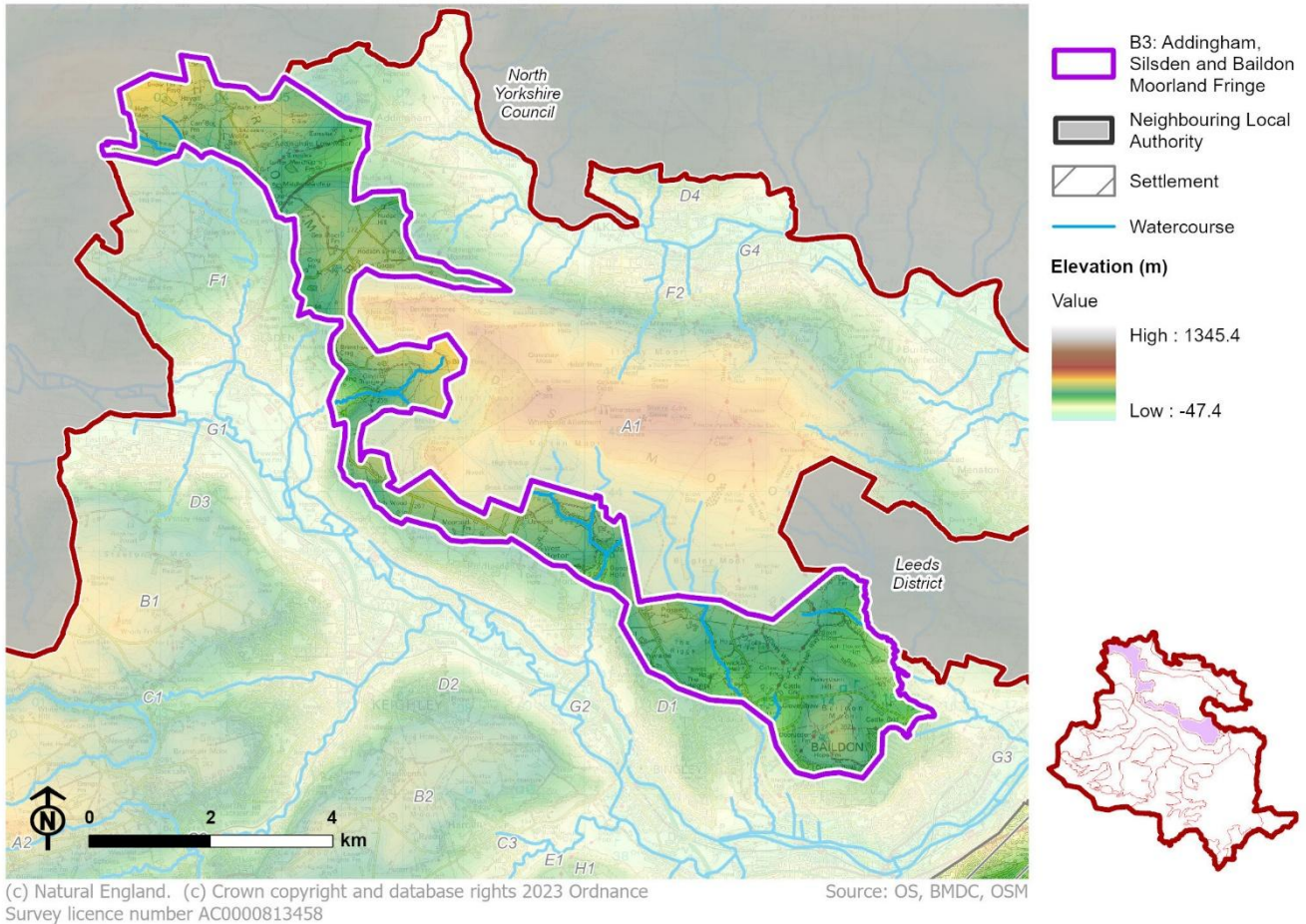
Heritage of agriculture including historic farmsteads.



Dry stone walls border small and medium scale field pattern.

Landscape Character

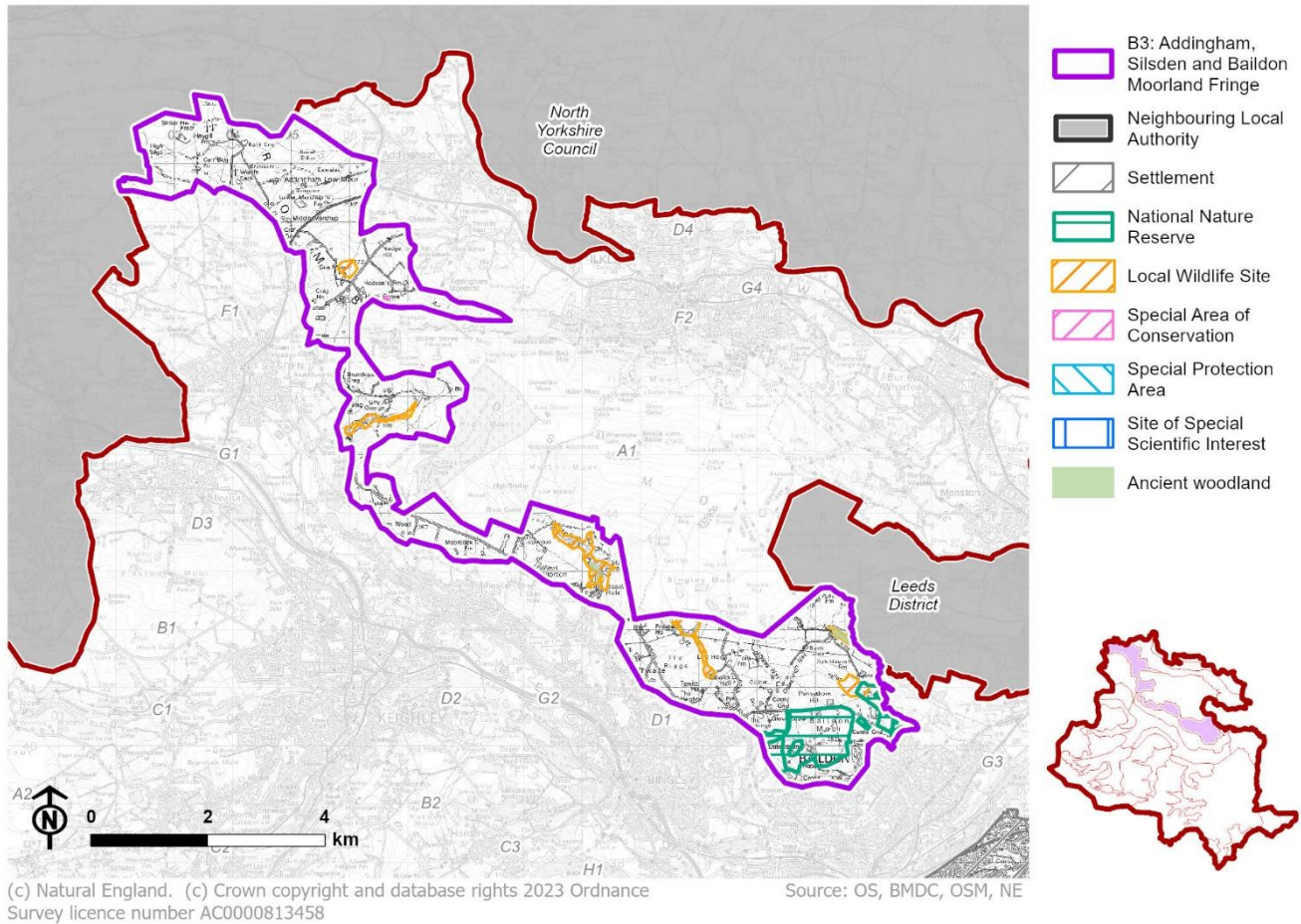
Figure 3.37: Topography of LCA B3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises a mix of Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, chiefly comprising the Millstone Grit Group. In the south east, there are larger outcrops of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation, around Baildon Moor. These sedimentary rocks are composed of primarily siliceous minerals.
- The acidic siliceous minerals have resulted in acidic soils throughout the area. This includes soils with a peaty surface which impedes drainage, particularly north of Silsden and at Baildon Moor.
- Several watercourses cut south through the LCA draining from the elevated moorlands of the neighbouring LCA A1.
- The LCA forms a slim sloping zone of transition from areas of elevated moorland at Rombalds Moor in the north and Skipton Moor in the north west, to the lower lying Airedale Valley in the south. At the southern edge of Ilkley Moor, slopes fall from approximately 280m AOD to 230m AOD, and from approximately 350m AOD to 180m AOD at the eastern edge. In the north west of the area near Skipton Moor, the landform falls from approximately 340m AOD to 260m AOD. Baildon Moor forms an elevated plateau in the south east of the LCA, at 253m AOD.

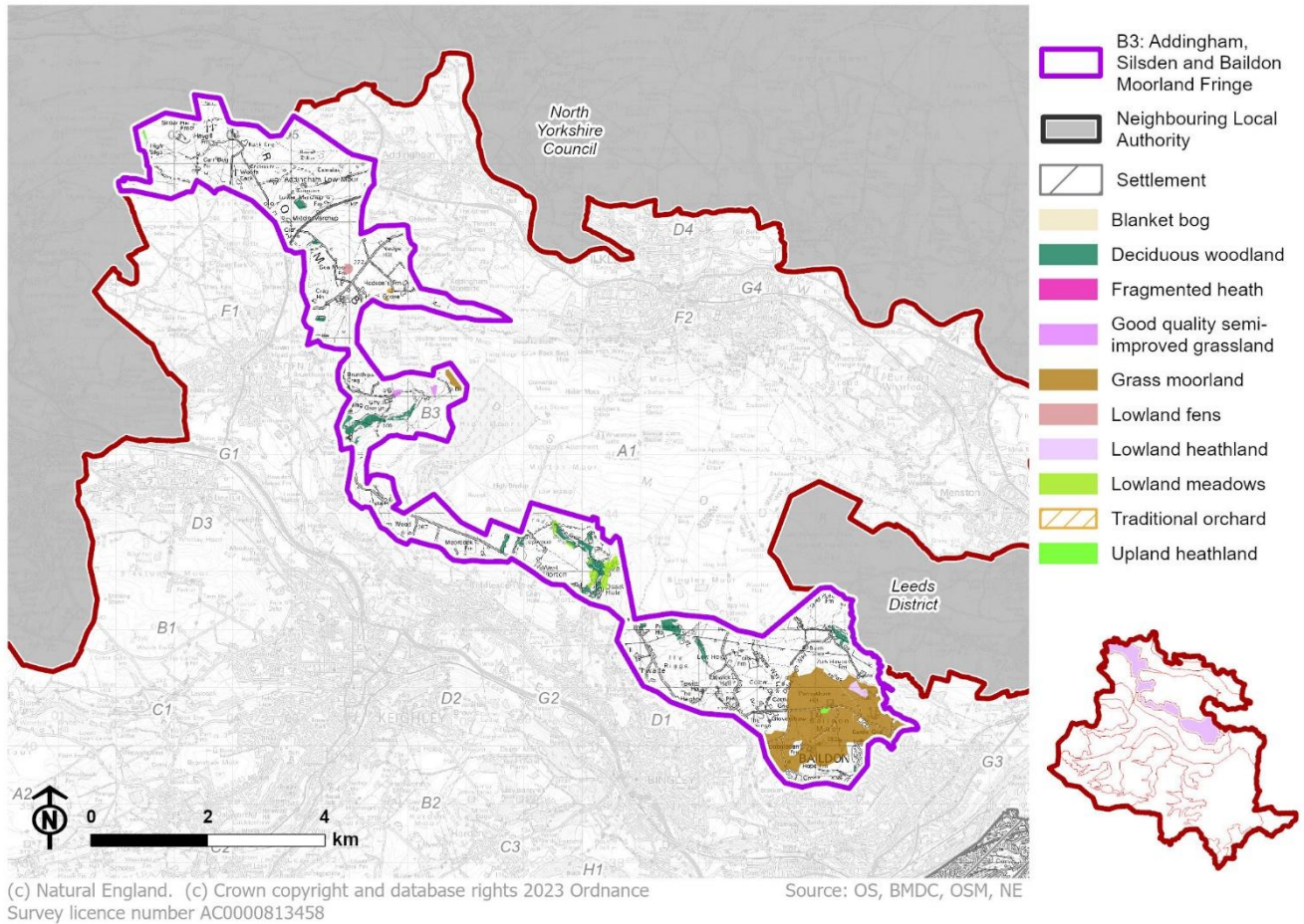
Figure 3.38: Natural heritage of LCA B3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The landcover across the area is generally consistent, comprising large areas of improved pasture for grazing and silage use, with riparian belts of vegetation along scattered watercourses, and limited areas of settlement.
- Areas of acid grassland, semi-neutral grassland, rush, and natural grassland are found scattered across the LCA. Wetlands occur around reservoirs and ponds, and in the north around isolated areas of mire. To the south, areas of mire and raised bog are found on Baildon Moor.
- Areas of fragmented moorland at Baildon Moor form part of a wider network of upland heath, which connects to the extensive areas found across Rombalds Moor to the north west. Parts of Baildon Moor have been included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Small areas of woodland are found lining incised becks, cloughs and small reservoirs, and occasionally around isolated farmsteads and cottages. A number of these woodlands have been designated as local wildlife sites including at Graincliffe and Compensation Reservoir, Sunnysdale, Jacob's Wood/Holden Beck, Ghyll Grange Clough, and Great Wood/West Wood.

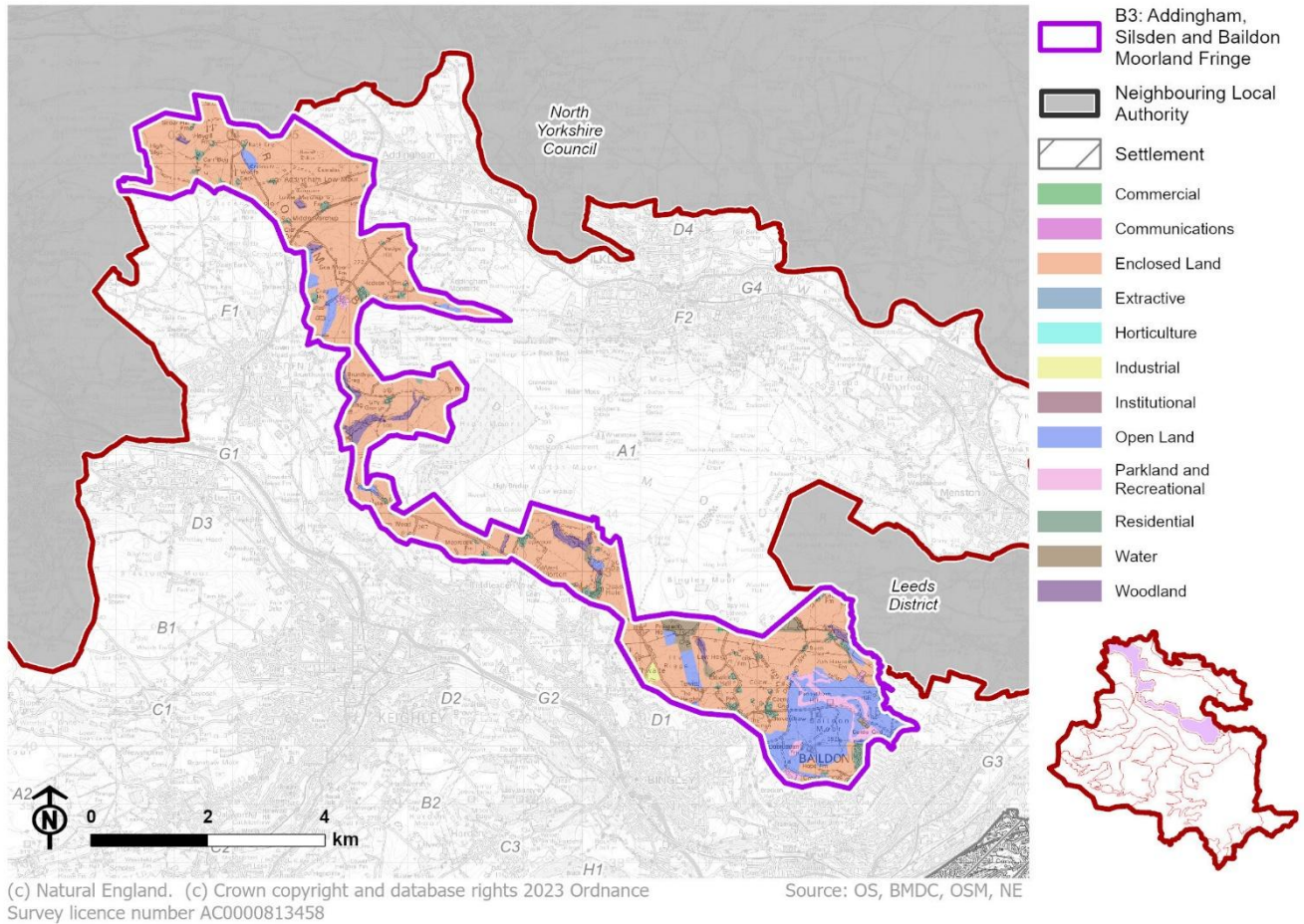
Figure 3.39: Priority habitat inventory of LCA B3



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Due to the poor quality soils and sloping landform, pastoral fields dominate this LCA. Expansive swathes of improved grassland are divided into regular fields which stretch up the slopes.
- The field pattern across the area is varied, with small areas of strip fields and small to medium-scale fields of rigidly geometric 18th/19th century enclosure forming a consistent and historic pattern across the landscape. Regular piecemeal enclosures of medieval origins are more common in sheltered folds and across lower elevations. Baildon Moor forms a large unenclosed area in the south east.
- Field boundaries are mostly intact and defined by drystone walls and occasionally overgrown hedgerows.
- In the south east of the LCA near Baildon Moor, field boundaries are occasionally irregular being formed by meandering streams, or less intact as a consequence of eroded drystone walls and hedgerow loss.

Figure 3.40: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA B3

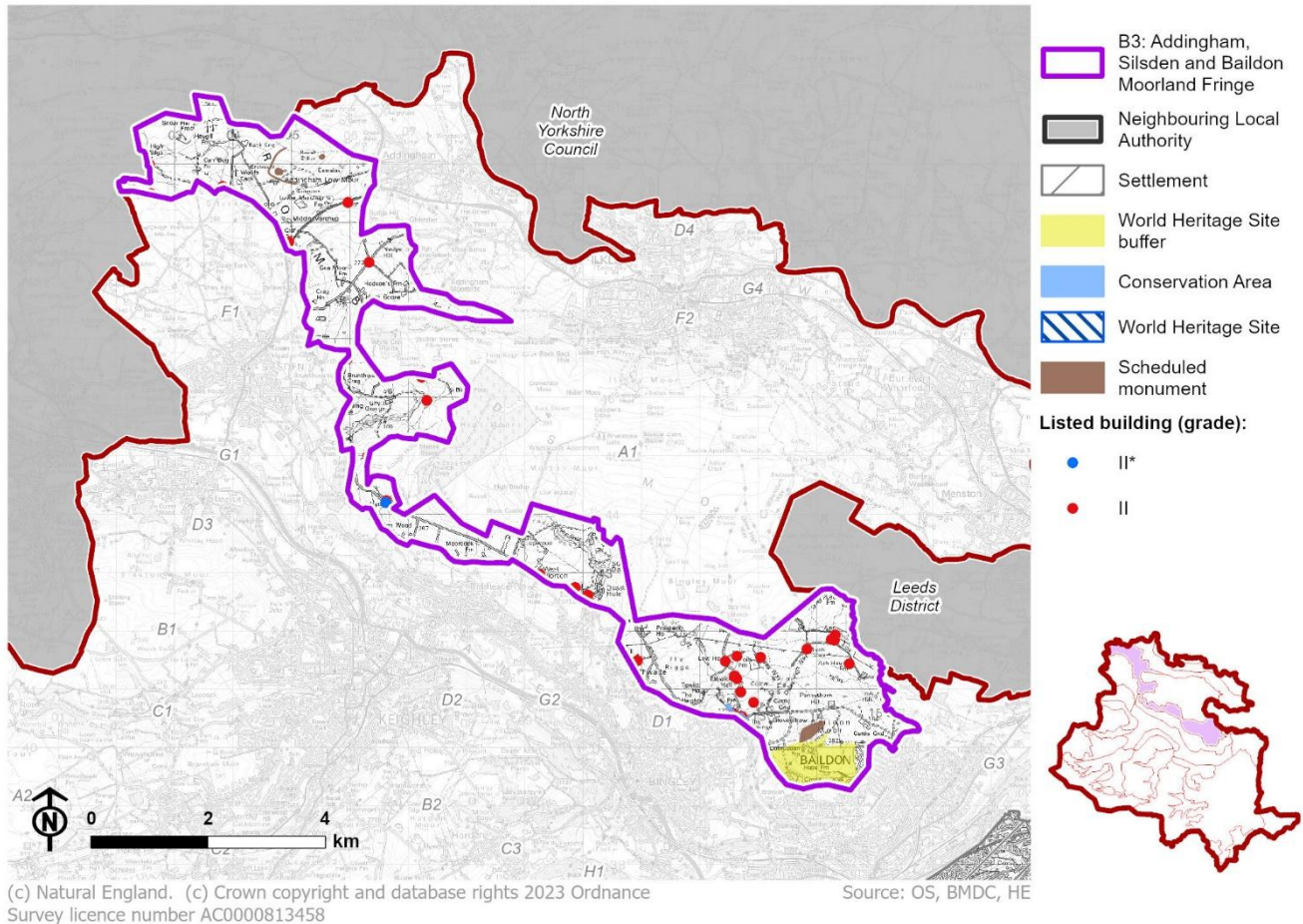


Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The distinctive, varied field patterns of medieval and 18th/19th century origins which are defined by traditional drystone walls and occasional hedgerows contribute to a strong sense of time-depth within the LCA, together with the numerous listed farmsteads dispersed across the slopes.
- Scattered ancient rock carvings, typically cup and ring markings, are found further up the slopes in proximity to the elevated moorlands of LCA A1, and are indicative of the prehistoric settlements that were consistent across the moors for millennia.
- Prehistoric enclosures, barrows, and ring cairns are found across the lower moorlands within the LCA, including the scheduled monuments on Addingham Low Moor at Round Dykes Camp and Counter Hill, and on Baildon Moor at Low Plain.
- Slopes to the south of Baildon Moor at the south eastern edge of the area form part of the backdrop to the World Heritage Site at Saltaire. However, modern residential cul-de-sac developments and a caravan park on the slopes of Baildon Moor have somewhat eroded the historic rural character at the northern edge of the World Heritage Buffer Zone, visible from the World Heritage Site.
- A combination of varied field patterns, prehistoric monuments and listed agricultural buildings including the Grade II Listed Barn at Holden Gate Farm provide a sense of time depth, with evidence of long and varied occupation and settlement across the landscape.

- 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

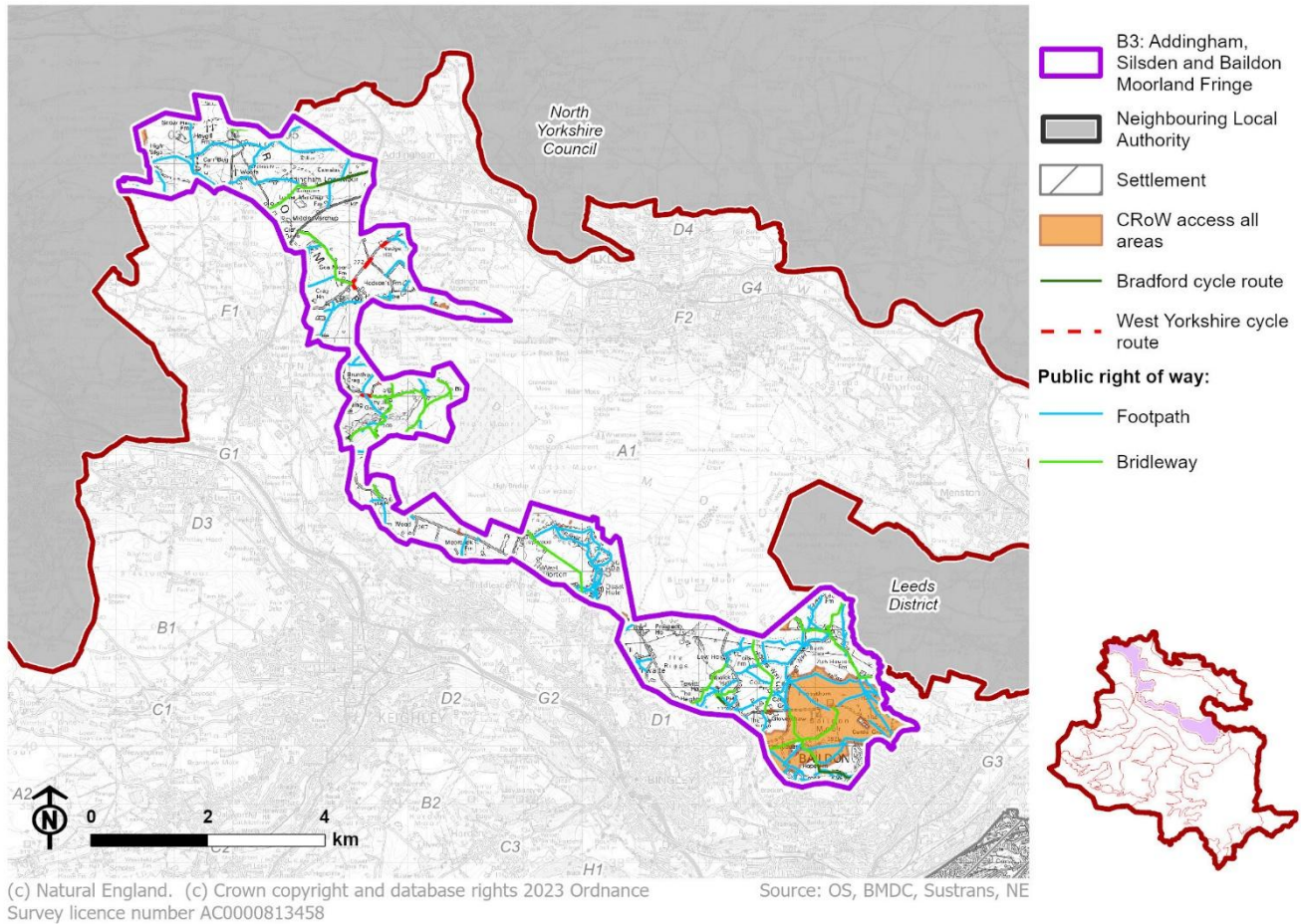
Figure 3.41: Cultural heritage of LCA B3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlement is sparse across the slopes, limited to isolated farmsteads and cottages on rural lanes and associated with the surrounding pastoral fields. In places, such as at Eldwick Hall, a cluster of buildings almost qualifies as a hamlet, but generally there are no settlements within the area.
- There is a small caravan park located south of Addingham Middle Moor, and another on the southern slopes of Baildon Moor, however these are not typical of the wider LCA.
- In proximity to the settled valley floors in adjacent LCAs, small clusters of cottages become more frequent across lower slopes. On the south side of Baildon Moor, the settlements of Baildon and Bingley (within the neighbouring LCA D1) begin to sprawl into this moorland fringe LCA, with some impacts on the sense of rurality across the area.

Figure 3.42: Access and recreation of LCA B3



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way. There are a number of promoted walks passing through the LCA, including the Millennium Way, Dales Way, Ebor Way, and Welcome Way. The West Yorkshire Cycle Route also crosses part of this area between Silsden and Ilkley.
- There is a large area of open access land at Baildon Moor, and its proximity to the urban areas of Baildon and Bingley in the neighbouring LCA (D1) makes it a popular walking destination. The wider public rights of way network links into the open access land of the expansive Rombalds Moor in the neighbouring LCA (A1: Rombalds/Ilkley Moor). These areas also offer a popular destination for mountain bikers.
- Baildon Moor contains camping and caravan sites, as well as a golf course. The area north east of Silsden also features these recreational features, although the golf course was recently closed.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Long-distance views of the surrounding valleys are afforded from the prominent slopes and elevated areas of moorland at Baildon and Addingham, across pastoral slopes to settlements along the valley floor to the west and south.
- Frequent views to the densely settled valley floors introduces distant elements of human activity and somewhat detracts from the perception of remoteness across the LCA. However, the visual distance to those settlements and the proximity to surrounding pastoral fields and remote moorland enhances the perception of rurality within the LCA itself.

- The scattered vernacular agricultural buildings, varied and historic field patterns and pastoral uses across the LCA contribute to a distinctive and rural character, which gives rise to a more remote and tranquil landscape further up the slopes in proximity to Rombalds Moor.
- Occasional vertical elements are present in the form of overhead electricity lines, and communication masts on the elevated moorland slopes, which diminish the remote characteristics of the area to some degree.
- Ribbons of dense riparian woodland within steep cloughs create localised areas of enclosure which contrast dramatically with the generally open, exposed pastoral landscape.
- Tranquillity and the experience of dark skies are more pronounced in proximity to the moorland plateau to the east, further from the densely settled valley floors to the west and south.
- There is a notable contrast between this remote and sparsely settled LCA from the neighbouring settled valley sides and floors which creates a sense of escapism and transition from the urban into a rural context.

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT B: Moorland Fringe

Climate Change

- Climate change leading to increased periods of drought, could result in changes to the water table and reduce the presence of springs and small becks across the LCT. This has the potential to degrade areas of mire and riparian vegetation along incised streams.
 - B1: Deciduous woodland along water courses at Nettle Hole, Hill Clough and pools north east of Holden Park.
 - B1: Purple moor grass and rush pastures to the west of the small tarn near Dam Green Top.
 - B2: Deciduous woodland along water courses at Ponden Clough Beck, Dean Clough and Nan Scar.
 - B3: Moorland expanses at Baildon Moor, and deciduous woodland along Sunnydale, Holden Beck, Ghyll Grange Clough, Great Wood.
- Potential that this increases the risk of wildfires within unenclosed land and large enclosures of rough grassland.
 - B1: Unenclosed rough grassland and heathland at Grey Stones Hill and Buft Hole.
 - B2: Unenclosed expanses of rough grassland and moorland at Black Moor and Harden Moor.
 - B3: Unenclosed expanse at Baildon Moor.
- Climate change may result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall which has the potential to cause localised flooding and increasing the risk of erosion, including poaching from livestock grazing on wet ground.

Agricultural Change

- Diversification of upland farms leading to renovations and extensions to agricultural holdings may detract from rural character in places. Diversification can also increase rewilding practices, increasing the natural value but may also impact on the sense of time-depth and sense of place provided by the characteristic network of grazed, regular fields bounded by drystone walls.
- Uncertainty over changes to agricultural funding may lead to increases or decreases in grazing pressure and subsequent impacts on grassland character.

Development

- Development in proximity to exposed settlement edges at elevated positions within the LCT have the potential to erode the historic setting of settlements and detract from the rural character. This is exacerbated by the increasing pressure on existing infrastructure including road networks and presence of cars along narrow lanes.
 - B1: Development pressures at Oakworth within the Branshaw Moor area may incrementally erode the rural character and has the potential to reduce the gap between Oakworth and the wider Keighley urban area.
 - B2: New residential development and increasing development pressure at Cullingworth and Denholme may put a strain on village infrastructure and erode rural qualities in the landscape.
 - B3: Development pressures at the south and east edge of Baildon Moor may impact the rural setting and backdrop to the Saltaire World Heritage Site. The rural setting to Saltaire is one of the Outstanding Universal Values of the World Heritage Site.
- In response to climate change there is an increase in pressure for renewable energy. The exposed character of the moorlands makes them favourable locations for wind turbines from a technical perspective. This would create vertical intrusions on the skyline and reduce the remote qualities of the LCT.
 - B1: Pressure for wind energy development includes uplands in proximity to Keighley.
 - B2: Pressure for wind energy west and South of Denholme towards Thornton Moor, which adds to a number of existing turbines.

- B2: Recent pressure for small scale solar panels in residential areas near Haworth.
- New or additional lighting schemes accompanying new development may impact the dark skies qualities.

Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- Uncertainty over new Environmental Land Management 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 could detract from the open character and reduce the sense of time-depth created by the intact network of drystone walls.
- New pathogens and pests are increasingly putting pressure on natural habitats, most notably ash dieback, in woodlands which result in the need for tree felling to manage this risk.
 - B2: Ash dieback has resulted in tree loss, notably within St Ives Estate.

Heritage at Risk

- Scheduled monuments within the moorland fringes are at risk of being degraded without appropriate management of vegetation and with increased risk of wildfires. Heritage assets are also at risk from recreational pressures.
 - B2: Catstones Ring is already on the Heritage at Risk Register principally in relation to bracken control.
 - B2: Land management and visitor pressure should be carefully managed around cairns and stone circles at Harden Moor and Castle Stead Ring on Cullingworth Moor.
 - B3: Concentration of cairns and barrows at Baildon Moor and Round Dykes Camp at Addingham Low Moor.

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- The moorland fringe hosts numerous public rights of way as well as popular routes to cross from the settled valleys into the elevated moorland to the east. Pressure for further recreational infrastructure and pressure on existing footpaths could impact on the area's rural character.
 - B1: The network of public rights of way in the south provides links from Oakworth into the wider moorland environment and further development in this area may increase pressure.
 - B2: Open access land at Brow Moor and Harden Moor are within easy reach of Haworth and Harden respectively increasing the pressure on these sites.
 - B3: Open access land at Baildon Moor is within easy reach of Baildon and Saltaire and provides a link to the adjacent Rombalds Moor.

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- Increased development and visitor numbers increase the risk in relation to anti-social behaviour and littering.
 - B2: Increasing concerns over littering and anti-social behaviour due to new development at Cullingworth.

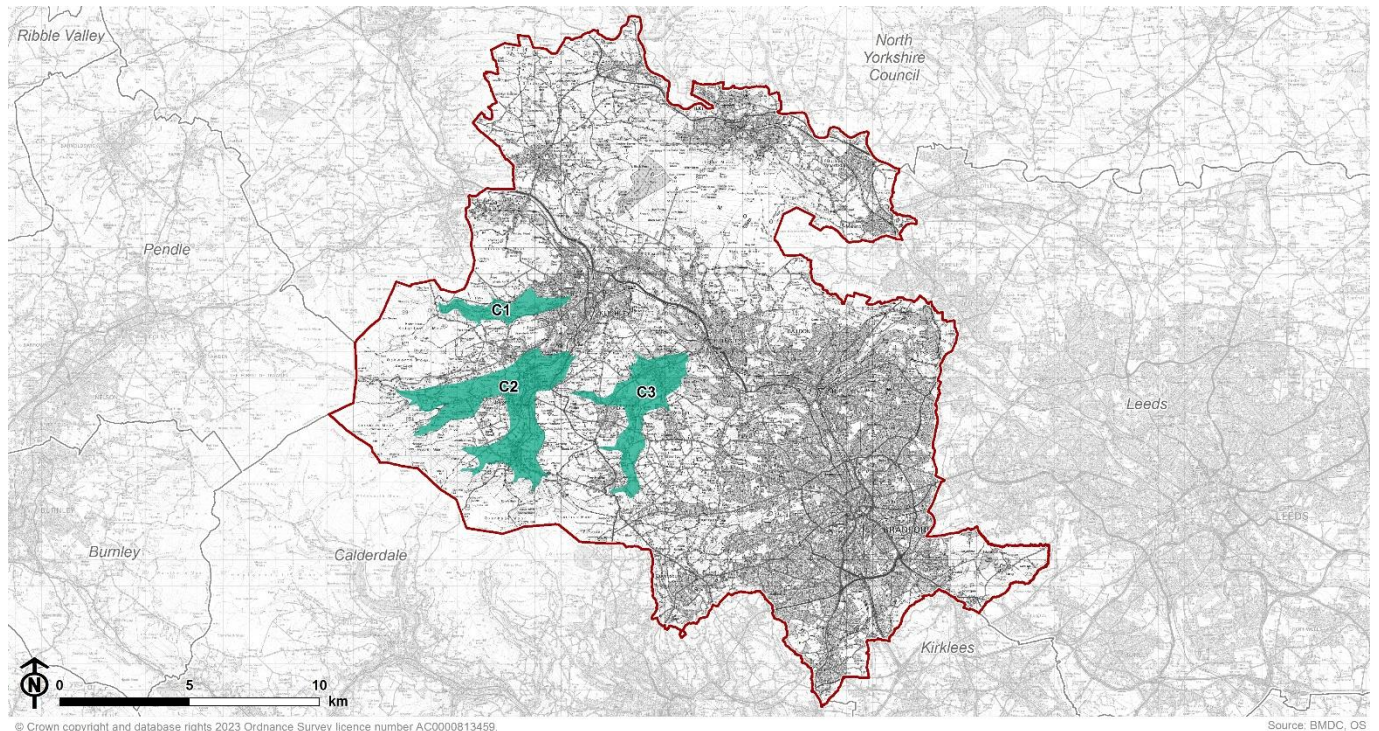
Guidance

- Encourage diverse grasslands within agricultural land to create a mosaic of habitats within the grazed pasture. This should include drought tolerant species.

- Ensure that the siting of any new renewable energy schemes takes into consideration the presence of blanket bog and peatland habitats. Any negative impacts on such habitats should be avoided or adequately mitigated using proper management and restoration techniques.
- Conserve the characteristic field pattern on the highly visible valley sides. Maintain the drystone walls, repair where necessary ensuring that restoration is carried out sensitively and with due regard to local style and construction, especially alongside footpaths which are part of the historic network.
 - B1: Bridleways follow old tracks demarcated by drystone walls including along Occupation Lane, White Lane, Grange Lane and Turnshaw Road.
 - B2: Drystone walls flank footpaths and bridleways along old tracks including the Calder/Aire Link near Upper Isle Farm and south of Black Moor.
 - B3: Relatively intact and distinctive drystone walls form field patterns across the rising uplands west of the A6034/Bolton Road, between Silsden and Addingham.
- Conserve the exposed character and focus tree planting along watercourses and within disused quarries, limiting the impact of woodland on the skyline. Tree species should include a range of diverse species, with preference for native species where possible given projected changes to climate.
 - B1: Woodland creation and expansion along Newsholme Beck.
 - B2: Woodland enhancement and creation along the River Worth, Whitestone Clough and Dean Clough.
 - B2: Enhance woodland and encourage natural regeneration of scrubland within disused quarries at Black Moor and Harden Moor.
- Conserve the rural character through the use of appropriate street greening and tree planting within settlements to integrate new development into the wider landscape. This includes planning for the reduction in ash trees present.
 - B1: Opportunity to enhance woodland within and around Oakworth and north west Keighley.
 - B2: Opportunity to enhance and create woodland around Denholme and Cullingworth.
 - B3: Opportunity to enhance and create woodland around East Morton. Hedgerows are not common within the LCT, but there is a greater concentration of them in B3 in the west of the area near Silsden. Managing and enhancing hedgerows in this area will strengthen the woodland network and support biodiversity.
- Manage recreational pressure around scheduled monuments, historic rock formations and carvings, and maintain valued footpaths.
- 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.
- Control bracken cover and other potentially damaging species around scheduled monuments.
- Work with relevant partnerships and interested groups to manage visitor pressure on rights of way and open access land along the moorland fringes and seek opportunities to enhance footpath and cycle links.
- Seek to maintain separation between distinct settlements and to respect settlement settings where they contribute to settlement character.
- When designing new development consider elevation and strive to maintain development within existing limits to prevent built form sprawling up the valley sides, detracting from remote character.
- Avoid or ensure sensitive use of lighting within new developments to maintain dark night skies and the tranquillity of this LCT.
- Maintain the visual interrelationship between the Saltaire World Heritage Site and the Baildon moorland fringe (LCA B3). Maintain the Key Views identified in the Saltaire World Heritage Site Management Plan Setting Survey, including views out and views towards the World Heritage Site.

Landscape Character Type C: Upland Wooded River Valleys

Figure 3.43: Location of the Upland Wooded Valleys



LCT C Overview

This LCT is characterised by heavily wooded narrow valleys which have been formed by the watercourses trailing down from the elevated moorlands. The combination of woodland and narrow valley landform results in a visually enclosed character, and limited intervisibility with adjacent landscape character types. Across the district the wooded valleys are distinctive, forming meandering bands of contiguous, deciduous woodland set between steeply sloping valley sides. The complex landform of this character type has limited the amount of settlement present, particularly in the higher extents of the valleys. Where settlement does exist, it is associated with the rivers, either at a crossing point or on fast flowing streams to harness water power for the mills. Nested along these linear stream valleys are occasional parks and public rights of way, providing recreational access to the naturalised open spaces. Despite the limited development, there are multiple instances of historic industrial infrastructure, including weirs, viaducts, and dams.

There are three LCAs within this LCT:

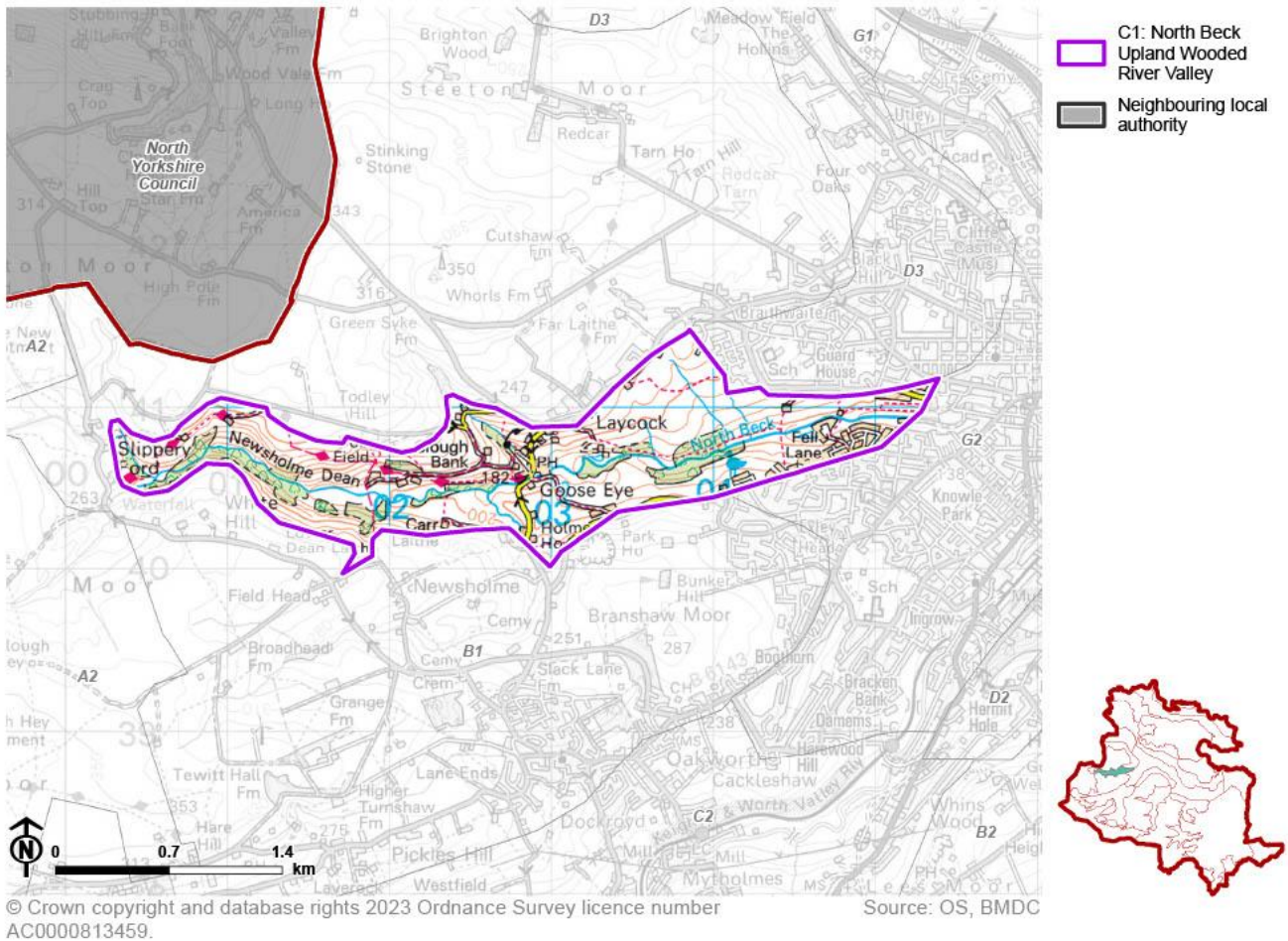
- C1. North Beck Upland Wooded River Valley
- C2. The Worth Upland Wooded River Valleys
- C3. Harden Upland Wooded River Valleys

C1. North Beck Upland Wooded River Valley

Location, Context and Summary

The North Beck Upland Wooded River Valley LCA consists of the steep-sided valley which formed around Dean Beck and North Beck, descending from the moorlands to the west towards the wider Airedale Valley at Keighley to the east. The area encompasses a transition from rural moorland plateau to the settled Airedale Valley: becoming more developed and less remote in the east closer to Keighley. The gently meandering, wooded waterway sits within a narrow valley floor, framed by steep valley sides with small-scale, intricate field patterns. To the north and south the area's boundaries are defined by the upper limits of the steep valley sides, broadly marked by country lanes. Here the landform transitions to form the undulating topography of the surrounding moorland fringe and moorland plateau landscapes (LCA B1: Keighley Moorland Fringe). To the east of the area lies the wide, glaciated, U-shaped Airedale Valley (LCA G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor).

Figure 3.44: Location of LCA C1



Key Characteristics

- Fluvial processes have formed a steep-sided narrow valley.
- Acidic, low fertility soils and steep topography have resulted in a pastoral and well wooded landscape.
- The field pattern is small-scale and rectilinear, principally originating from piecemeal enclosure and defined by drystone walls.
- Semi-natural vegetation, including woodland and field trees, is concentrated along the winding watercourses, forming narrow belts of riparian habitats.
- Industrial heritage is prominent notably around Goose Eye, in the form of textile mills, millponds and local building vernacular.
- A rural valley with a sparse settlement pattern and scattered farmsteads creates a sense of remoteness.
- Striking, long-distance views of the rural landscape and surrounding moorland can be perceived from the upper reaches of the steep valley sides.
- Woodland cover and steep topography create an intimate landscape with a strong sense of naturalness.
- The distinctive steep river valley, presence of woodland and sense of time depth associated with local industry create a strong sense of place.

Figure 3.45: Example photos from LCA C1



Views from the higher elevations east towards Keighley.



Dean Beck within Newsholme Dean Local Wildlife Site.



Steep sided valley sides with woodland at lower elevations.



Teapot dam millpond is a popular angling spot.



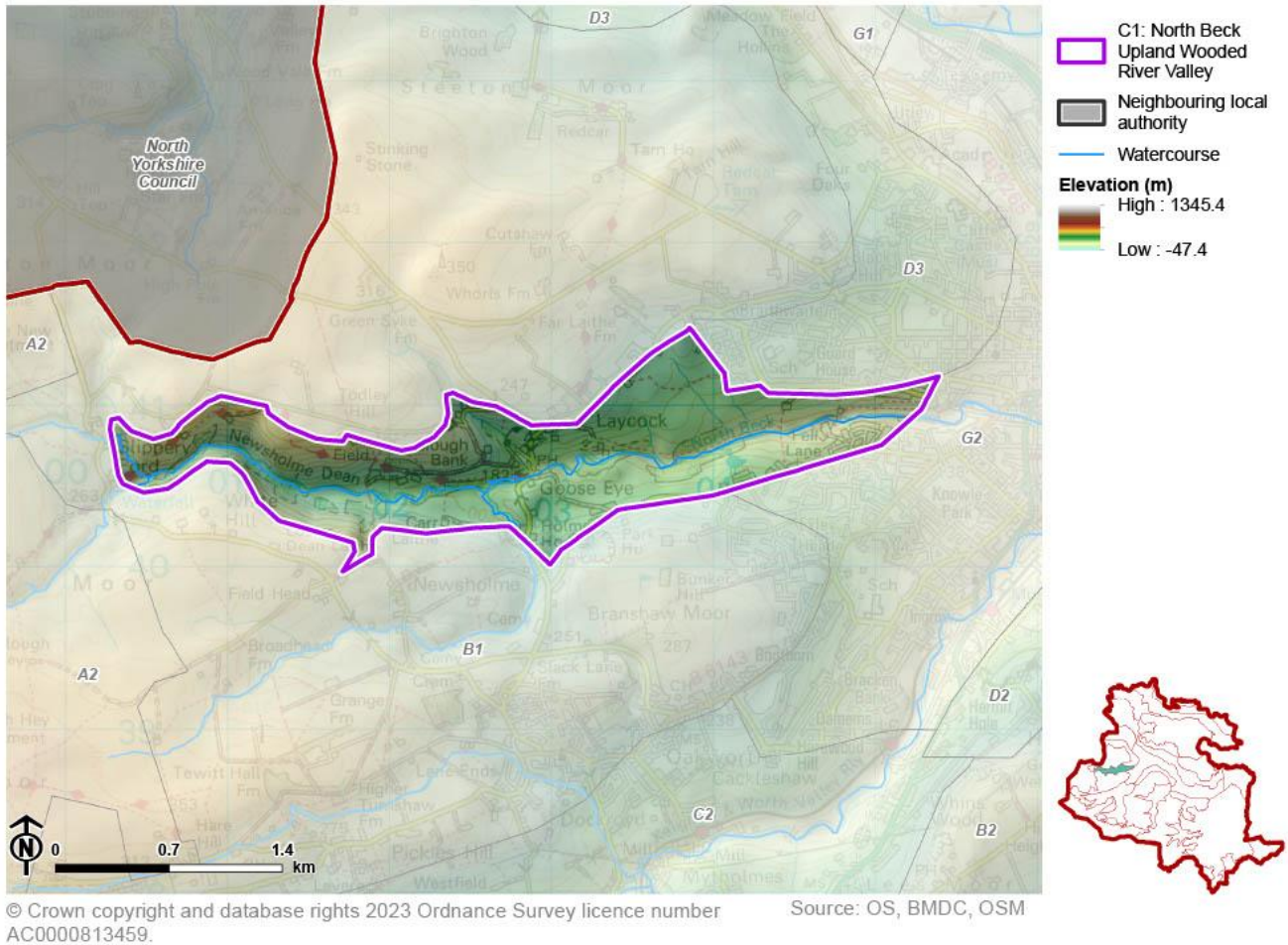
North Beck on the western edge of Goose Eye.



Cattle grazing on pastures delineated by drystone walls of varying condition.

Landscape Character

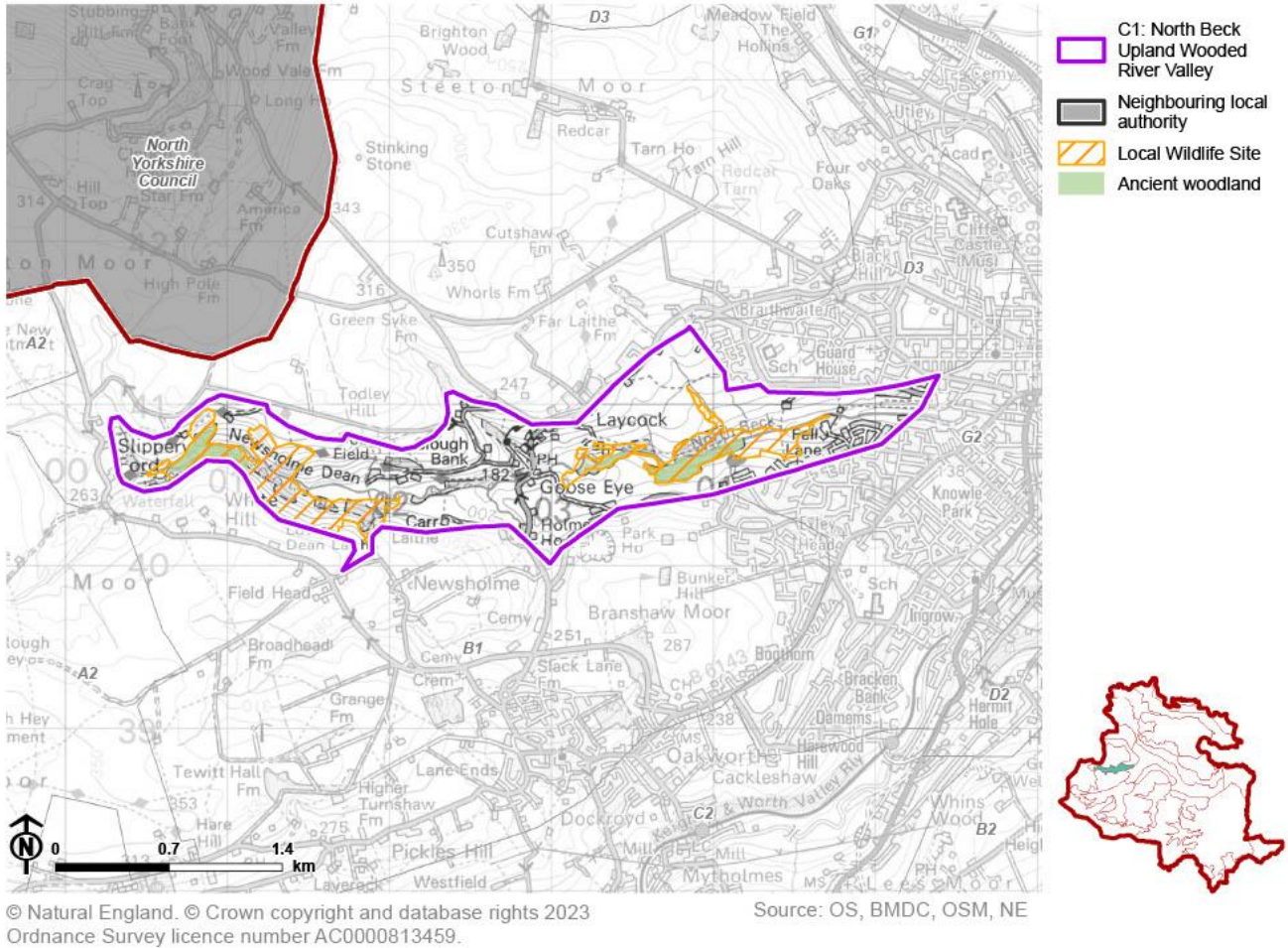
Figure 3.46: Topography of LCA C1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The valley is underlain by Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones which have undergone folding and faulting. These primarily comprise the Millstone Grit Group. This is interbedded with Keighley Bluestone and carboniferous sandstone groups which are more prominent on the higher slopes and higher up the valley in the west.
- The bedrock in the east is overlain by till deposits. These formed as a result of deposition at the end of the Devensian glacial period and when the Aire glacier melted.
- In the west of the valley, soils are acidic and peaty.
- The valley floor is relatively straight and features steep-sided valley sides. These have been eroded by Dean Beck (which becomes North Beck in the east). The beck is fed by a number of smaller tributaries, including Far Slippery Beck, Todley Clough and Butter Clough in the north. There are a few small pools along the course of the beck, often remnants of mill processes.
- The valley floor rises from approximately 135m AOD at its lowest point, to approximately 250m AOD in the west. The slopes rise to nearly 300m AOD in the west.

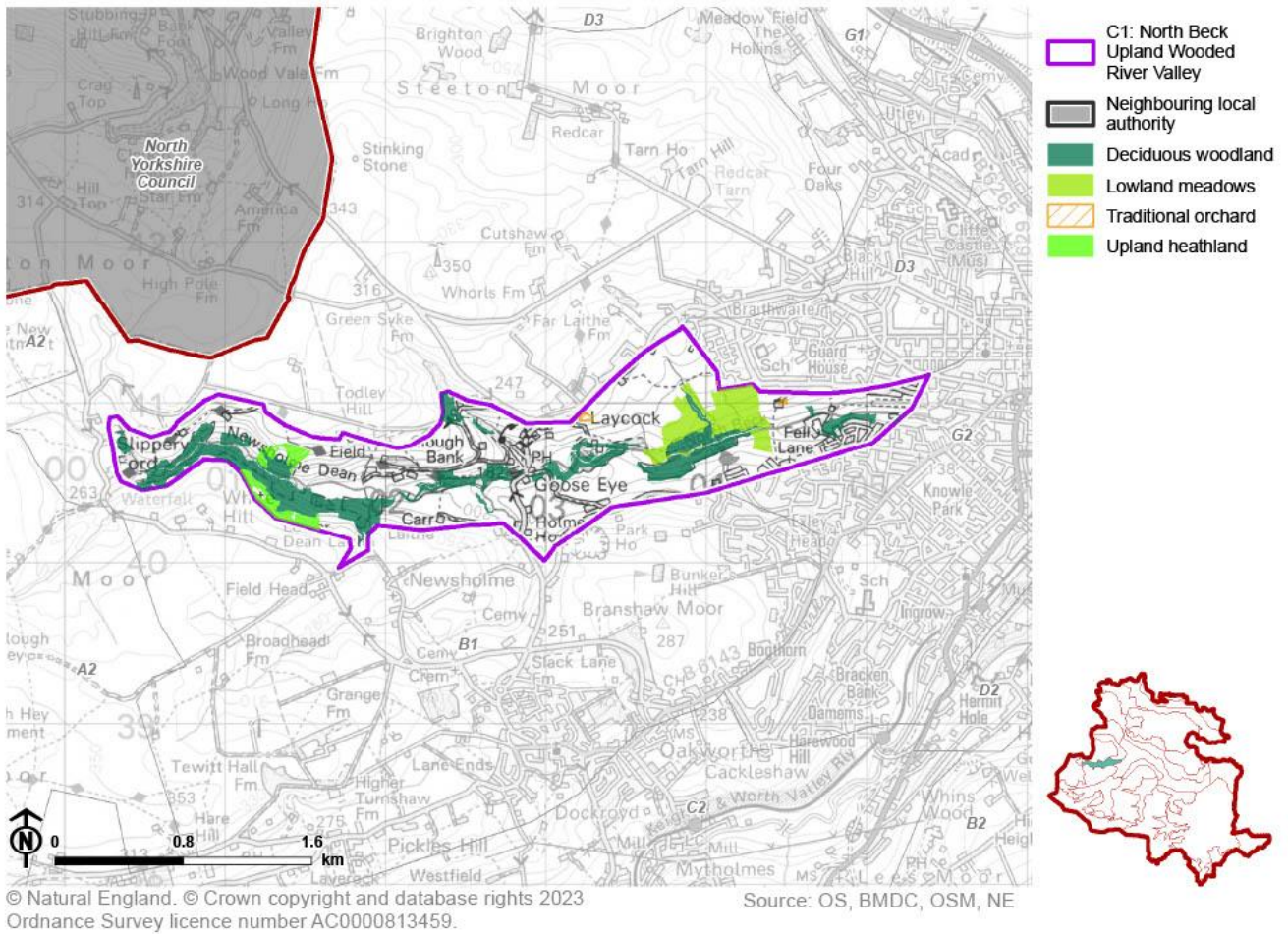
Figure 3.47: Natural heritage of LCA C1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Deciduous woodland is found along the majority of the course of the Dean and North becks. Much of this is ancient woodland and identified as priority habitat for deciduous woodland.
- Isolated trees and small tree blocks continue the canopy cover onto higher slopes which are less wooded and comprise a larger proportion of scrubby-heathland and grassland. In the east this includes priority habitat for lowland meadow north of the Butter Clough/North Beck confluence. In the west, there is some priority habitat for upland heathland. There is also some semi-improved grassland used for grazing, which has a more limited biodiversity value.
- There are three separate local wildlife sites within the valley: Newsholme Dean in the west and Owlhill Wood and Holme House Wood and Grasslands in the east. These cover a significant proportion of the LCA.
- Millponds, remnants of the former industrial workings, contribute to the localised mosaic of habitats on the valley floor.
- There are some hedgerows within the area, generally at lower elevations but these are not key elements within the landscape. They are often outgrown and dominated by hedgerow trees on the valley bottom.

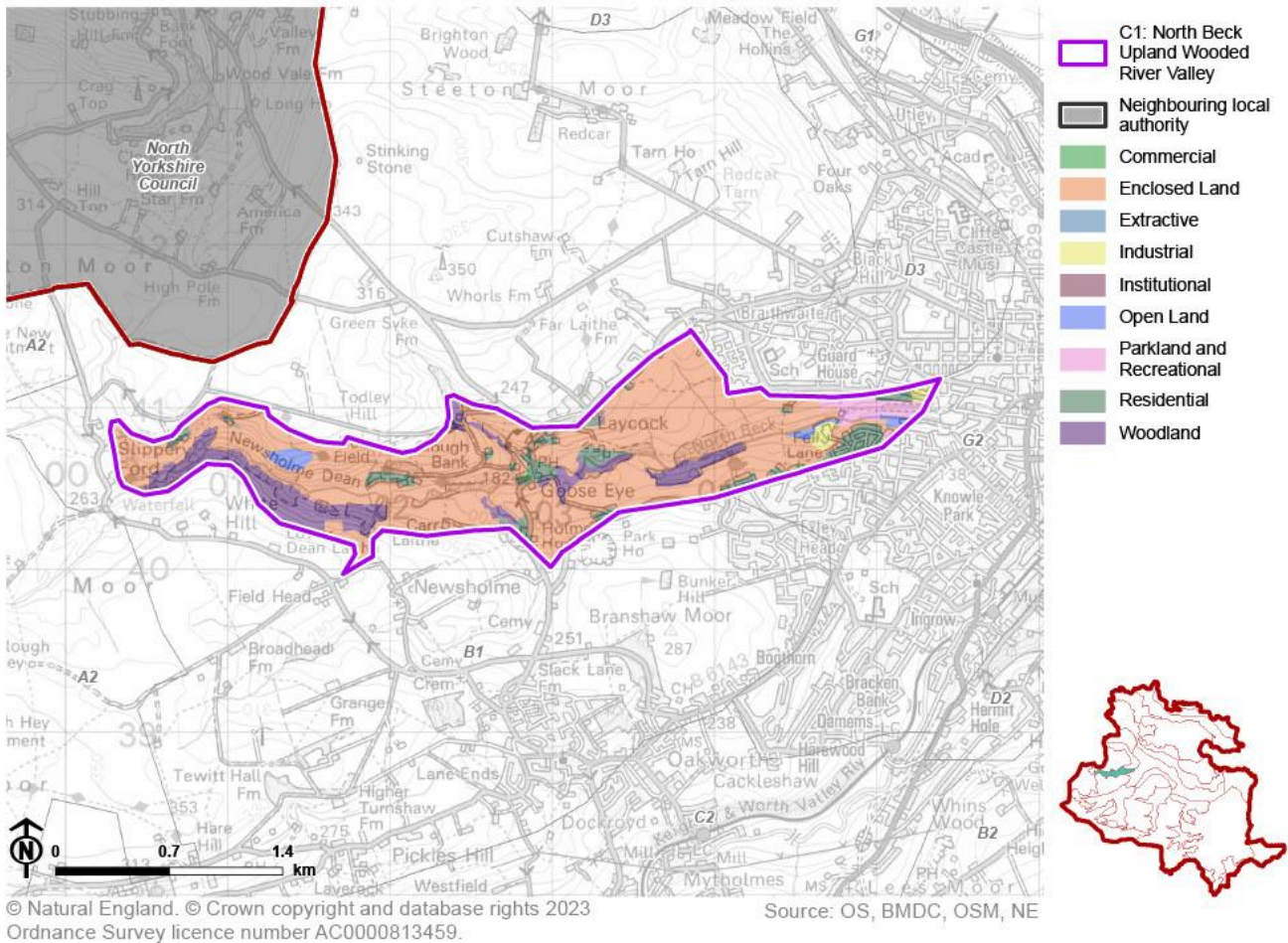
Figure 3.48: Priority habitat inventory of LCA C1



Land Use and Field Patterns

- As a result of the poor quality acidic soil and varied topography, the agricultural land is primarily improved grassland and pasture. Agriculture is restricted to the upper parts of the valley away from woodland.
- There is an intricate pattern of small-scale fields. This is a result of predominantly medieval piecemeal enclosure that has seen little field agglomeration and boundary loss in the intervening years.
- The field pattern has been constrained by topography in places, and is characterised by distinctive narrow fields rising up the valley sides.
- Drystone walls define the majority of field boundaries, supplemented in places by post and wire livestock fencing. The condition of drystone walls is varied, with gaps reducing the strength of the field pattern, for example near Owl Hill and north of True Well Hall Farm.

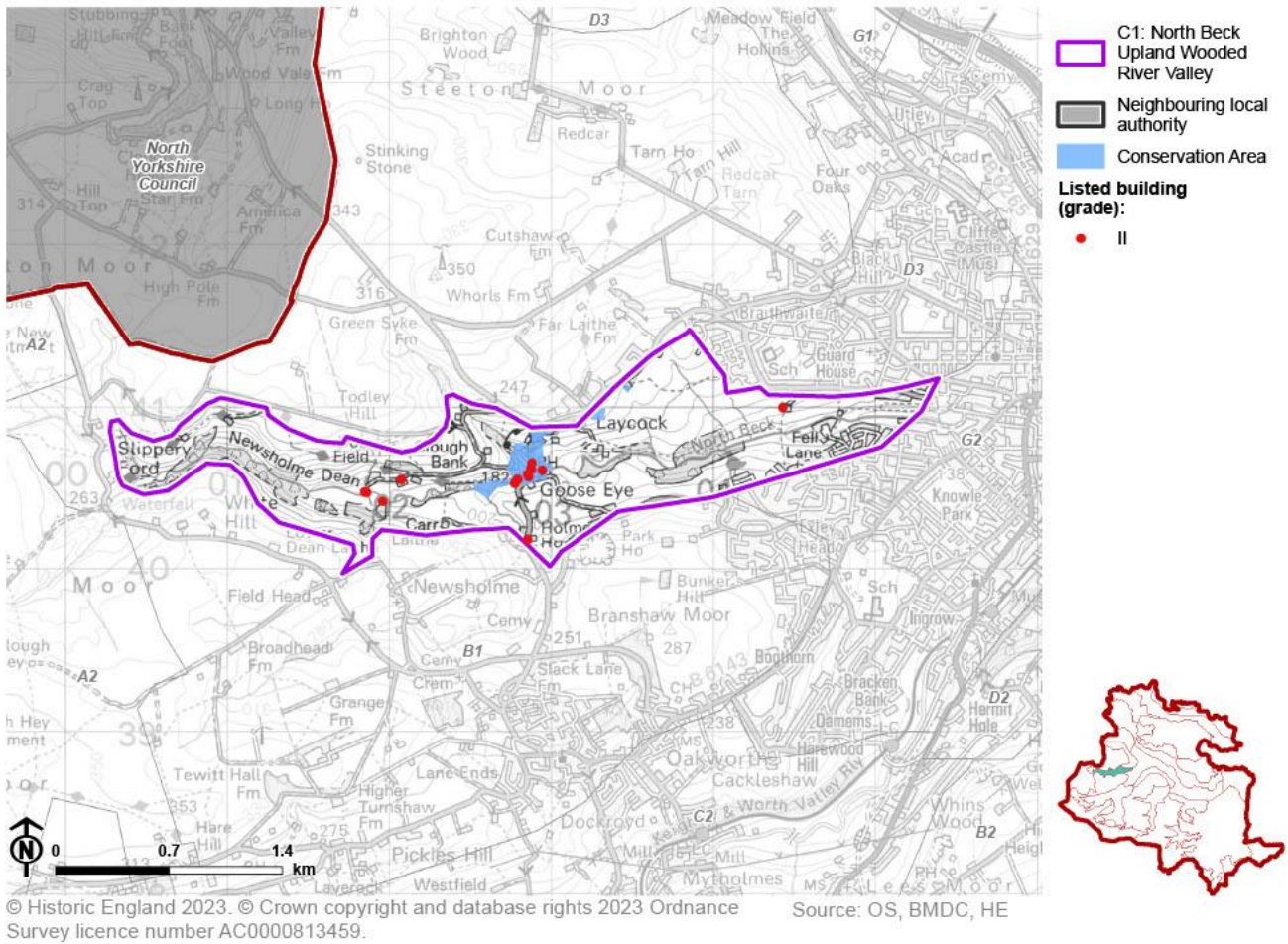
Figure 3.49: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA C1



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Most of the LCA has a strong sense of historic character as a result of the distinctive, historic field patterns defined by traditional drystone walls and scattered traditional vernacular farmsteads of local sandstone.
- The settlement of Goose Eye, in the centre of the LCA, is designated as a conservation area. The village developed here as a result of industrialisation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when mills were established along waterways. Goose Eye Conservation Area includes several grade II listed buildings, including Turkey Mill, Turkey Inn Public House, several cottages and two river crossings.
- The relationship between the physical environment and the development of industry is evident in the series of millponds along the becks, including the large pool at Teapot Dam.
- The disused Bailey Park Quarry, on the northern valley slopes of Dean Beck, was an important source of local building material.

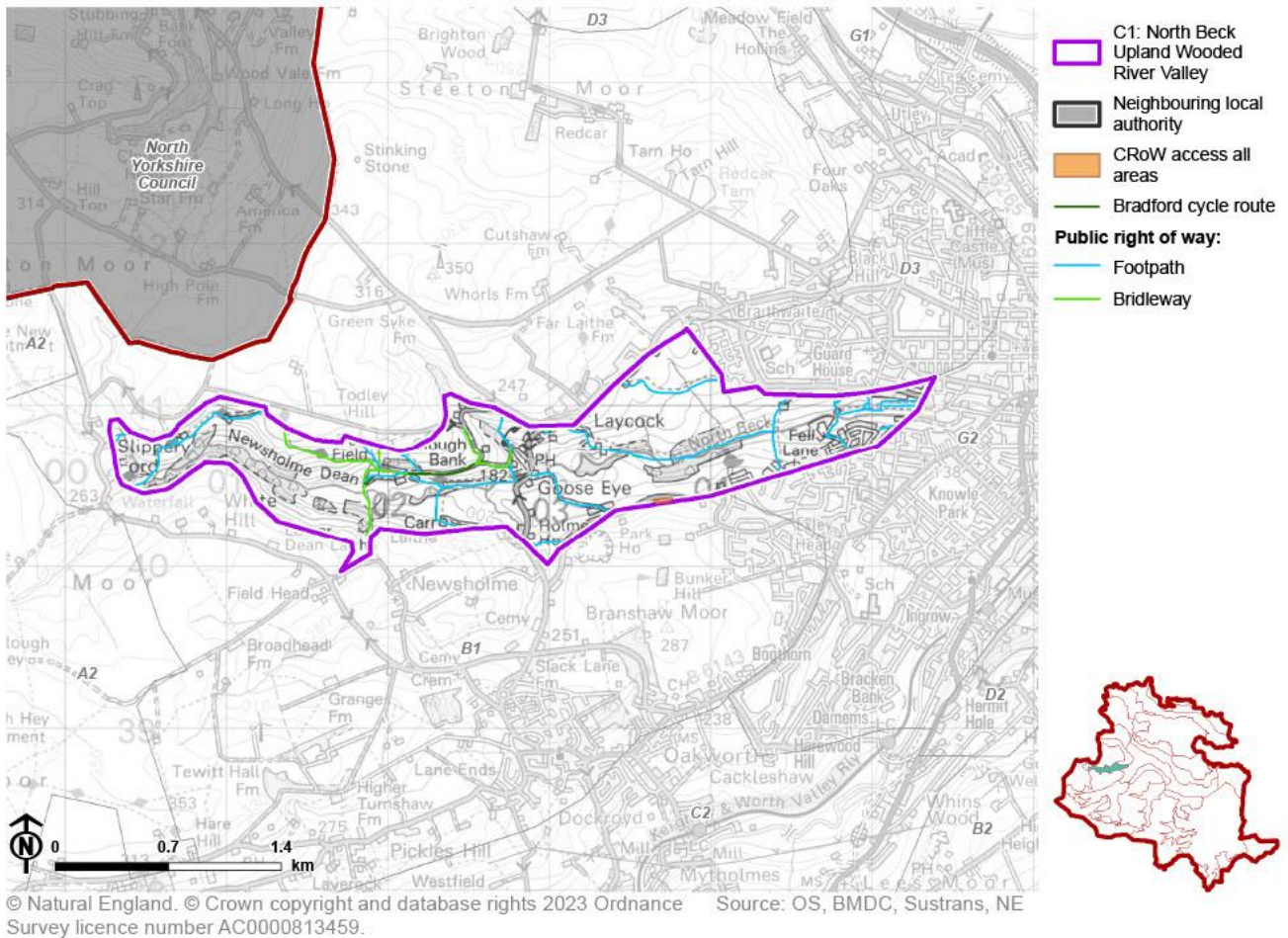
Figure 3.50: Cultural heritage of LCA C1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- This is a rural, well-wooded LCA with limited settlement. The main settlement is the hamlet of Goose Eye in the valley floor. There is additional built development in the east of the LCA which forms the outskirts of Keighley.
- In the higher parts of the valley there are a few scattered stone farmsteads, such as Grey Stones Farm and Clough Bank Farm.
- The road network in this LCA is limited to rural lanes and tracks, predominantly along the tops of the valley sides. There is a single road crossing of the North Beck at Goose Eye.

Figure 3.51: Access and recreation of LCA C1



Access and Recreation

- The area is served by an extensive network of public rights of way, including the Millennium Way long distance walking route. These provide connected routes within the valley and wider connectivity with the upland moors to the west. Teapot dam is a popular angling spot.
- There is a concentration of open space in the eastern extent of the LCA, near Keighley. This includes allotments, natural & semi-natural greenspace and a small park.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Perceptual qualities vary across the LCA, from the rural and remote moorland fringe in the west, to the suburban fringes of Keighley in the east. This is reflected in the Night Blight Score (according to CPRE's dark skies mapping) which shows the amount of night blight incrementally increasing from west to east across the LCA.
- In the valley floor, the topography and woodland cover creates an enclosed visual character with a highly naturalistic, intimate quality. Distinctive views are afforded up and down the valley from the more open upper valley sides. These are framed by high moorland to the west.
- Close to the water courses themselves there is a higher degree of tranquillity associated with the presence of water and woodland. The combination of distinctive topology, land use and cultural heritage gives the area a strong sense of locally distinctive upland river valley character. This is less pronounced further down the valley towards Keighley.

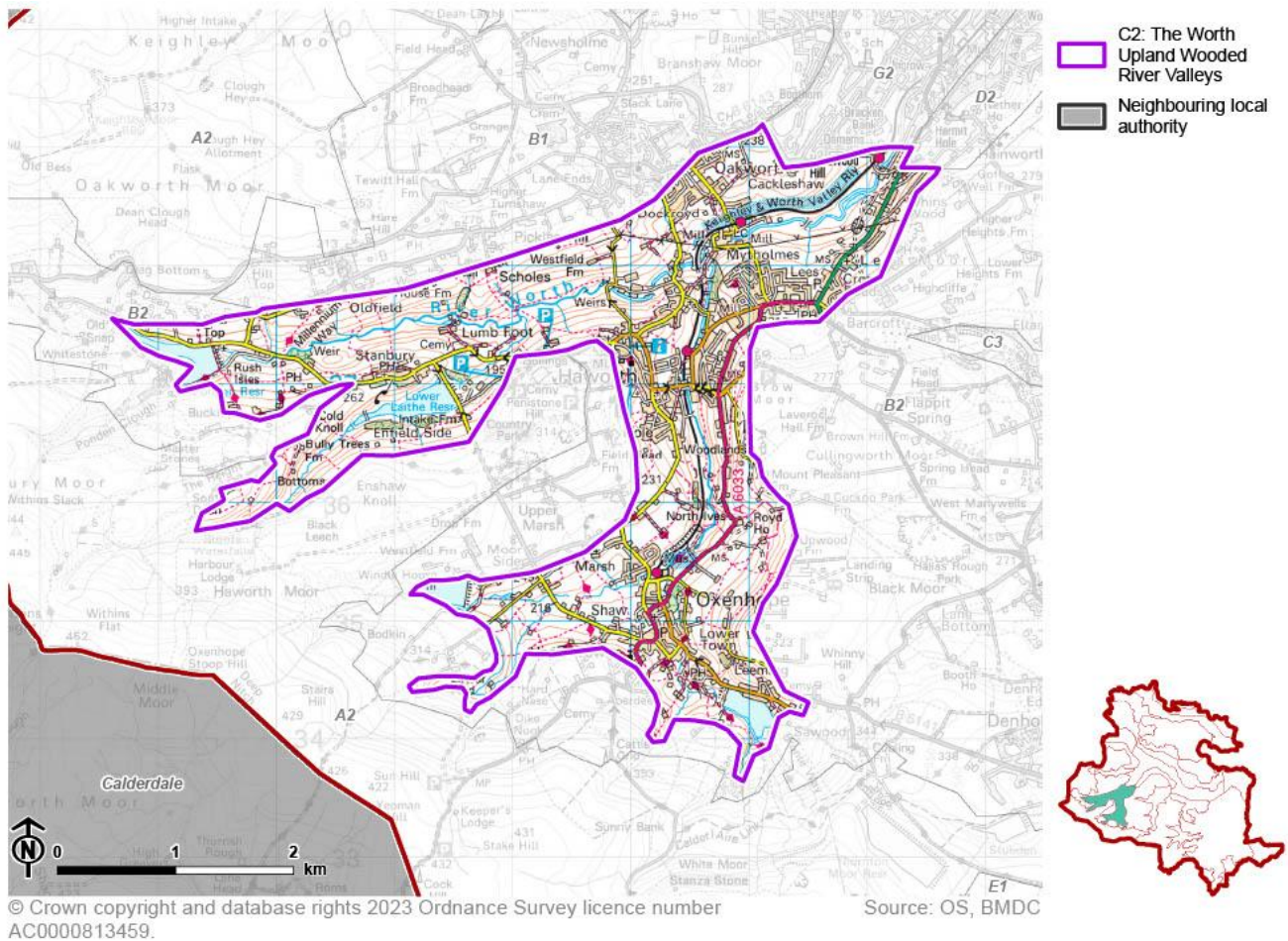
- Whilst the intimate, well-wooded valley character contrasts with the exposed, wild character of the moorlands, the LCA retains links to the upland landscape through the presence of distinctive drystone walls, vernacular farmsteads and rough grassland.

C2. The Worth Upland Wooded River Valleys

Location, Context and Summary

The Worth Upland Wooded River Valleys LCA consists of the sinuous steep-sided valleys of the River Worth and Bridgehouse Beck which meet at Mytholmes, forming a broader valley. The area encompasses a transition between the high, expansive moorland plateau to the west and the broad, settled Airedale Valley to the east. Meandering, wooded waterways traverse narrow valley floors which rise to steep valley sides characterised by small-scale, intricate field patterns. To the north west and south the LCA boundaries are defined by the upper limits of the steep valley sides, where the landform plateaus to form the undulating topography of the surrounding moorland fringe and moorland plateau landscapes. To the north east of the area lies LCA G2. Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor. The boundary between LCA C2 and LCA G2 is informed by the transition to a broader, flatter and subsequently, more developed valley.

Figure 3.52: Location of LCA C2



Key Characteristics

- Glacial processes and subsequent fluvial erosion have created two sinuous narrow valleys, with steep valley sides.
- Acidic, low fertility soils and complex topography have resulted in a pastoral rural landscape.
- The field pattern varies, but is principally small-scale and rectilinear, originating from medieval assart (areas of medieval woodland clearance) and piecemeal enclosure, some of the oldest enclosure within the district.
- Semi-natural vegetation is concentrated along the winding watercourses, forming narrow belts of riparian habitats.
- Woodland and field trees are concentrated on the valley floors and lower valley sides, with less tree cover in the more open exposed areas at higher elevations.
- Industrial heritage is prominent throughout, in the form of textile mills, millponds, local building vernacular and the Keighley and Worth Valley railway line including the Mytholmes Viaduct.
- The area has strong literary and film associations, most significantly with the Brontës and their work which evocatively depicts upland landscapes. The Brontë sisters grew up in Haworth which is now home to the Brontë Parsonage Museum.
- Settlement is concentrated in the east and south of the area where originally agricultural settlements such as Oakworth, Oxenhope and Haworth developed into characteristic upland mill villages.
- Striking, long-distance views of the rural landscape and surrounding moorland can be perceived from the more open and upper reaches of the steep valley sides.
- The wealth of topographic diversity, time depth and cultural associations displayed in the area create a strong sense of place.

Figure 3.53: Example photos from LCA C2



Leeming Conservation Area.



Chimney at Ebor Mill.



Mytholmes Viaduct.



Terraced cottages for mill workers at Haworth.



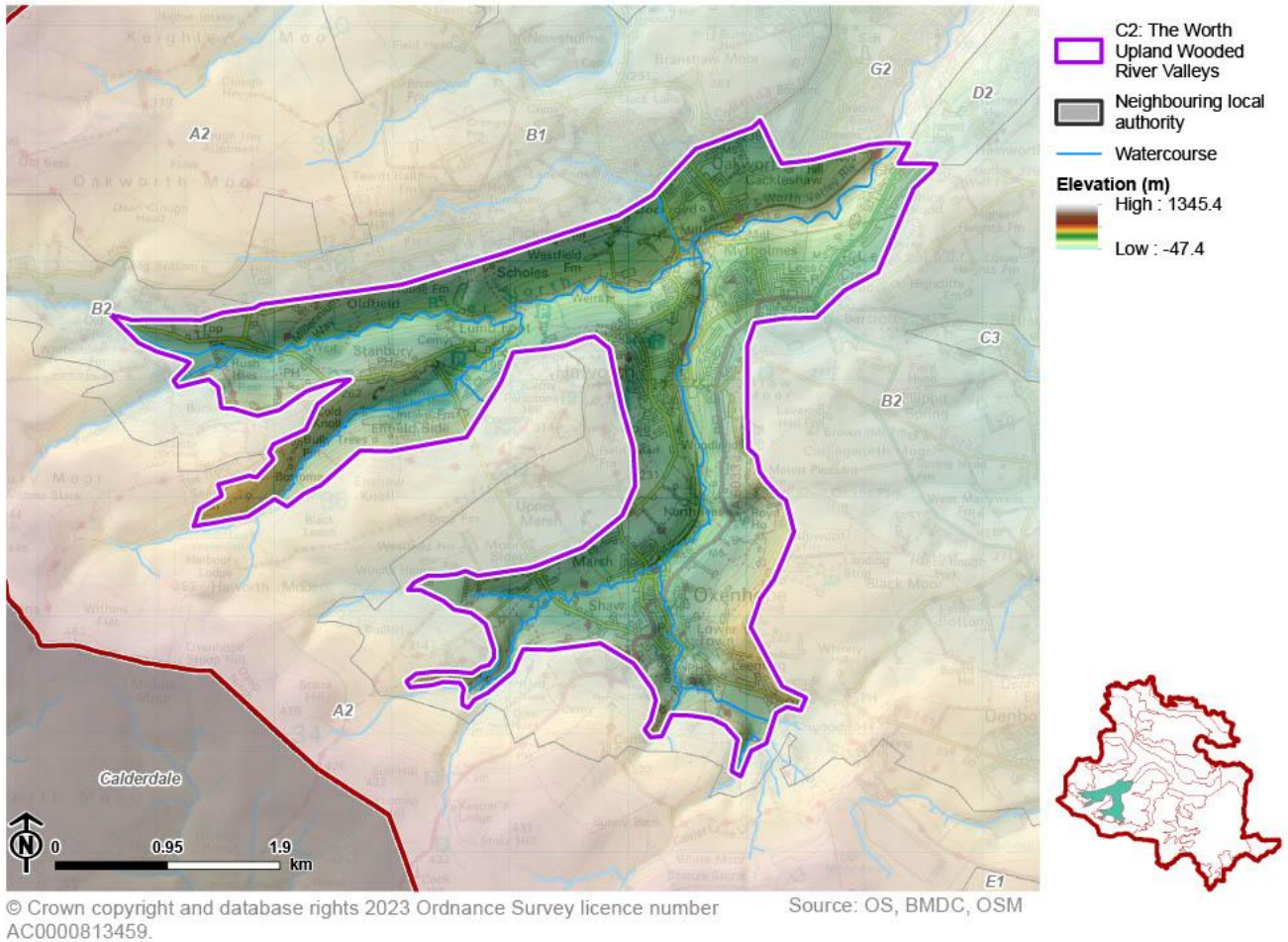
Patchwork of drystone walls along valley slopes.



Lower Laithe Reservoir.

Landscape Character

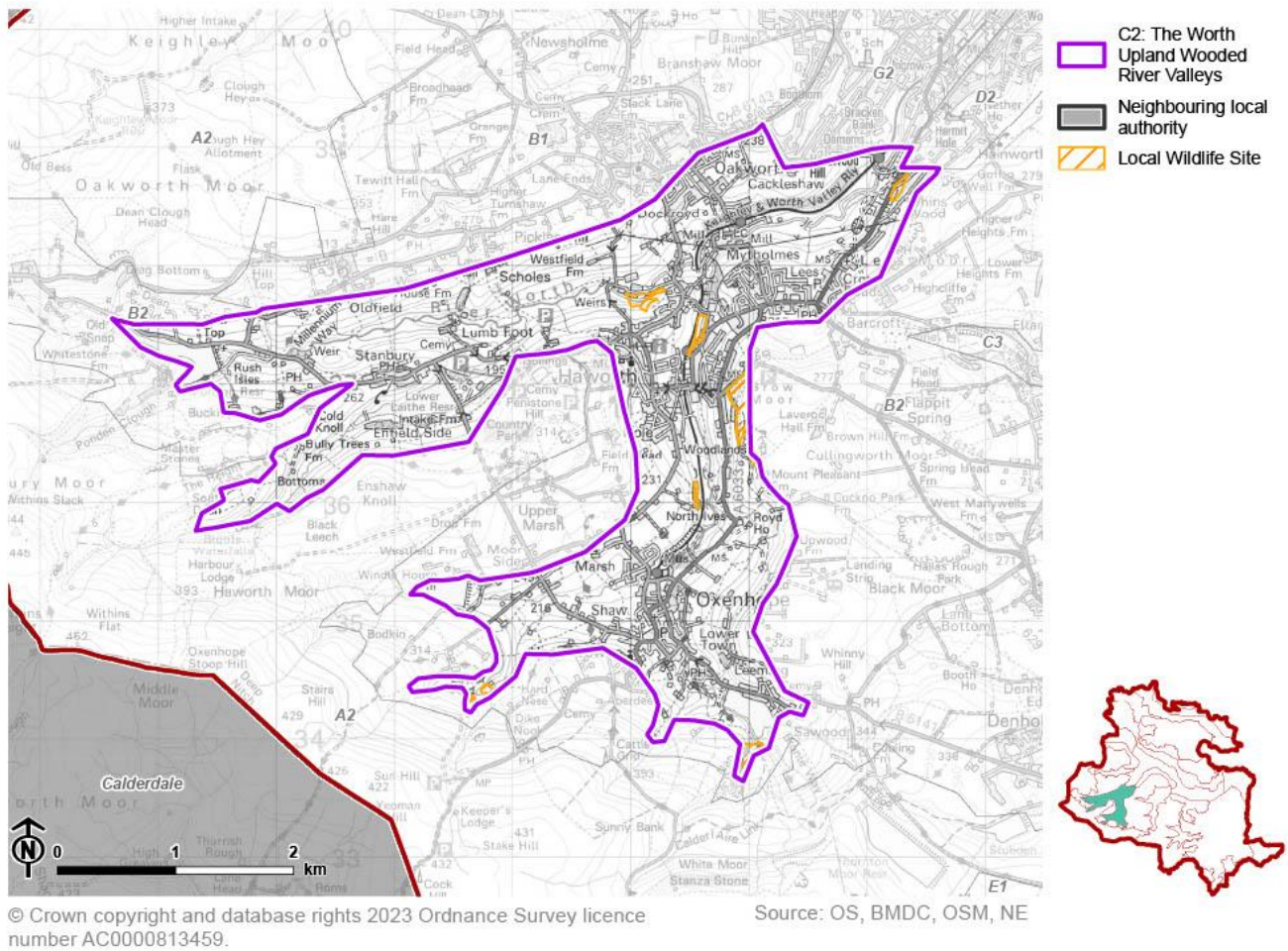
Figure 3.54: Topography of LCA C2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology is Carboniferous mudstones, siltstones and sandstones, predominantly of the Millstone Grit Group. Within the basin of the valley, this is interbedded with High Moor Sandstone and Doubler Stones Sandstone. Moving up the eastern spur of the valley to Oxenhope, the rock transitions to harder and younger stone, such as Midgley Grit.
- The Millstone Grit Group breaks down to form acidic, low-fertility soils. Slightly higher quality soil can be found on the valley floor as a result of alluvium deposits, while the underlying gritstone below Oxenhope results in thinner, peaty soils.
- During the Devensian glacial period, the Aire glacier filled the Airedale Valley. In colder periods the glacier extended into the Worth valley, depositing a layer of Till on the valley floor. In warmer periods the valley waterways were dammed by the glacier, forming a meltwater lake which filled the valley. Meltwater escaped over low points in the surrounding topography, eroding dry valleys such as Sugden End above Cross Roads.
- The sinuous valley floor and steep-sided valley sides have been eroded by the River Worth, Bridgehouses Beck and their smaller tributaries which cut through the LCA. In the west, the headwaters of the River Worth have been dammed to create Ponden Reservoir and the headwaters of the Sladen Beck dammed to create Lower Laithe Reservoir. In the east, the tributaries of Bridgehouse Beck have been dammed to create Leeming Reservoir and Leeshaw reservoir.
- The valley floor rises from approximately 135m AOD at its lowest point, to approximately 250m AOD on the moorland fringe.

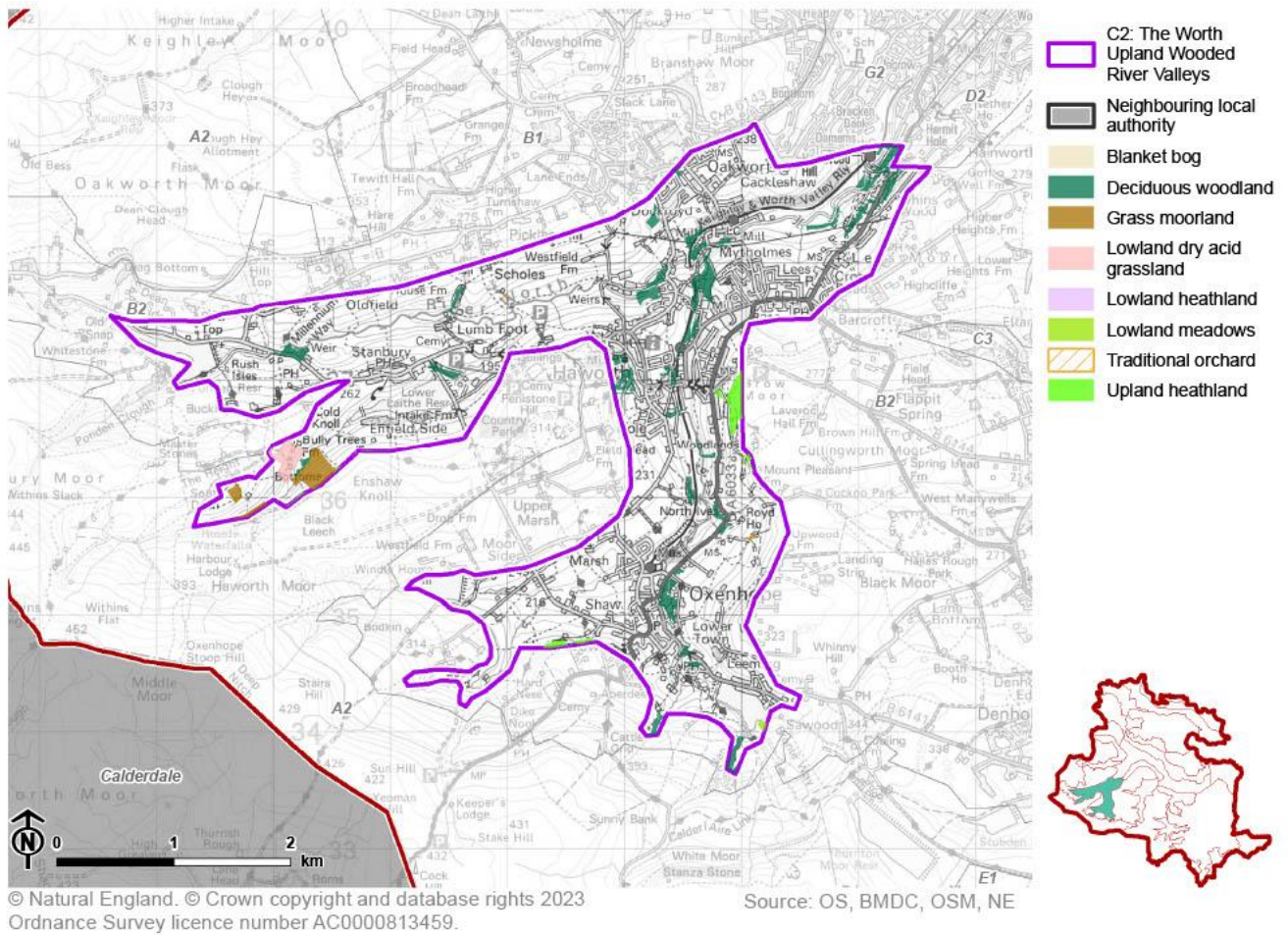
Figure 3.55: Natural heritage of LCA C2



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Woodland is primarily riparian, found along the water courses including within deeply incised cloughs such as Lumb Beck, Paul Clough and Nan Scar. This is mainly broadleaved woodland, including ash and sycamore. There are some scattered fields and hedgerow trees, concentrated in the more sheltered lower valley sides.
- Small scale areas of woodland have been designated as local wildlife sites including Whins Wood, Ives Plantation, Airedale Spring Mill Pond, Nan Scar and Baden Street.
- There are small areas of rush patches, semi-improved acidic and natural grassland found on the valley floor associated with the water courses. Millponds, remnants of the former industrial workings, contribute to the localised mosaic of habitats on the valley floor.
- Grassland dominates on the higher valley sides. This is improved grassland for grazing and silage, with limited biodiversity value.
- Hedges do occur within the LCA but are not significant elements and are often outgrown and dominated by hedgerow trees along the valley bottoms.

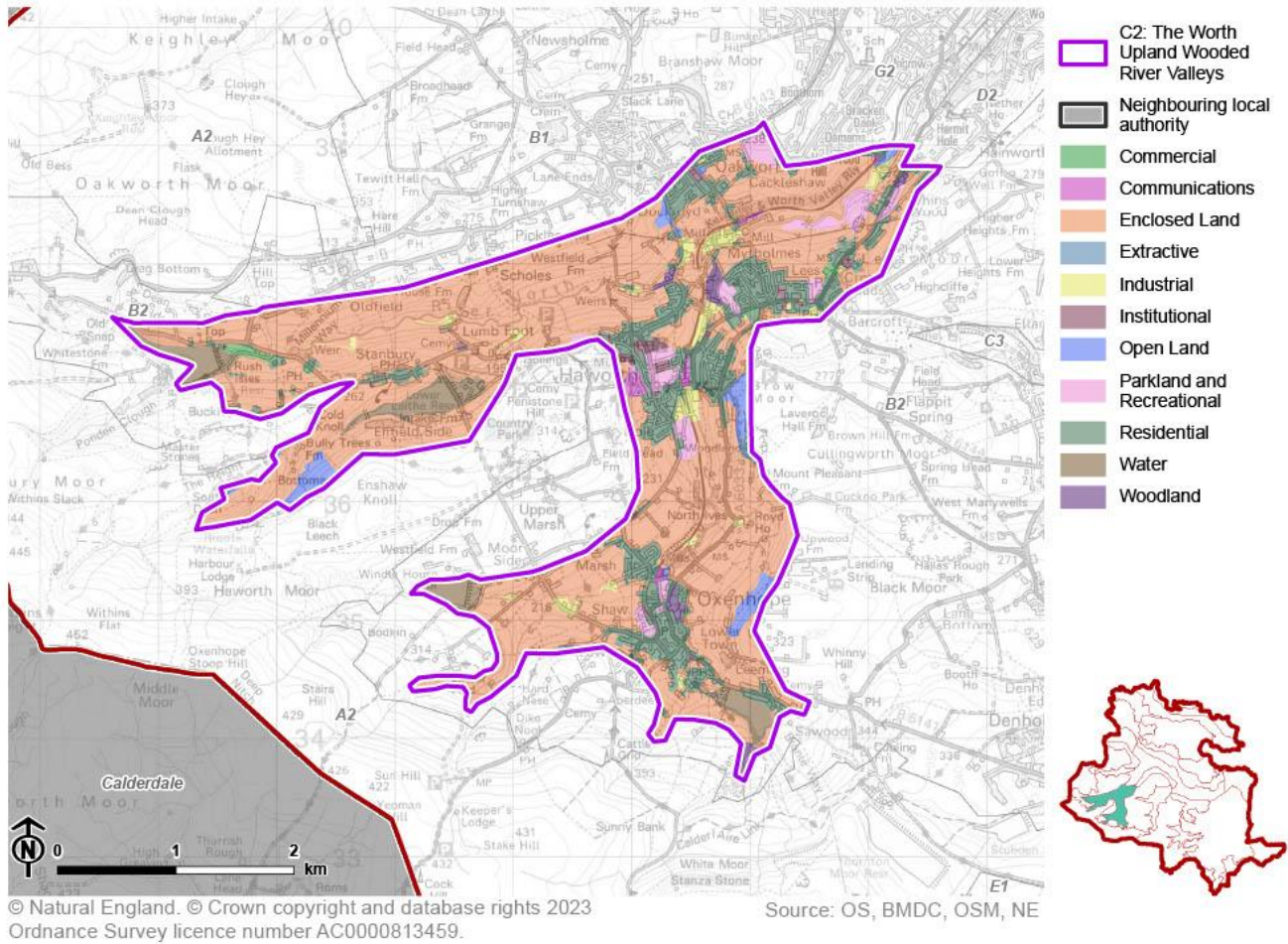
Figure 3.56: Priority habitat inventory of LCA C2



Land Use and Field Patterns

- As a result of the poor quality acidic soil and varied topography, the agricultural land is primarily improved grassland and pasture, particularly in the west in the higher extents of the valley.
- The field pattern in the valley is intricate and small-scale, with distinctive narrow fields rising up the valley sides. The Worth Valley contains some of the largest surviving areas of 'Assarts' (areas of medieval woodland clearance) within the District. The rest of the valley is piecemeal enclosure of medieval origin, similar in pattern to the small, irregular assarts. Elsewhere there is more rigid, surveyed enclosure (either parliamentary or private) resulting in a more rigid field pattern similar to the surrounding moorland fringe areas.
- Drystone walls define the majority of field boundaries and are generally well maintained.

Figure 3.57: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA C2



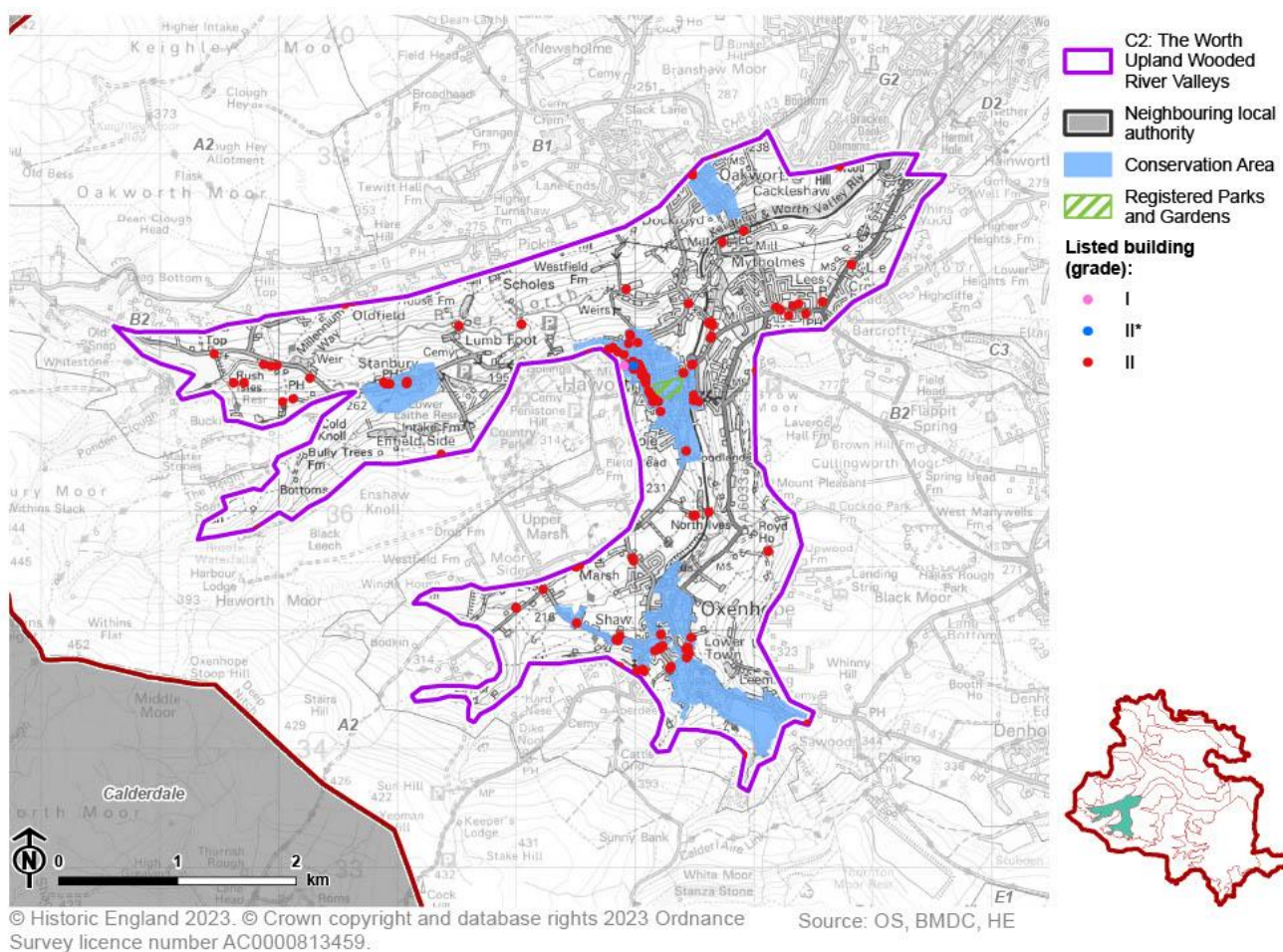
Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The rural parts of the LCA have a strong sense of historic character due to the combination of varied and distinctive, historic field patterns defined by traditional drystone walls and the presence of traditional vernacular farmsteads of predominantly local sandstone, but also some gritstone.
- Evidence of the industrial revolution permeates the landscape, particularly through the presence of reservoirs, including Leeshaw Reservoir and Leeming Reservoir, which supplied mills in the valleys with water.
- Remnants of the closely linked relationship between the physical environment and the development of industry is still evident in the landscape. A series of millponds and mill buildings are found along the length of the waterways, for example, Ebor Mills on Bridgehouse Beck with its distinctive chimney. Much of the built form in the settlements are typical terraced textile workers' houses.
- The majority of settlements in the area are valued for their cultural significance, as evidenced by their conservation area status. This includes Haworth, Oakworth, Stanbury and the four conservation areas associated with Oxenhope. There are a wealth of listed buildings associated with each settlement. Haworth, in particular, contains the Grade I Listed Haworth Parsonage and the Grade II* Listed Church of St Michael and All Angels. Central Park in Haworth is designated as a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. The historic character of these settlements is further enhanced by their traditional rural setting.
- The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway continues to run heritage steam engines and provides a tangible and visual link with the valley's history. The Mytholmes Viaduct makes a contribution to the scenic appeal of the route and a distinctive

landmark. The railway line and wider valley have cultural value as the filming location for the classic 1970 film 'The Railway Children' and its subsequent 2022 sequel.

- The area has strong literary connections and has inspired many great fiction writers such as J. B. Priestley, Ted Hughes and, most notably, the Brontë sisters. The prestige of the Brontë sisters and the inspiration they drew from the surrounding landscape has made the Worth Valley an international destination.
- Areas of assart or ancient woodland clearance for agriculture are often indicated by placenames containing 'royd' a word of local dialect of Norse origin describing a clearing. Within the LCA there is a Dockroyd south of Oakworth and Royd House north east of Oxenhope.

Figure 3.58: Cultural heritage of LCA C2

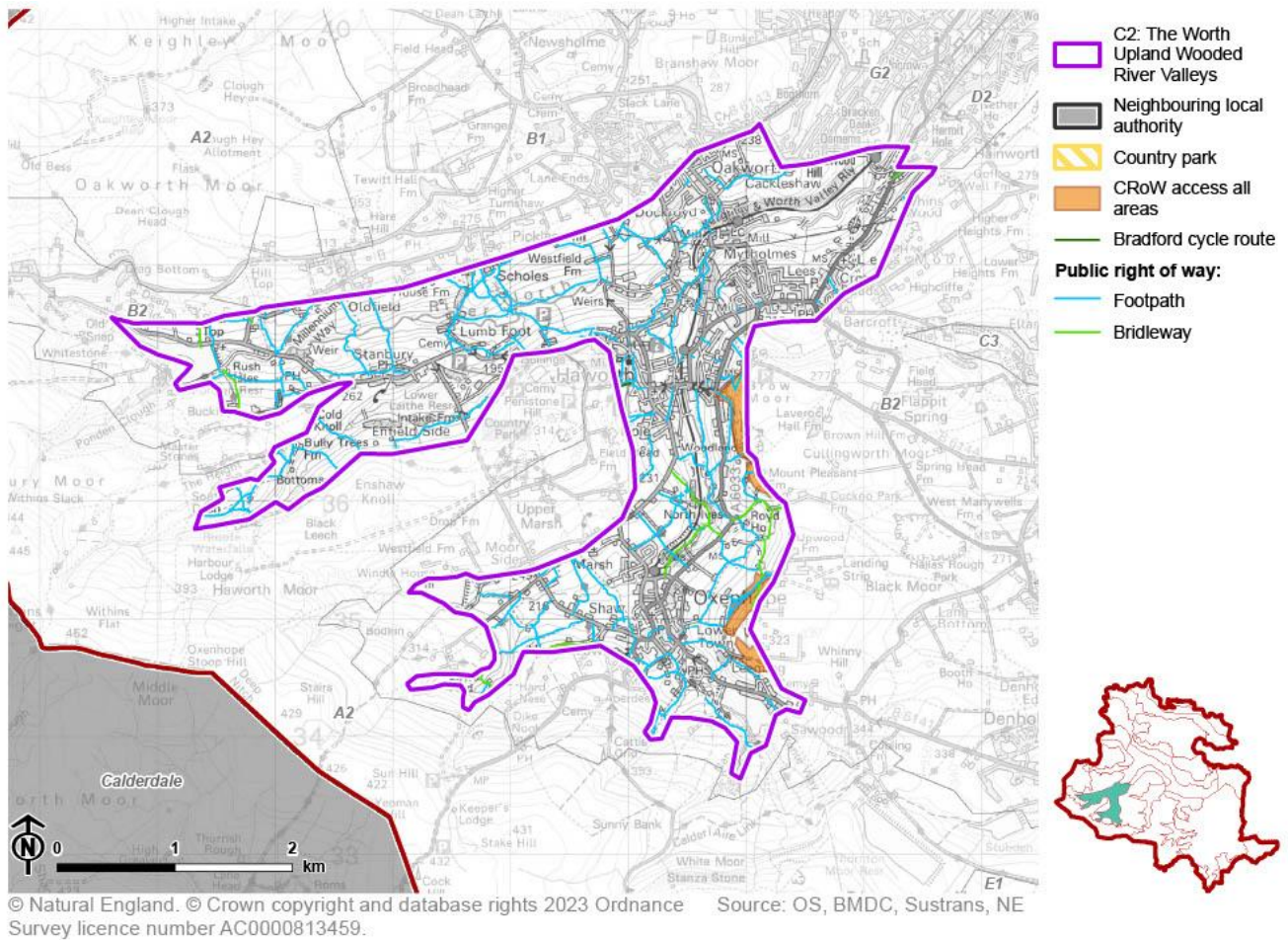


Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlement is concentrated in the east and south of the area along the course of both the waterways and the railway line. Settlements historically expanded as the presence of fast flowing water made ideal locations for industrial mill complexes, and the building of the railway line further supported industry and development.
- In the higher part of the Worth Valley there are scattered stone farmsteads and the small village of Stanbury.
- The key settlements are Oakworth, which sits on the boundary with LCA B1: Keighley Moorland Fringe, Haworth and Oxenhope. Haworth and Oxenhope are traditional Pennine-style villages reflecting the dual economies of textiles and farming.

- Settlement extends from the valley floor up the steep valley sides giving it visual prominence in the landscape. The valley displays a phased transition from the urban area of Keighley in LCA D2, to the rural remote moorland fringe and moorland to the west.
- The majority of the road network consists of lanes, often traversing steep gradients. The busiest road in the area is the A6033 which links the main settlements in the valley and is the main route between the larger settlements of Keighley and Hebden Bridge (in neighbouring Calderdale).

Figure 3.59: Access and recreation of LCA C2



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way. There are several promoted long distance walking routes passing through the LCA, including the Brontë Way, the Railway Children Way, the Worth Way, and the Millennium Way, as well as the Pennine Way National Trail. The West Yorkshire Cycle Route also runs through this LCA from Oxenhope to Haworth and through to Stanbury and beyond.
- There are narrow fringes of open access land on the steep topography defining the upper valley sides to the east and west of Oxenhope.
- The Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth and the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway are key tourist attractions.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

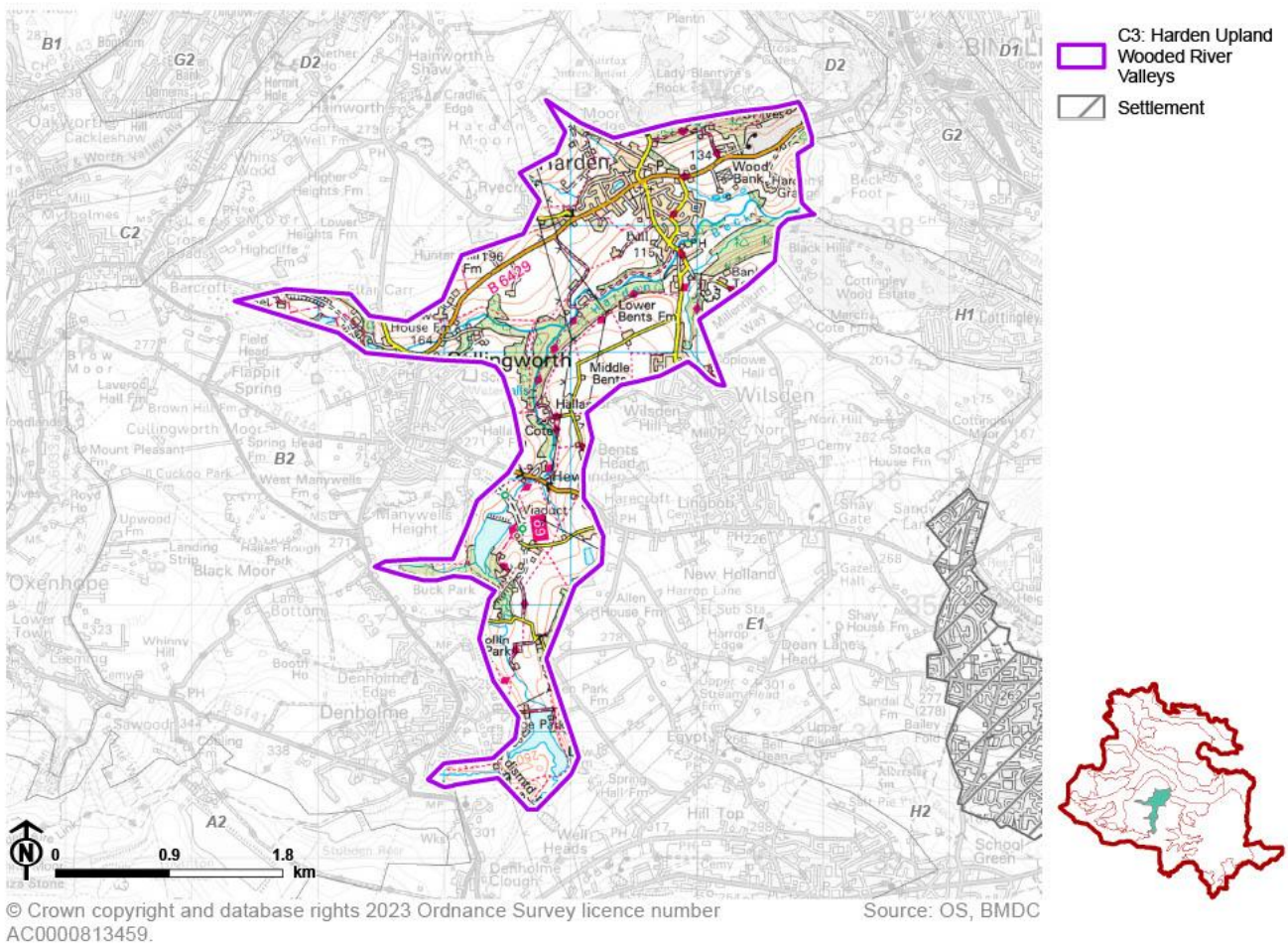
- Striking, long-distance views of the rural landscape of the upper valleys are afforded from the elevated valley sides, and backdropped by rising moorland. The valley floor is enclosed by woodland and topography which limits views. Woodland provides a natural setting to more historic areas of development, integrating them within the landscape.
- The combination of distinctive topology, land use and cultural heritage gives the area a strong sense of locally distinctive upland river valley character. This is more pronounced towards the head of the valley, but is diluted slightly by development moving down the valley. This relatively small scale landscape is visually stimulating and engaging due to the inherent combination of varied landform and landcover.
- There are some vertical elements including a wood pole overhead line and a number of isolated wind turbines visible both within and outside of the area. However, these do not detract from the general character and visual amenity.
- Dark night skies and higher levels of tranquillity are experienced in the less settled western extent of the area around Ponden Reservoir, although most of the LCA is influenced by settlement and development.

C3. Harden Upland Wooded River Valleys

Location, Context and Summary

The Harden Upland Wooded River Valleys LCA comprises the wide, gentle slopes of the main Harden Valley, fed by the more sinuous, steep-sided valleys of its tributaries: Denholme Beck and Cow House Beck. The valley incorporates steep wooded slopes rising from the becks, which become gentle and then steepen again where they meet the moorland fringes (LCA B2: Cullingworth Moorland Fringe) in the north, and upland pasture (LCA E1: Thornton, Queensbury and Wilsden Mixed Upland Pasture) in the south. The LCA transitions from these upland river valley landscapes towards the more settled valley floor just west of Bingley (within LCA G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor). The boundary between the two areas is informed by the transition to a broader, flatter and subsequently, more developed valley.

Figure 3.60: Location of LCA C3



Key Characteristics

- Glacial processes and subsequent fluvial erosion have carved out the river valley with staggered, steep sides.
- Acidic, low fertility soils and complex topography have resulted in a pastoral rural landscape.
- The field pattern is small-scale and rectilinear, principally originating from piecemeal enclosure and defined by drystone walls.
- Semi-natural vegetation is concentrated along the winding watercourses, forming expansive belts of woodland.
- On the higher slopes, woodland and isolated trees are associated with the St Ives Estate historic parkland and Registered Park and Garden. A large part of this area is also included in the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Industrial heritage is prominent in the form of the disused railway and viaduct, textile mills, millponds and local building vernacular.
- The settlement pattern reflects local textile and farming industries, including scattered farmsteads and Yeoman's houses and 19th century parkland which reflect local wealth creation associated with the textile industry.
- The higher slopes of the valley offer striking, long-distance views over the upland landscape incorporating the distinctive Hewenden Viaduct.
- A diverse landscape of parkland, pasture and wooded valleys linked by a strong network of public rights of way, together with the sense of time depth displayed in the area creates a strong sense of place.

Figure 3.61: Example photos from LCA C3



Woodland in St Ives Estate Registered Park and Garden.



Ancient woodland at Goitstock Wood Local Wildlife Site.



Gatehouse to Harden Grange.



Denholme Beck.



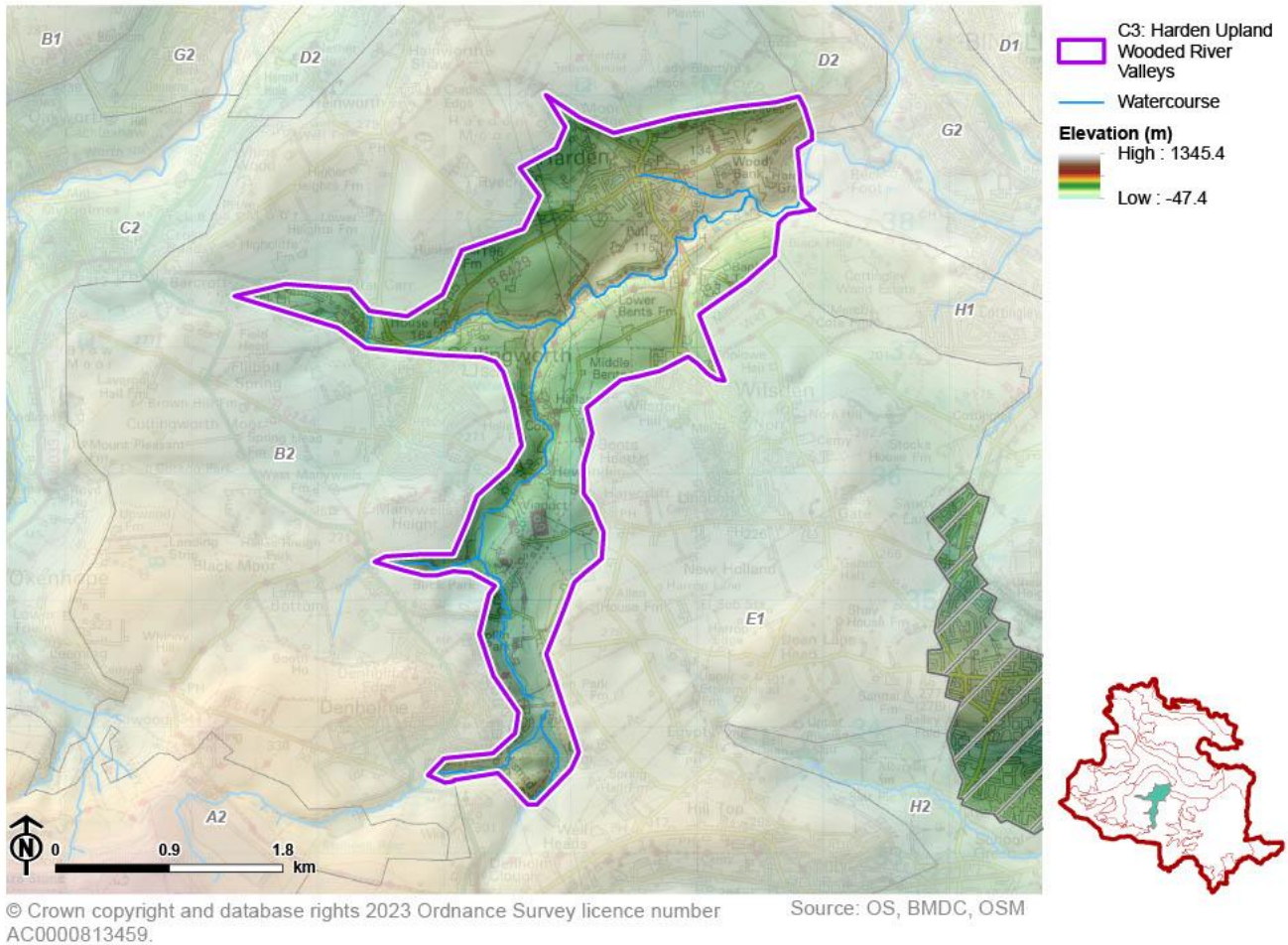
Views towards Hewenden Viaduct.



Wilsden Beck.

Landscape Character

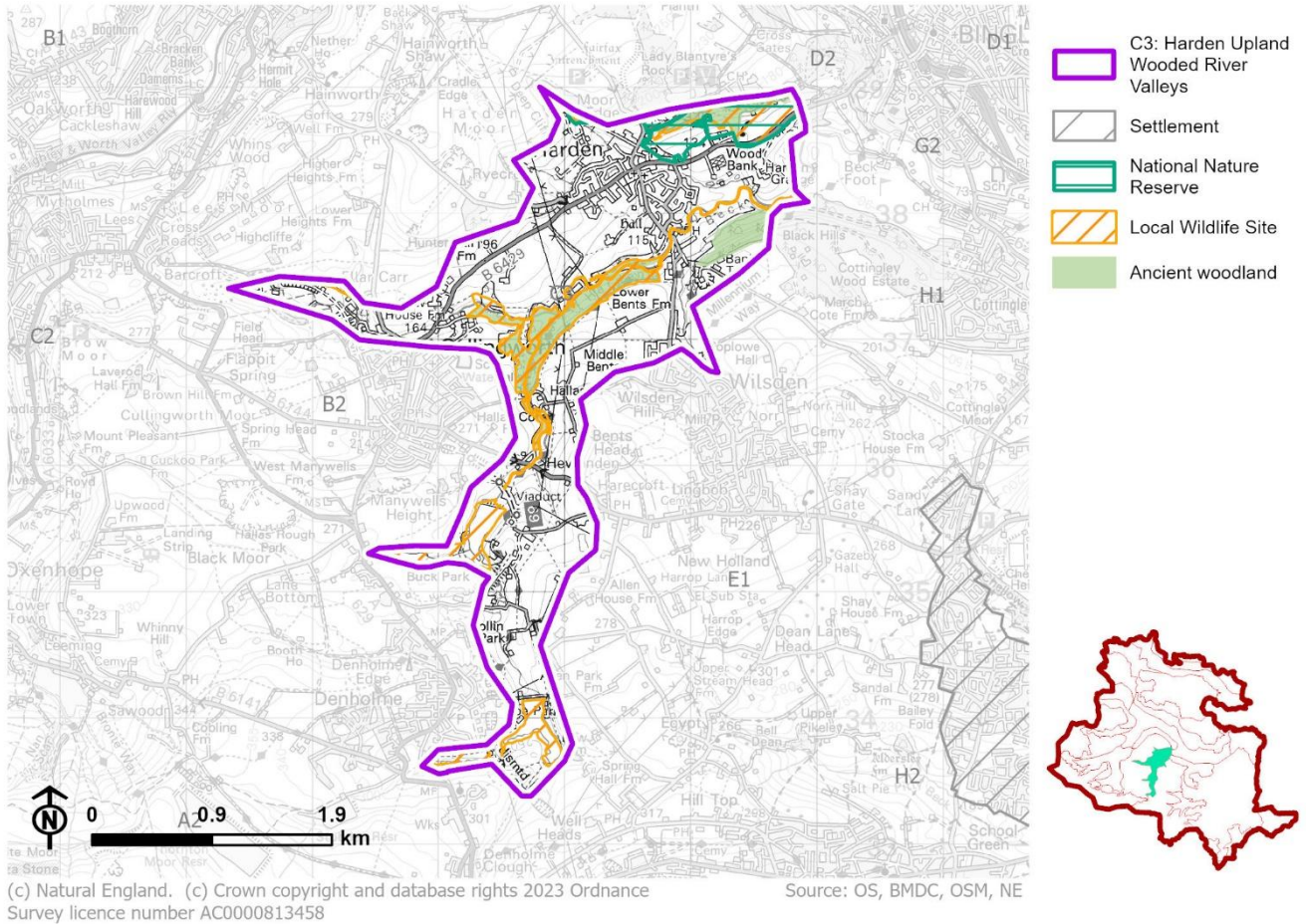
Figure 3.62: Topography of LCA C3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous sedimentary mudstones, siltstones and sandstones. In the majority of the valley, the Millstone Grit Group dominate, interbedded with Guiseley Grit and Midgley Grit. In the south, faulting has resulted in the younger Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation lying alongside the younger rock.
- The Millstone Grit Group breaks down to form acidic, low-fertility soils. These comprise loamy and clay soils with impeded drainage in the valley floor, and some free-draining loamy soil on the slopes.
- During the Devensian glacial period, the Aire glacier filled the Airedale Valley, and the mouth of the Harden valley was an ice margin position marking the furthest extent of the ice. As a result, some glacial erosion occurred at the mouth of the Harden valley but not further up the valley. As the glacier melted it deposited a layer of glacial till which currently covers most of the area. Immediately adjacent to Harden brook are younger alluvium deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.
- The wider bowl of the valley in the north east was created by glacial erosion and contrasts with the steeper, winding topography eroded by Cow House Beck, Hewenden Beck and Denholme Beck in the west.
- In the south of the area, Hewenden Reservoir has been dammed from the headwaters of Hewenden Beck. Doe Park Reservoir has been dammed from the headwaters of Denholme Beck. A number of other smaller reservoirs are also present.

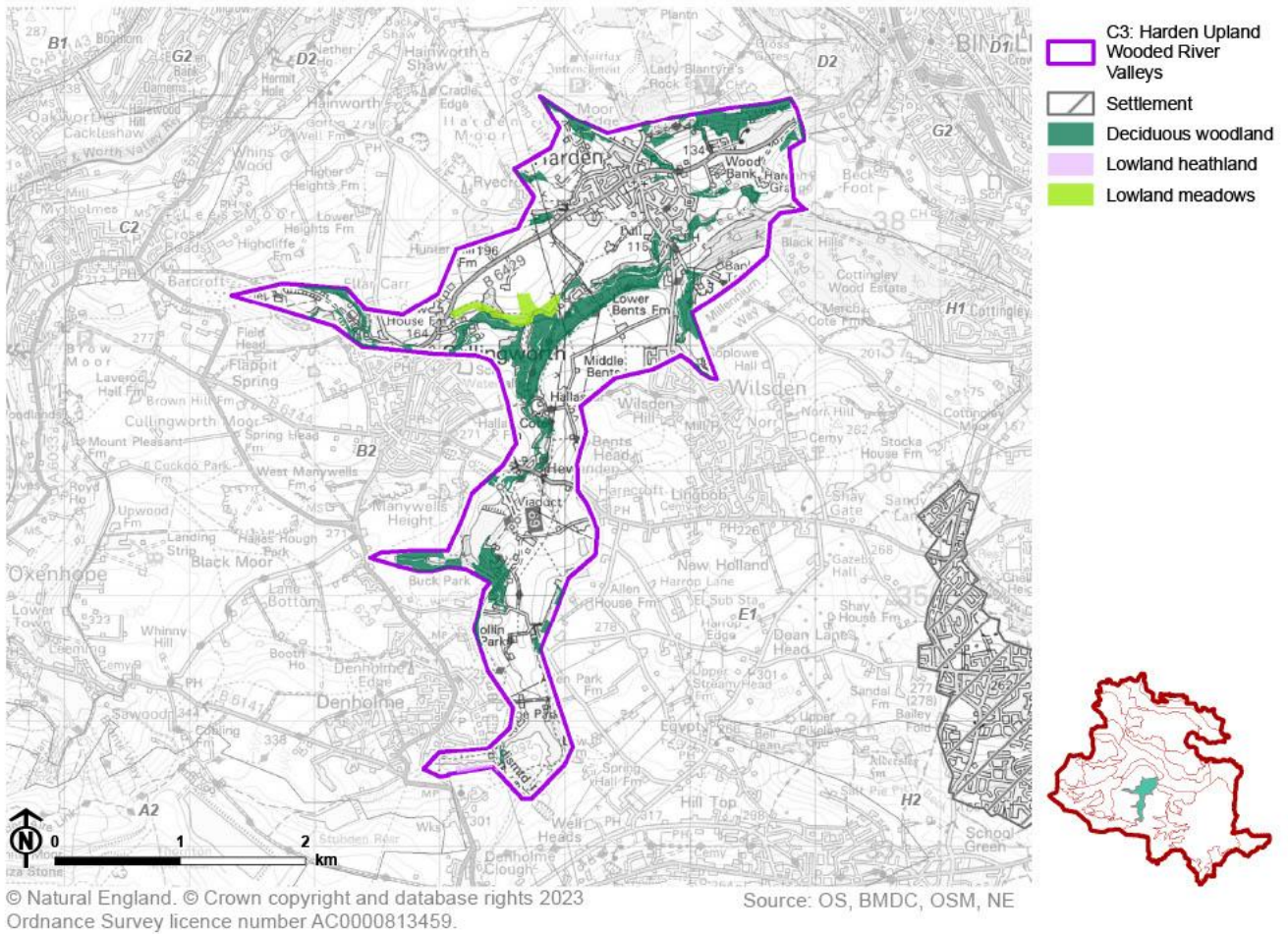
Figure 3.63: Natural heritage of LCA C3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Woodland is present across the area, but more continuous along the rivers in the eastern half of the area and on the slopes above Harden. Much of this is identified as priority habitat for deciduous woodland.
- Ancient and semi-natural woodland is present at Bell Bank Wood and Goitstock/Crag Woods and forms large expanses of woodland. Species include birch and oak. In the east, around Mytholme Beck, the wooded southern slopes of the beck are identified as replanted ancient woodland. This comprises predominantly coniferous woodland.
- There are several local wildlife sites, primarily incorporating a variety of habitats, including reservoirs, becks, woodland and grassland. This includes the larger St Ives Estate Local Wildlife Site on the slopes above Harden and Goitstock Wood and Grasslands on the valley floor. Part of this area is also included in the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Improved grassland dominates the more gentle, higher slopes. There is limited biodiversity within the pasture aside from the hedgerows which provide connectivity. These are more continuous between Harden and Goit Stock Cottages.
- There are invasive species throughout the area, including Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed along Harden Brook, and Rhododendron at Bell Bank Wood and St Ives Estate.

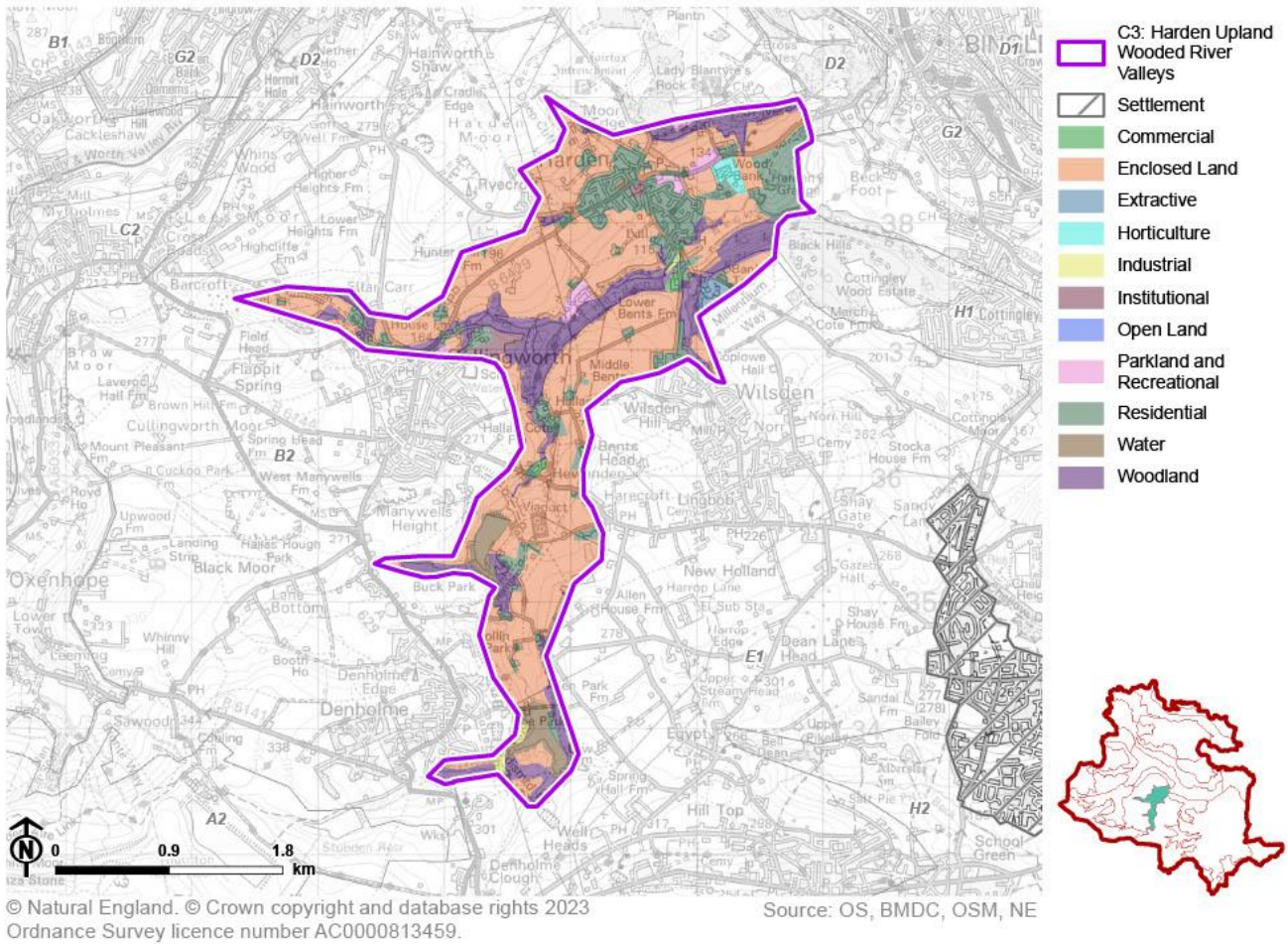
Figure 3.64: Priority habitat inventory of LCA C3



Land Use and Field Patterns

- In the west and south the poor quality acidic soil and varied topography are of limited agricultural value and the area is identified as grade 4 (poor) agricultural land. In the east, there is grade 3 (good to moderate) agricultural land on the higher slopes. Agriculture comprises grazing, silage and pasture.
- The field pattern in the valley features a patchwork of small-scale fields resulting from piecemeal medieval enclosure. In the south, on the slopes above Crag Wood and Goitstock Wood the field pattern is more regular and separated by straight roads. This is a result of surveyed planned enclosure.
- Drystone walls define the majority of field boundaries and are generally well maintained, although in places these are reinforced by post and wire fences.
- In the east, parkland associated with St Ives Estate and Harden Grange has obscured older field boundaries. This is characterised by a more open field pattern and presence of hedgerow trees. Parkland style groupings of trees indicate parkland character. Drystone walls in this part of the landscape are well maintained and taller, with well-defined capstones.

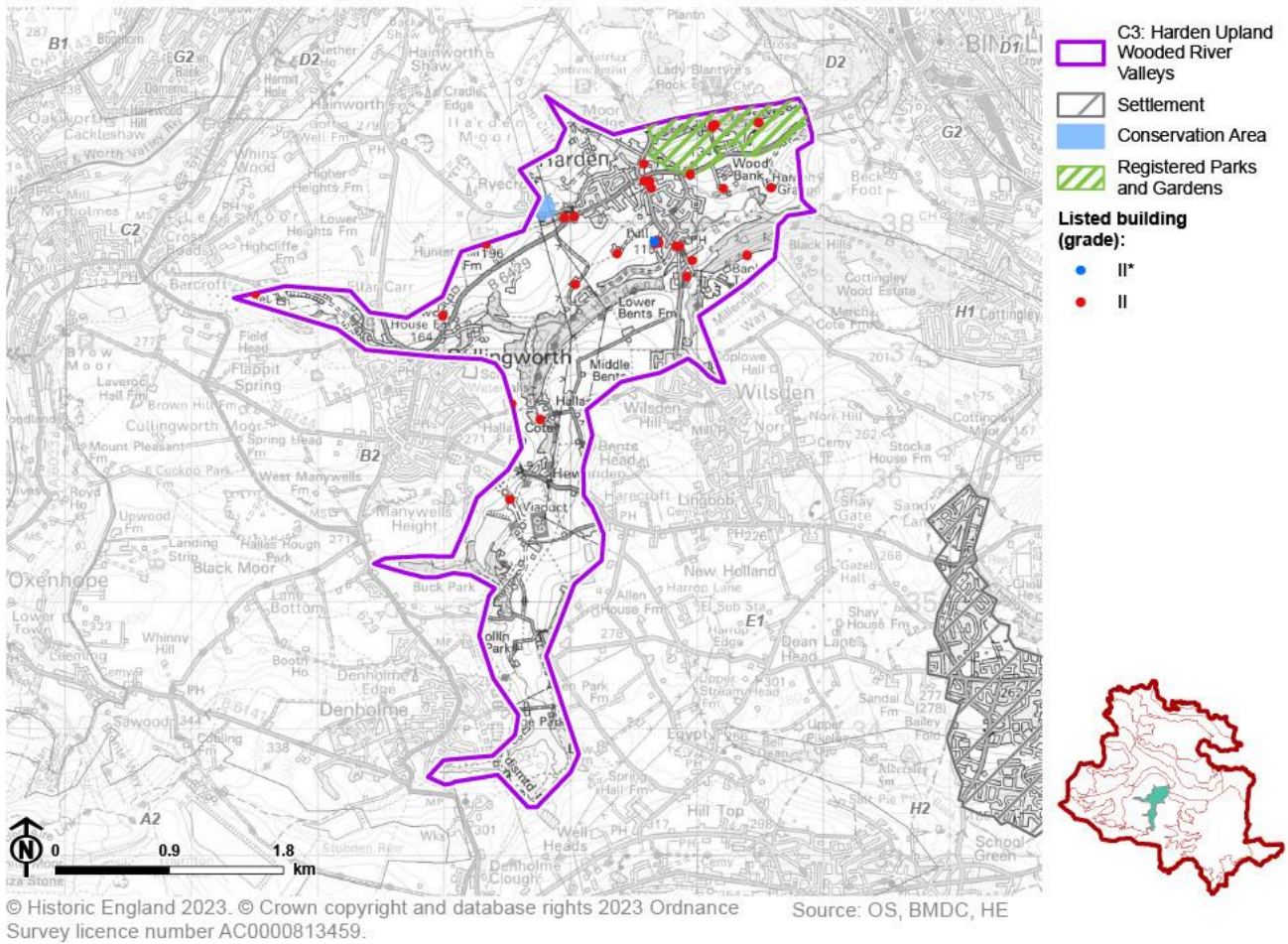
Figure 3.65: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA C3



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- The rural parts of the LCA have a strong 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 of local sandstone. Some scattered farmsteads are designated as grade II listed buildings.
- In the north east, the slopes above Harden are part of the wider St Ives Estate Grade II Registered Park and Garden. The ancient woodland and landscaped grounds within this park provide a sense of historic grandeur. Parkland is also present south of Harden Road reaching the northern bank of Harden Beck, associated with the Grade II Listed Harden Grange. These parklands date from the 19th century and were introduced into the landscape as a result of local wealth associated with the textile industry.
- The influence of industrialisation on the landscape is still evident. In the south, the Grade II Listed Hewenden Viaduct forms a striking visual landmark related to the industrial past. Millponds and mills along the Becks, particularly in the south and west and the disused railway line which tunnels through the higher slopes also reflect this.

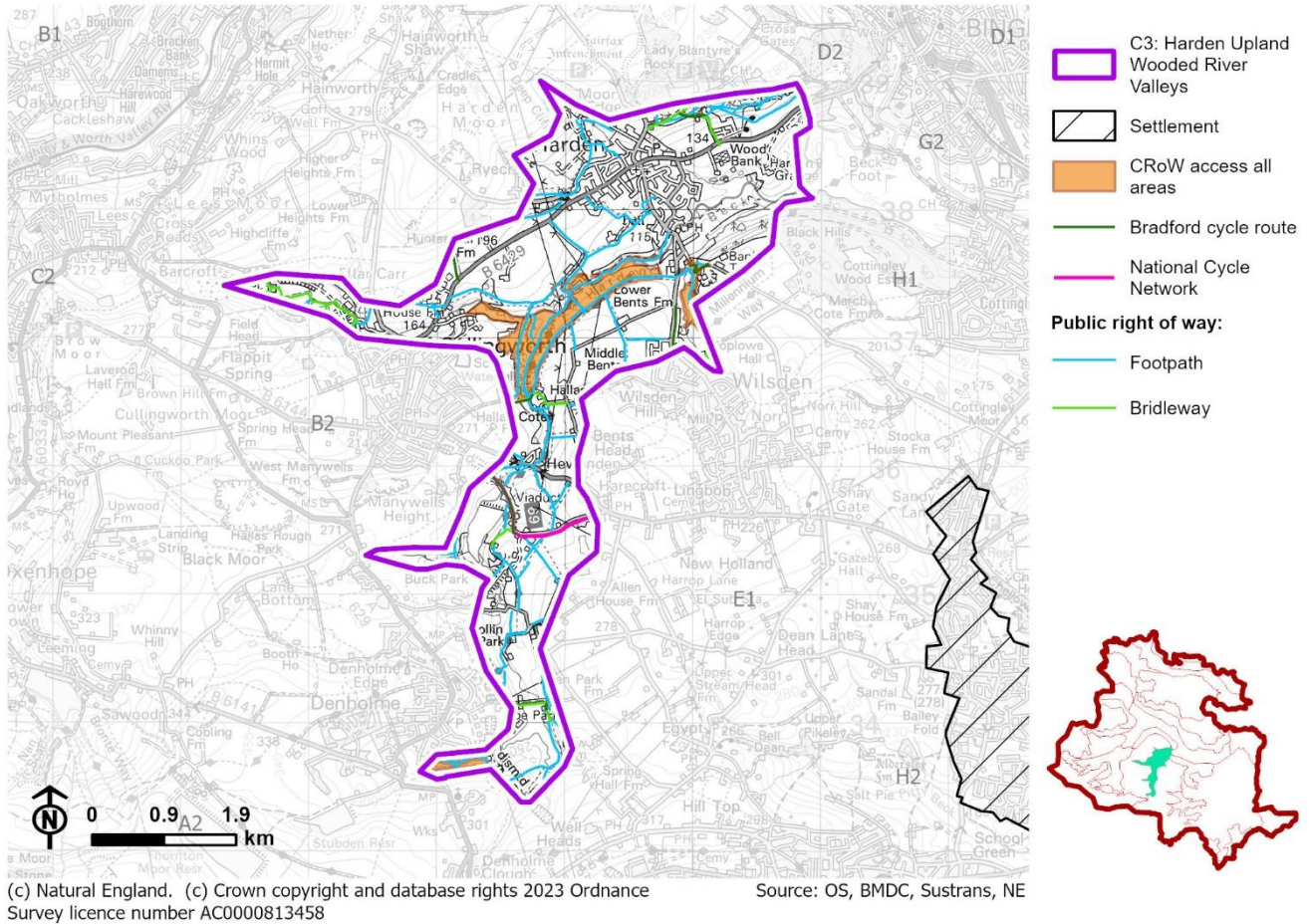
Figure 3.66: Cultural heritage of LCA C3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The main settlement in the area is Harden village, which grew as a result of industry and the textile mills associated with Harden Beck. The settlement occupies the more gentle, northern slopes above Harden Beck. The settlement of Wilsden further south has expanded into the LCA.
- Smaller settlements are present along the becks to the south, including Hallas Bridge and Hewenden. These comprise small hamlets and scattered houses centred around Hallas Hall and Hewenden Mill respectively.
- Scattered stone farmsteads are dispersed across the area. In the east they include those associated with St Ives Estate and Harden Hall. Within the vicinity of Harden, this includes Yeomans cottages.
- The road network is not extensive, with the B6429 comprising the main route through the area which skirts the gently sloping northern side of the valley, passing through Harden. The main routes crossing the valley are Harden Lane, which connects Harden to the settlement of Wilsden south of the area and the B6144 in the south, which connects Wilsden and Cullingworth (both outside this LCA).
- The route of a disused railway line passes through the south of the area, incorporating Hewenden Viaduct and tunnels to navigate the steep topography. The old station at Denholme is an industrial remnant feature in the landscape.

Figure 3.67: Access and recreation of LCA C3



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way, with a concentration of paths to the west and south of Harden and within the St Ives Estate. This includes the promoted long distance walking route the Millennium Way which runs along the valley bottom, including through open access land at Goitstock Wood.
- Goitstock Waterfall within Goitstock woods is accessible by foot and is a key local landmark which draws visitors.
- There are some cycle routes within the area, most notably National Cycle Network Route 69 which runs along the Hewenden Viaduct and also forms the start of the Great Northern Railway Trail National Cycle Network route.
- St Ives Estate park offers an important recreational asset. The park (though not entirely within this area) offers 500 acres of parkland, including play facilities, picnic areas and marked walks, including within woodland and around a lake.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The sloping topography and woodland cover create an enclosed visual character with an intimate, naturalistic quality in the lowest parts of the valley. Deciduous woodland cover and the presence of the water within the becks contributes to a sense of tranquillity.
- Away from the rivers, gentle slopes offer more open views. These wider valleys present a more pastoral character, contrasting to the wilder quality associated with the moorlands.
- In the west, views of Hewenden viaduct contribute to a distinctive sense of place reflecting the local history of the area.

- In the east, the proximity to Harden and Wilsden introduces influences from the built environment and reduces the rural character that is present further west.
- There are some vertical elements including a wood pole overhead line in the south and a steel lattice overhead line further north which runs through St Ives Estate and Goitstock Wood.
- The Night Blight Score (according to CPRE's dark skies mapping) is generally higher within the settlements, notably Harden, and lower within the woodland areas. Tranquillity is generally lower in the valley bottom, particularly north of Goitstock Wood.

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT C: Upland Wooded River Valleys

Climate Change

- Climate change leading to increased periods of drought, increased temperatures and water retention in the reservoirs could result in lower water levels and streamflow, which may impact riparian vegetation.
 - C1: Impacts on riparian vegetation along North Beck, altering the character of the valley floor.
 - C2: Reduced water levels in Ponden Reservoir, Lower Laithe Reservoir, Leeshaw Reservoir and Leeming Reservoir with knock-on effects on the mosaic of riparian vegetation along the valley floor including riparian woodland, rush patches, semi-improved acidic and natural grassland.
 - C3: Reduced water levels in Doe Park Reservoir and Hewenden Reservoir with detrimental impacts on riparian woodland – most notably on Goitstock Wood Ancient Woodland.
- Climate change may result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall, potentially causing flooding issues in the Airedale Valley. This may necessitate flood prevention schemes at higher points in the catchment. These could potentially be positive for landscape character, for example planting on valley floors, but equally could impact habitats and industrial features (mill ponds) along the watercourses.
 - C1, C2 and C3: Enhancement and expansion of woodland along the valley floor, with tree planting extending up the valley sides and the proportion of woodland to pastoral fields shifting subtly altering landscape character.
 - C1: Potential alterations to historic mill ponds at Wood Hill, Goose Eye and Holme Mill and subsequent impacts on the surrounding hydrology.
 - C2: Potential alterations to historic mill ponds such as those at Mytholmes and Ebor Lane, and subsequent impacts on the surrounding hydrology.
 - C3: Potential alterations to the historic mill pond at Wood Bank and subsequent impacts on the surrounding hydrology.

Agricultural Change

- Changes in grazing pressure, both overgrazing and undergrazing as a result of climate change and changing markets/agricultural subsidies could change the character of the pastoral landscape.
- Changing agricultural practices could result in traditional drystone field boundaries not being maintained. This would erode the rare and valued historic field pattern.
 - C1: The field pattern is more in-tact further up the slopes, particularly south of Higher and Lower Holme House Woods.
 - C2: The regular field pattern is particularly strong north of Cross Roads between Halifax Road and the Worth Way long distance route.
 - C3: The regular field pattern is particularly pronounced north of Wilsden, around Bents Lane.

Development

- New development extending up valley sides may impact the setting of historic settlement and dilute rural character. Ongoing development of this type may dilute the number of vernacular stone buildings. Historically settlements have been confined to flatter slopes, but over time modern development has eroded these landscape distinctions.
 - C2: In the area around Oakworth, Mytholmes, Haworth and Cross Roads there is a delicate balance between valley-floor woodland, pastoral fields and development. Modern development has eroded the distinction between these settlements and further development, particularly encroaching on the valley floor would shift the perception of this area from strongly rural, to more urban.
 - C2: The historic setting of Haworth and its connection to the wider landscape may be detrimentally impacted by inappropriate development.

- C3: Development along Wilsden Road/Harden Lane may merge the two settlements of Harden and Wilsden and limit the visual character of the gentle river valley.
- The Upland River Valley Landscape Character Type is situated west of the settled Airedale Valley and the busy settlements of Keighley and Bingley. The expansion of these settlements could erode the rural character of the eastern extents of each LCA.
 - C1: Encroachment onto the valley floor from Braithwaite (Keighley) in the north and Exley Head (Keighley) in the south may erode remote character and reduce tranquillity.
 - C2: Development pressure on the edge of Keighley may erode the rural character and potentially result in agglomeration with the settlement of Oakworth.
 - C2: Expansion of Oakworth to the south could lead to agglomeration with Mytholmes.
 - C3: There is a substantial gap between settlement in the neighbouring LCA (Bingley) and settlement in this LCA (Harden), but the expansion of each could erode rural character in the long term.
- New or additional lighting schemes accompanying new development may impact the dark skies qualities.

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.
- New pathogens and pests are increasingly putting pressure on natural habitats, most notably ash dieback, in woodlands, which result in the need for tree felling to manage this risk.
 - C3: Ash dieback has resulted in tree loss within St Ives Estate.

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Increased tourism as a result of links to the South Pennine moorland.
 - C1: The Millennium Way provides a direct link from Goose Eye with the Moorland fringe.
 - C2: Recreational routes associated with cultural heritage, such as the Railway Children Walk and Brontë Way.
- Increased pressure on recreational assets close to the larger settlements could impact the diversity and quality of landscapes.
 - C3: Potential proposals to develop St Ives Estate as a Country Park may create additional pressure on this site.

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

- A lack of natural surveillance on quieter lanes and tracks leads to increasing risks of fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.
 - C3: At Goitstock Waterfall there has been increasing littering and anti-social behaviour.

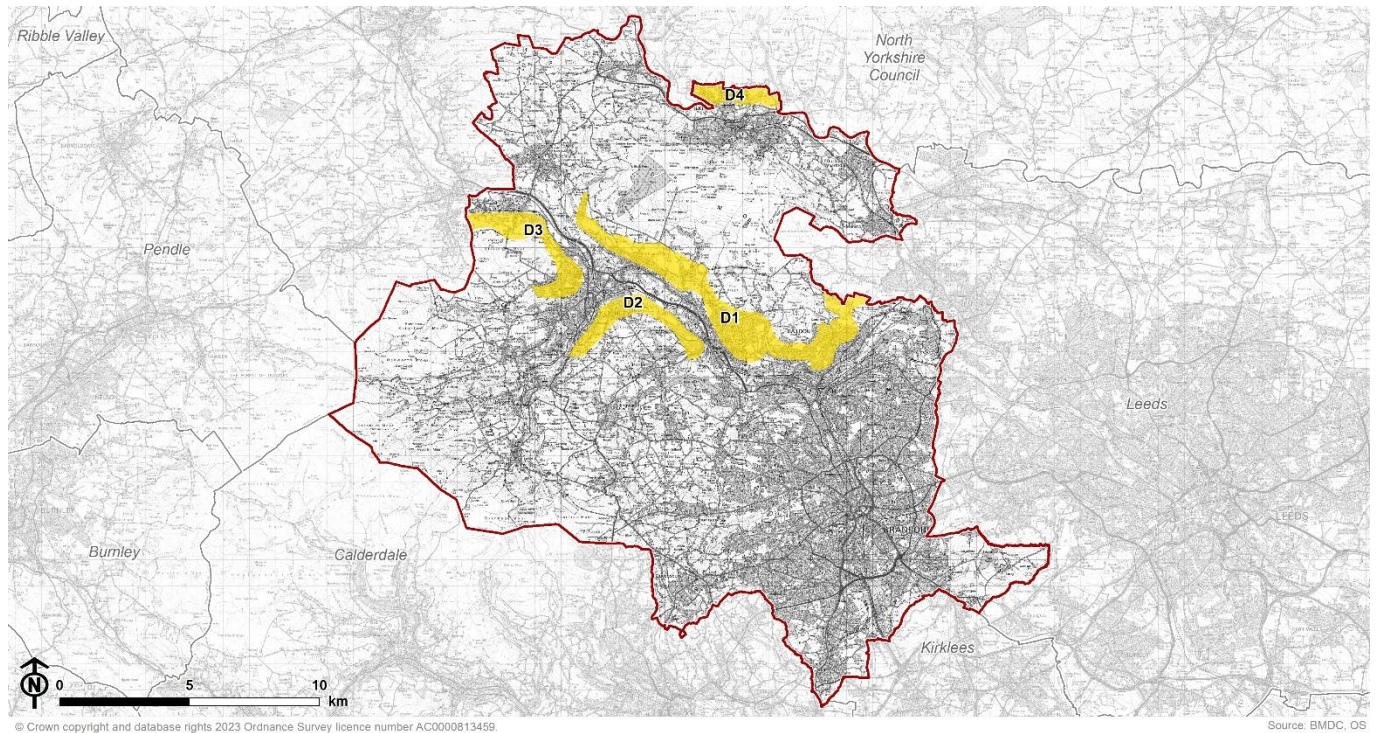
Guidance

- Conserve the characteristic field pattern on the highly visible valley sides. Where possible the morphology (shape and layout) of historic field boundaries should be retained. Maintain the drystone walls, repair where necessary ensuring that restoration is carried out sensitively and with due regard to local style and construction.
- Manage changing agricultural conditions in a way that embraces changing realities, but strives to maintain cornerstones of landscape character such as pastoral land use.
- Conserve the open, treeless nature of the upper valley sides; concentrating tree planting within the valley floor, lower valley sides, cloughs, farmstead and settlement edges. This LCT provides a good opportunity to increase woodland cover in the region without conflicting with landscape character.

- C1: Opportunity to enhance woodland along North Beck and on the northern side of the valley where woodland cover is less extensive.
- C2: Opportunity to enhance woodland along Rag Clough Beck and close to the River Worth.
- C3: Opportunity to enhance the wider woodland network outside of the core woodland on the valley floor, including Goitstock Wood.
- Sensitive manage potential flood prevention schemes ensuring they respect cultural heritage and provide opportunities to increase natural heritage. Consider opportunities to explore potential to use this as an opportunity to make these features multifunctional assets for the future, while celebrating their heritage.
- Limit the expansion of the Airedale Valley Floor settlements into this LCT.
- Avoid or ensure sensitive use of lighting within new developments to maintain dark night skies and the tranquillity of this LCT.
- 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.
- 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.
- Seek to maintain separation between distinct settlements and to respect settlement settings where they contribute to settlement character.
 - C2: Strive to maintain the limited distinction between Oakworth, Mytholmes, Haworth and Cross Roads.
- Conserve and celebrate the character of 'Brontë' country.
 - C2: Limit and/or ensure sensitive development in the environs of Haworth. Conserve visual connection from Haworth to the surrounding open moors.

Landscape Character Type D: Steep Valley Sides

Figure 3.68: Location of the Steep Valley Sides



LCT D Overview

The Steep Valley Sides landscape character type contains the sloping sides of the broad settled valleys within the district. Characterised by notable areas of woodland, these valley sides form bold bands of vegetation, distinct from the surrounding open fields. These swaths of woodland sit near areas of settlement, and the steep valley sides provide a visually prominent, scenic backdrop. This landscape character type borders or contains numerous tributaries of the Rivers Aire and Wharfe and contributes to biodiversity rich areas of the district, with local wildlife sites and notable areas of ancient woodland. Vegetation consists primarily of deciduous woodland, with areas of coniferous plantation. Occasionally the woodland wraps around clearings of pastoral fields and golf courses. In many places settlement on the adjacent valley floor has crept up the valley sides.

There are four LCAs within this LCT:

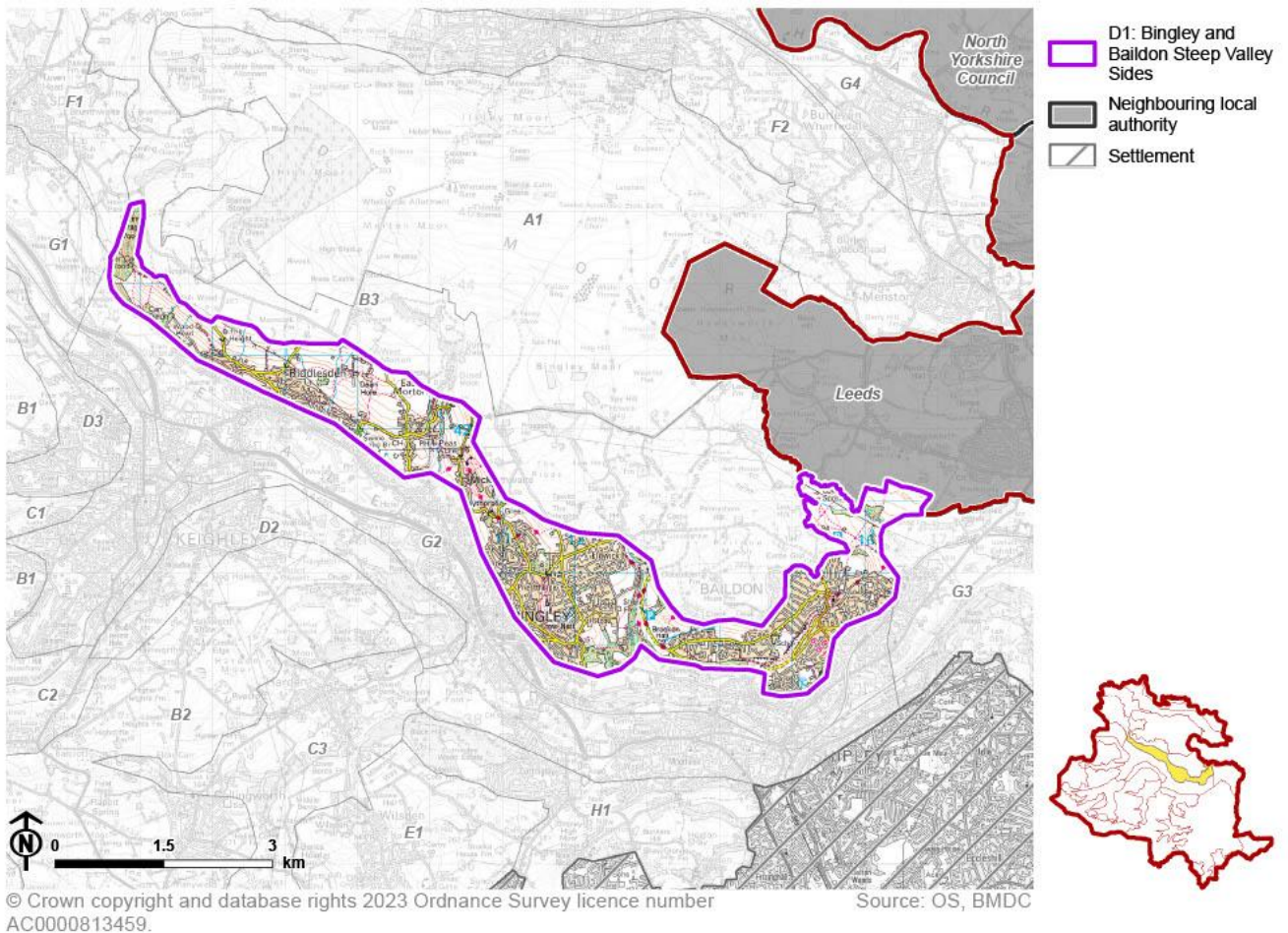
- D1. Bingley and Baildon Steep Valley Sides
- D2. Thwaites Brow Steep Valley Sides
- D3: Hollins Bank Steep Valley Sides
- D4: Middleton Woods Steep Valley Sides

D1. Bingley and Baildon Steep Valley Sides

Location, Context and Summary

The Bingley and Baildon Steep Valley Sides LCA comprises parts of the steep slopes which form the northern edge of the Airedale Valley. The LCA represents a transition from the developed valley of the River Aire to the rural upland moors, including Baildon Moor in the east, Silsden Moor in the west, and Rombalds Moor across the centre. Woodland and tree belts help to integrate settlement into the wider landscape. The characteristic steep slopes are cut in places by large beck which flow downslope into the River Aire. This LCA is distinguished from the low-lying flat valley floor of the G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor and rolling moorland fringes, and B3: Addingham, Silsden and Baildon Moorland Fringe. In the centre and east the area is dominated by the settlement of Bingley, with generally modern development which has crept up the valley sides from Shipley and around the historic centres of Baildon and Eldwick. The area contains a balance of modern development, woodland and pastoral fields typical of the wider area.

Figure 3.69: Location of LCA D1



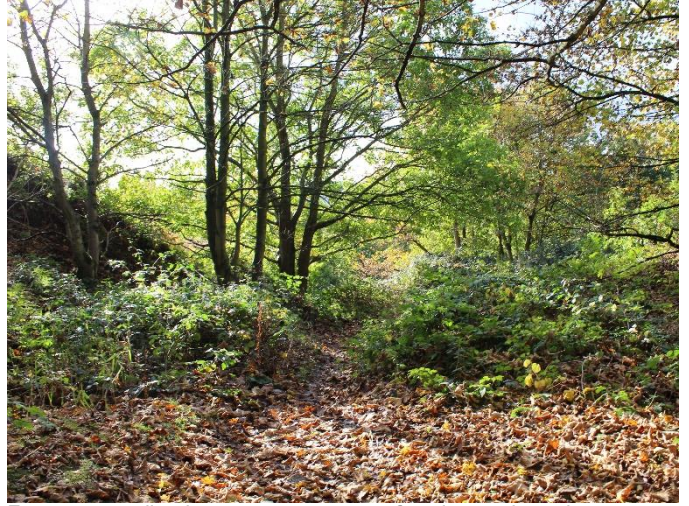
Key Characteristics

- Steeply sloping landform which transitions from the built valley floor to the rural urban fringe.
- High number of springs and becks permeate the landscape and, in some instances, form minor tributary valleys.
- Acidic low fertility soil has restricted farming, which is dominated by pasture.
- Piecemeal enclosure creates a pattern of small, irregular fields bounded by drystone walls.
- Woodland blocks are present throughout the area, forming bands across the landscape, particularly following the course of rivers and on the steeper slopes.
- The wooded hillsides and crag tops of Baildon Bank are included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR recognising the importance of these habitats.
- The field pattern, where present is dominated by small to medium scale pasture fields bounded by drystone walls and has an upland character linking to the Moorland Fringe landscape to the north.
- Sprawling modern development on rising landform punctuated by belts of woodland and steep open slopes.
- Settlements within the area have been shaped by the industrial revolution, which is reinforced by the proximity and relationship with Saltaire World Heritage Site.
- Views across the industrial Airedale Valley to the wooded slopes in the south provide a strong sense of place.
- Dense woodland belts on the valley sides and in beck valleys have a strong sense of enclosure, contrasting with the open field pattern on higher slopes.

Figure 3.70: Example photos from LCA D1



Intervisibility from rising valley slopes to settlements below.



Frequent woodland areas create sense of enclosure throughout.



Pastoral fields on rising slopes with views across settlements towards the rising moors.



Bands of woodland form notable contrasts against the surrounding open fields.



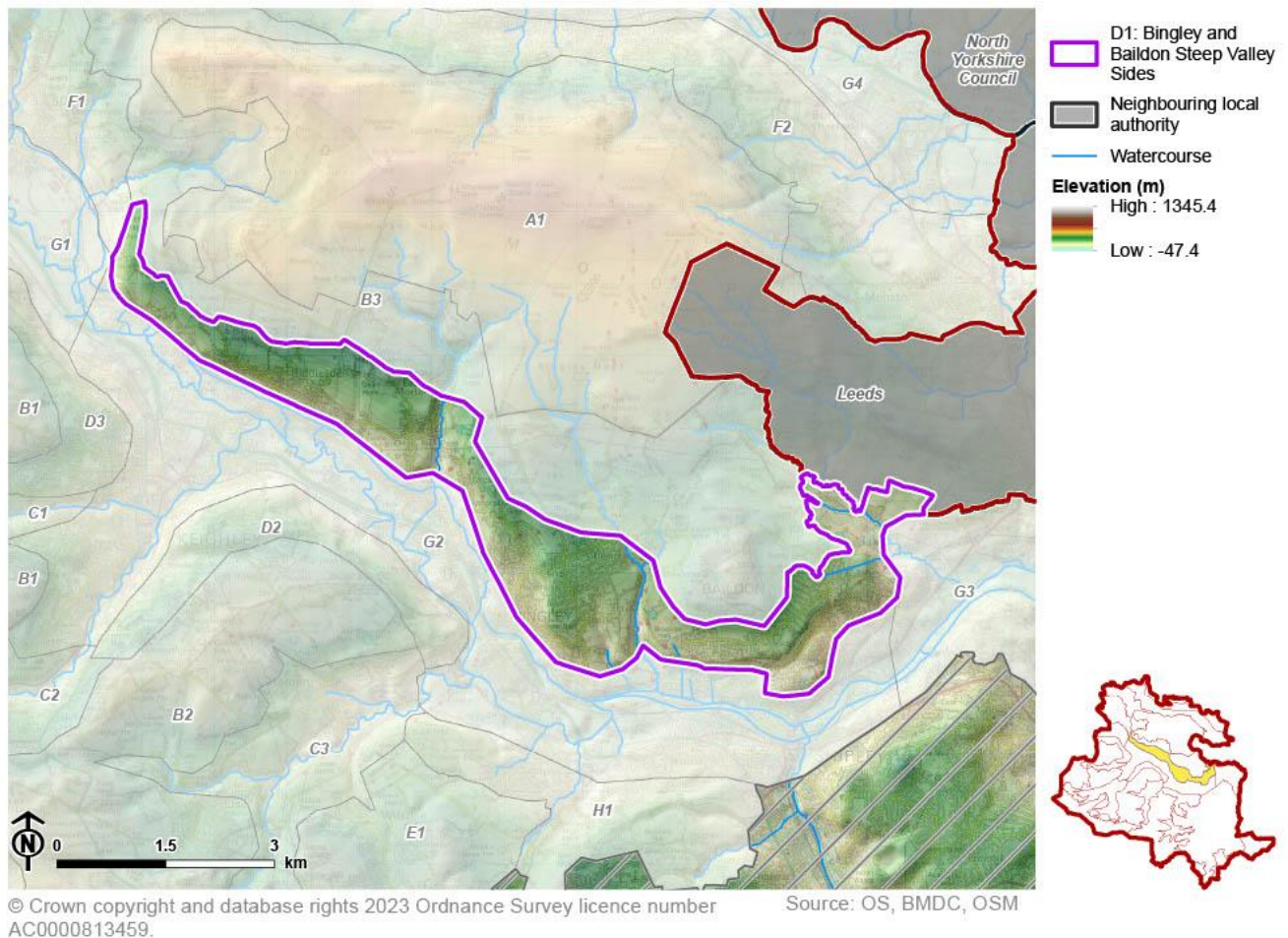
Numerous becks meander down the slopes, typically bound by riparian vegetation.



Intervisibility across settled valley floors to Rombalds Moor.

Landscape Character

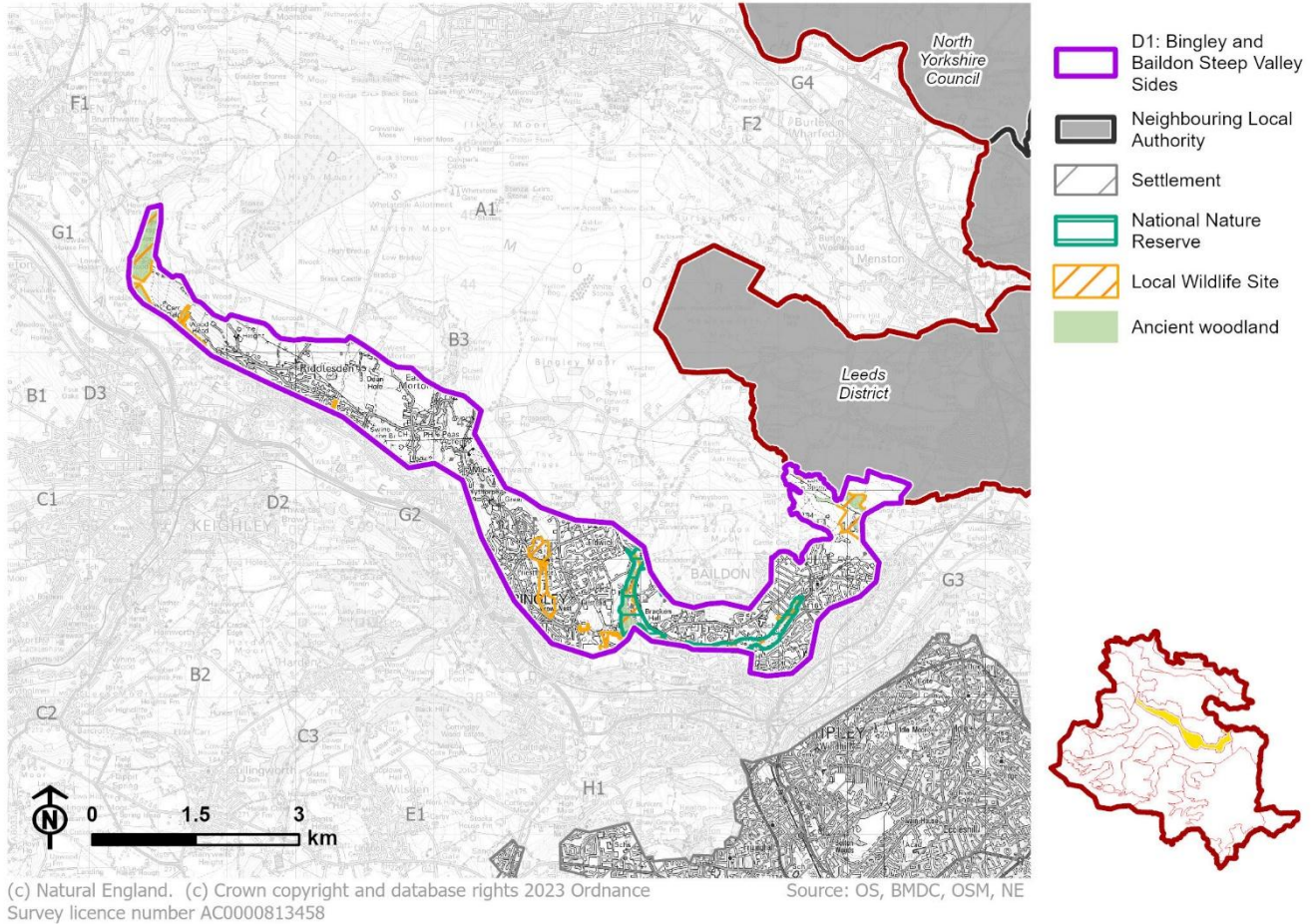
Figure 3.71: Topography of LCA D1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, primarily from the Midgely Grit group. In the east, Rough Rock sandstone and the Pennine Lower Coal Formation is present on the higher ground.
- These rocks break down into loamy and clay acidic soils. The soils have impeded drainage and are seasonally wet.
- The topography is characterised by steep slopes rising from around 100m AOD in the south east to nearly 250m AOD in the north west.
- There are a number of springs and small becks which cut through the slopes and drain into the River Aire. The more notable watercourses – Morton Beck, Loadpit Beck and Ghyll Beck create smaller valleys which run perpendicular to the Airdale Valley.
- Large parts of the valley are overlain by Quaternary glacial till. These angular, unsorted deposits are a result of the Aire glaciation during the Devensian period.
- There are some rocky outcrops on the steeper slopes which create distinctive local backdrops. This includes the precipitous rocky crags Baildon Bank Green, Gilstead Crags, Bracken Hall Green, and Spring Crags.

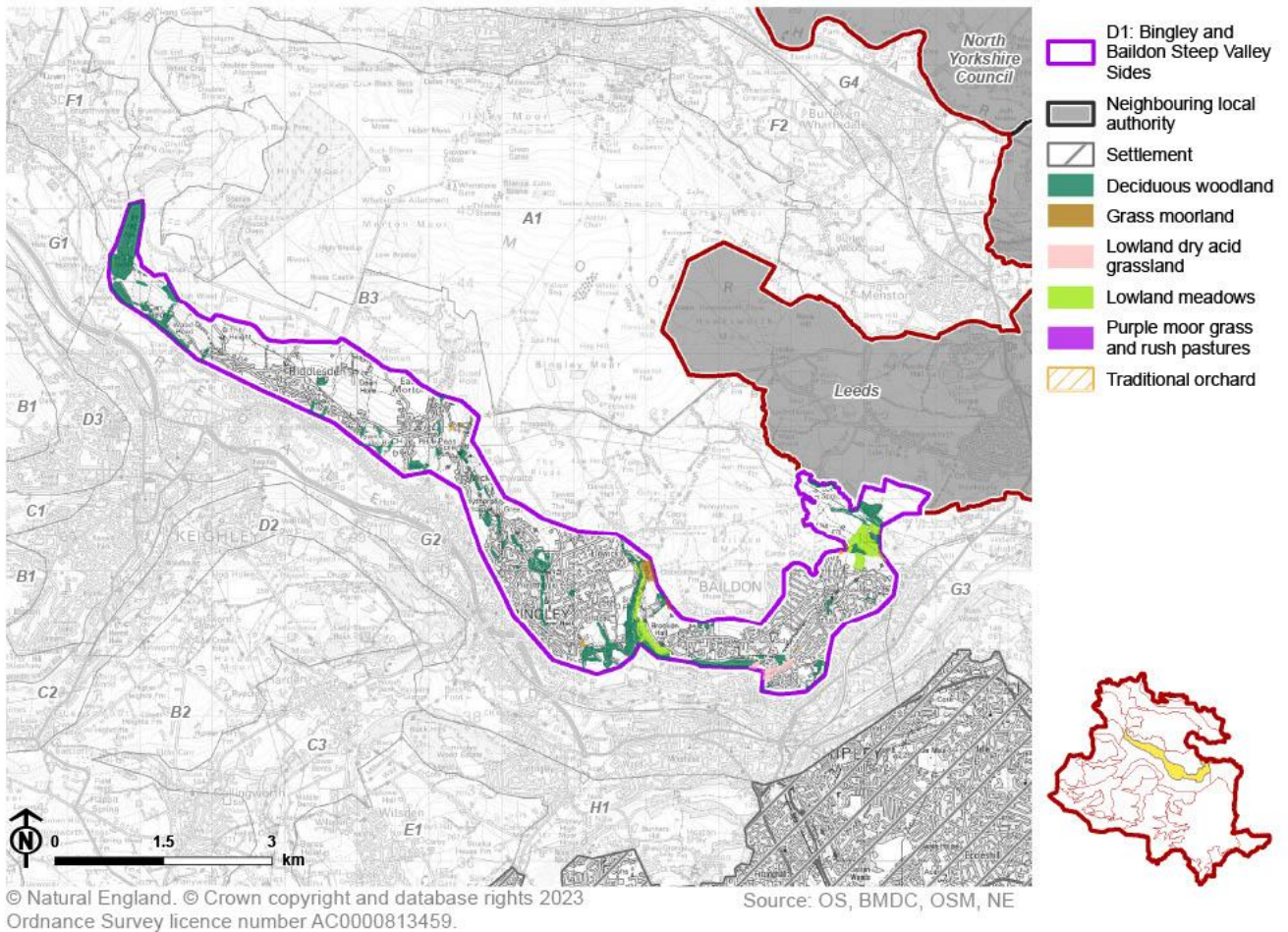
Figure 3.72: Natural heritage of LCA D1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Semi-natural habitat is predominantly provided by broadleaf woodland blocks and tree belts throughout the area. The majority of these are identified as priority habitat for deciduous woodland.
- Notable woodland blocks include Hawskworth Spring Wood in the east, Walker/Midgeley Woods at Shipley Glen, Clough Beck Wood/Elam Wood, Low Wood and Spring Crag Wood/Alder Carr Wood in the west. These have been defined as ancient woodland and are designated as local wildlife sites. Low Wood is also a Local Wildlife Site.
- Grassland habitats are dominated by semi-improved agricultural grassland. These are predominantly bounded by drystone walls and have limited ecological value. North and east of Riddlesden, hedgerows and tree belts provide some connectivity within the agricultural landscape.
- In the west there are additional grassland habitats. Priority habitat for lowland meadows occur on the high slopes of Shipley Glen at Bracken Hall Green and around Ghyll Beck. Dry acidic grassland is present at Baildon Bank.
- Local wildlife sites, in addition to those covered by ancient woodland, are also present at Baildon Bank, Gilstead Moor Edge and Prince of Wales Park and How Beck Wood.
- Parts of Shipley Glen and Baildon Bank are included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.

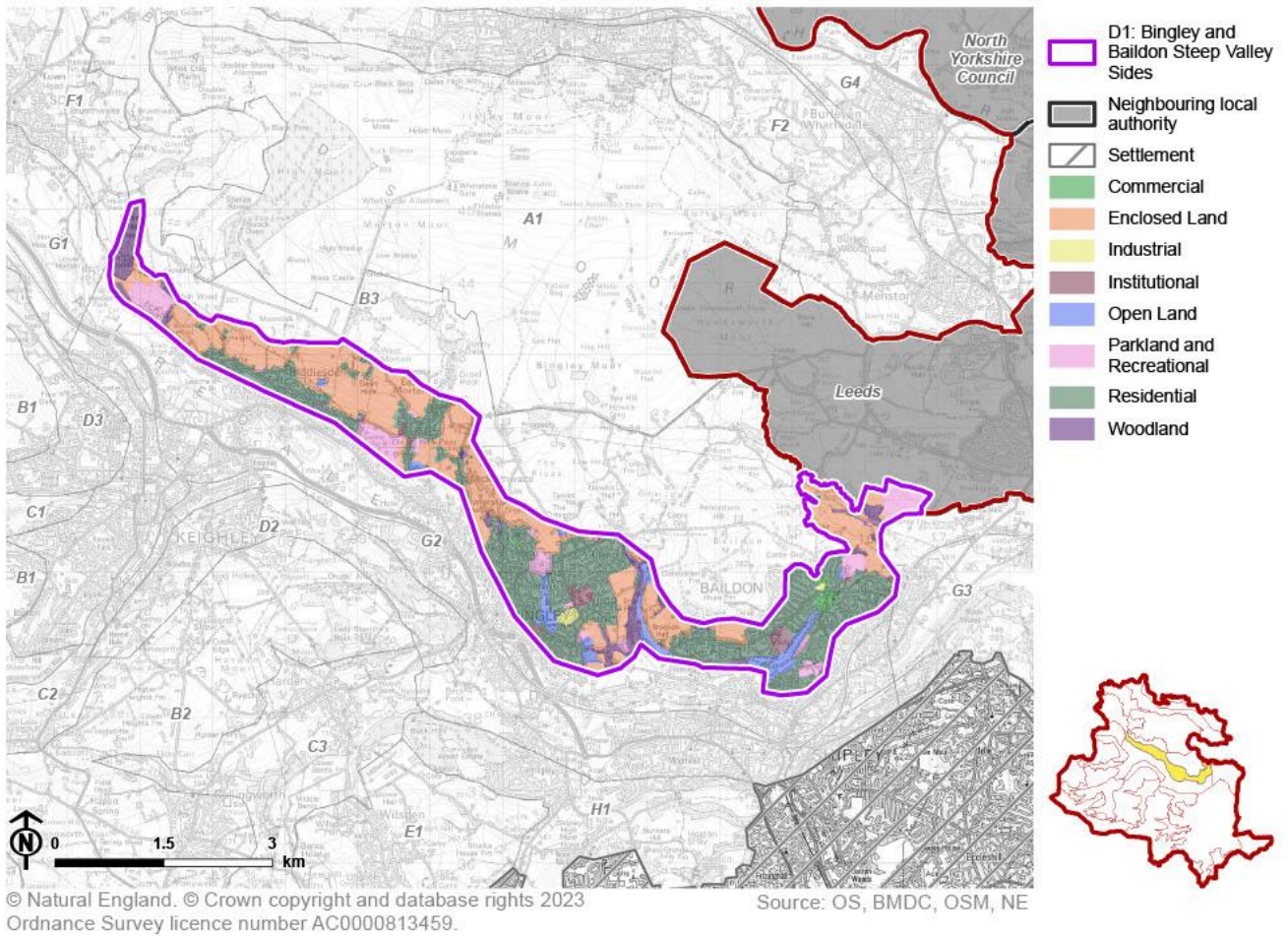
Figure 3.73: Priority habitat inventory of LCA D1



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. In the east, smaller areas of open fields are interspersed between belts of woodland and the developed area. To the west there are more expansive areas of agricultural land.
- The field pattern, where prevalent is dominated by small to medium scale pasture fields bounded by drystone walls reflecting historic piecemeal enclosure from former moorland. Some 19th century boundary alterations have straightened the field edges, creating a more regular field pattern in places.
- In the far west, piecemeal enclosure from a former medieval deer park is present between woodland blocks.
- Around Baildon, suspected assart enclosure from historic woodland is present, although subsequent boundary loss has reduced the time-depth associated with this.
- South-east of Eldwick, an area of surveyed enclosure creates a more geometric field pattern above Shipley Glen.

Figure 3.74: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA D1

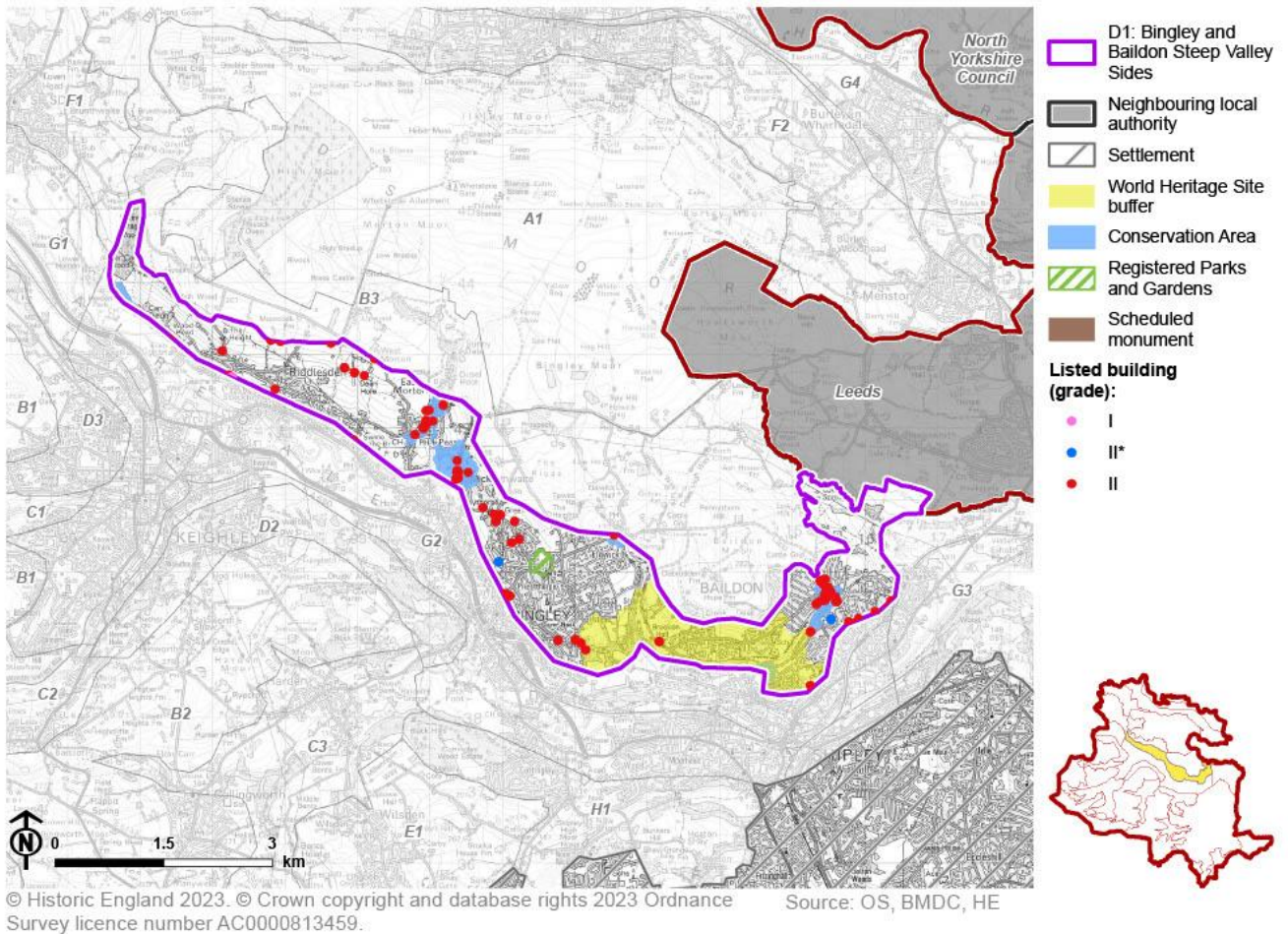


Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- In the west, the slopes overlooking Saltaire fall within part of the Saltaire World Heritage Site buffer zone, and much of this area is identified as forming either a critical or important rural backdrop to Saltaire⁸. The World Heritage Site is noted for its intact industrial heritage and reflects a 19th Century philanthropic approach to industrial management. From elevated positions within the LCA there are clear views of the World Heritage Site. Woodland at Shipley Glen and, Midgeley Wood restricts views into the rich heritage of the valley, but provide a scenic wooded backdrop.
- Some pre-industrial heritage designations overlap the World Heritage Site. This includes several scheduled monuments, including one known as ‘The Soldiers Trench’ of prehistoric rock carvings and settlements around Bracken Hall Green and the Grade II Listed Bracken Hall.
- There are six conservation areas, reflecting the historic importance of settlements along the slopes. These generally incorporate the agricultural historic cores of settlements which have since expanded as part of the industrial revolution.
- The Prince of Wales Registered Park and Garden near Priestthorpe and Eldwick occupies a former quarry site. The land was gifted for the benefit of the public by the Enclosure Commission. Extensive tree planting forms an outer circuit of woodland which encloses the park.

⁸ Saltaire World Heritage Site Management Plan (2014)

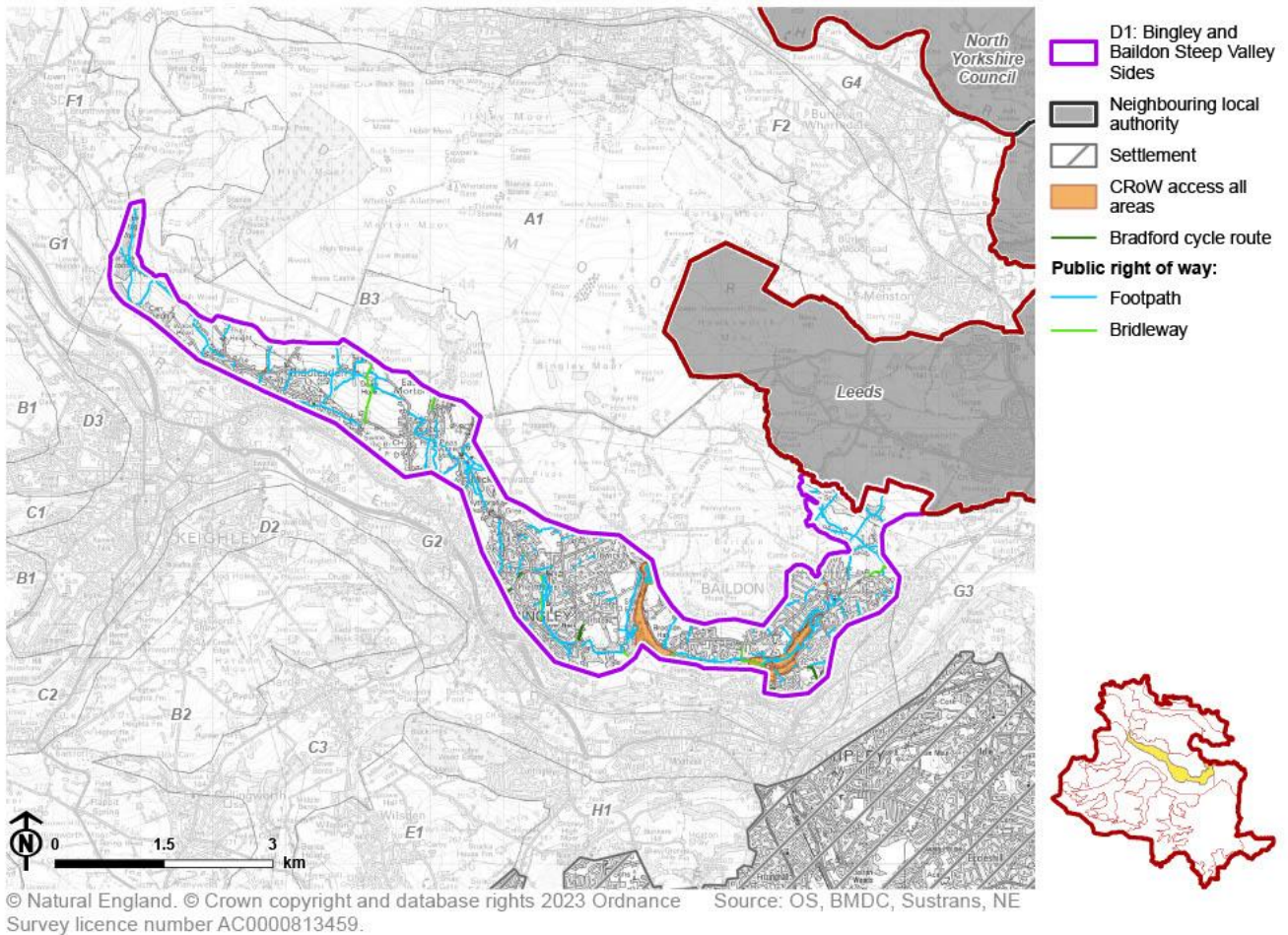
Figure 3.75: Cultural heritage of LCA D1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The east of the area is more densely developed with the settlements of Baildon, and the agglomerated form of Priestthorpe, Eldwick and Gilstead forming part of the wider area of Bingley much of which is situated in the neighbouring LCA (G2: Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor). These settlements are principally composed of modern development, often laid out in a cul-de-sac arrangement, although Eldwick and Baildon have historic centres.
- In the west of the area settlement is more sparse and tends to be concentrated on the lower slopes, such as at Riddlesden or related to watercourses, such as at East Morton which developed around a series of mill buildings. In addition, a series of agricultural hamlets and isolated farmsteads survive sitting within preserved agricultural settings, such as at West Morton.
- Geometric development of vernacular terraced cottages are present in places, reflecting the impact of the industrial revolution on the area.
- The road network predominantly comprises lanes, which often traverse the slopes. One of the smaller valleys associated with Loadpit Beck is free from road development and acts as a barrier to movement across the area.

Figure 3.76: Access and recreation of LCA D1



Access and Recreation

- A network of public rights of way and lanes serves the LCA and provides connectivity from east-west through the area as well as with moorland to the north and down into the Airedale Valley. Many of these routes also run through the woodland blocks and along water courses.
- There are two large areas of open access land in the east at Baildon Bank and Bank Hall Green. Bank Hall Green open access leads directly onto common land at Baildon Moor, enhancing the connectivity between Baildon and moorland in the wider landscape.
- Shipley Glen provides a wooded and publicly accessible space located between Baildon Moor and the more formal Roberts Park/Saltaire WHS, offering a well-used recreational link between the two.
- The Prince of Wales Park Registered Park and Garden provides a large open space valued for recreation and close to the settlements of Priestthorpe and Eldwick.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Where woodland and tree belts are absent, views are open to the south across the Airedale Valley, including over the Saltaire World Heritage Site. This creates an important sense of place and reflects the important industrial local heritage.
- Development within the area reduces the sense of tranquillity and presence of dark skies. The built environment plays a more limited role in the western extents of the area, which have a higher sense of remoteness.

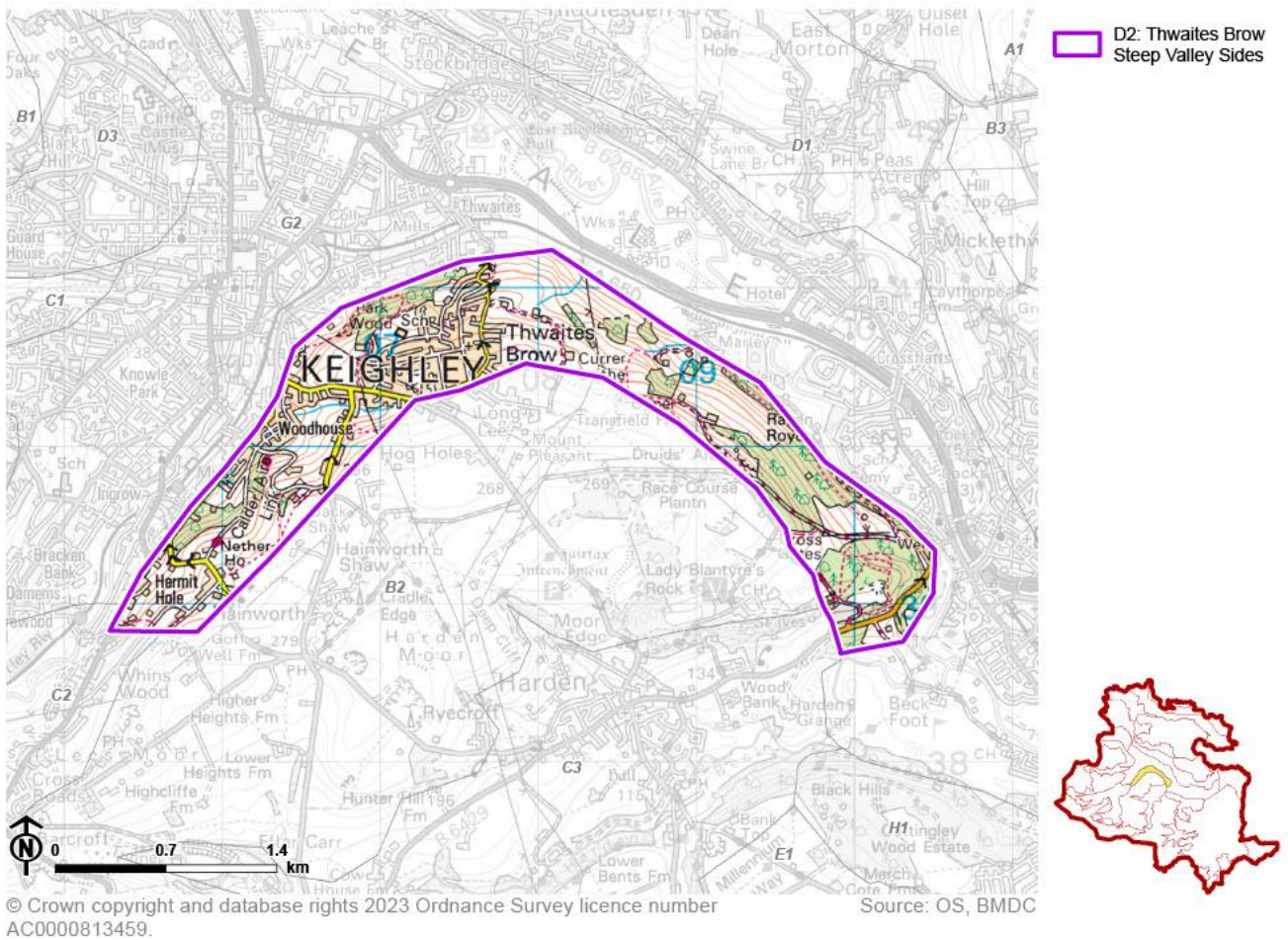
- The juxtaposition of woodland, rural upland fringe character and dense sub-urban style development on steep slopes makes the settlement in the east highly distinctive to the Bradford District.
- Where blocks of woodland are present, these create a more intimate, enclosed character and are important elements in views from across the valley.
- Viewpoints associated with paths at the top of Gilstead Crag offer striking views across the built up Airedale Valley and over to the surrounding moorland.

D2. Thwaites Brow Steep Valley Sides

Location, Context and Summary

The Thwaites Brow Steep Valley Sides LCA comprises the steep slopes which form a distinctive crescent shape, stretching from the southern edge of Keighley to the north western extent of Bingley. The LCA represents a transition from the settled valley of the River Aire to rural upland farmland and moors, joining the Worth Valley in the north west and the Harden Valley in the south. The characteristic steep slopes are interrupted in places by small, mostly unnamed small water courses. Woodland is present throughout but more prevalent in the south east, away from the central settlement of Thwaites. The lowland boundary of the LCA follows the course of the Shipley to Keighley railway line and the A650.

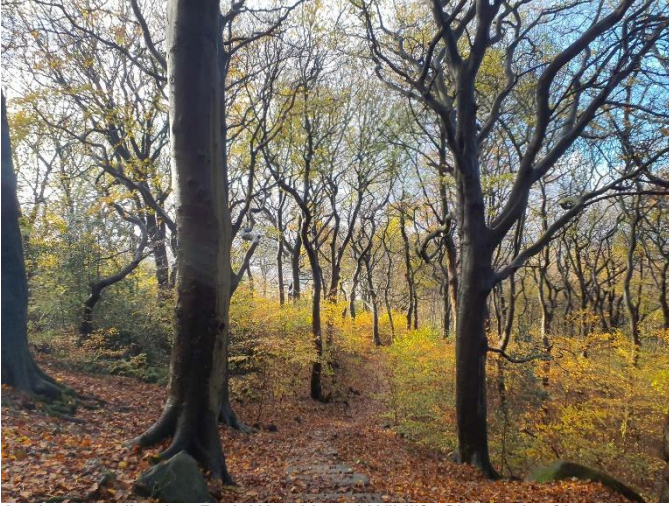
Figure 3.77: Location of LCA D2



Key Characteristics

- Steeply sloping landform which transitions from the settled valley floor to upland plateau farmland.
- Acidic low-fertility soil has limited agricultural productivity. Farmland is interspersed between blocks of woodland and is dominated by grazing.
- The field pattern includes ancient assarts (areas of medieval woodland clearance), reflecting the long history of farming in the area.
- Drystone walls emphasise the varying field pattern and creates a sense of historic character.
- Woodland, including replanted ancient woodland forms the key ecological asset. With the exception of Park Wood to the north, this is more prominent in the south and east creating a naturalistic character. Part of this area is included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR reflecting the importance of this habitat.
- In the south east part of St Ives Estate informs a more formal character.
- Increased wealth resulting from the textile industry led to increased development and rebuilding of farms in the late 18th and early 19th century.
- More recent development around Thwaites has impacted on the rural character, particularly in the west.
- Elevated landform and steep slopes offer unobstructed views across Airedale Valley towards Rombalds Moor and create a sense of exposure.
- In the south east there is a sense of intimacy provided by woodland and localised topographical variety.

Figure 3.78: Example photos from LCA D2



Ancient woodland at Park Wood Local Wildlife Site north of Long Lee.



Druid's Altar local viewpoint and historic rock graffiti with views towards Rombalds Moor.



Cattle grazing on gentler slopes at higher elevations near Thwaites Brow.



Drystone walls field margins near Curren Laithe Farm.



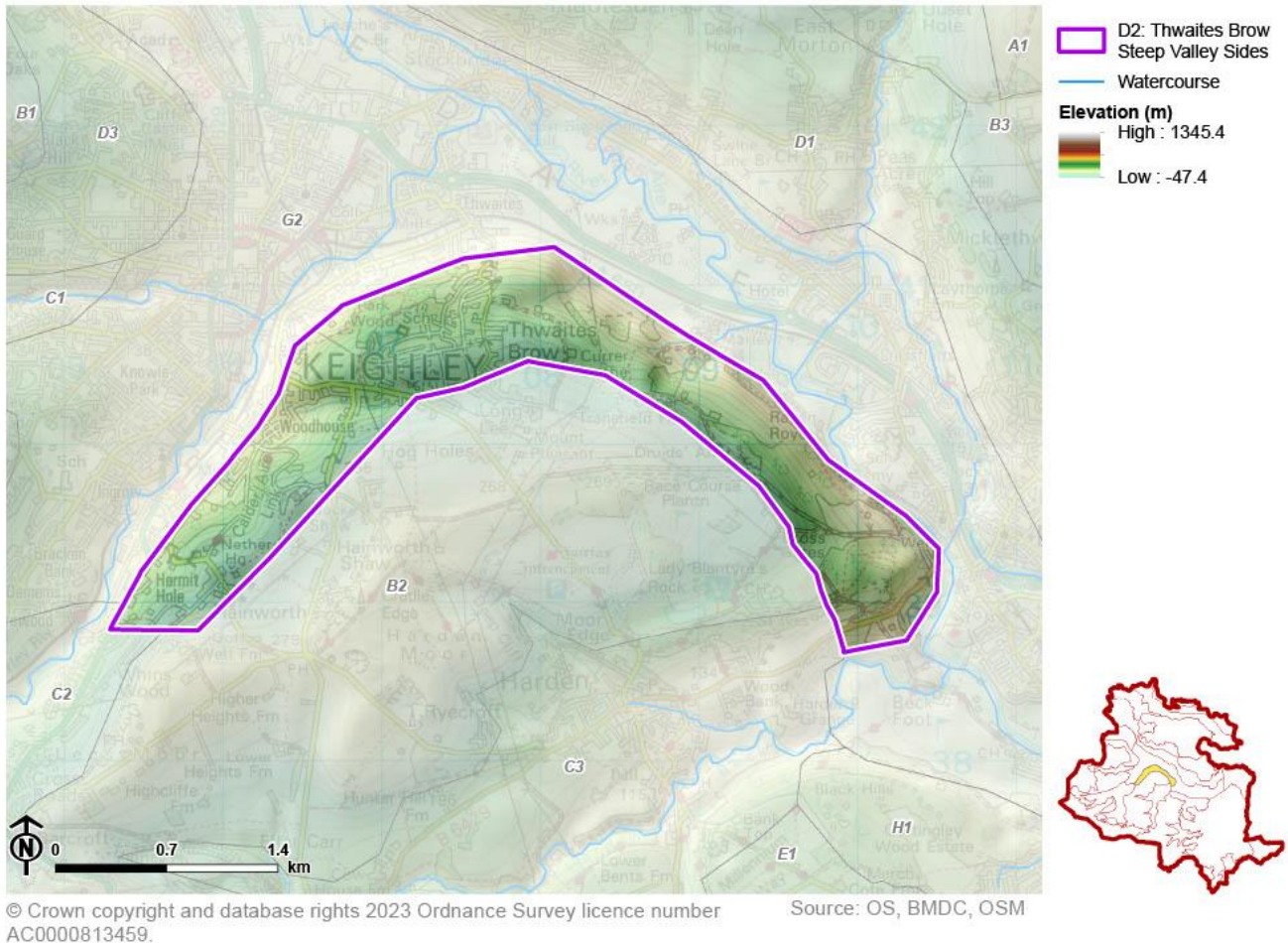
Woodland within St Ives Estate Registered Park and Garden.



Gingerbread Clough within Hainworth Wood Local Wildlife Site.

Landscape Character

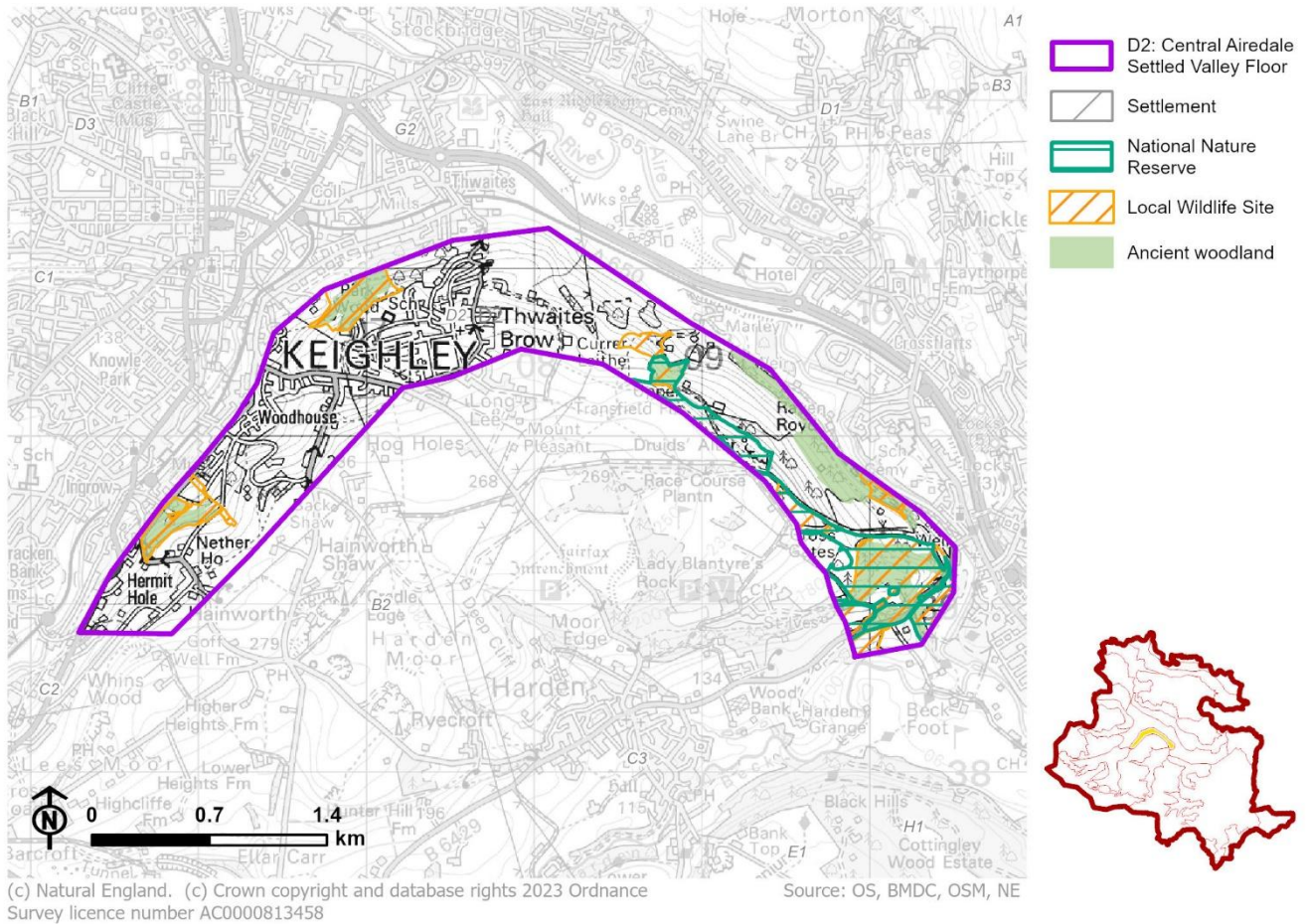
Figure 3.79: Topography of LCA D2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, primarily from the Midgely Grit group. Historic fault lines in the centre top of the slopes have brought the younger Pennine Coal Measures Formation alongside the older Midgely Grit.
- These rocks break down into low fertility acidic soils. In the centre and south east this is dominated by freely draining loamy soils. In the west, there are clay soils with impeded drainage.
- There are a number of springs which flow down the slopes, into the River Worth in the north and west and the River Aire in the east. This includes Hog Holes Beck. These springs are more numerous in the east where the soil is freely draining.
- The topography is characterised by steep slopes rising rapidly from around 100m AOD in the north to nearly 250m AOD in the south.

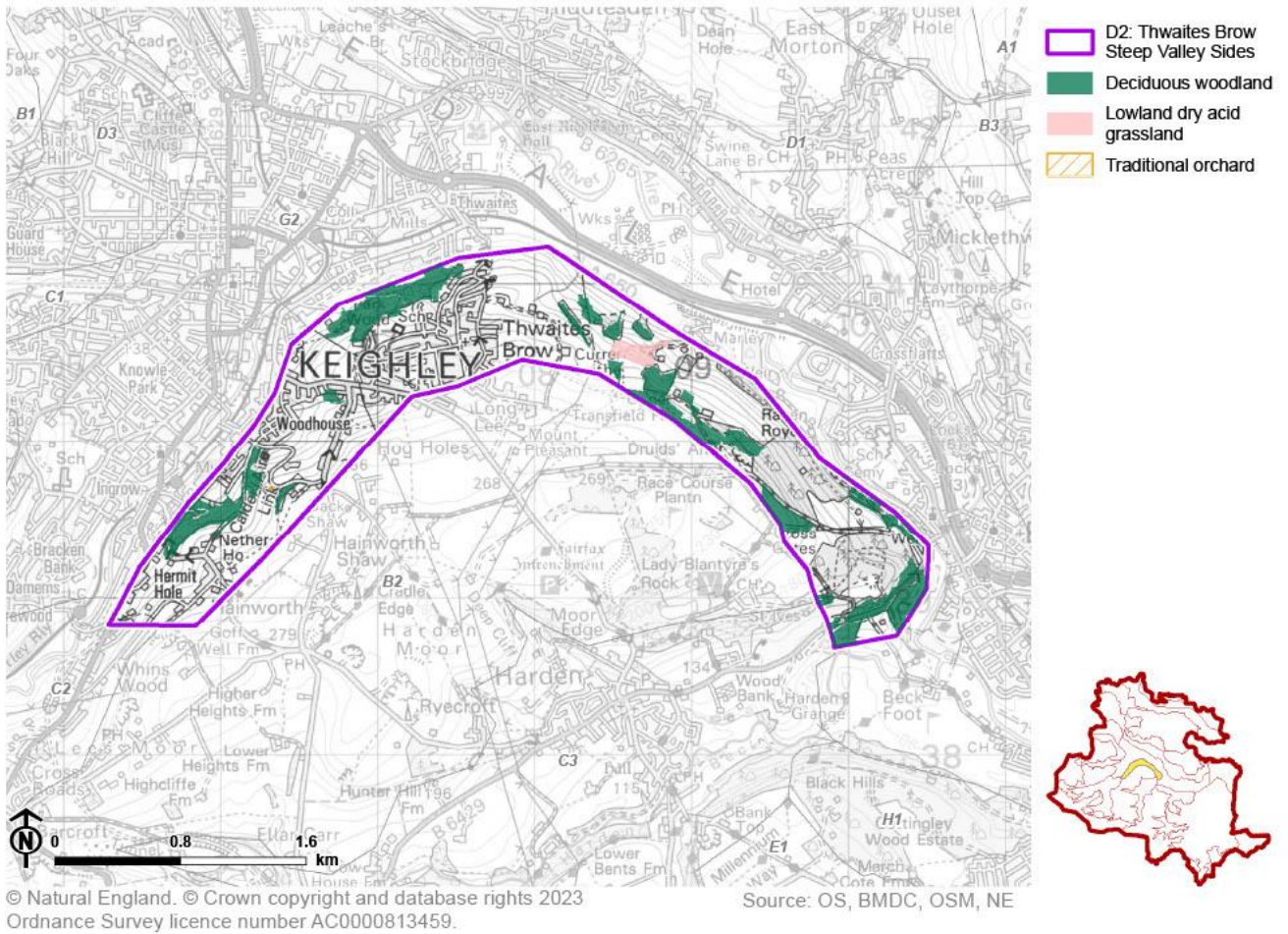
Figure 3.80: Natural heritage of LCA D2



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Tree cover is provided by large woodland blocks and hedgerow trees. Tree cover is more continuous in the east, where there are several inter-connected blocks of deciduous woodland. Some of these have been identified as priority habitat for deciduous woodland and defined as ancient woodland (including replanted and semi-natural). Transfield Wood and part of Hollin Plantation are also designated as local wildlife sites. In the west, the woodland is less frequent but includes large tracts at Hainworth Wood and Park Wood, which are both identified as replanted ancient woodland and local wildlife sites.
- Areas of woodland within the St Ives Estate are also included within the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR.
- Additional habitat coverage consists predominantly of semi-improved grassland which forms the majority of the farmland within the area. Marley Bog Local Wildlife Site, contains an area of priority habitat for dry and acid grassland.

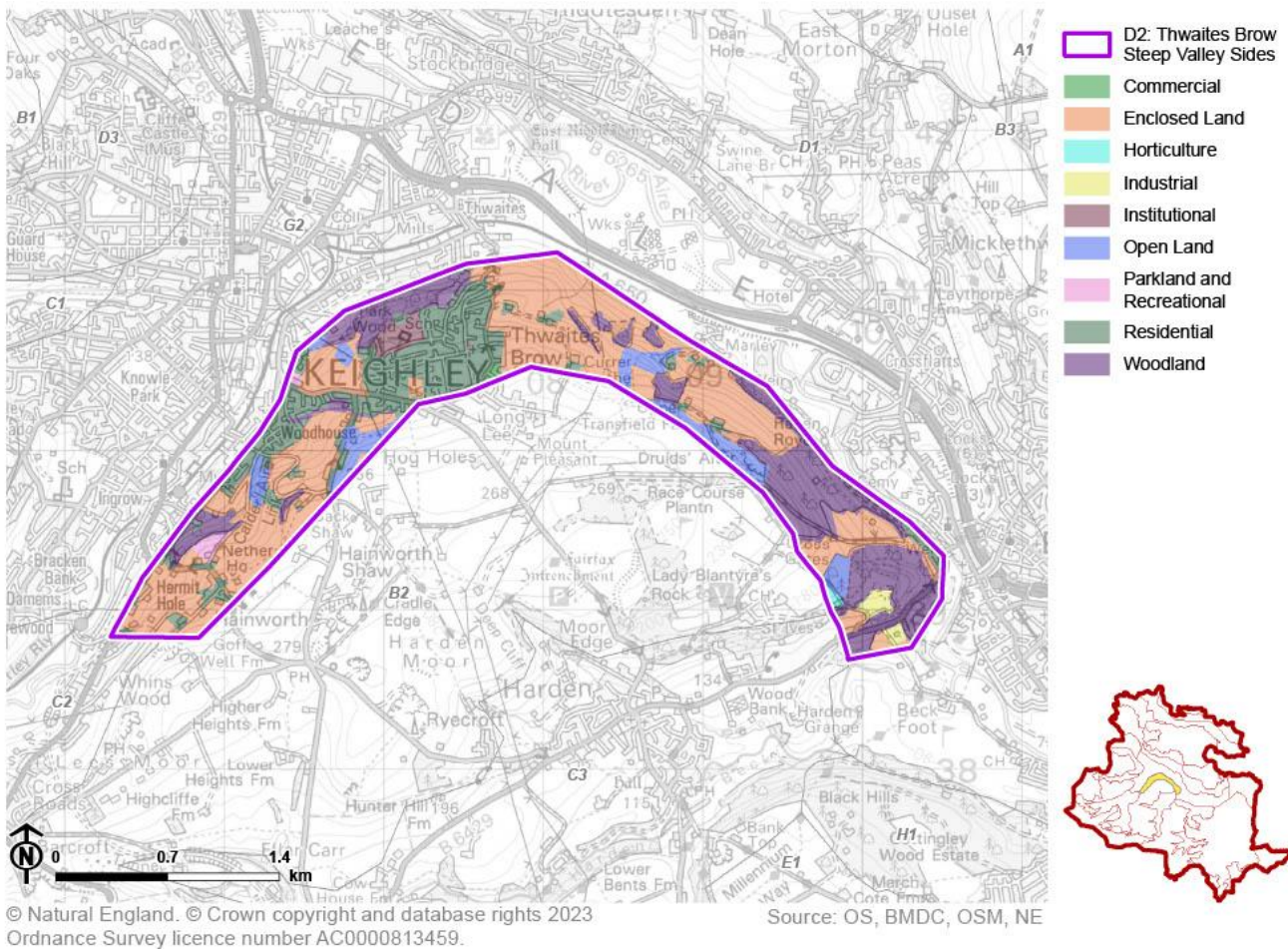
Figure 3.81: Priority habitat inventory of LCA D2



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 and is characteristic of the wider area.
- The field pattern of agricultural land varies. West of Thwaites, piecemeal enclosure has resulted in irregular field boundaries bordered by drystone walls. Some boundary loss has increased the size of fields in this part of the landscape. East of Thwaites there are examples of distinctive surveyed enclosure, with a regular, straight narrow field pattern.
- In the south and east of the LCA, large parts of the landscape represent assart enclosure. This represents the ancient clearance of woodland cover to form farmland, associated with an individual farmstead and illustrates the long history of farming in this area. Intricate field patterns associated with this type of enclosure create a sense of time-depth.
- East of Thwaites Brow blocks of replanted woodland are also identified as being within the moorland line and enhance the connection to the upland moors.

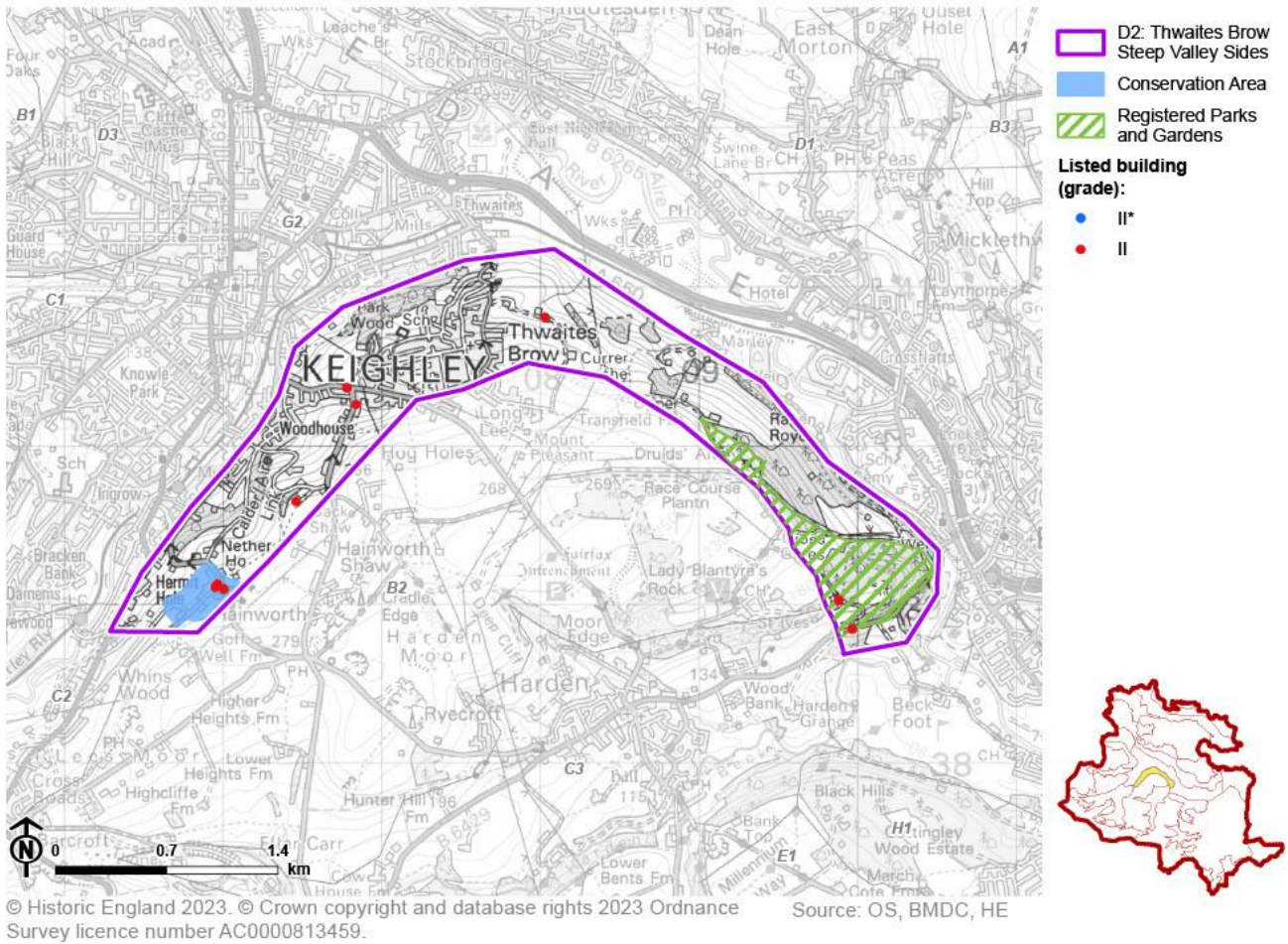
Figure 3.82: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA D2



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Within the more rural parts of the LCA, drystone walls contribute to the historic character and enhance the sense of place. This is more pronounced away from the more densely wooded parts of the landscape.
- The small settlement of Hainworth in the west is noted for its cultural significance and is designated as a conservation area. The hamlet developed predominantly in the 18th-19th centuries, when earnings from the textile industry in the wider landscape brought wealth to the local area, resulting in older farms and barns being rebuilt. There are a number of grade II listed buildings within Hainworth, including Hainworth Farmhouse and the K6 telephone kiosk outside Rose Cottage.
- Part of the St Ives Estate Registered Park and Garden sits within the south east section the LCA, informing a more formal historic character. There are two grade II listed buildings within the park: Bettys Lodge and the Entrance gate at Piers.
- Additional grade II listed buildings within the LCA reflect the historic agricultural history of the area. This includes Kirkstall Wood Farmhouse, 23 & 25 Glen Lee Lane (in Thwaites), a Guidestone and Jack Fields. The degree of ancient woodland within the area also contributes to the sense of time depth.

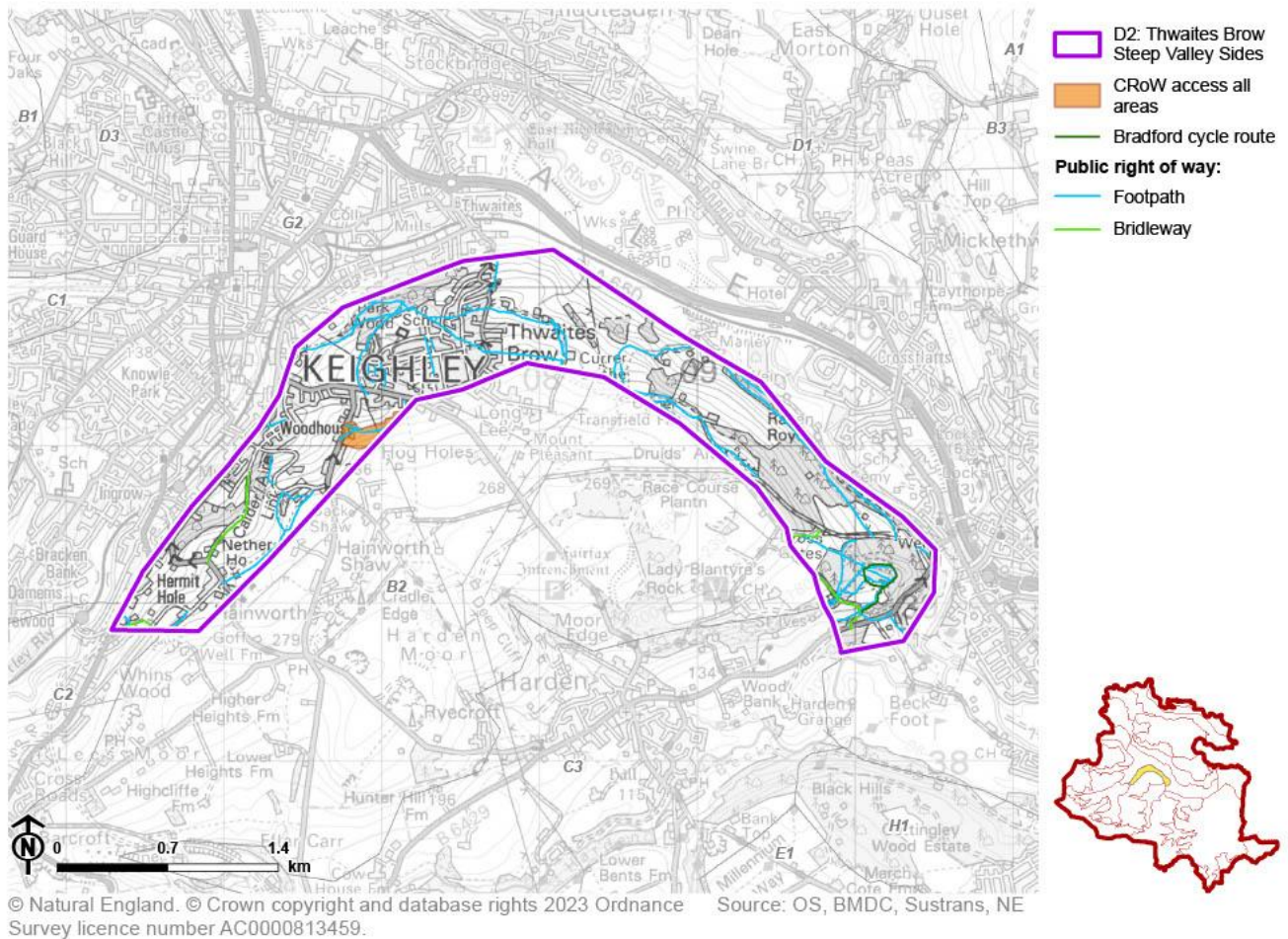
Figure 3.83: Cultural heritage of LCA D2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- The main settlement in the LCA is Thwaites, which extends from the valley floor to the higher slopes in the centre of the LCA. Development here has occurred gradually since the 19th Century, with a mix of housing estates and old terraced rows throughout. The name Thwaites means 'land severed from a wood, grubbed up and made arable', and reflects the older woodland and agricultural land uses.
- Development on steep slopes makes the settlement prominent in views from the wider landscape. Existing woodland, tree belts and canopy cover around the settlement helps to integrate Thwaites into the wider landscape and softens views of the area from across the valley.
- The road network comprises narrow country lanes which meander up and down the steep slopes.

Figure 3.84: Access and recreation of LCA D2



Access and Recreation

- A connected network of public rights of way and lanes serves the LCA and provides connectivity from Thwaites into the wider landscape. In the south east this includes the Calder/Aire Link and Worth Way long distance walking routes. Thwaites Brwon Road is a popular classic cobbled climb for cyclists linking the Thwaites area of Keighley with Long Lee.
- In the east, part of the LCA is within the St Ives Estate Registered Park and Garden which forms an important recreational asset. This includes Druid's altar, a popular local viewpoint and climbing attraction.
- At Hog Holes Brow an isolated area of open access land sits on the border between this LCA and B2 Cullingworth Moorland Fringe. This is a former quarry site and is characterised by rough scrubland and undulating topography.
- There are a number of playing fields and playgrounds close to the urban envelope of Thwaites. These are often connected to the wider network of public rights of way.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The sharply rising topography offers striking long-distance views across the Airedale Valley and across to the distinctive upland area of Rombalds Moor to the east, creating an open visual character with a strong sense of place.
- There is strong intervisibility across the Airedale Valley, including with the urban area of Keighley. This adds to the human influence on the landscape and reduces the sense of tranquillity. This is reflected in the higher levels of night blight at the bottom of the slopes and particularly along the edge of Keighley.

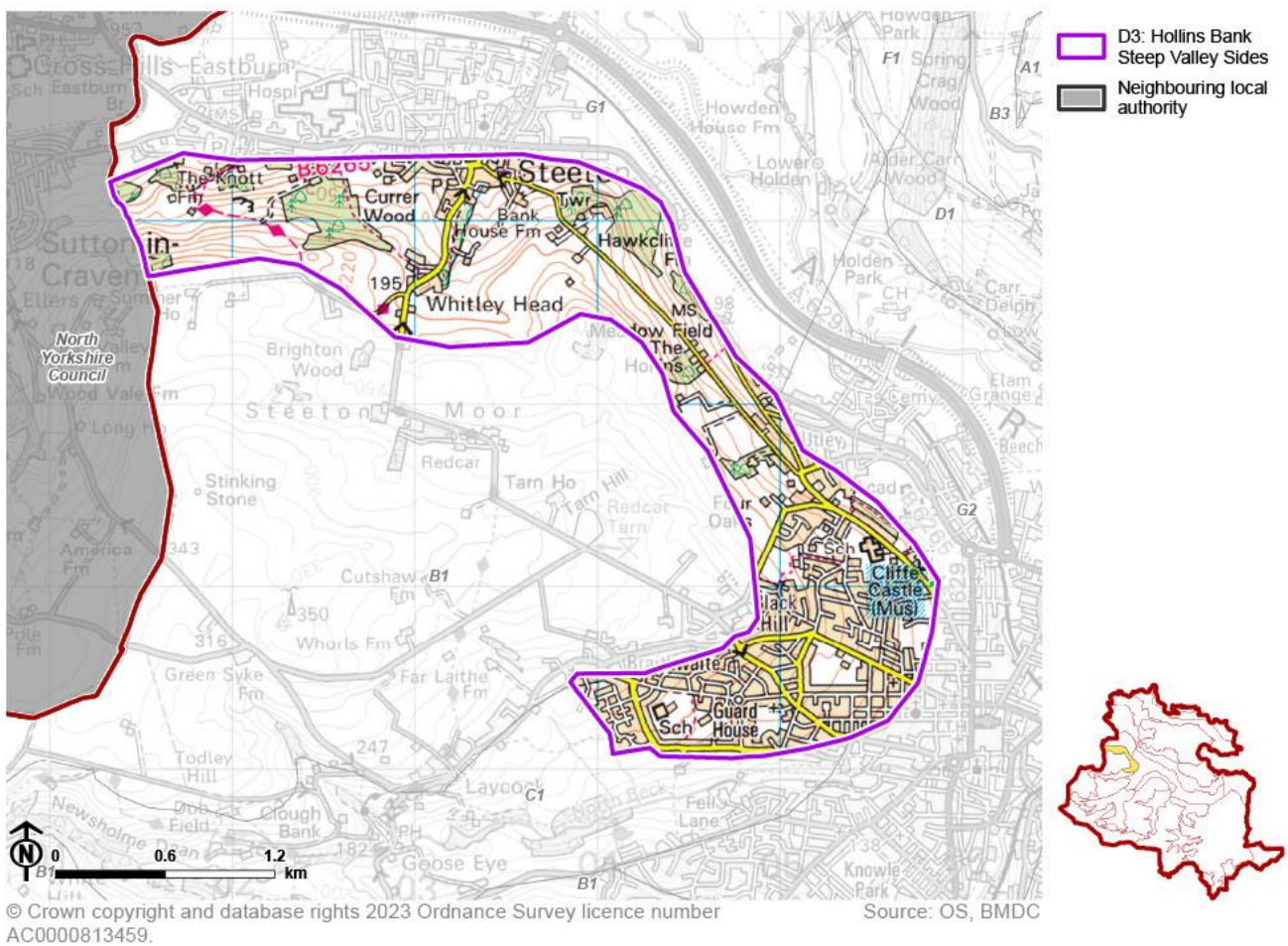
- Woodland blocks play an important role in enhancing natural character.
- Woodland creates a sense of enclosure in places which limits the relationship with the settled Airedale Valley, enhancing the localised sense of tranquillity in these areas.

D3. Hollins Bank Steep Valley Sides

Location, Context and Summary

The Hollins Bank Steep Valley Sides LCA comprises the steep slopes north west of Keighley which encompass the transition from the more urban Airedale Valley to the remote upland moorland fringe. The landscape is characterised by settlement on the lower slopes and pasture and moorland habitat at higher elevations. The south is dominated by the urban outskirts of Keighley. Ancient woodland blocks are important natural landscape features. The LCA is bordered in the north by the Upper and Central Airedale Settled Valley Floor (G1 and G2), in the east by B1: Keighley Moorland Fringe and in the south by C1: The Beck Upland Wooded River Valley.

Figure 3.85: Location of LCA D3



Key Characteristics

- Steeply sloping landform which transitions from the busy and more urban settled valley floor to the remote and exposed upland farmland of the Keighley Moorland fringe.
- Acidic low-fertility soil has restricted farming, which is dominated by pasture.
- Piecemeal and surveyed enclosure bounded by drystone walls provides some sense of time-depth and enhances the sense of place.
- Woodland blocks, including ancient woodland, are present throughout the area, following the course of Steeton Beck and also on the steeper slopes.
- On the higher slopes, heathland and moorland vegetation is present and provides a link with the upland moorland fringes.
- Settlements within the area, most notably High Utleigh, originated as agricultural hamlets. This has since taken on a more urban character, associated with the local prosperity brought on by the industrial revolution.
- Views across the industrial Airedale Valley to the wooded slopes in the north provide a strong sense of place.
- Intact field patterns and drystone walls are typical of a distinctive Yorkshire upland fringe landscape.
- The patchwork of piecemeal enclosure, surveyed enclosure and woodland blocks informs a rich tapestry and provides visual interest.

Figure 3.86: Example photos from LCA D3



Priority habitat for deciduous woodland along Steeton Beck.



Tree avenues along Hollins Lane.



Grade II Gate Lodge Listed Building at Whinburn Registered Park and Garden.



Upland birch woodland within the moorland line near Eastburn Crag.



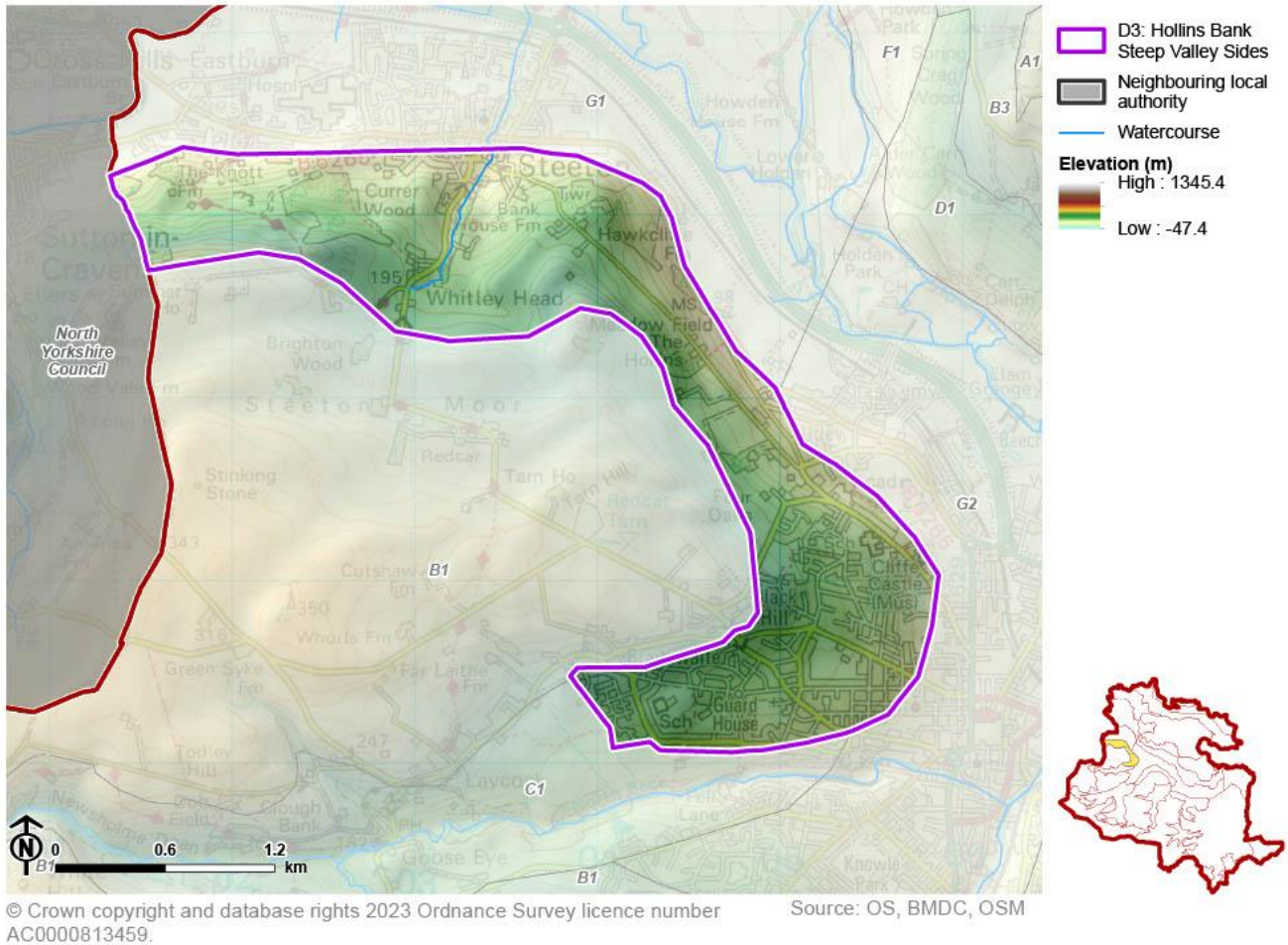
Drystone walls delineating piecemeal enclosure with Currer Wood behind.



Wooded slopes form backdrop to cobbled street at Eastburn.

Landscape Character

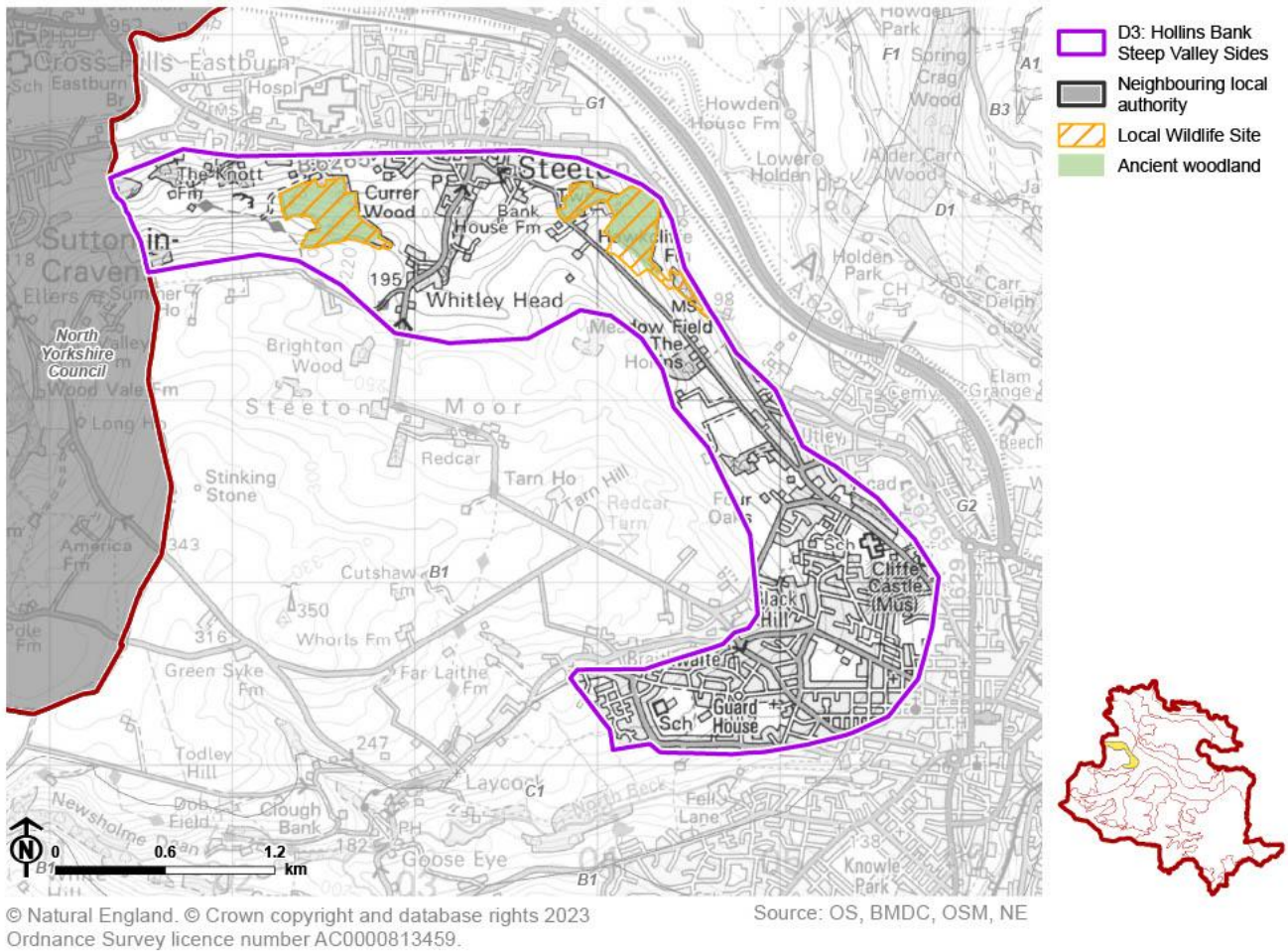
Figure 3.87: Topography of LCA D3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous sandstones, siltstones and mudstones, primarily from the Midgely Grit group, interbedded with sandstones, including the Addingham Edge Grit and Doubler Stones Sandstone.
- These rocks break down into low fertility acidic soils. There are three main groups of acidic soil within the area: feely draining loamy soils; loamy and clay soils with impeded drainage; and very acidic, wet, peaty soils.
- There is generally an absence of watercourses within the area, with the exception of Steeton Beck/Redding Gill.
- The topography is characterised by steep slopes rising from just over 100m AOD near the valley bottom on the northern and eastern edges to over 260m AOD on the tops of the slopes.

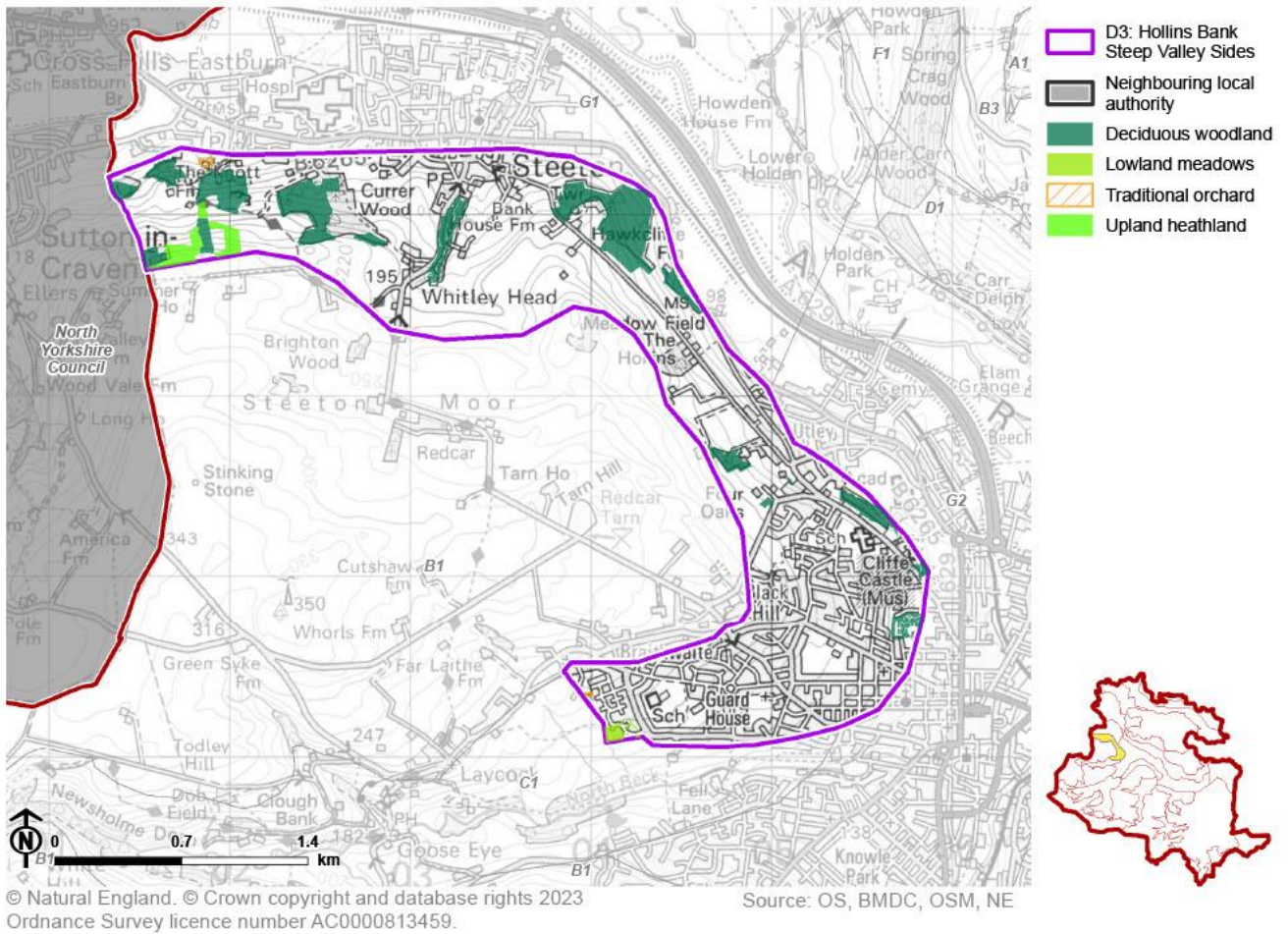
Figure 3.88: Natural heritage of LCA D3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- Tree cover provides the key ecological habitats in the area. Curren Wood and Hawkcliffe Wood are both defined as ancient woodland, identified as priority habitat for deciduous woodland and designated as local wildlife sites.
- The majority of the farmland within the area comprises semi-improved grassland which offers limited biodiversity value.
- At higher elevations there are areas within the moorland line, incorporating habitats associated with the upland moor landscape. These include priority habitat for upland heathland and areas of moorland at Eastburn Crag and Raven Stones.

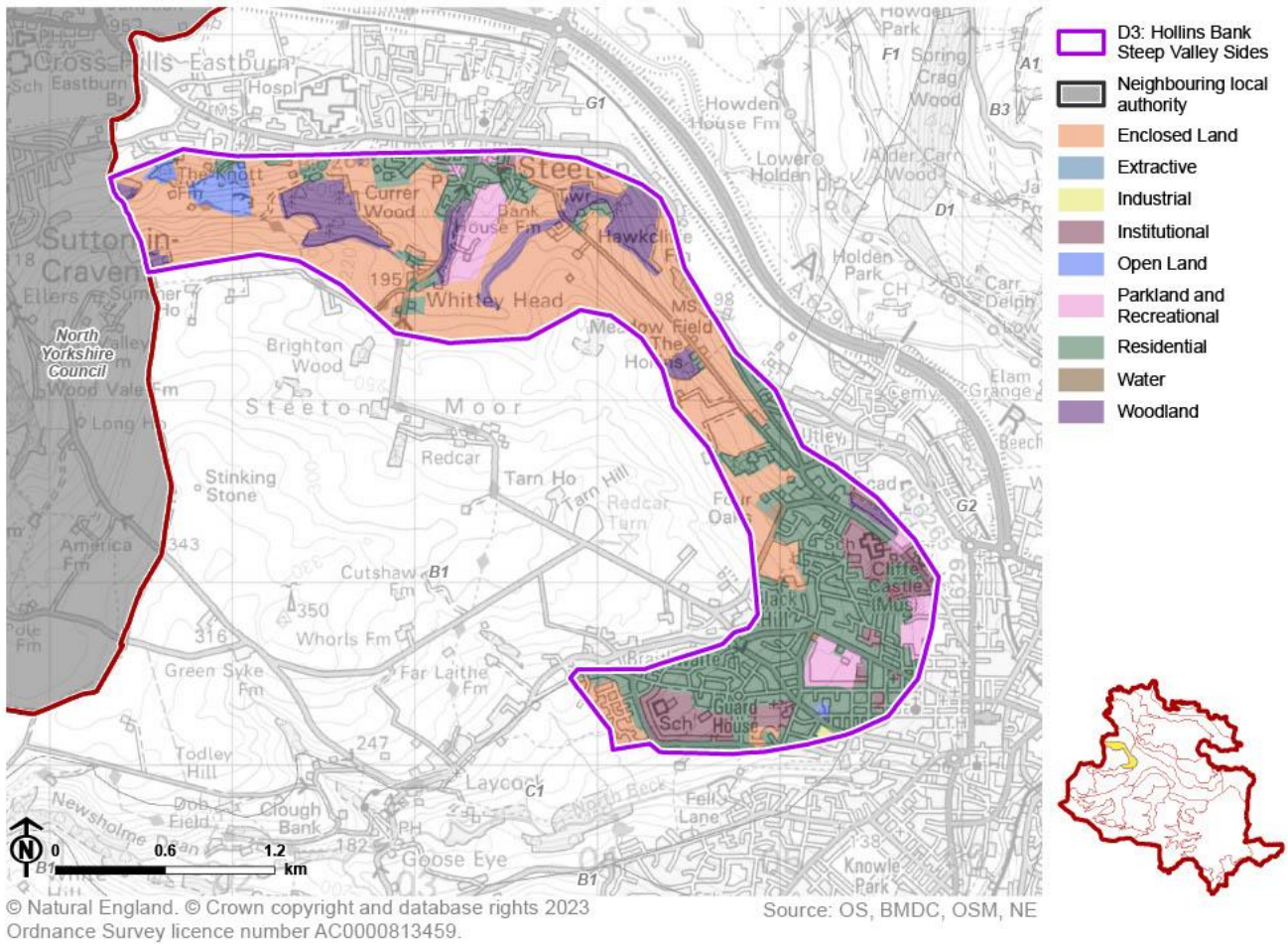
Figure 3.89: Priority habitat inventory of LCA D3



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Agricultural land is primarily semi-improved grassland used for grazing or cut for silage. This land use reflects both the poor quality acidic soils and the steepness of the slopes.
- The field pattern of agricultural land east and south of Steeton is primarily surveyed enclosure. Fields in this part of the landscape are characterised by straight field boundaries running perpendicular to the contours.
- Older piecemeal enclosure surrounds Curren Wood, to the west of Steeton. In places this is characterised by a small, irregular field pattern with a strong sense of time-depth, enhanced by the presence of drystone walls. Closer to the road network and settlements more recent field amalgamation has resulted in a larger scale fields.

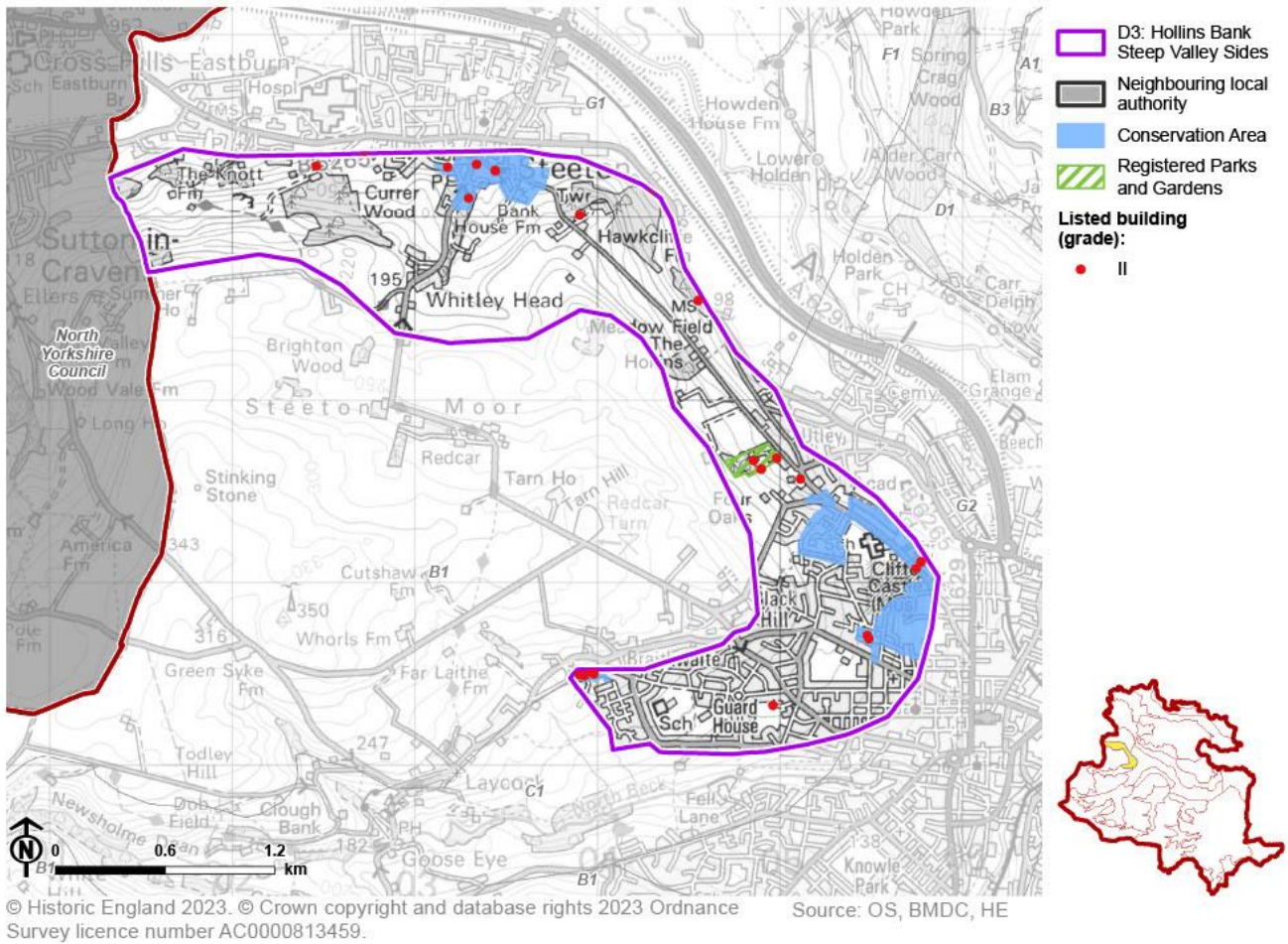
Figure 3.90: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA D3



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Within the more rural parts of the LCA, drystone walls contribute to the historic character and enhance the sense of place. This is more pronounced away from the wooded parts of the landscape.
- Listed buildings pre-dating the industrial revolution reflect the agricultural history of the area. These are found within the Braithwaite Conservation Area and the older parts of Steeton Conservation Area, concentrated on the thoroughfares of Old Main Street and Hollins Road (the historic main route between Keighley and Skipton) respectively.
- 18th and 19th century development within the conservation areas reflect growth associated with the introduction of industry linked to the waterways that Steeton is located on.
- In the south east, the LCA incorporates the upper parts of Keighley, High Utley and Low Utley. Development in the less elevated parts of Keighley reflects the local wealth that resulted from the industrial revolution. Devonshire Park and Cliffe Castle Conservation Area features large, detached properties and parks and gardens which showcase this wealth and the philanthropic movement during the industrial revolution.
- The more elevated sections of Keighley comprise modern development which has crept up the valley sides, outside of the natural topographical confines of the town.
- The late 19th/early 20th century Whinburn Grade II Registered Park and Garden, associated with Whinburn Lodge also reflects wealth accumulation from the areas industry. The Grade II listed Whinburn Lodge (also known as Whinburn Hall) and Lodge Gates are present within the park.

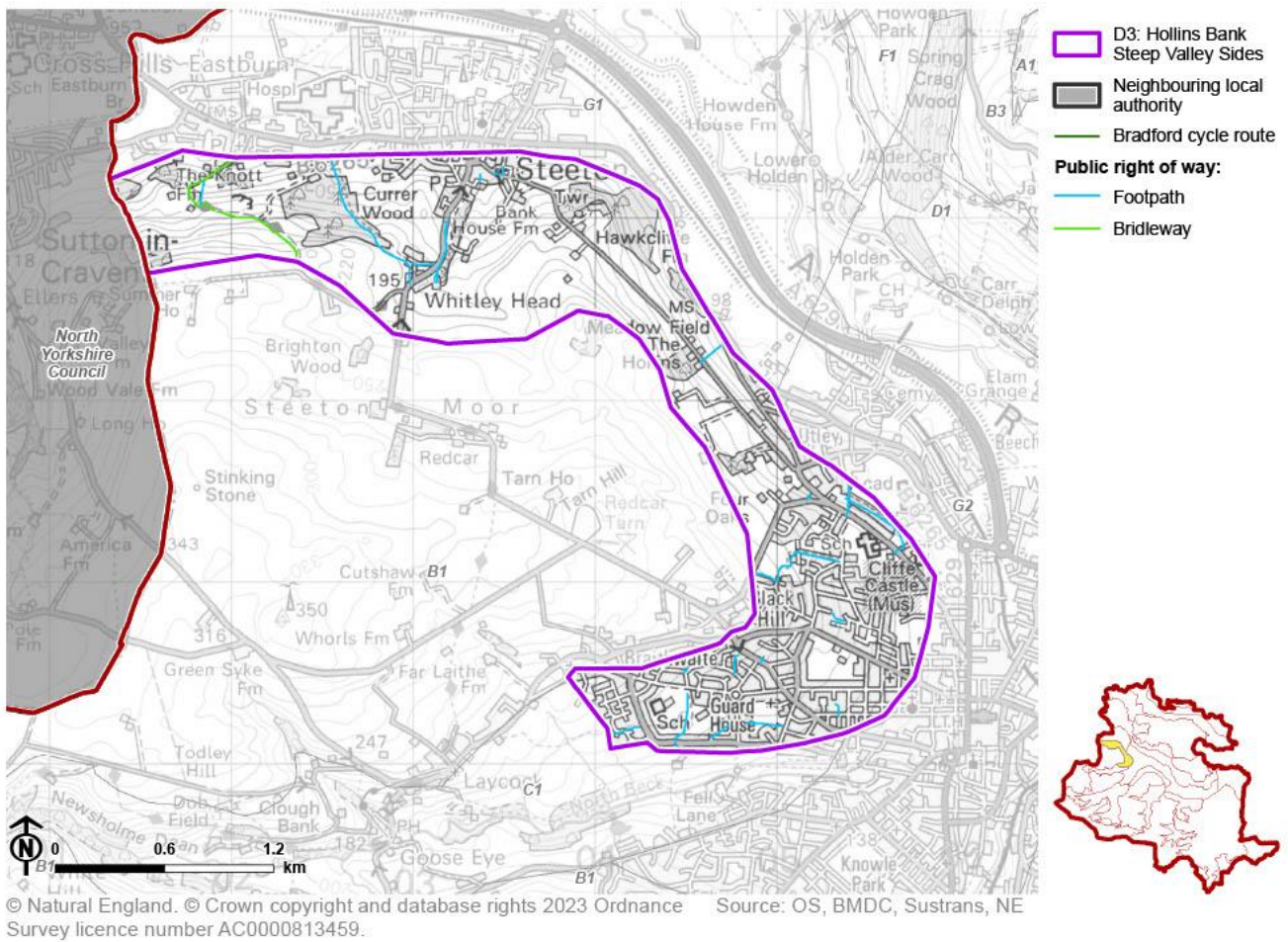
Figure 3.91: Cultural heritage of LCA D3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- Settlements within the area, including Eastburn, Steeton and High Utley appear to rise up from the densely built development in the neighbouring Airedale Valley. Development is concentrated towards the lower slopes.
- Keighley is the exception to this as this settlement has expanded onto higher elevations and absorbed the once distinct village of Braithwaite. More modern development is characterised by straight, abrupt edges which are less integrated than the older historic cores.
- Development on steep slopes is characteristic of the area and forms a notable human element in views of the area from the wider landscape. Tree cover within the settlements softens views and helps integrates them into the landscape. This tree cover is more frequent within Keighley.
- The road network comprises narrow lanes and suburban streets, concentrated within the key settlements. Away from this, the main road network is provided by the ancient Hollins Bank Lane. An old toll road which provided the main link between Keighley and Skipton.

Figure 3.92: Access and recreation of LCA D3



Access and Recreation

- There is a limited network of public rights of way in the area, which comprises short and unconnected sections of footpath and bridleway. The exception to this is part of the Millennium Way long distance walking route which runs through the west of the area and provides connectivity into the wider landscape.
- Open spaces and playing pitches are concentrated within Keighley and have a limited relationship with more rural parts of the area.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- The sharply rising topography offers long-distance views across the Airedale Valley and beyond to Rombalds Moor in the east. This creates an open visual character with a strong sense of place.
- There is strong intervisibility across the Airedale Valley, including with the central urban area of Keighley. This adds to the human influence on the landscape and reduces the sense of tranquillity. This is reflected in the higher levels of night blight at the bottom of the slopes and particularly along the edge of Keighley.
- Sounds associated with transport and industry within the Airedale Valley is perceptible throughout the LCA, in places mingling with the natural sounds of birdsong.
- Intact field patterns and drystone walls create a distinctive sense of place, characteristic of the typical upland Yorkshire landscape.

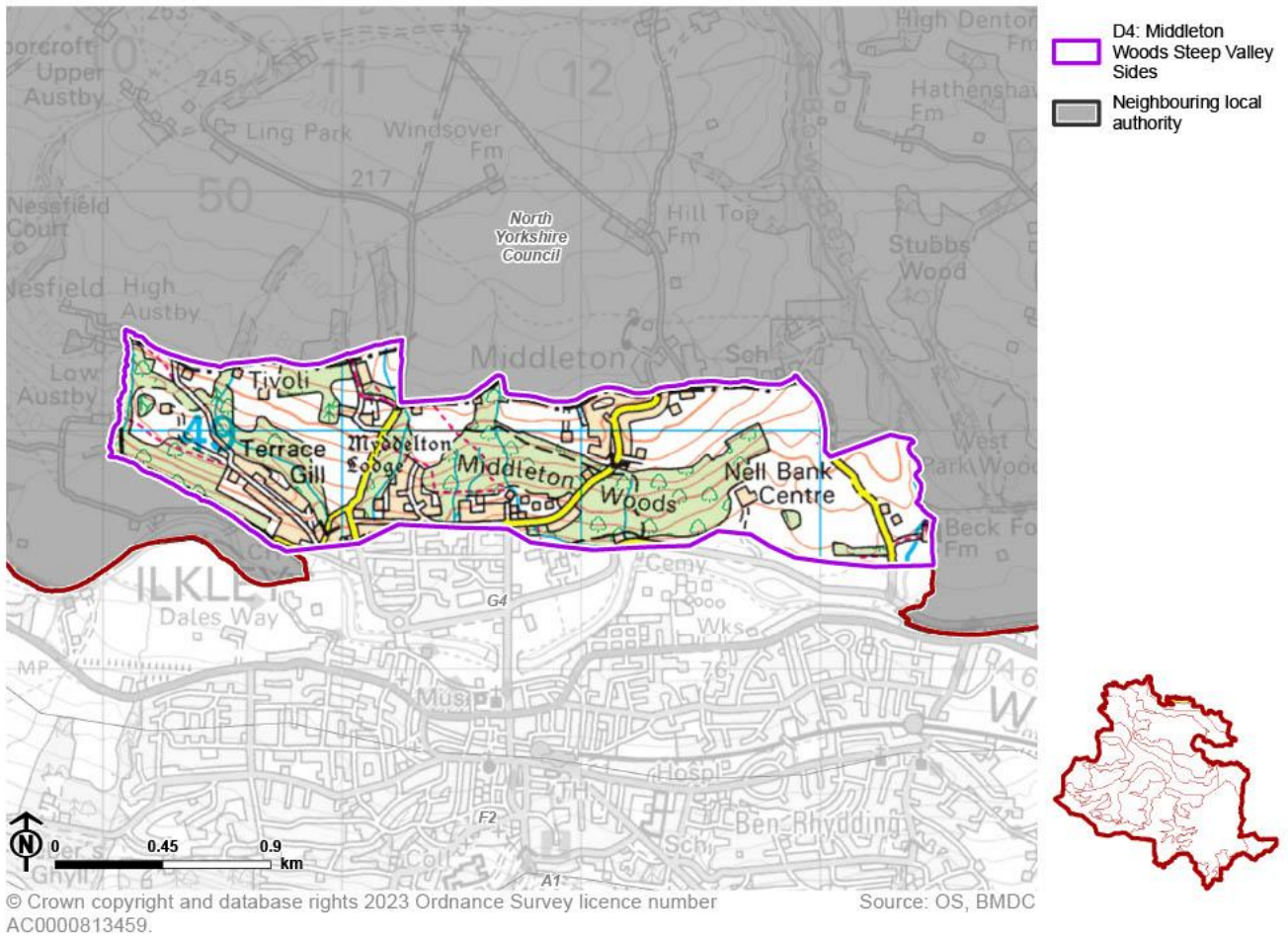
- There is contrast between the busy, urban character close to Keighley in the south east and the rural qualities associated with pasture and woodland at higher elevations in the west. The various influences across the LCA add interest and create a dynamic perception of the landscape.

D4. Middleton Woods Steep Valley Sides

Location, Context and Summary

The Middleton Woods Steep Valley Sides LCA comprises the wooded slopes north of Ilkley. The area encompasses numerous areas of woodland and some limited settlement expansion from the south. The slopes form part of the transition from the pastoral landscape further north to the settled valley floor to the south. Many of the woodlands in this area are ancient and reflect the historic natural landscape which has long been a key feature of the broad valley sides along the River Wharfe. This LCA is distinguished from the low-lying and densely settled Wharfedale Settled Valley Floor to the south.

Figure 3.93: Location of LCA D4



Key Characteristics

- A sloping, undulating landform which falls from pastoral uplands in the north to the more settled Wharfe Valley to the south.
- The underlying geology is generally comprised of Millstone grit, giving rise to more acidic soils and limiting arable farming across the slopes.
- Bow Beck and Old Wives Gill pass through areas of woodland in the far west and east of the area, draining to the River Wharfe in the south.
- Large cohesive areas of woodland, many of which are ancient, cover the slopes and form a natural boundary to settlement in the south.
- Pastoral fields extend into the area from the north, with a mix of hedgerow and fence boundaries which contribute to a strong sense of place.
- A limited number of public rights of way cross through the woodlands from Ilkley, including the promoted Harrogate Link long distance route which connects to the popular Dales Way further south.
- Settlement within the area has primarily expanded outwards from Ilkley, extending and filling gaps in the woodland cover across the slopes.
- Distant southerly views from higher and more open locations to Rombalds Moor provide a strong sense of place, with views more limited by the extensive areas of woodland trees further down the slopes in proximity to Ilkley.
- The more exposed northern extents of the area in proximity to the pastoral fields within Nidderdale National Landscape have a stronger sense of remoteness and separation from the settled valleys below. Within the southern, heavily wooded extents of the LCA, there is a stronger sense of enclosure and localised sense of place.

Figure 3.94: Example photos from LCA D4



Ancient Woodland at Copsy Wood.



Middleton Woods form a backdrop to pastoral fields, and visual connection to Rombalds Moor beyond.



Dense hedgerows and mature trees along the small rural lanes.



Views north towards the Nidderdale ANOB are foreshortened by rising land form.



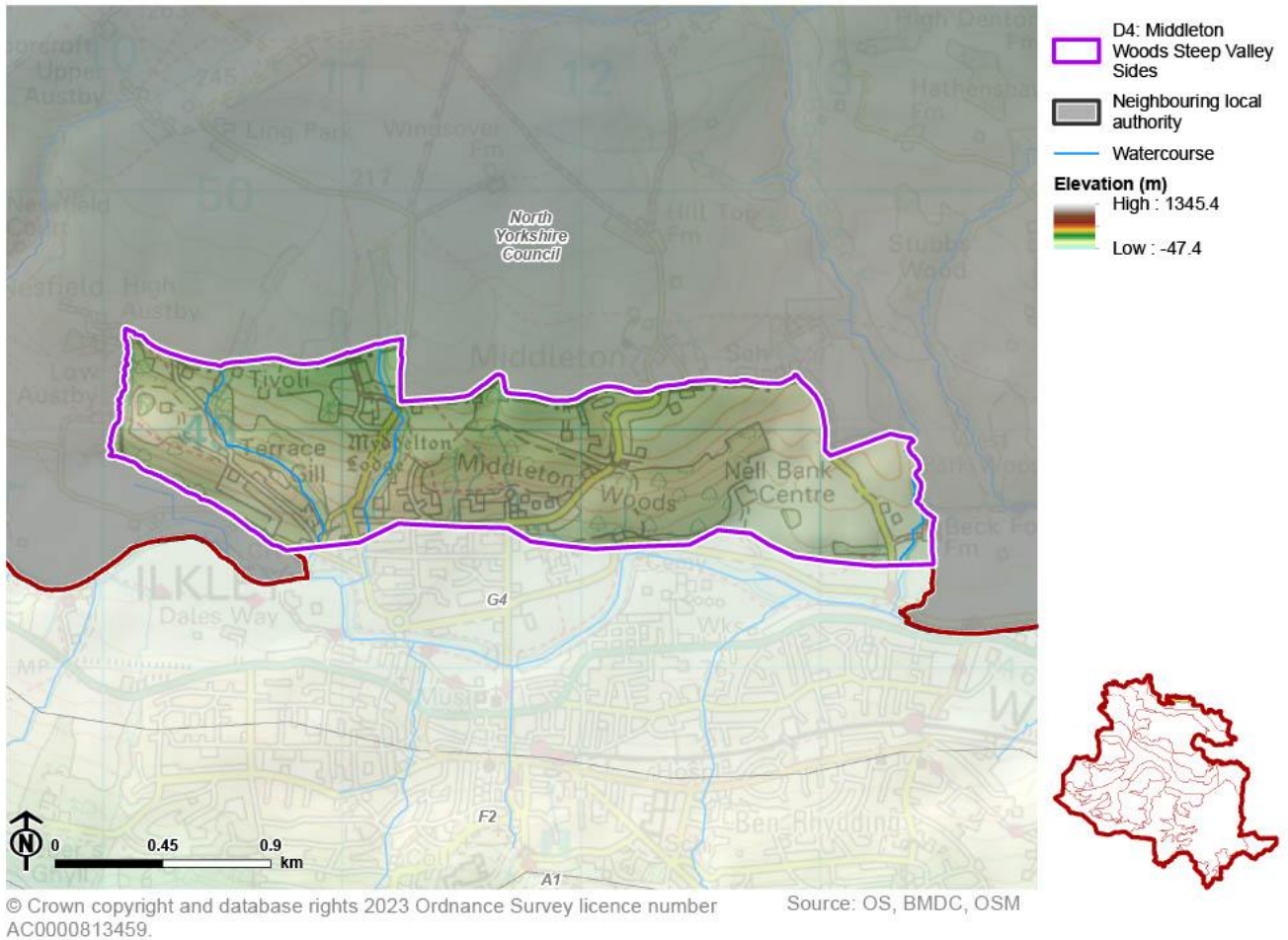
Open access land within Middleton Wood provides recreational value.



Wooded slopes are crossed by public footpaths.

Landscape Character

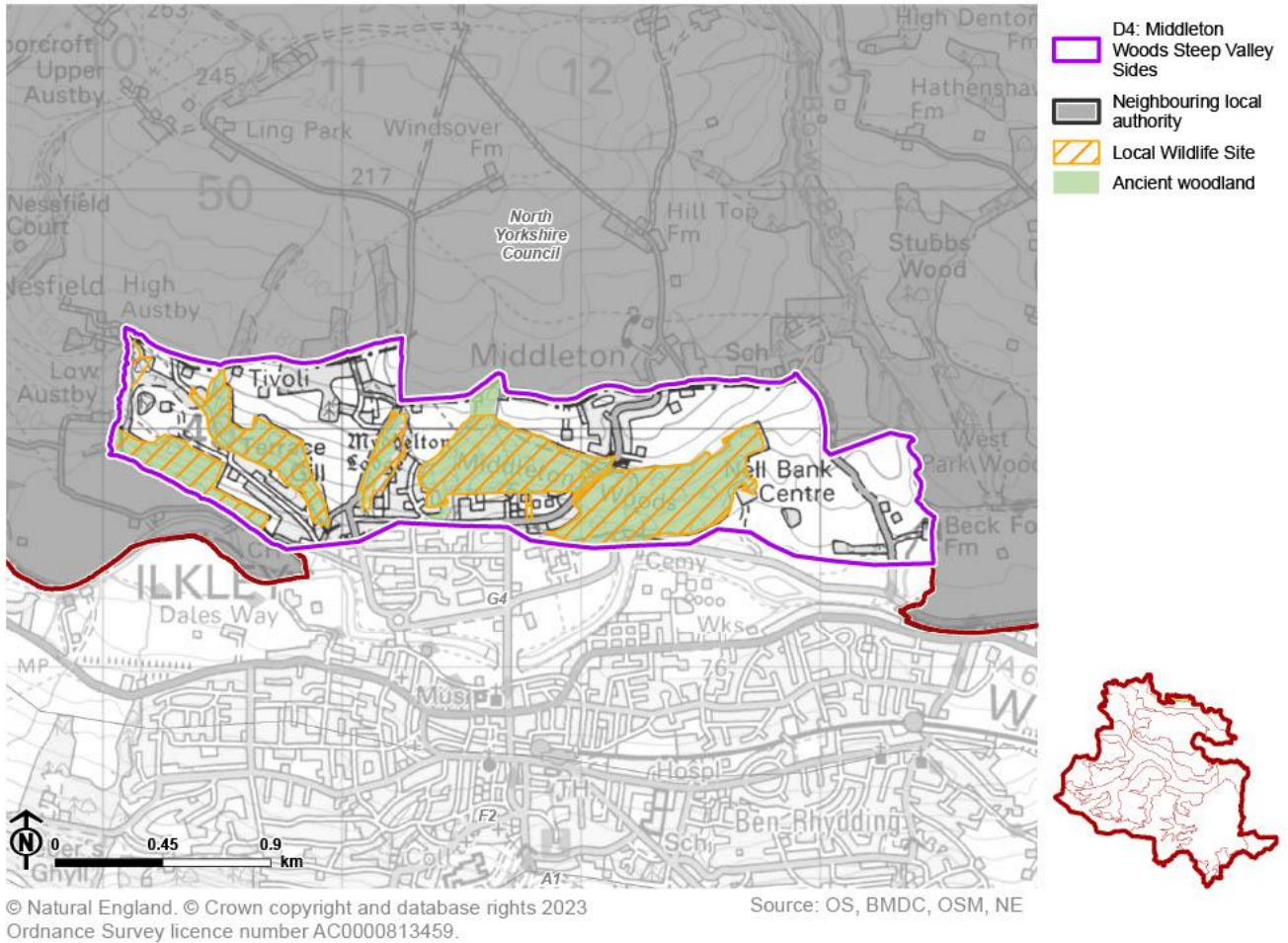
Figure 3.95: Topography of LCA D4



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying geology comprises Carboniferous mudstone, siltstone and sandstone from the Millstone Grit Group. The undulating landform across the LCA is a result of the softer mudstones, and has given rise to predominantly pastoral land use, where not covered by woodland.
- The landform consistently slopes toward the river, falling from around 180m AOD along the northern ridge to approximately 90m AOD at the southern boundary in proximity to the River Wharfe.
- Although there are no major watercourses within the LCA, multiple smaller streams flow down the slopes and through woodlands to reach the River Wharfe.
- Along the eastern edge of the LCA, Bow Beck forms a slightly larger watercourse, meandering through dense riparian woodland, and connecting March Ghyll Reservoir in the north (in neighbouring North Yorkshire) with the River Wharfe in the south.

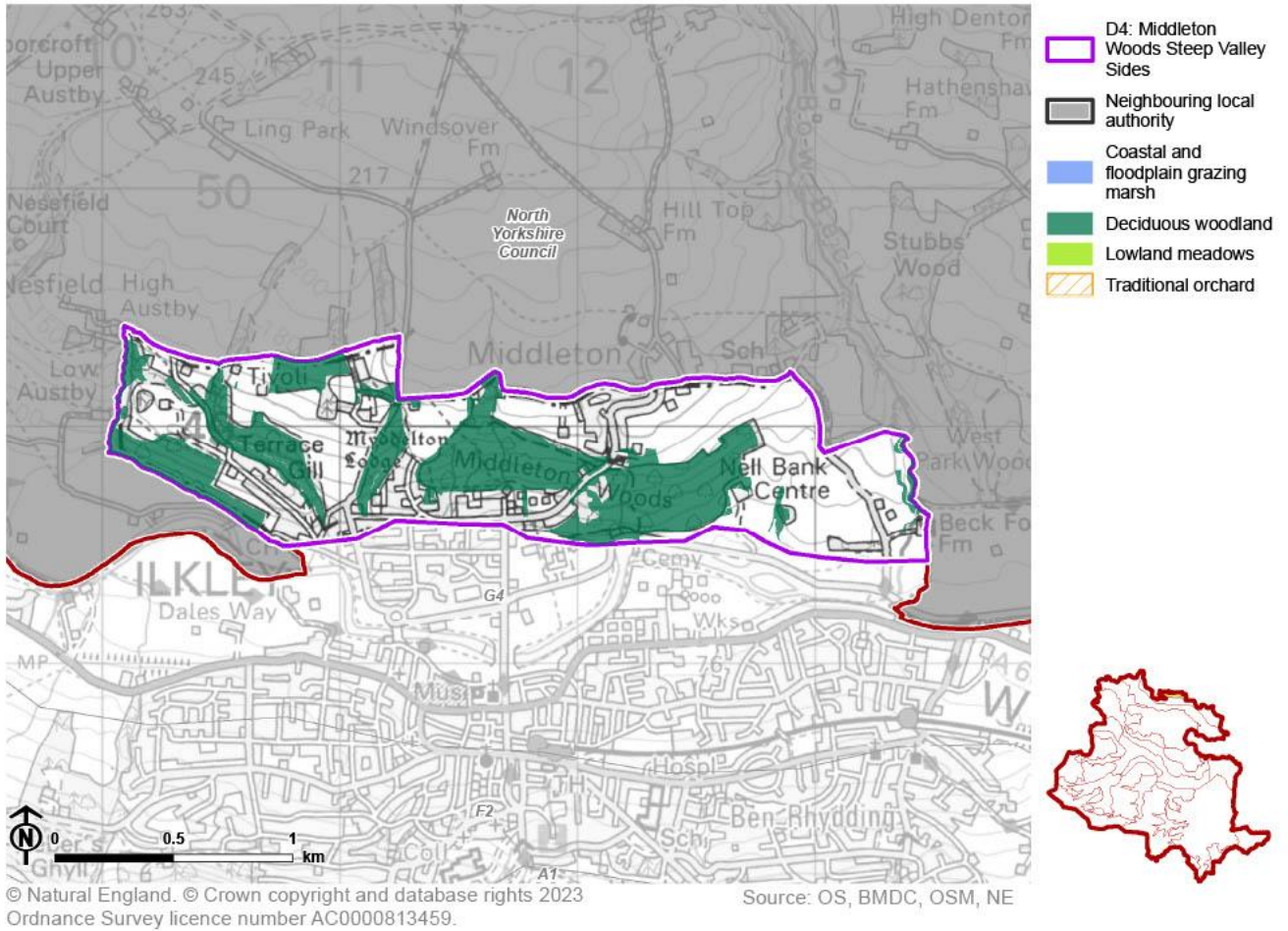
Figure 3.96: Natural heritage of LCA D4



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- The LCA is dominated by broadleaved woodland, most of which is defined as ancient woodland and also identified as priority habitat deciduous woodland. Middleton Woods is a Woodland Trust site, and frequently attracts springtime visitors due to its bluebell display.
- Within pastoral fields in the north and east, mature field trees provide ecological connectivity between larger pockets of woodland.
- A number of small watercourses meander through dense riparian woodland across the slopes (notably Old Wives/Terrace Gill to the west and Bow Beck to the east) flowing south towards the River Wharfe.
- Several springs are found across the western extents of the area, throughout pastoral fields around Austby Farm and Myddleton Lodge. A waterfall adjoins a small watercourse at the top of Middleton Woods in the centre of the LCA.

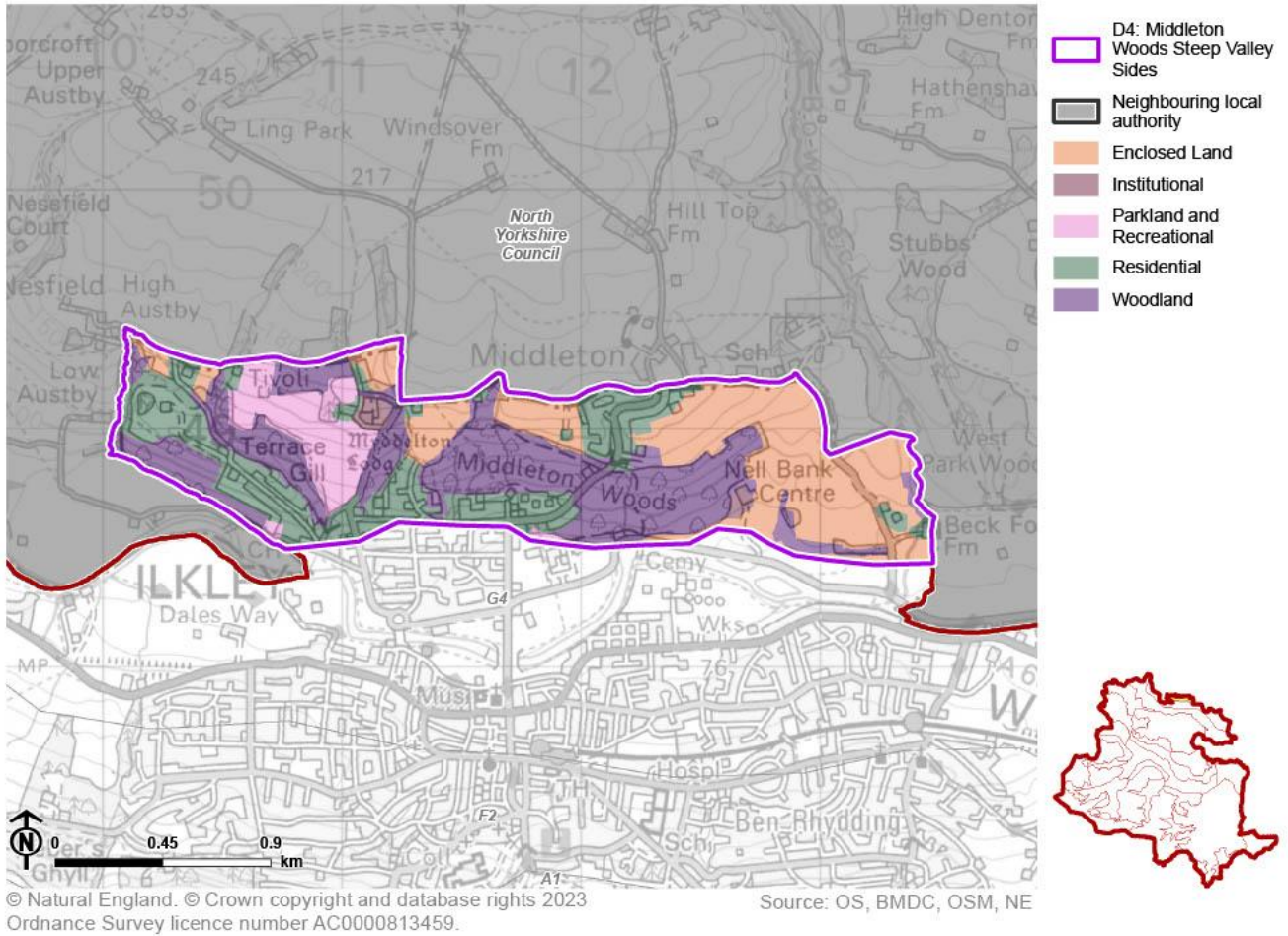
Figure 3.97: Priority habitat inventory of LCA D4



Land Use and Field Patterns

- Agricultural land is primarily pastoral, and generally well-enclosed by the numerous and large areas of woodland within the LCA. Some isolated areas of arable use sit at the eastern edge of the LCA.
- There is an absence of a continuous field pattern, as pastoral fields are separated by the extensive and dense areas of woodland. Field boundaries are somewhat irregular, bounded by meandering woodland edges and streams, resulting in a more organic and fragmented pattern.
- In the north along Slates Lane and Carter's Lane, there has been some loss of internal field boundaries, with late 19th century field agglomeration and straightened boundaries originating from earlier piecemeal enclosure fields. Wooden post and rail fencing has replaced hedgerows in places.
- Designed landscapes associated with some of the larger estate and manor houses (particularly Myddleton Lodge) provide visual interest and are ensconced within large blocks of woodland, contributing to the more pastoral and wooded nature of the LCA.

Figure 3.98: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA D4

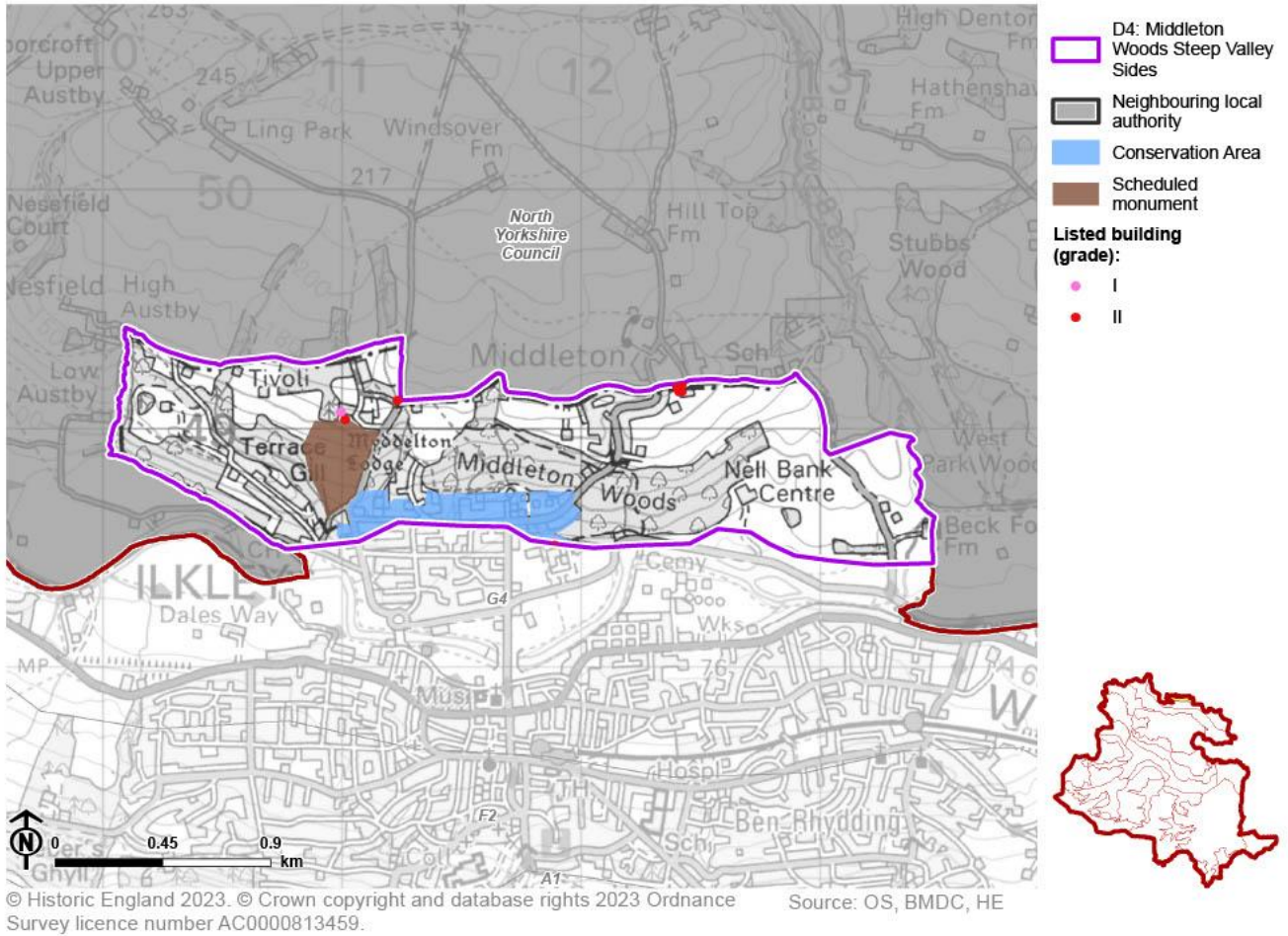


Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- Across the LCA, traditional hedgerows contribute to the historic character and enhance the sense of place.
- The Grade I Listed Myddleton Lodge sits in an elevated position on slopes to the north, with expansive views over the Wharfe Valley, the settlement of Ilkley and Rombalds Moor beyond. The immediate pastoral landscape is designated as a Scheduled Monument, as part of the historic open field system associated with the lodge.
- A cluster of listed buildings at Grange Farm illustrates the long standing agricultural history of the area.
- The LCA contains the northern extents of the Middleton Conservation Area. The settlement of Middleton was constructed in the early 20th century as an “exclusive, leafy housing estate for middle-class commuters, with large houses set in generous plots along broad avenues”⁹.

⁹ Middleton Conservation Area Assessment (2005) City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

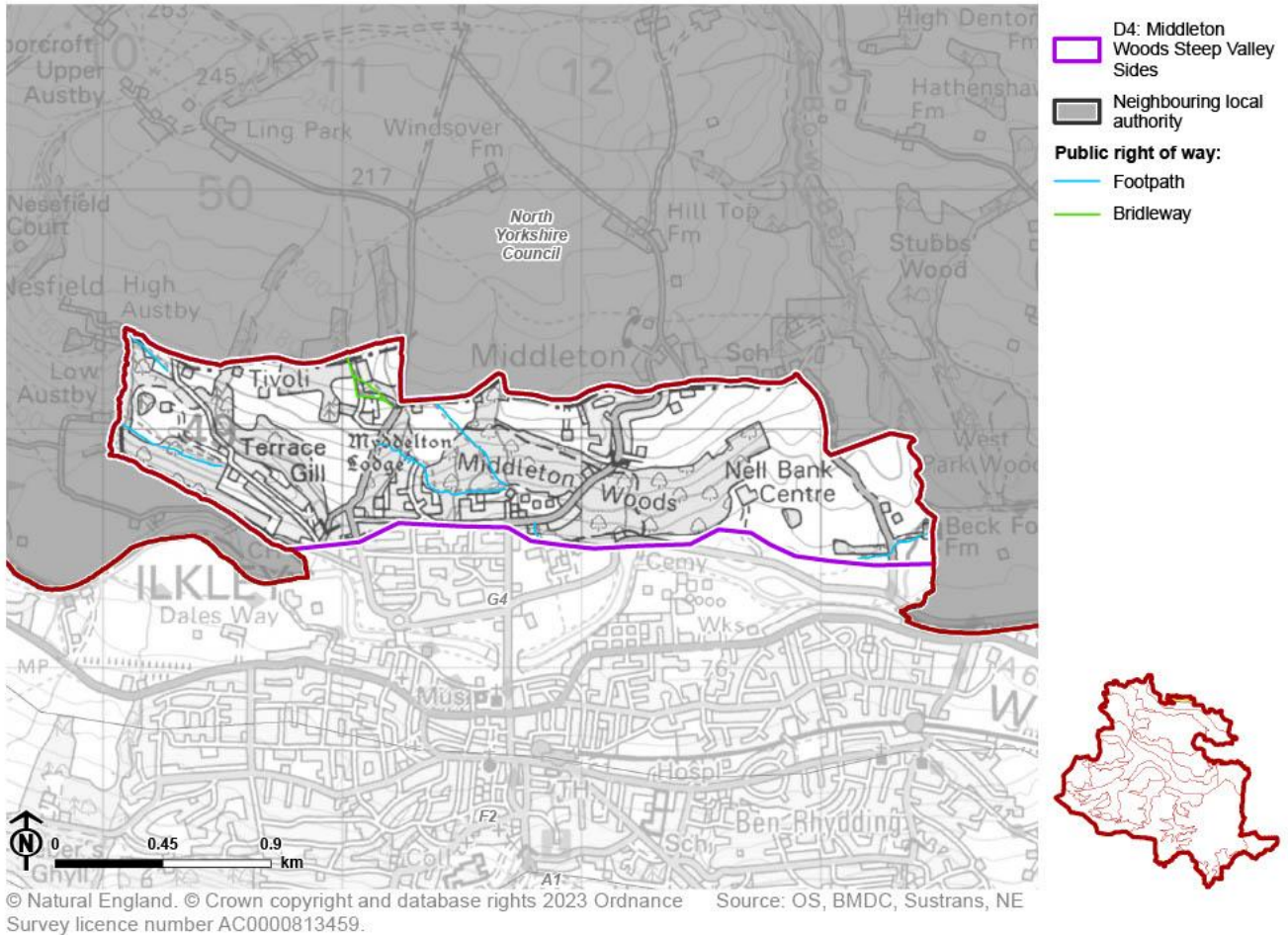
Figure 3.99: Cultural heritage of LCA D4



Settlement and Transport Pattern

- With the exception of Myddleton Lodge, there was very limited development in the area prior to the 20th century. The key settlement areas at present are the edge of Ilkley (including the Middleton Conservation Area, and additional more recent development around it) and modern development in the north east extending south from the historic hamlet of Middleton.
- In general, settlement extending up the slopes from Ilkley has been contained by areas of broadleaved woodland, and as a result is generally well-enclosed and integrated into the surrounding landscape, offering a softened settlement edge. Modern developments along Slaters Lane on the northern edge of the LCA are more exposed, with limited enclosing vegetation or landforms.

Figure 3.100: Access and recreation of LCA D4



Access and Recreation

- There are a limited number of public rights of way in the LCA, most of which pass through the woodlands, including the Harrogate Link long distance walking route which follows Curly Hill roadway through Middleton Wood and connects to the long distance Dale Way at Ilkley Moor.
- Middleton Woods is open to public access and contains an orienteering circuit.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Views within the LCA are limited by the numerous areas of woodland, although the rising landform of Rombalds Moor can be seen intermittently above the tree line. Along Carter's Lane in the east, expansive views across the Wharfe Valley and to the rising moorlands beyond are afforded by the more pastoral nature of the surrounding landscape with limited areas of woodland.
- The numerous areas of woodland and pastoral fields contribute to a rural and tranquil setting, with limited, well-enclosed areas of modern development. Larger farm structures are visible along Carter's Lane in the east, which retains a more exposed settlement edge and somewhat reduces the strongly rural perception across the LCA.
- The northern extents of the LCA are more tranquil, being separated from areas of dense settlement to the south by the extensive areas of woodland across the central belt of the area. Areas at the southern edges of the woodland possess a more suburban fringe character, being located at the edge of Ilkley to the south.

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT D: Steep Valley Sides

Climate Change

- Climate change leading to increased periods of drought may result in lower water levels and stream flows, which may impact riparian vegetation along the numerous becks found in the LCAs.
 - D1: Impacts on riparian vegetation and lowland meadow along Ghyll Beck, Morton Beck, and Loadpit Beck.
 - D2: Impacts on riparian woodland and acid grassland along the numerous small becks near Thwaites Brow and Marley Brow, and along Hogs Hole Beck.
 - D3: Impacts on riparian vegetation along Steeton Beck and Redding Gill, altering the visual character of the wooded watercourses trailing up the steep slopes.
 - D4: Impacts on vegetation along the wooded Bow Beck along the eastern boundary of the LCA, and Terrace Gill in the west, as well as smaller watercourses through Middleton Woods in the centre of the area.
- Climate change may result in periods of very sudden and significant rainfall, potentially altering the condition of incised water courses within the wooded cloughs, and causing flooding issues in the Wharfe and Airedale Valleys.

Agricultural Change

- Changing agricultural practices could result in traditional drystone wall field boundaries not being maintained, and field amalgamation. This would erode the valued and intricate field pattern typical of the Yorkshire upland fringe landscape
- Changing grazing pressure, as a result of climate change and changing agricultural practices could result in erosion or removal of valued areas of medieval assarts, typically found around historic agricultural settlements and indicative of the long-standing agricultural settlement in the area.
 - D1: Remnant areas of assarts to the east and west of Baildon and east of Eldwick may be further eroded by field amalgamation and modernisation, reducing the sense of time-depth across the landscape.
 - D2: Impacts on intact areas of assarts in the centre and west of the LCA, east of Thwaites near Marley Brow. Some loss of enclosing woodland and hedgerow, and modern amalgamation in proximity to the A650.

Development

- New development extending up valley sides could potentially erode or fragment the large swathes of woodland across the slopes, interrupting existing ecological networks.
 - D4: The ancient and priority habitat deciduous woodlands at Middleton Woods across the centre of the LCA may be at risk from additional northwards settlement from the settled Wharfe Valley below.
- New development with more exposed edges, in contrast to the historic settlements enclosed within dense woodland, may be more visible on steep slopes rising from the settled valley below. This may interrupt the visual connection between the wooded valley slopes and the upland moors, and the rural setting provided to the settled valleys.
 - D1: Modern cul-de-sac development north of Baildon and east of Eldwick is more exposed, with limited enclosing woodland typical of more historic settlement, altering the perception of wooded slopes gently transitioning into upland moors and pasture.
 - D2: New development around Thwaites has impacted on the rural character, particularly in the west.
 - D4: Settlement expansion at the northern edge of Ilkley could fragment the swathe of woodland which sweeps across the centre of the LCA.
- New or additional lighting schemes accompanying new development may impact the dark skies qualities.

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.
- New pathogens and pests are increasingly putting pressure on natural habitats, most notably ash dieback, in woodlands which result in the need for tree felling to manage this risk.
 - D3: Ash dieback has already led to tree loss within St Ives Estate. Additional tree loss will contribute to significant visual change to the LCA. The impact of this will be dependent on the scale of replanting and landscape management to mitigate this.
- Increasing incentives for tree planting, particularly on slopes surrounding the Aire valley as part of the White Rose Forest's Landscapes for Water initiative. Trees, when not located appropriately, may have a detrimental impact on key views out from the steep valley sides, across the settled Aire and Wharfe valley bottoms to adjacent moors.
 - D2, D3: New woodland planting, once mature, has the potential to screen and interrupt views out across the Airedale Valley and to the dramatic form of Rombalds Moor, which provides a strong sense of place.

Heritage at Risk

- The setting to scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens are at risk of being degraded or altered in character without appropriate management of development and recreational pressures.
 - D1: The rural upper valley side setting of the Saltaire World Heritage Site may be affected by new developments on the slopes of Baildon Moor.
 - D1: The prehistoric stone circle Soldier's Trench, near Baildon, has experienced significant footfall and trampling of vegetation, altering the character of the setting.
 - D2: Strategic felling at Betty's Wood (for disease control) may alter the setting and backdrop to the adjacent St Ives Estate, which contributes a more formal parkland character in the south east of the LCA.
 - D2: Key views towards Baildon Moor from Druid's Altar may be threatened by significant tree planting, which could obscure views, tree felling (for example for disease control), and new developments.
 - D3: Development encroaching up the slopes from High Utley could impact on the rural setting of Whinburn Registered Park and Garden, which is on the Heritage at Risk Register.
 - D4: Encroachment up the slopes from Ilkley may impact on the open and landscaped parkland setting of Myddleton Lodge, and its strong visual connection to Rombalds Moor.

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

- Increased pressure on recreational assets which connect the settlements to more remote adjacent uplands could impact landscape condition and the sense of place in these transitional landscapes.
 - D1: Impacts from recreational cycling along public paths near the wooded Ghyll Beck extending out into rising upland slopes to the east.
 - D1: Near Micklethwaite, enhancements to public rights of way infrastructure, including waymarking and interpretation between Bradford and Saltaire World Heritage Site, would be beneficial in helping to minimise impacts on rural character and would provide education and awareness of the landscape and World Heritage Site setting.
 - D2: Potential proposals to develop St Ives Estate as a Country Park may create additional pressure on this site.

Guidance

- Conserve the characteristic field pattern and prominent swathes of woodland on the highly visible valley sides.

- Maintain characteristic drystone walls, repair where necessary ensuring that restoration is carried out sensitively and with due regard to local style and construction, especially alongside footpaths which are part of the historic network.
- Protect assarts and the irregular and historic field boundaries, avoiding further amalgamation of fields or removal of surrounding woodland.
- Avoid development creep along the fringes of the LCAs, which are highly visible on the steep slopes and which may alter the wooded and pastoral nature of the valley sides. Locate development in proximity to existing settlement centres.
- New development edges should be softened with appropriate tree planting, using diverse and native species, taking into account projected changes to climate and new pathogens.
- New development and associated lighting schemes should be designed so as to minimise night blight and light pollution from the lower slopes and settled valleys below.
- Make efforts to locate new planting where it will not impede outward views from key viewpoints across the Aire and Wharfe Valleys.
- Ensure the setting to scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens is maintained and enhanced. Locate development in proximity to existing settlement cores, and consider utilising new or existing planting to soften settlement edges. Protect the rural setting and key views out and towards Saltaire World Heritage Site.
- 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.