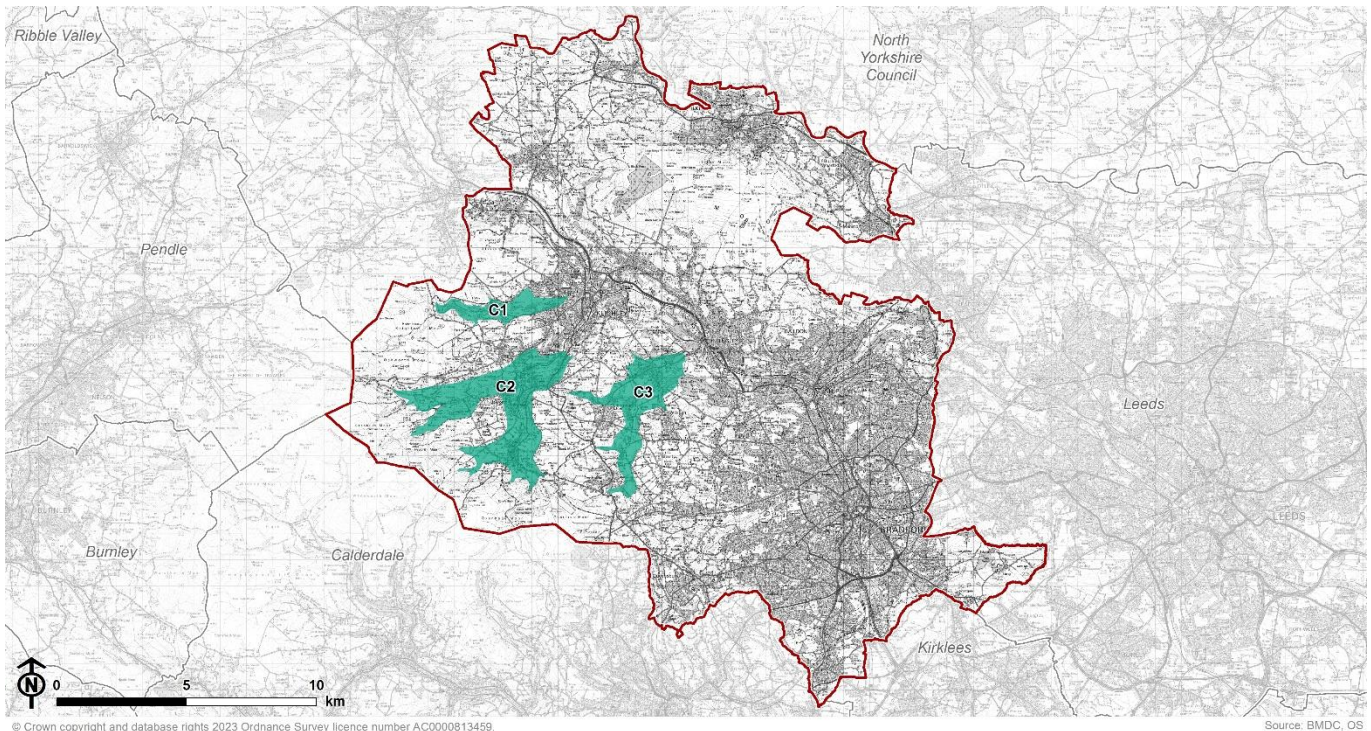


Landscape Character Type C: Upland Wooded Valleys

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:

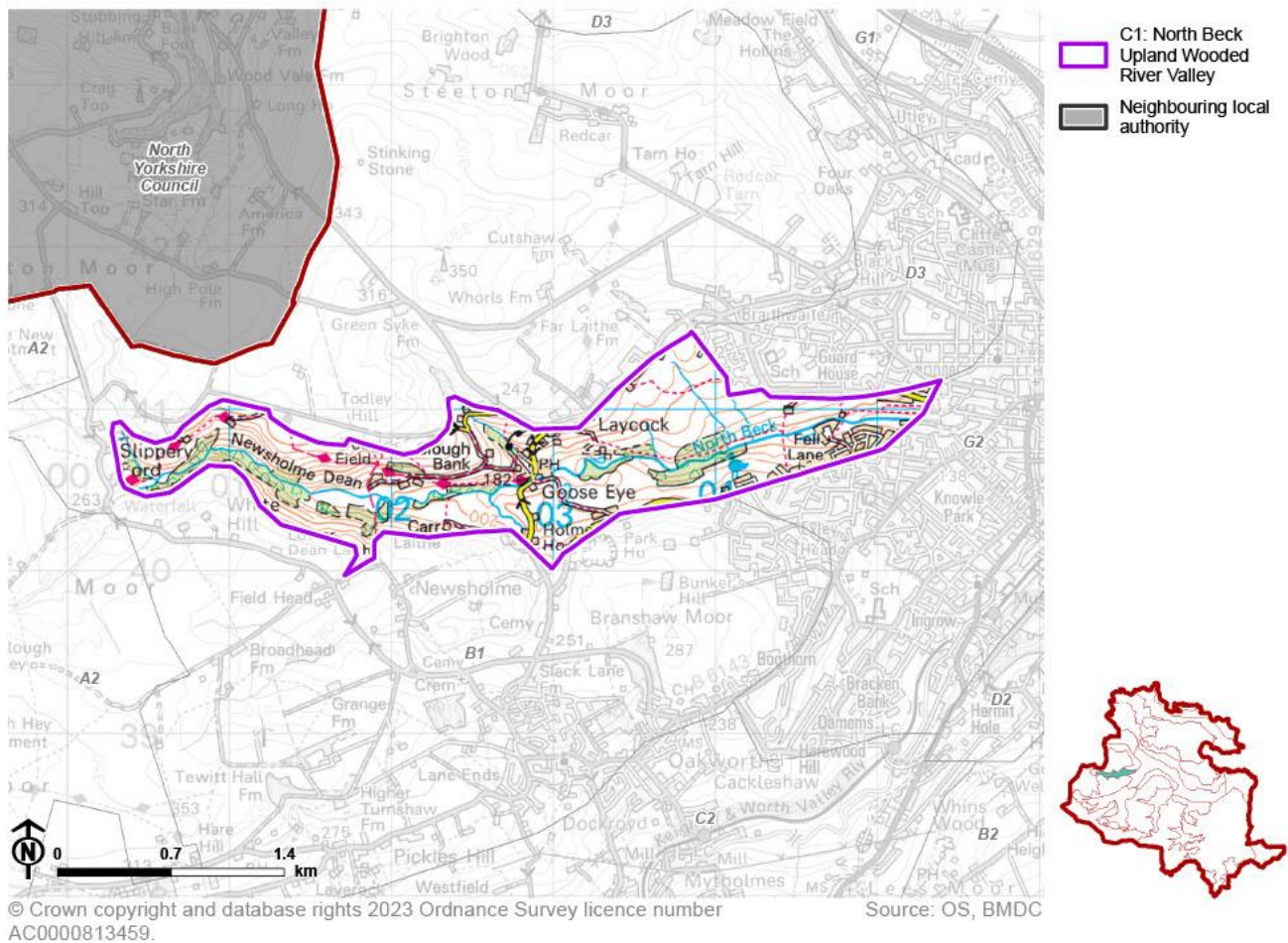
- C1. North Beck Upland Wooded River Valley
- C2. The Worth Upland Wooded River Valleys
- C3. Harden Upland Wooded River Valleys

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.



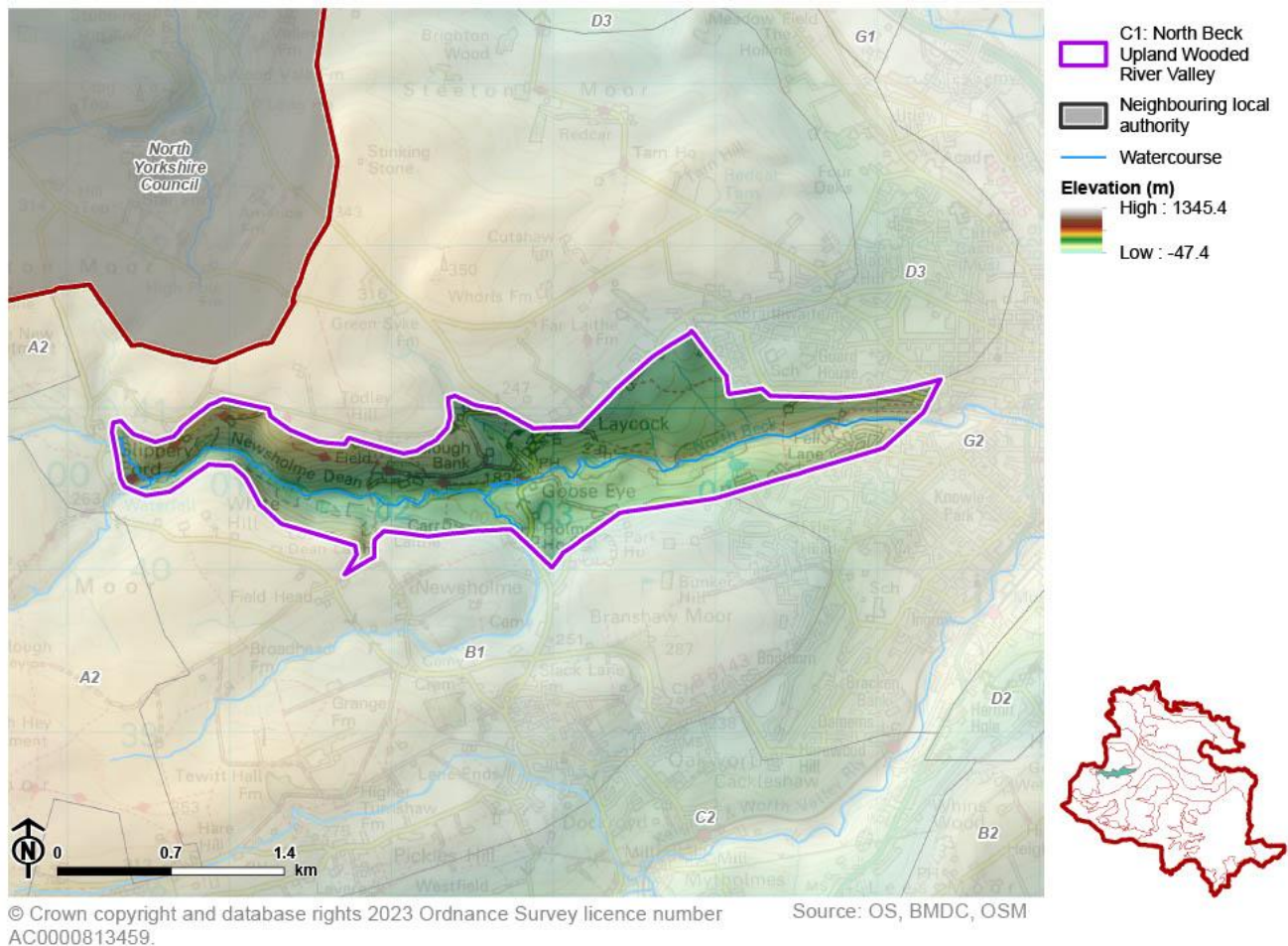
North Beck on the western edge of Goose Eye.



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

Landscape Character

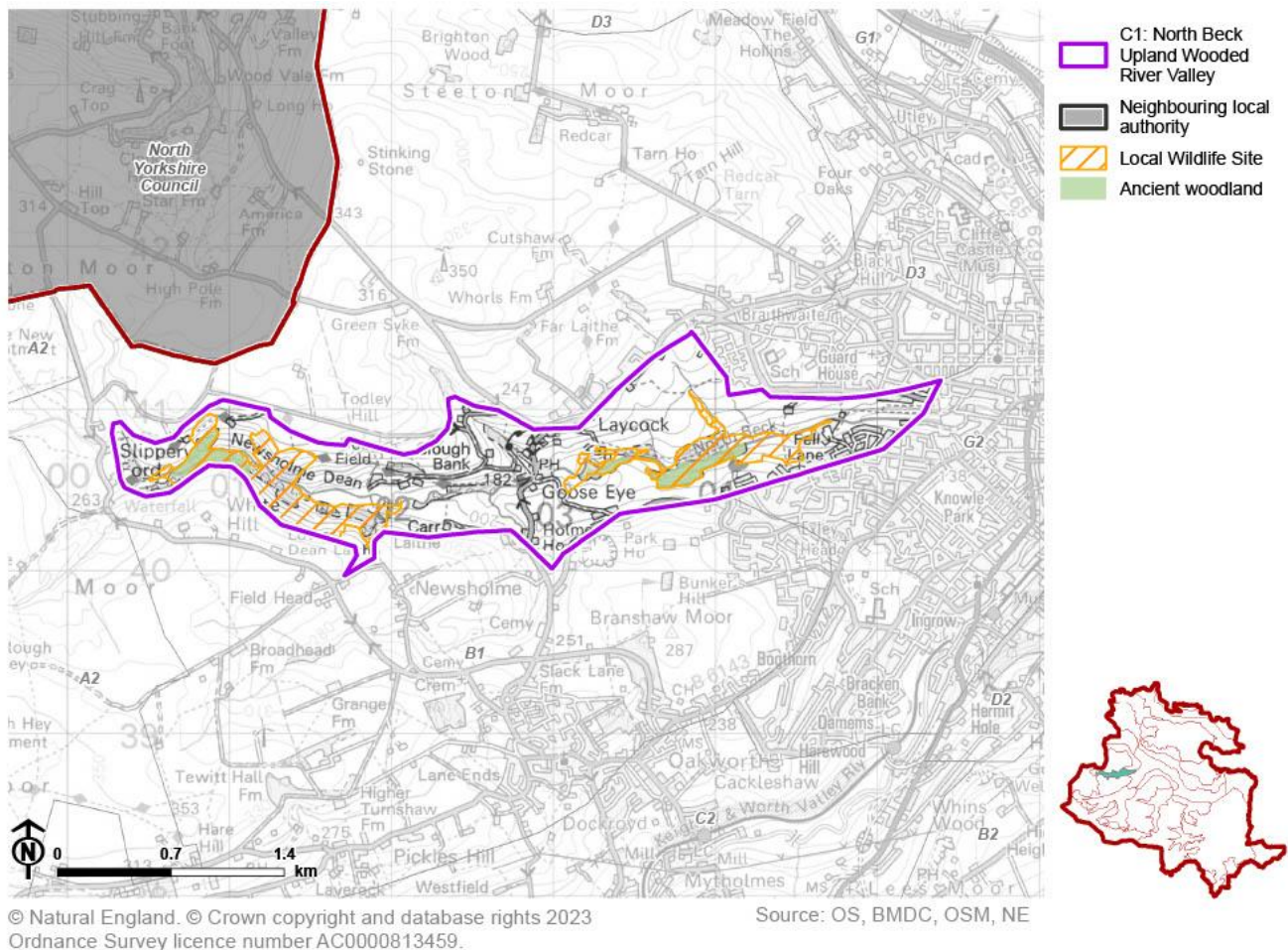
Figure 3.46: Topography of LCA C1



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 Slippy 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



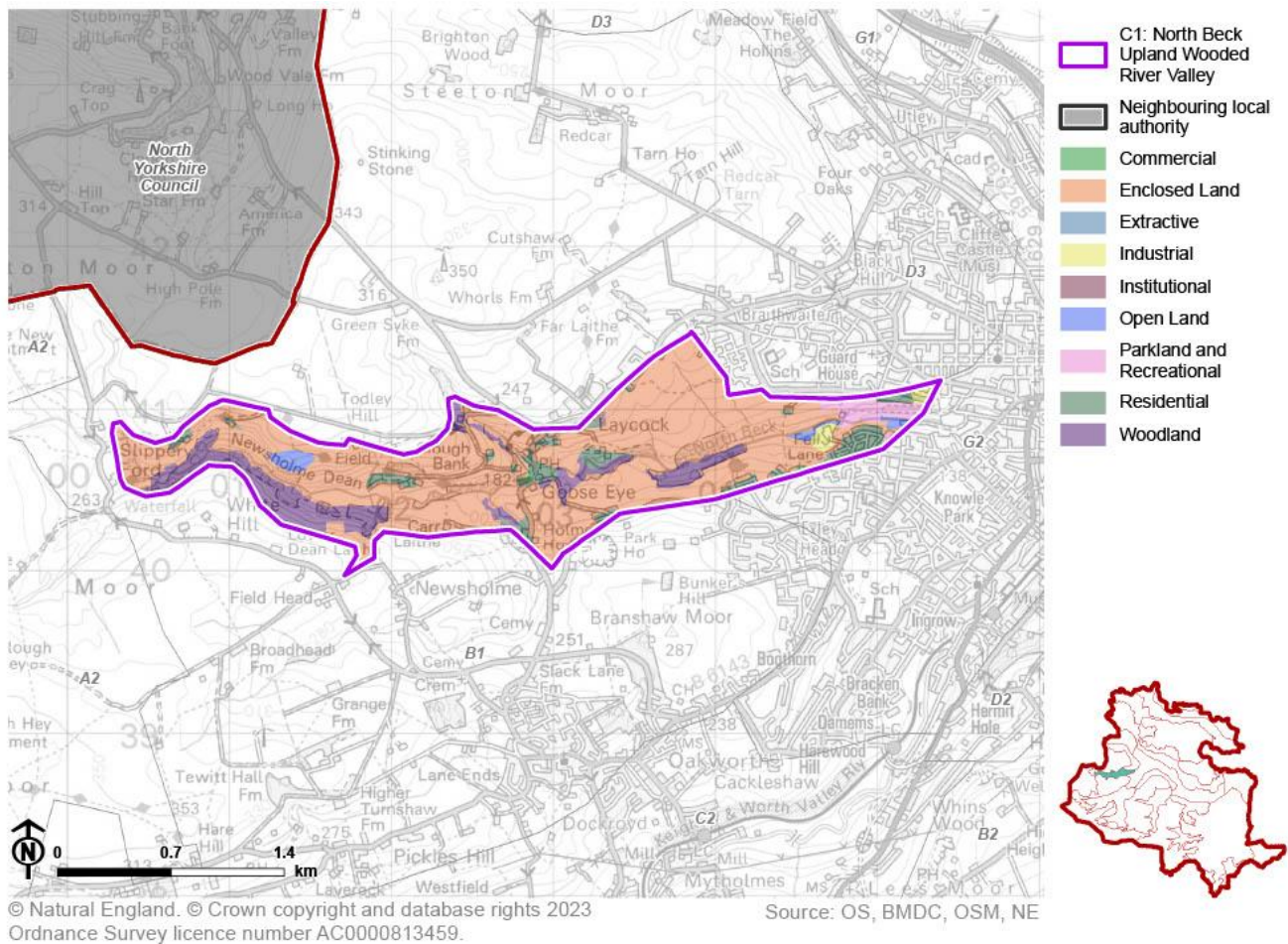
Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

- 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.

[illegible]

- 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.

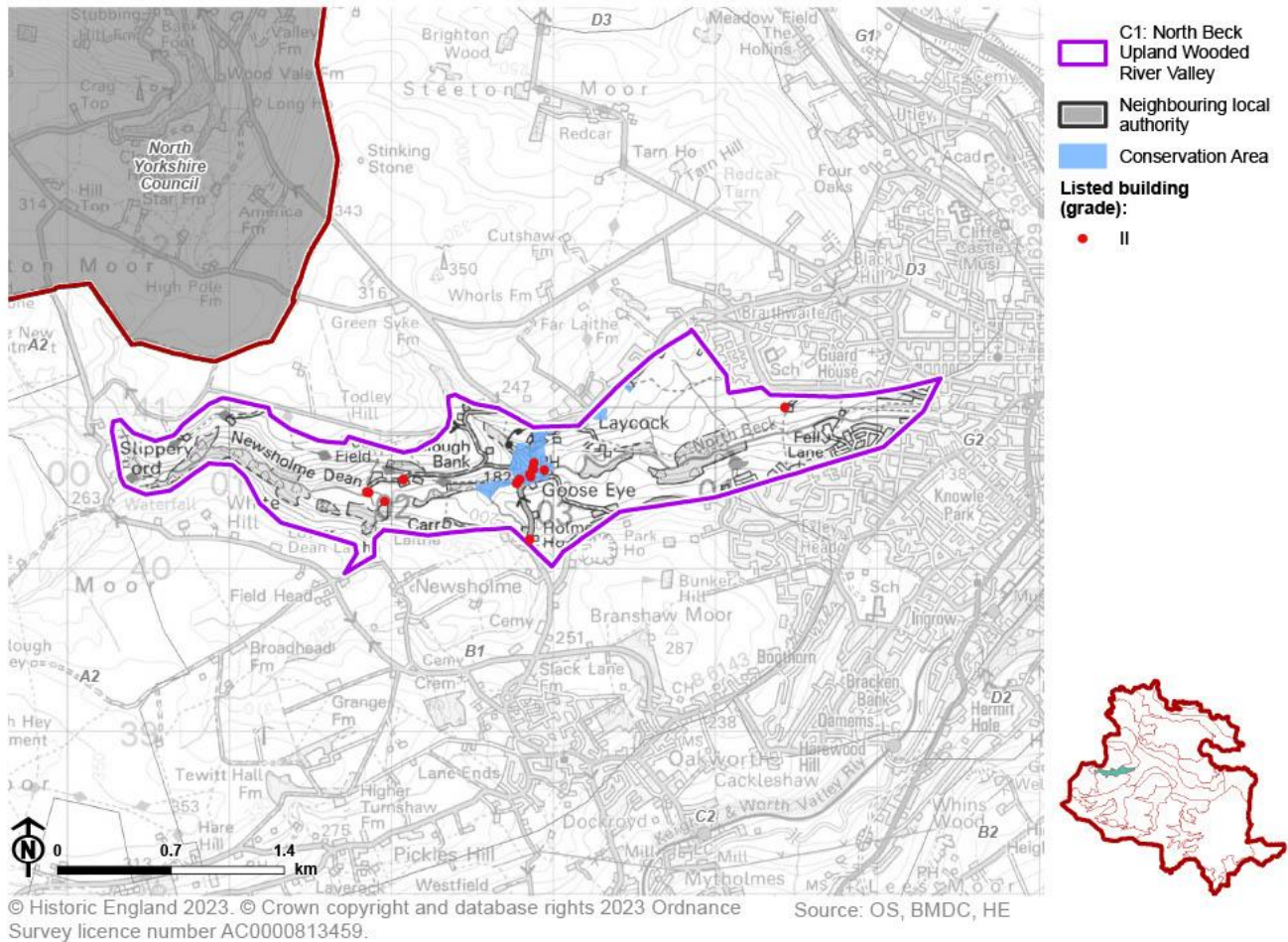
Figure 3.49: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA C1



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.

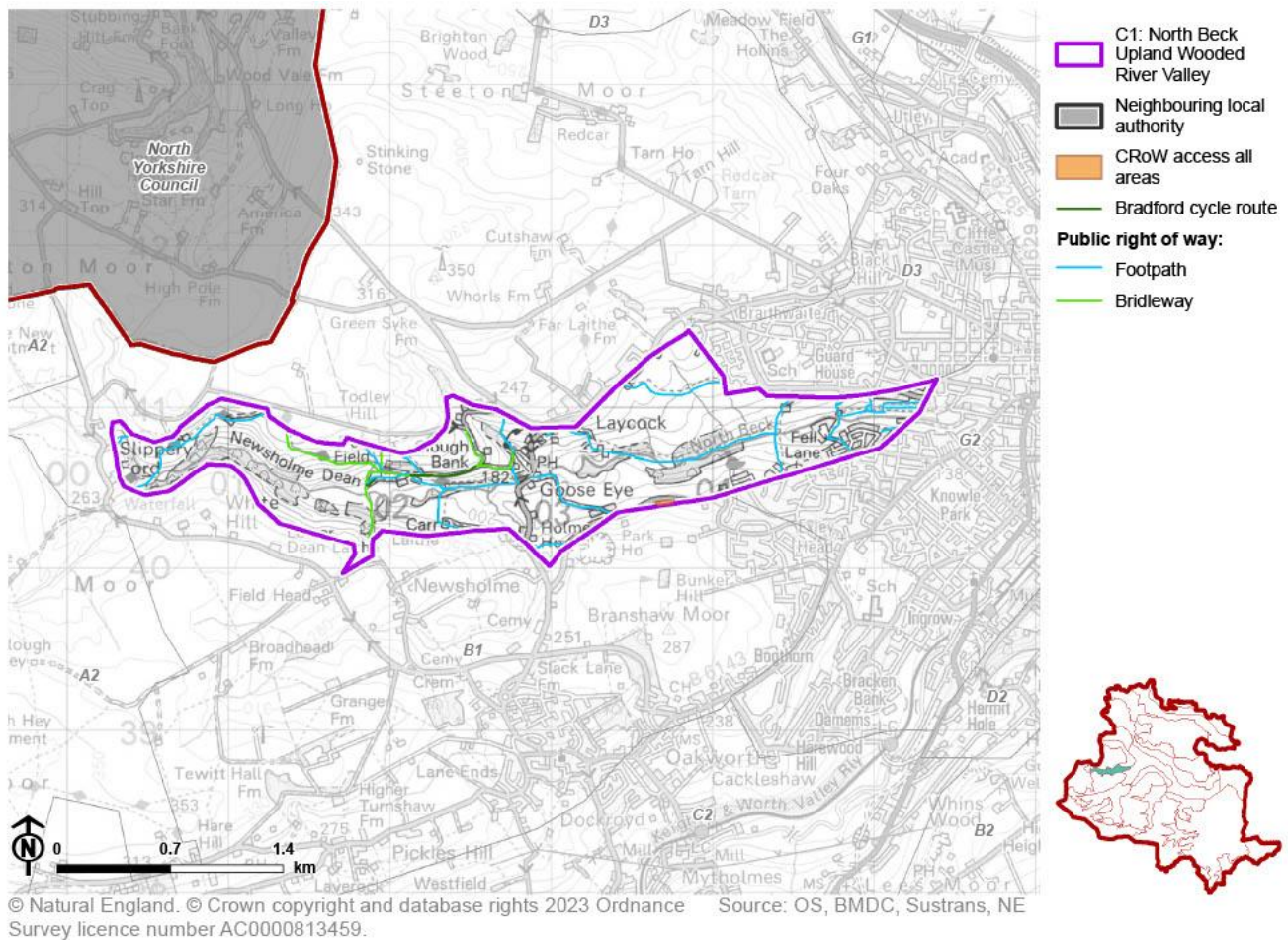
Figure 3.50: Cultural heritage of LCA C1



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.

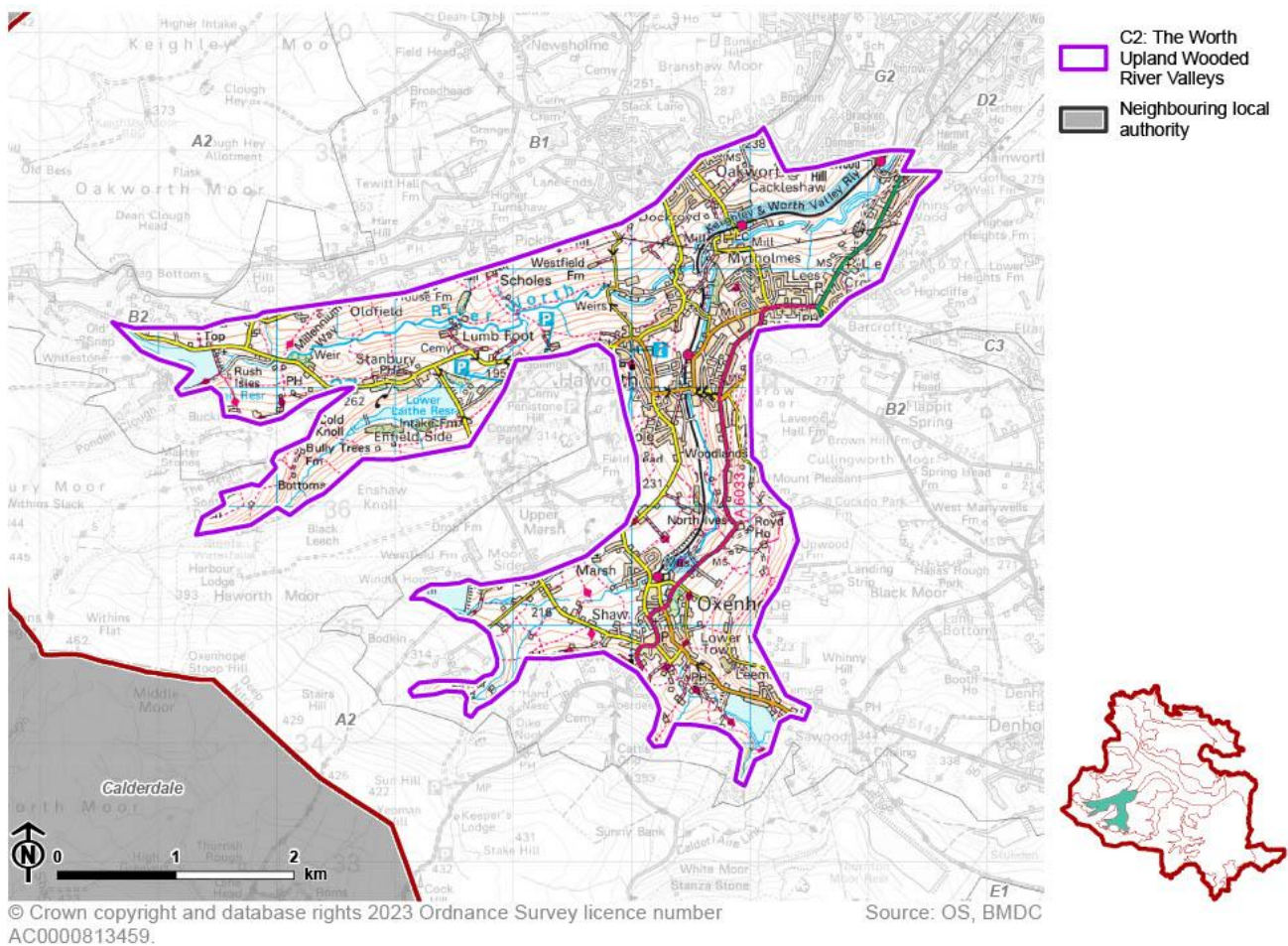
- Whilst the intimate, well-wooded valley character contrasts with the exposed, wild character of the moorlands, the LCA retains links to the upland landscape through the presence of distinctive drystone walls, vernacular farmsteads and rough grassland.

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.



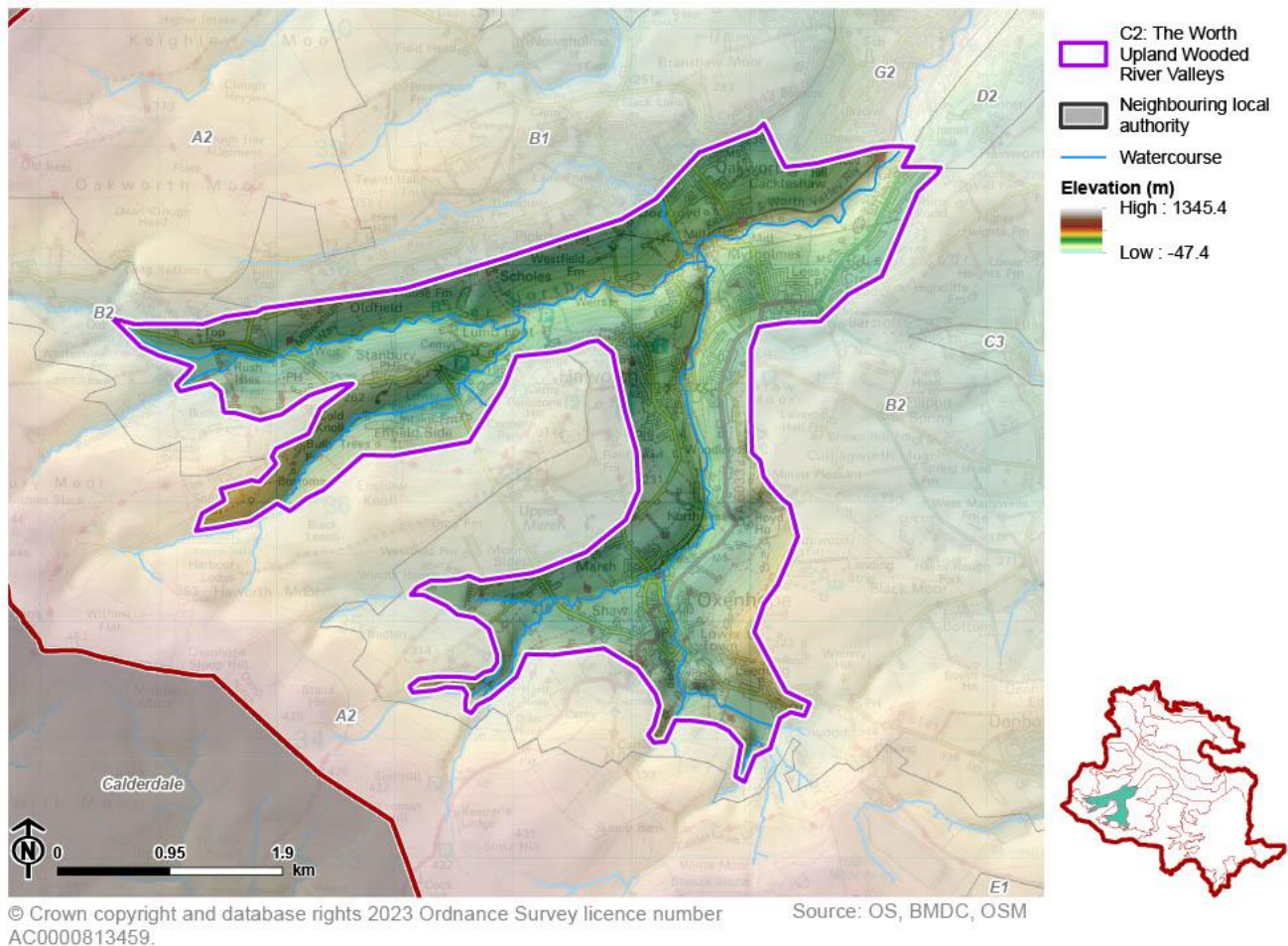
Patchwork of drystone walls along valley slopes.



Lower Laithe Reservoir.

Landscape Character

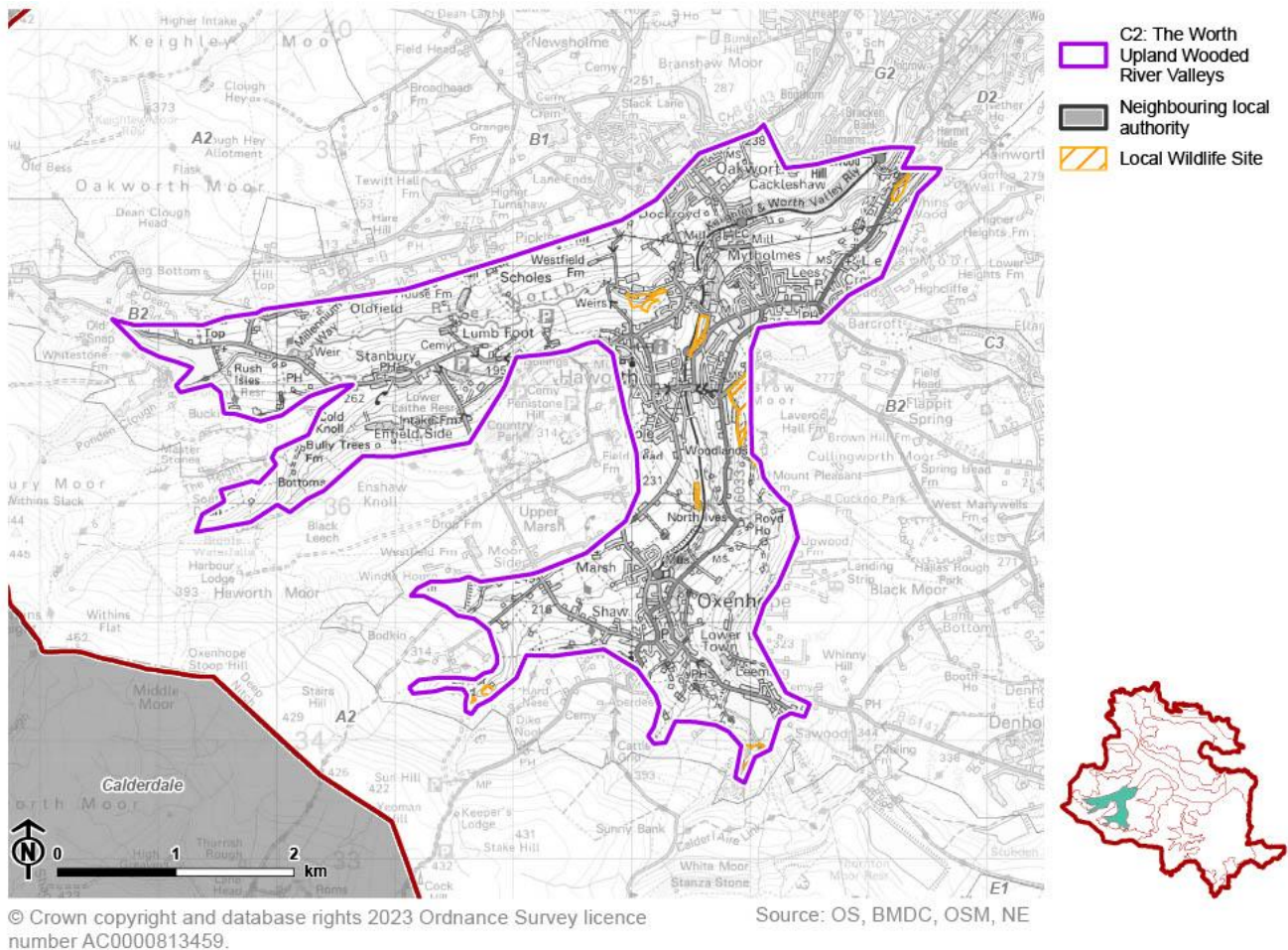
Figure 3.54: Topography of LCA C2



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.

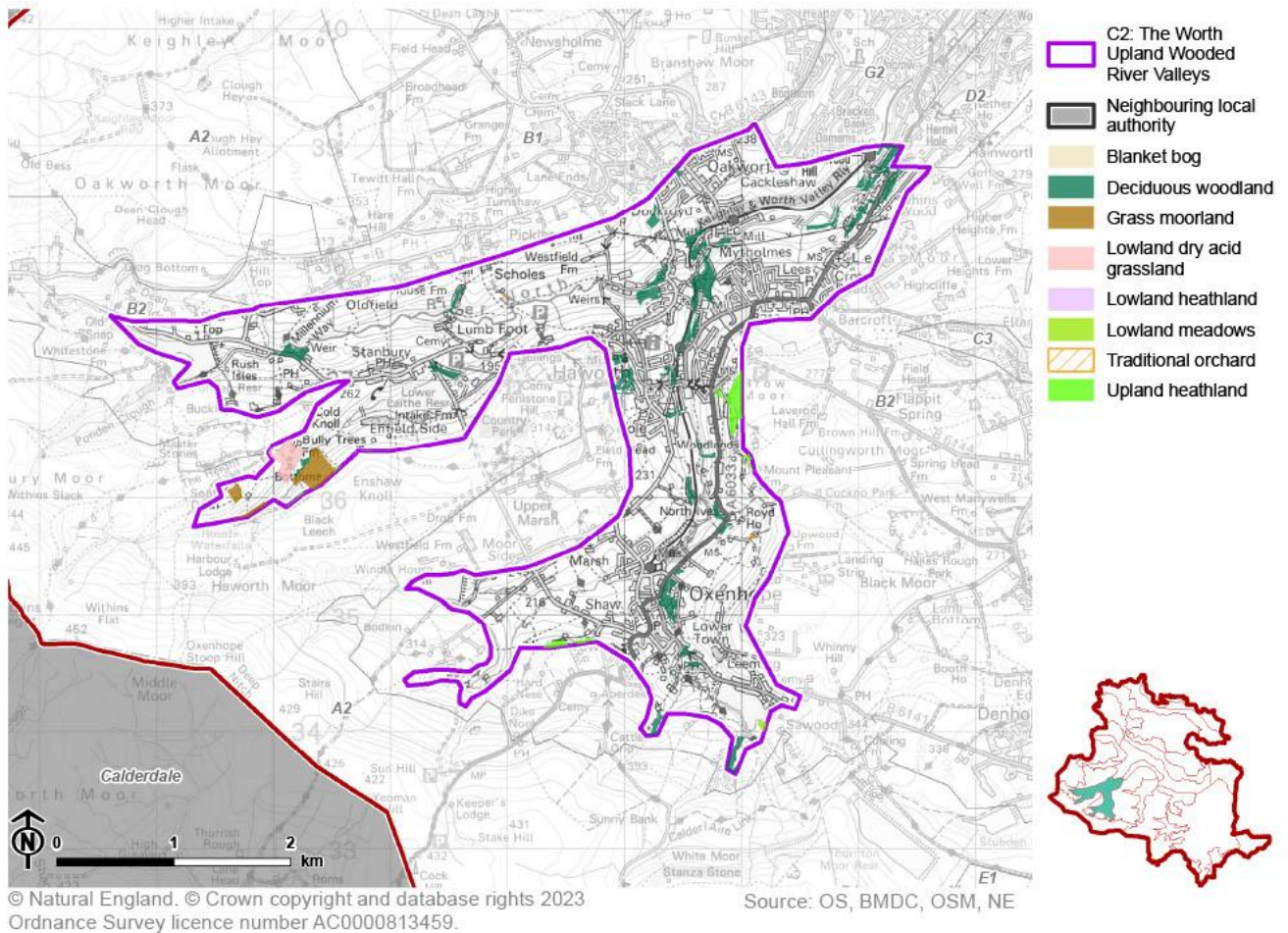
Figure 3.55: Natural heritage of LCA C2



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 hedgerows 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.

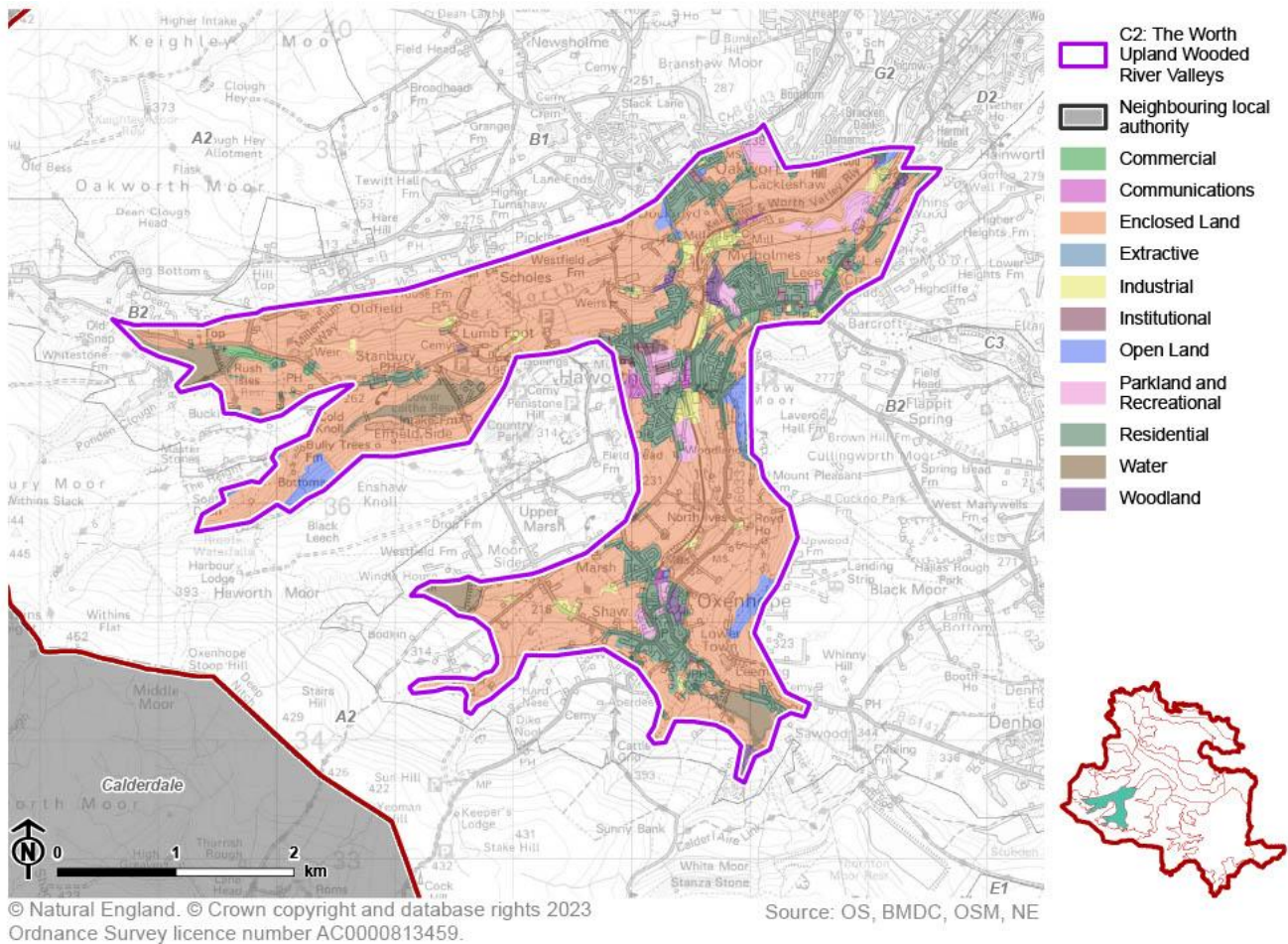
Figure 3.56: Priority habitat inventory of LCA C2



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



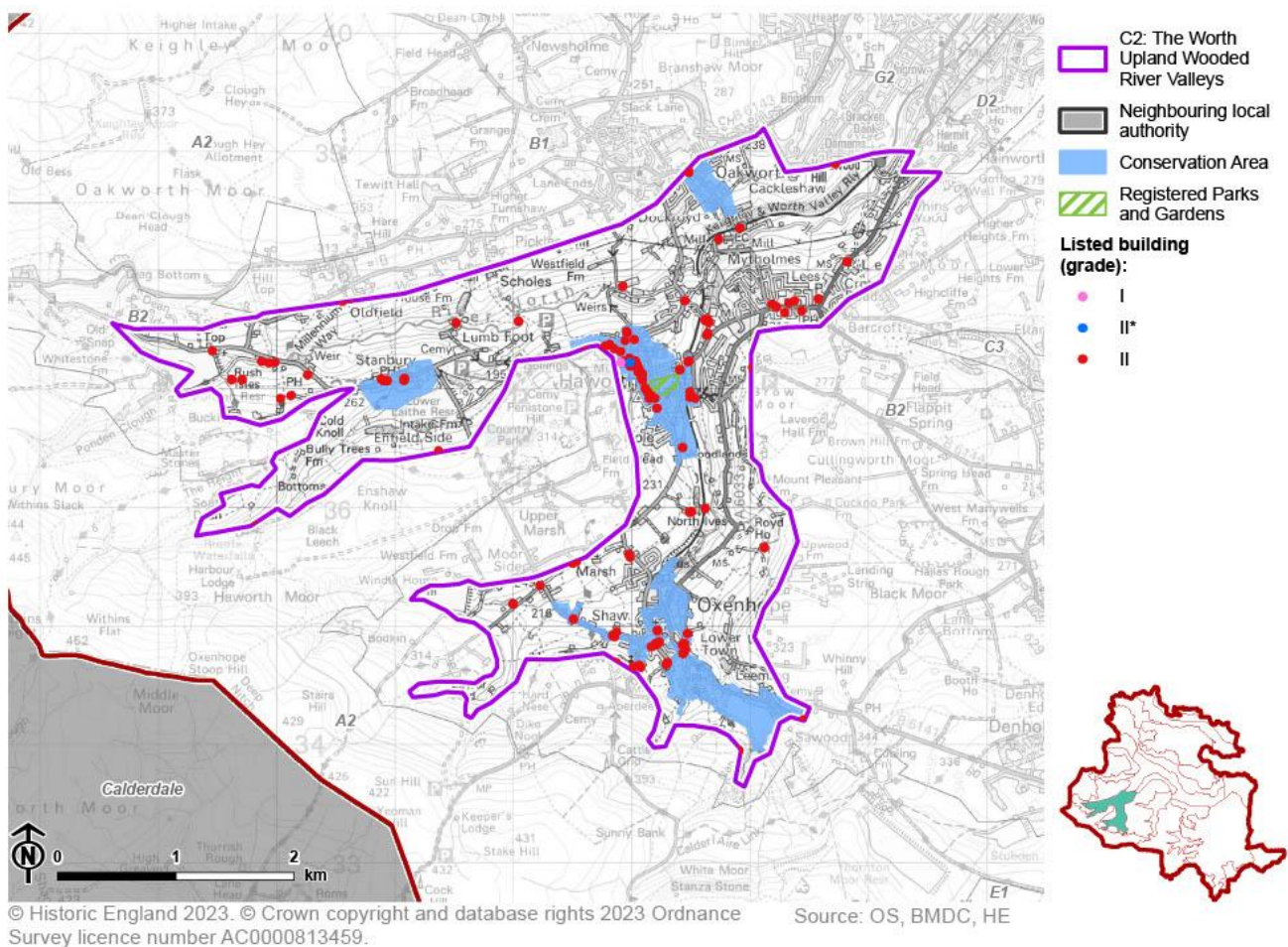
Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

- 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

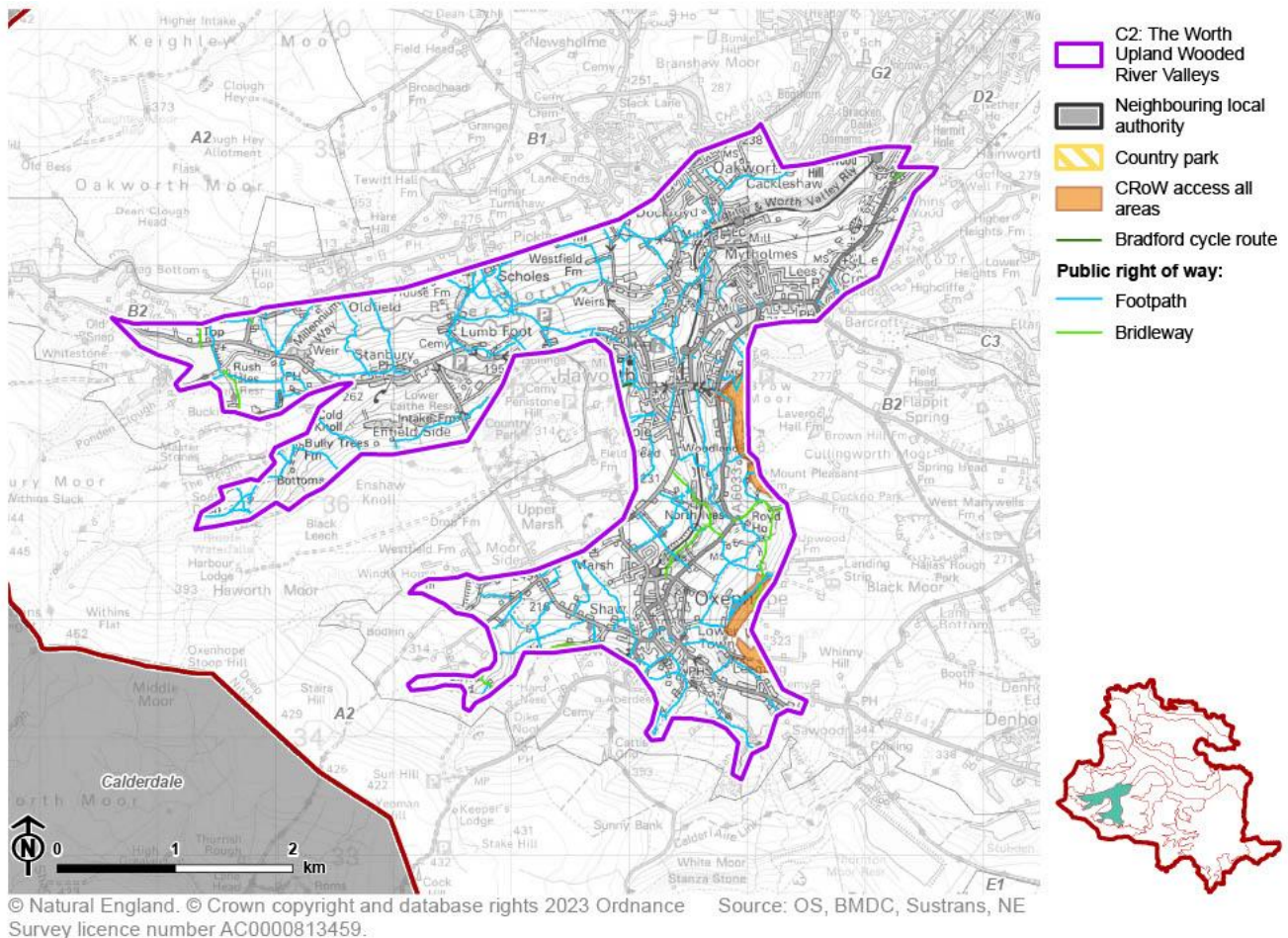


Settlement and Transport Pattern

- 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.
- 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.

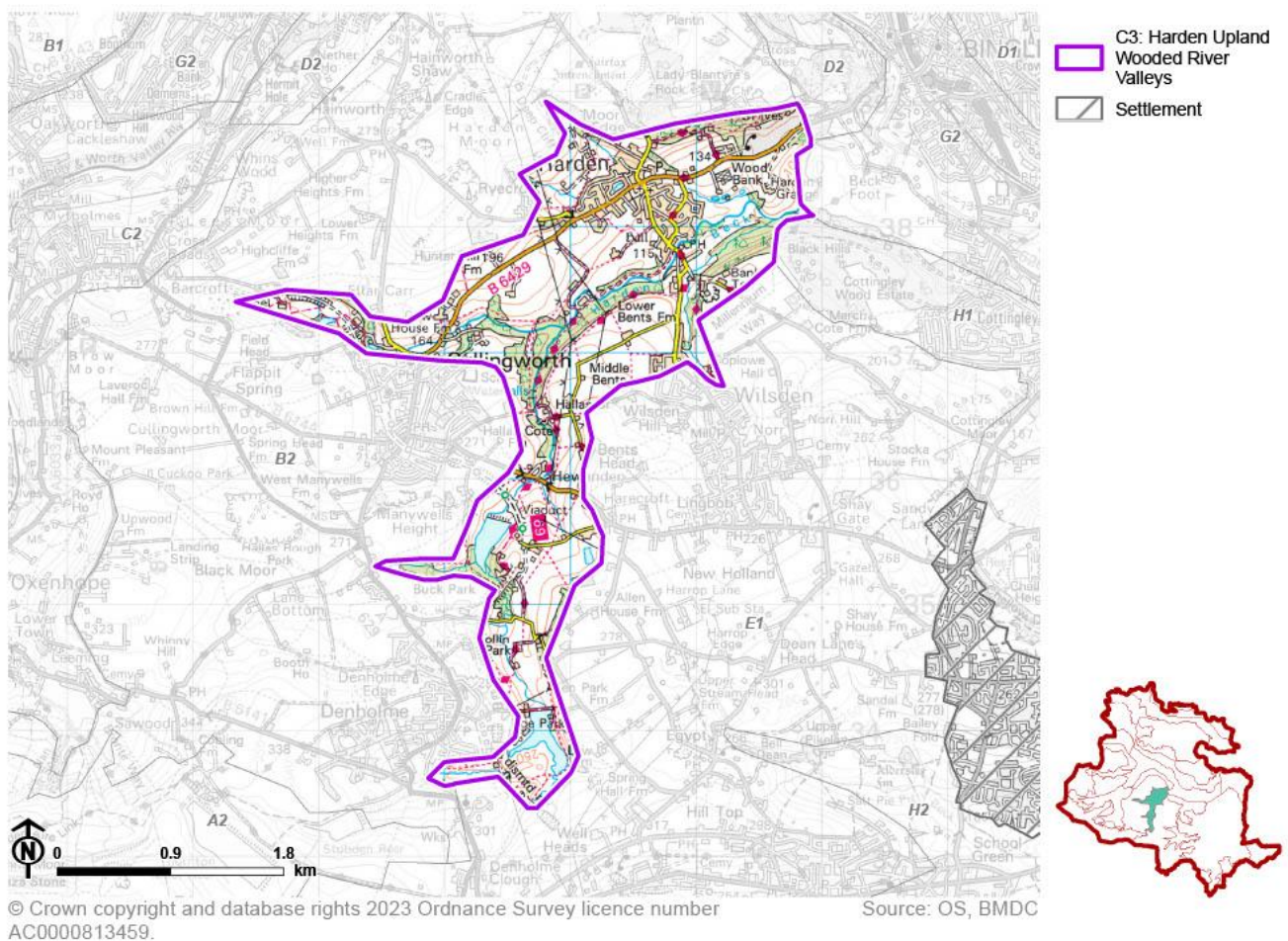
- The combination of distinctive topology, land use and cultural heritage gives the area a strong sense of locally distinctive upland river valley character. This is more pronounced towards the head of the valley, but is diluted slightly by development moving down the valley. This relatively small scale 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 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.
- 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.



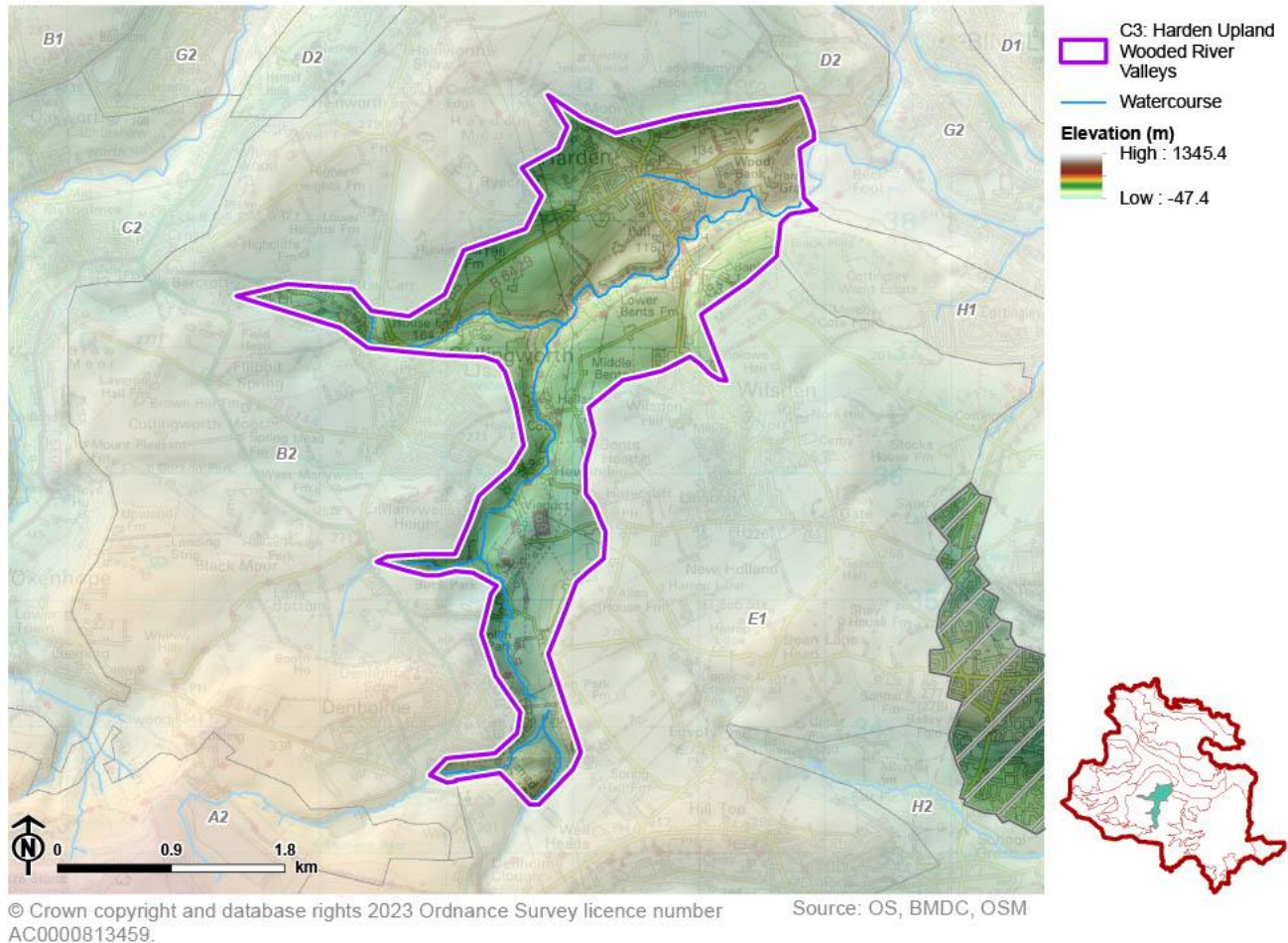
Views towards Hewenden Viaduct.



Wilsden Beck.

Landscape Character

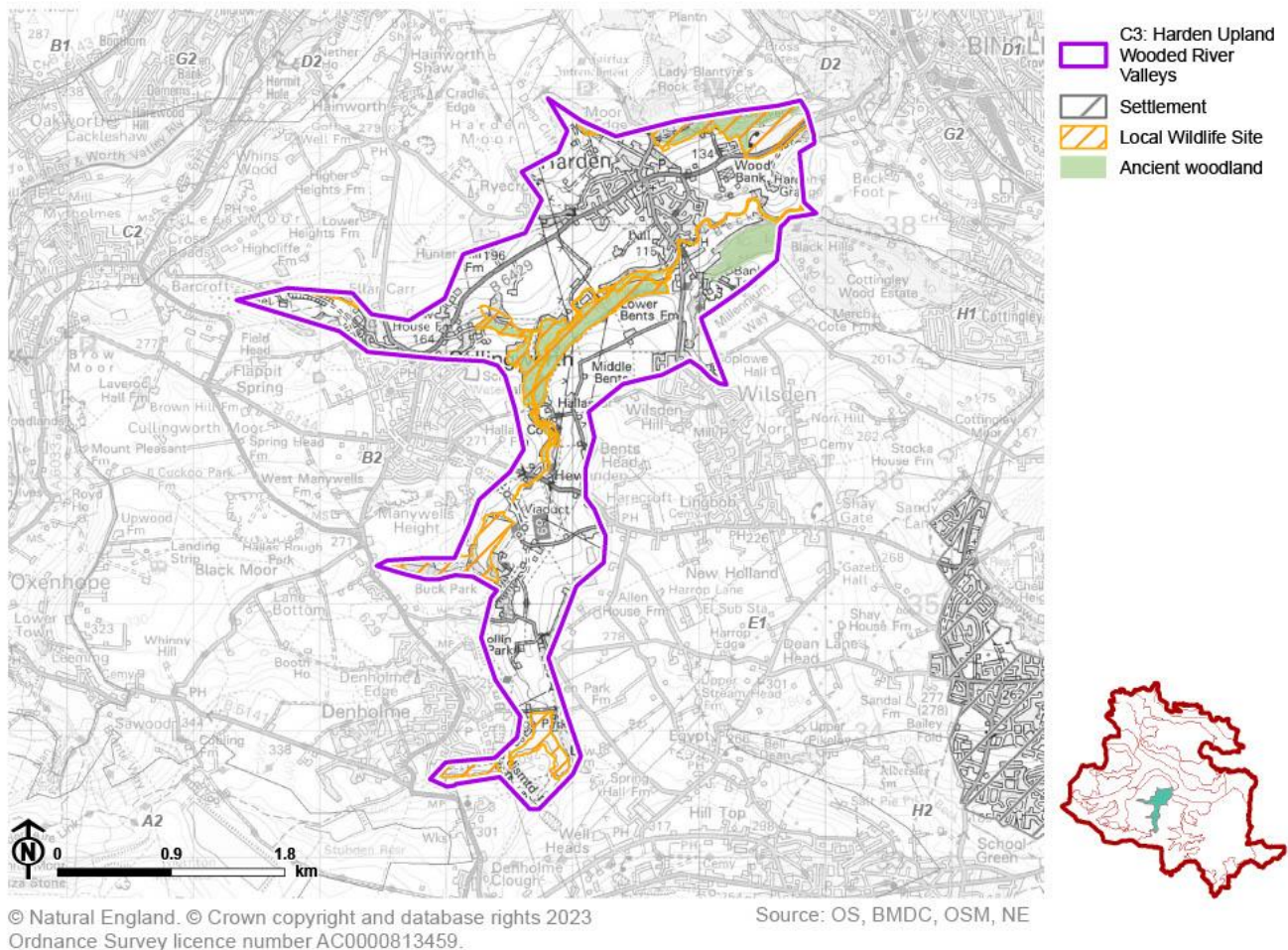
Figure 3.62: Topography of LCA C3



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.

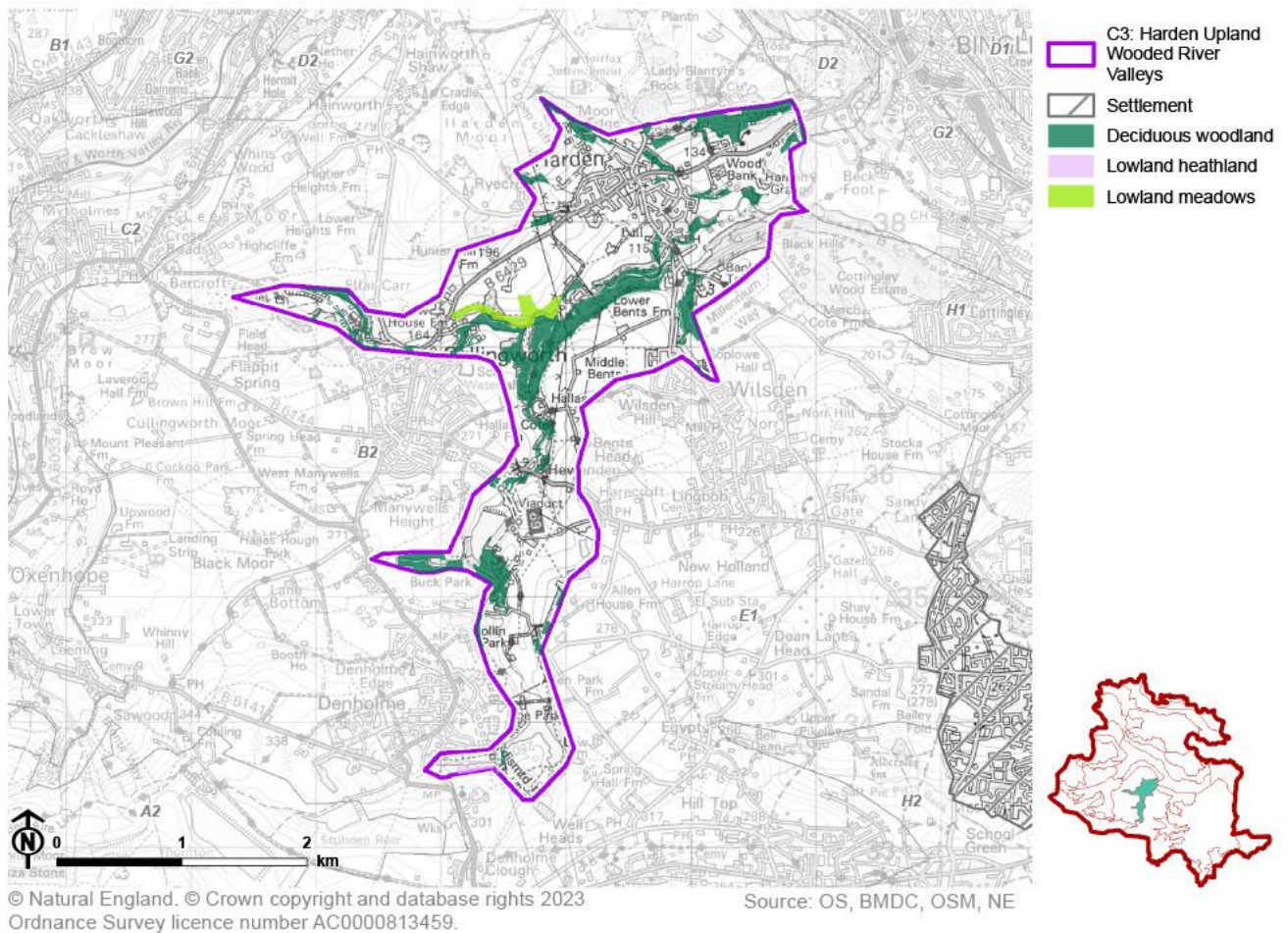
Figure 3.63: Natural heritage of LCA C3



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.
- 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.

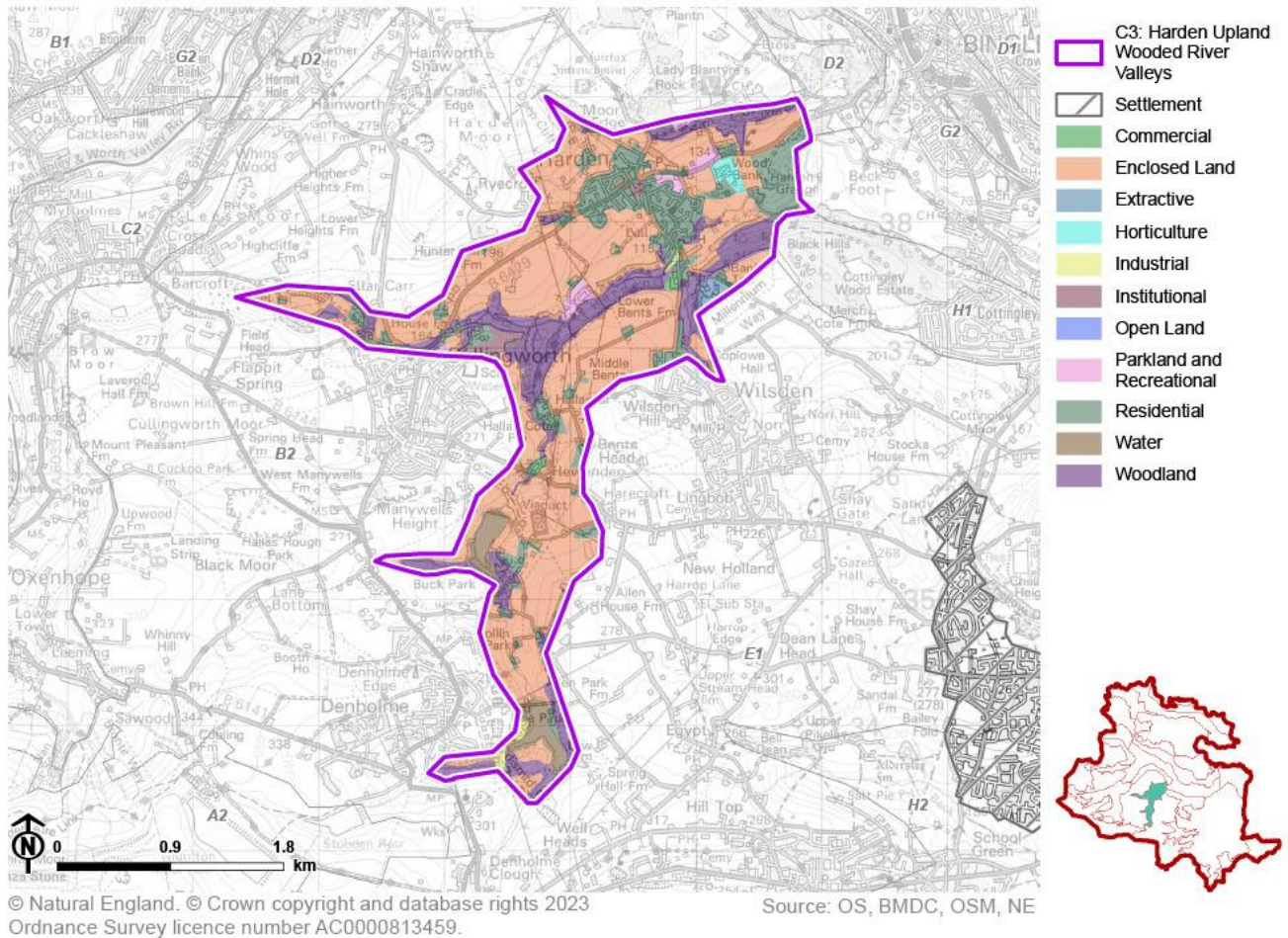
Figure 3.64: Priority habitat inventory of LCA C3



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.

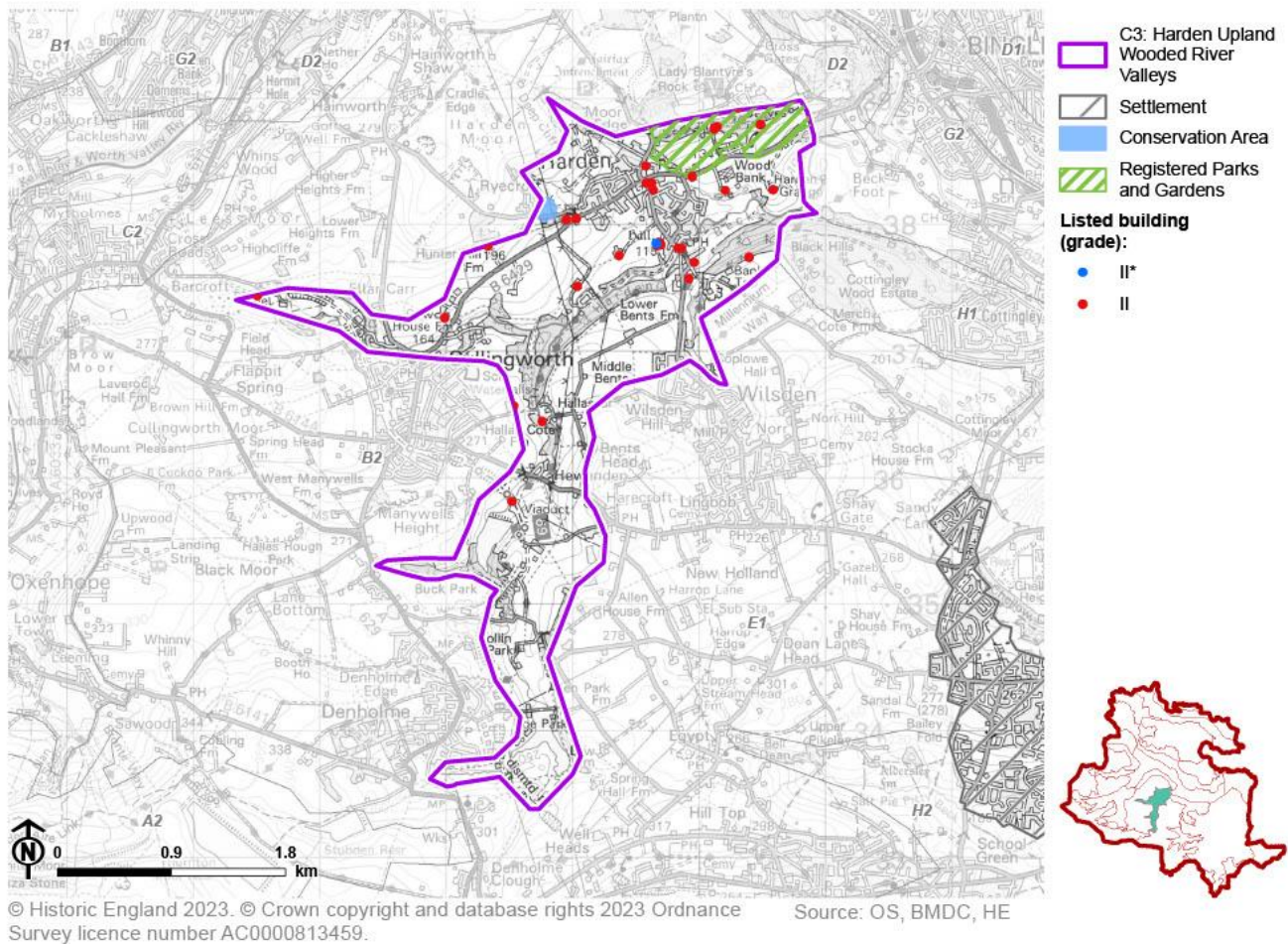
Figure 3.65: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA C3



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.

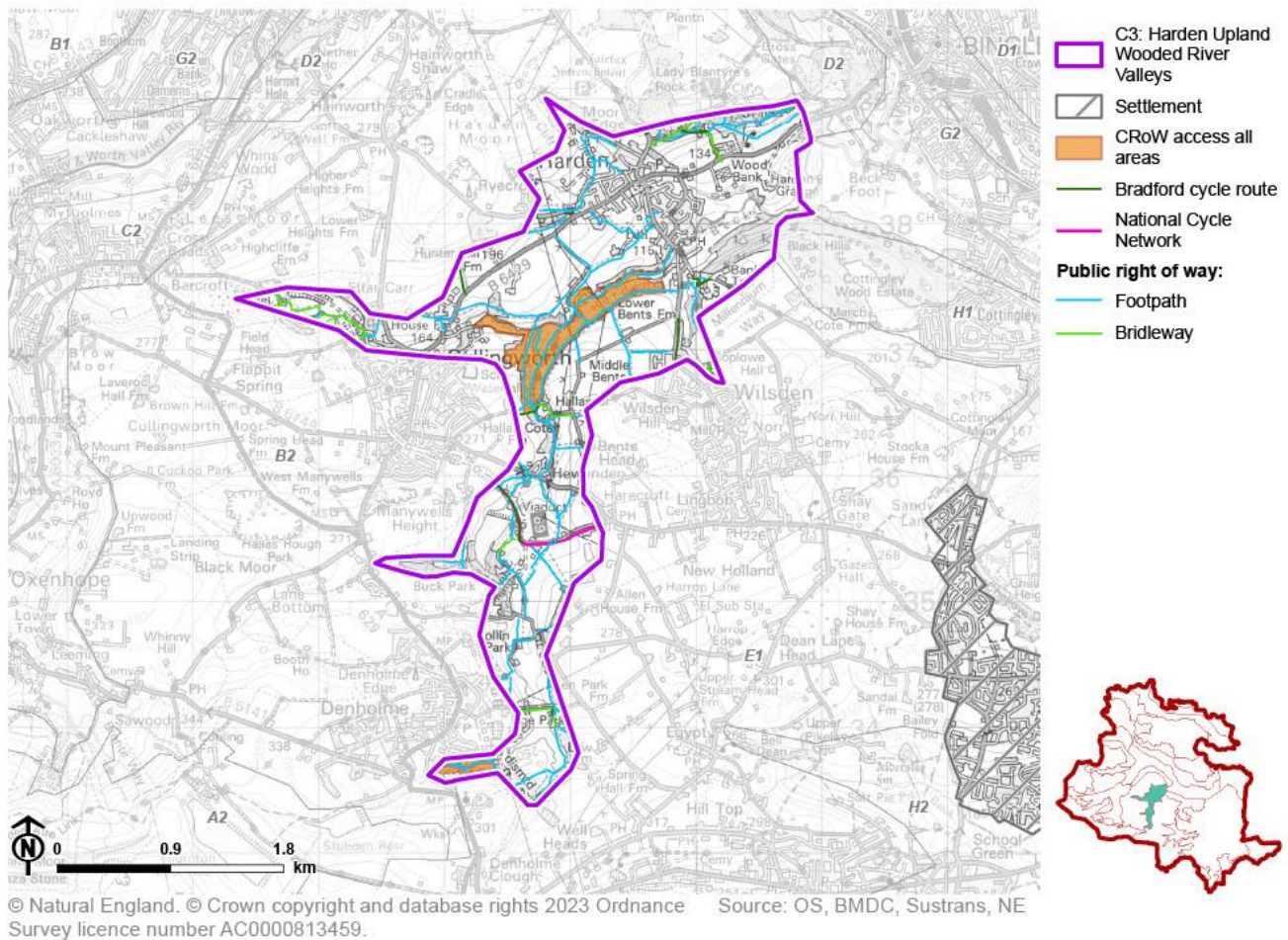
Figure 3.66: Cultural heritage of LCA C3



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 Reservoir 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. 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.
- 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.