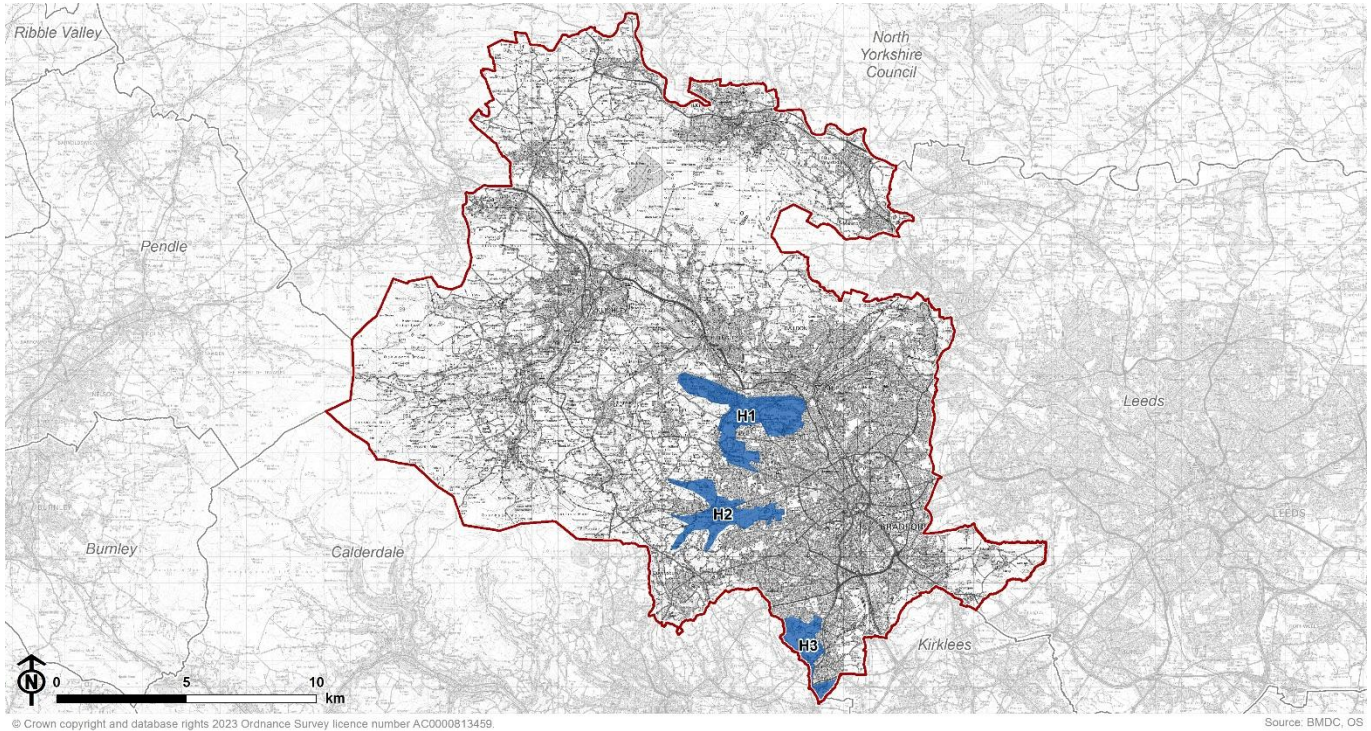


Landscape Character Type H: Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

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



LCT H Overview

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

There are three LCA within this LCT:

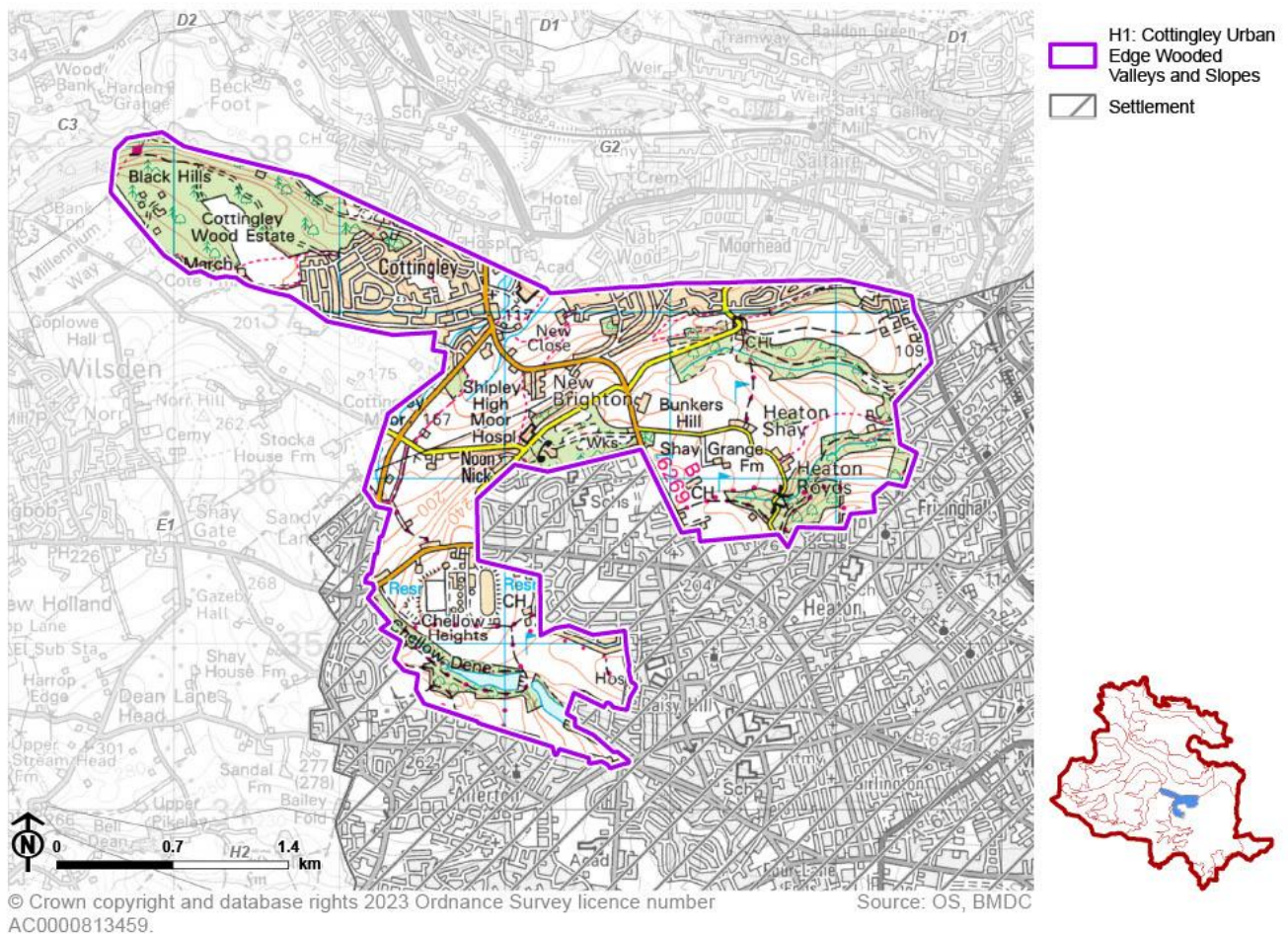
- H1. Cottingley Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes
- H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes
- H3. Royds Hall Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

H1. Cottingley Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

Location, Context and Summary

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

Figure 3.177: Location of LCA H1



Key Characteristics

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

Figure 3.178: Example photos from LCA H1



Frequent woodland providing structure and a degree of enclosure.



Long distance views from valley sides.



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



Distinctive views down into the Airedale Valley.



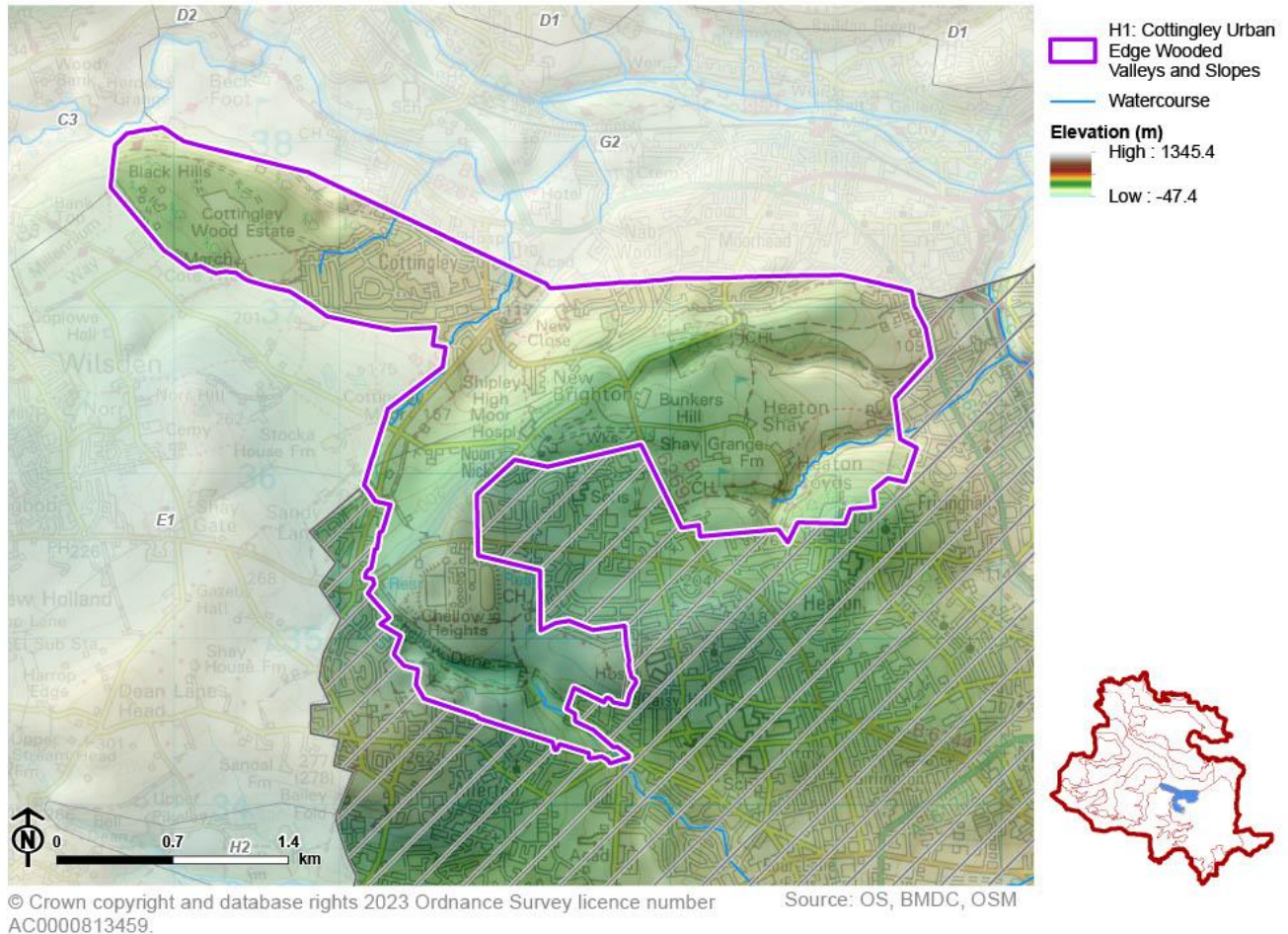
Overhead electricity lines can be seen on horizon.



Looking north east across important recreational area of Chellow Dene.

Landscape Character

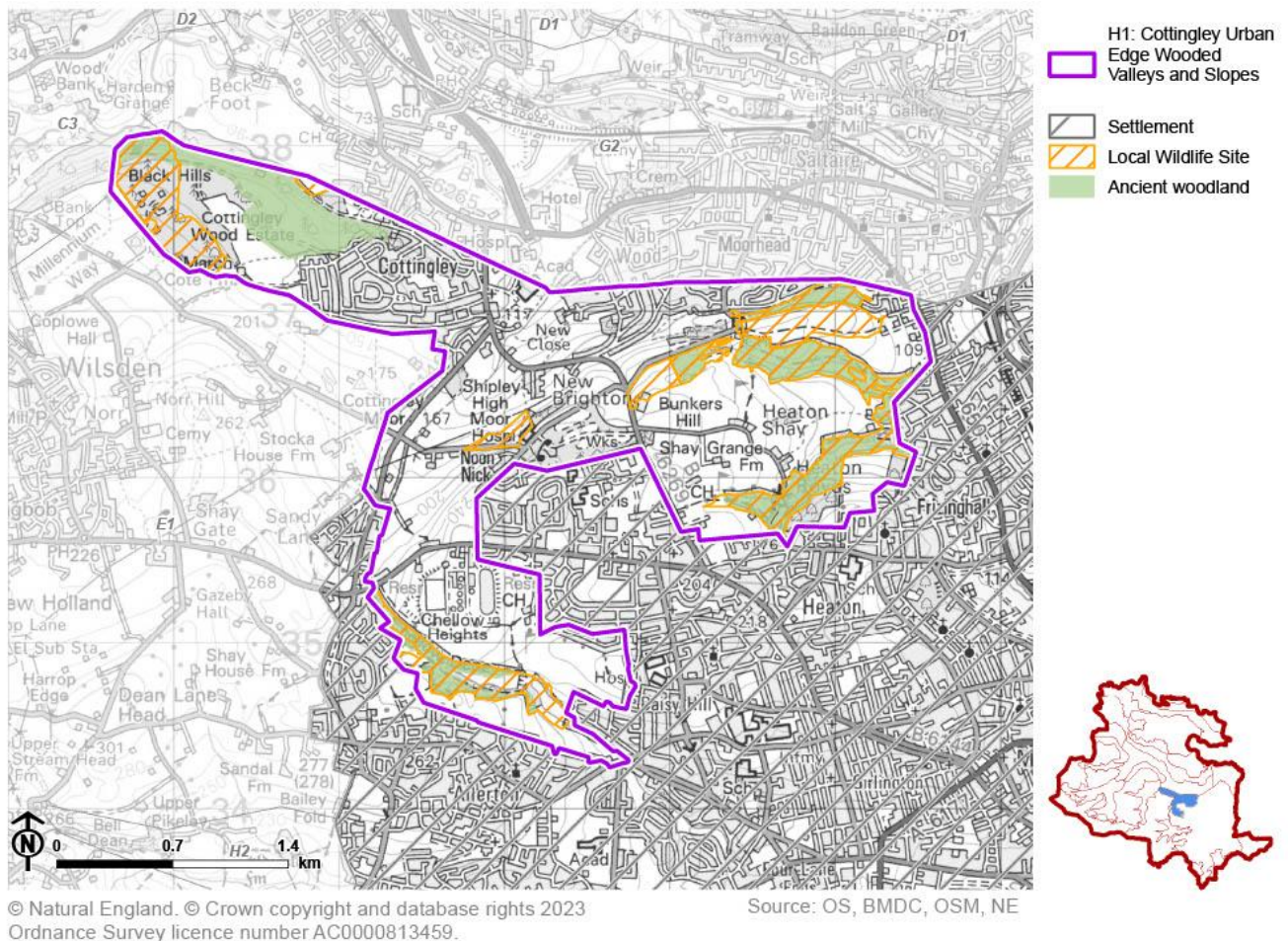
Figure 3.179: Topography of LCA H1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

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

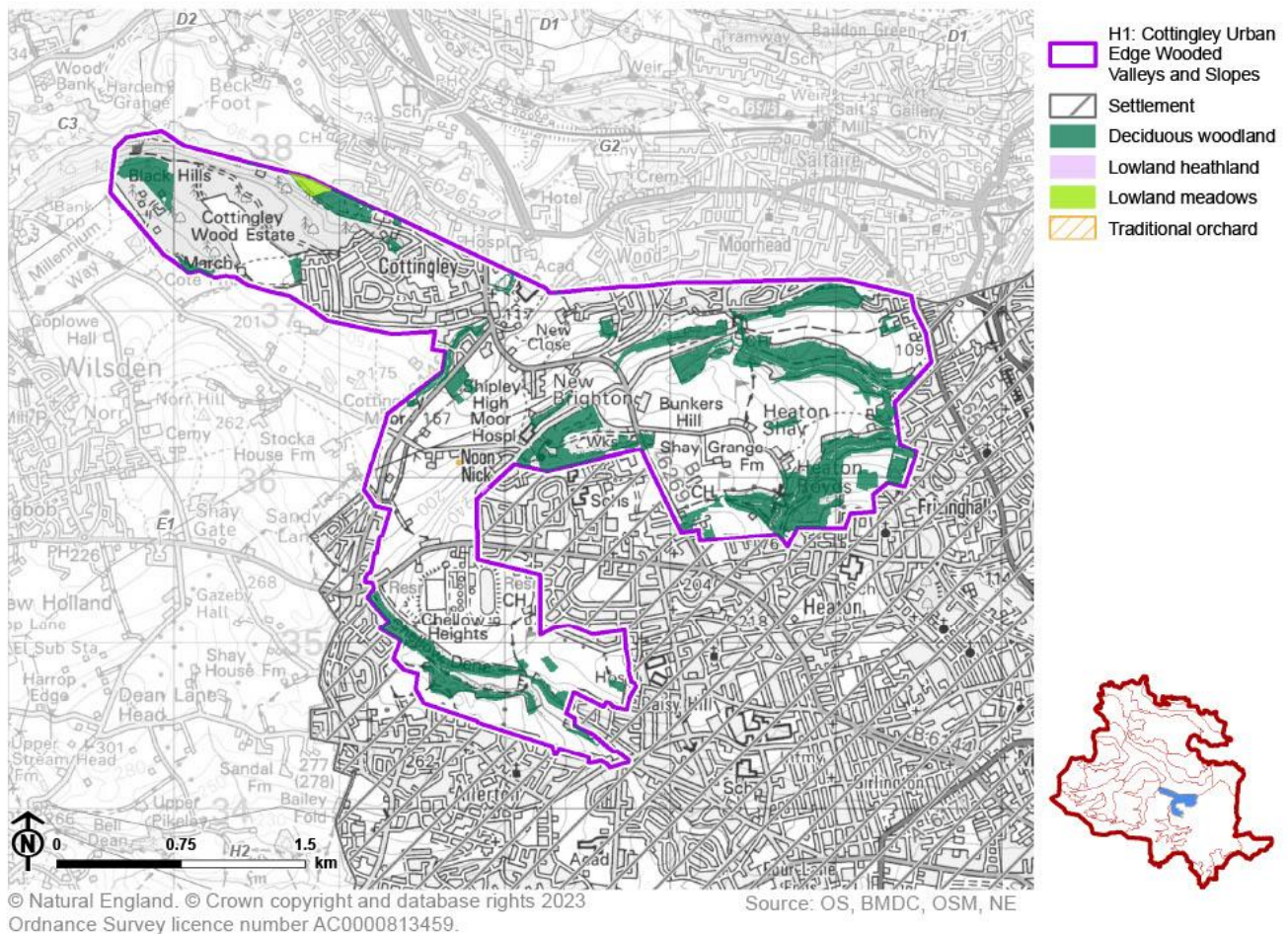
Figure 3.180: Natural heritage of LCA H1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

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

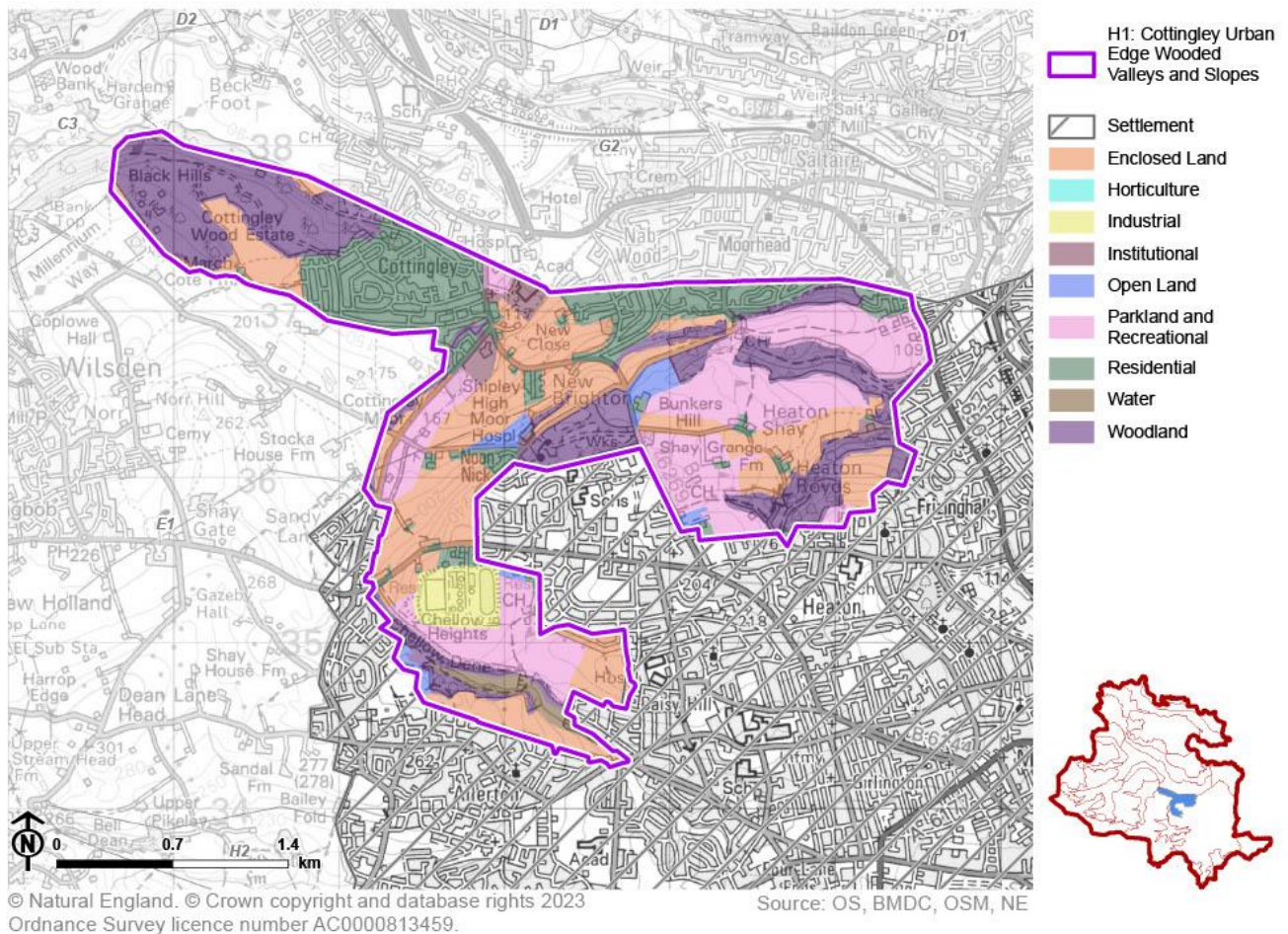
Figure 3.181: Priority habitat inventory of LCA H1



Land Use and Field Patterns

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

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

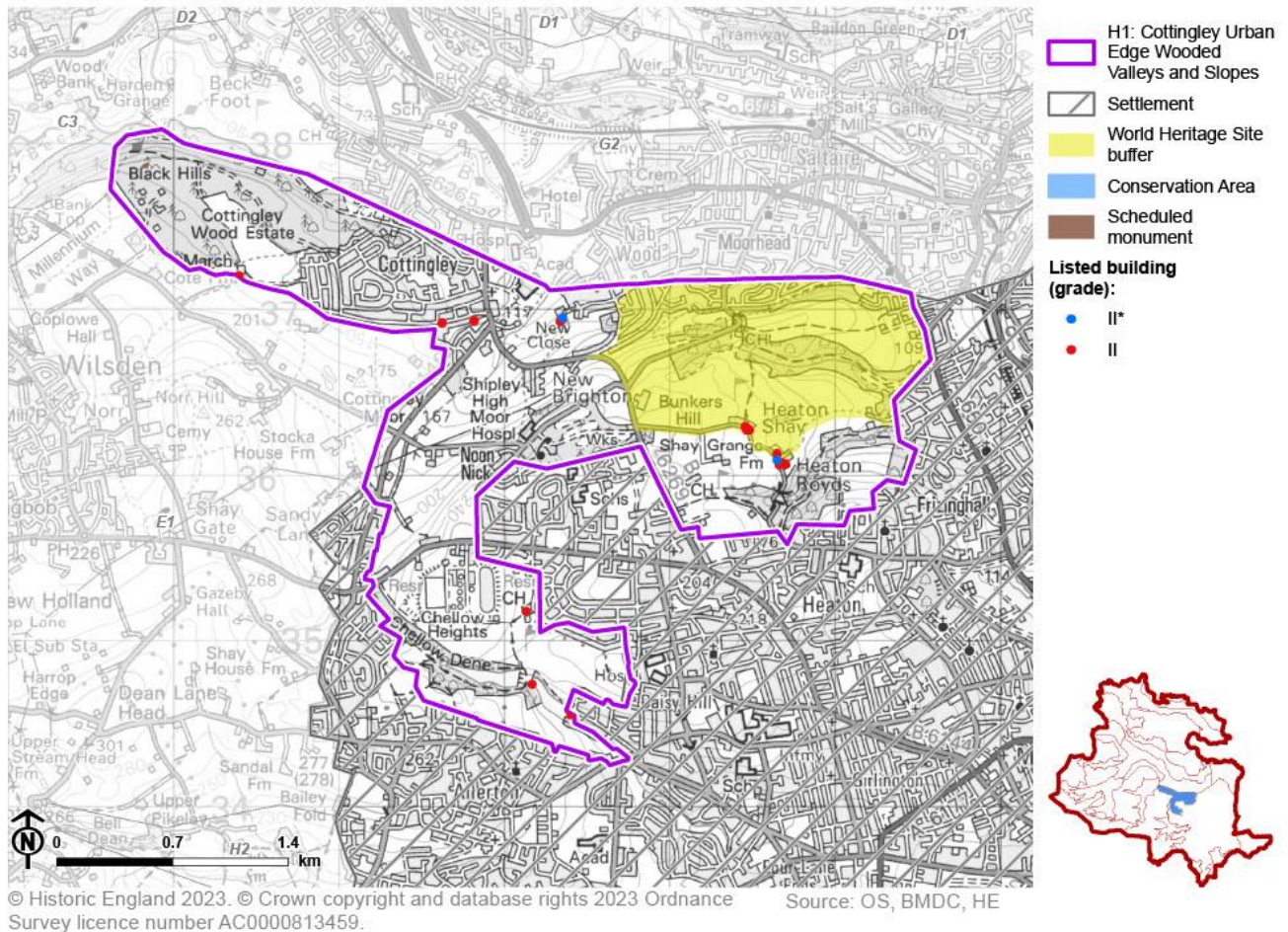


Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

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

- Woodland along Cottingley Beck, adjacent to Cottingley Moor Road, is associated with the true story about two young girls, who in 1917, convinced the world that they had photographed fairies at the bottom of their garden. The hoax was not discovered until many years later.

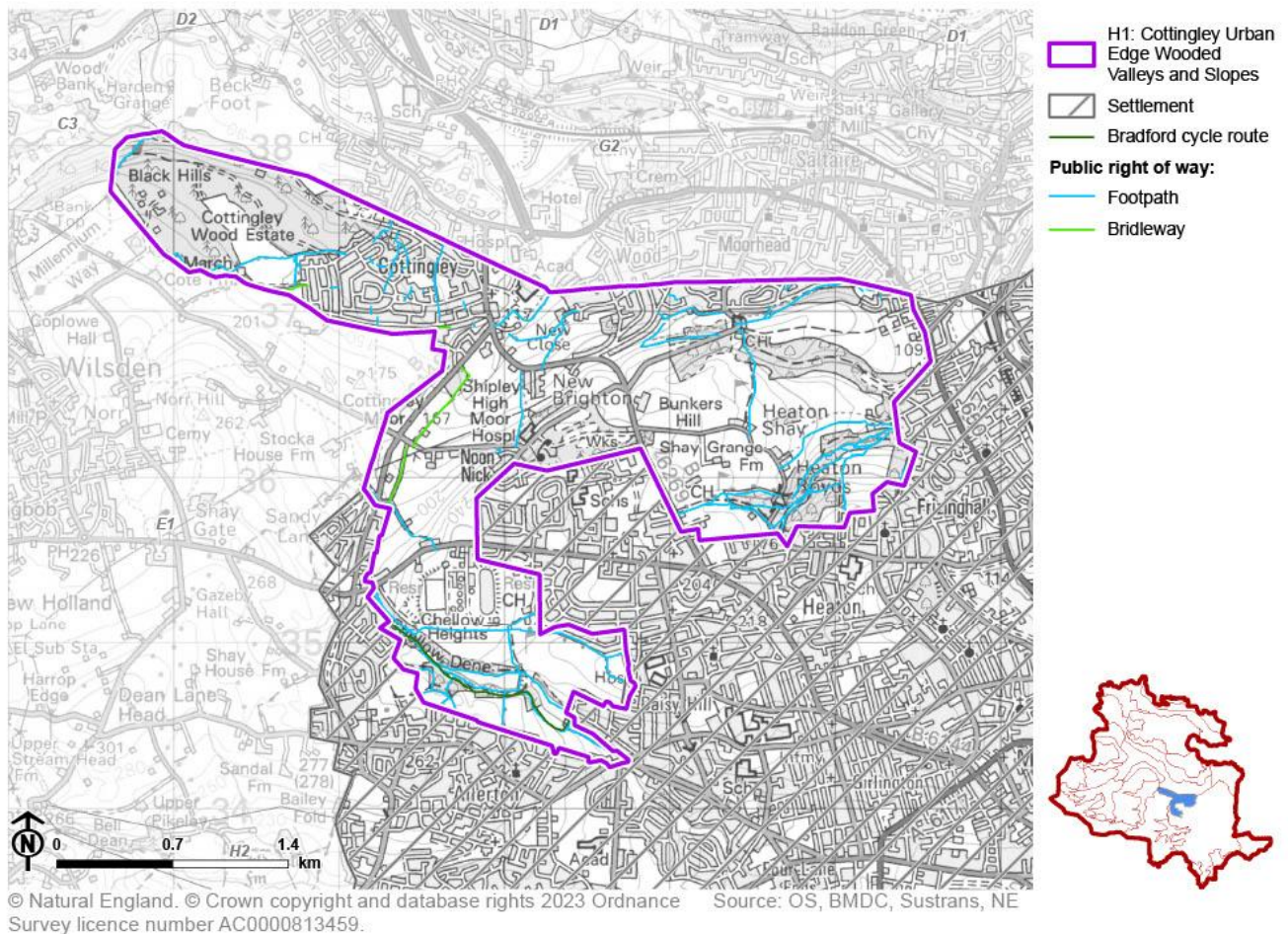
Figure 3.183: Cultural heritage of LCA H1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

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

Figure 3.184: Access and recreation of LCA H1



Access and Recreation

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

Views and Perceptual Qualities

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

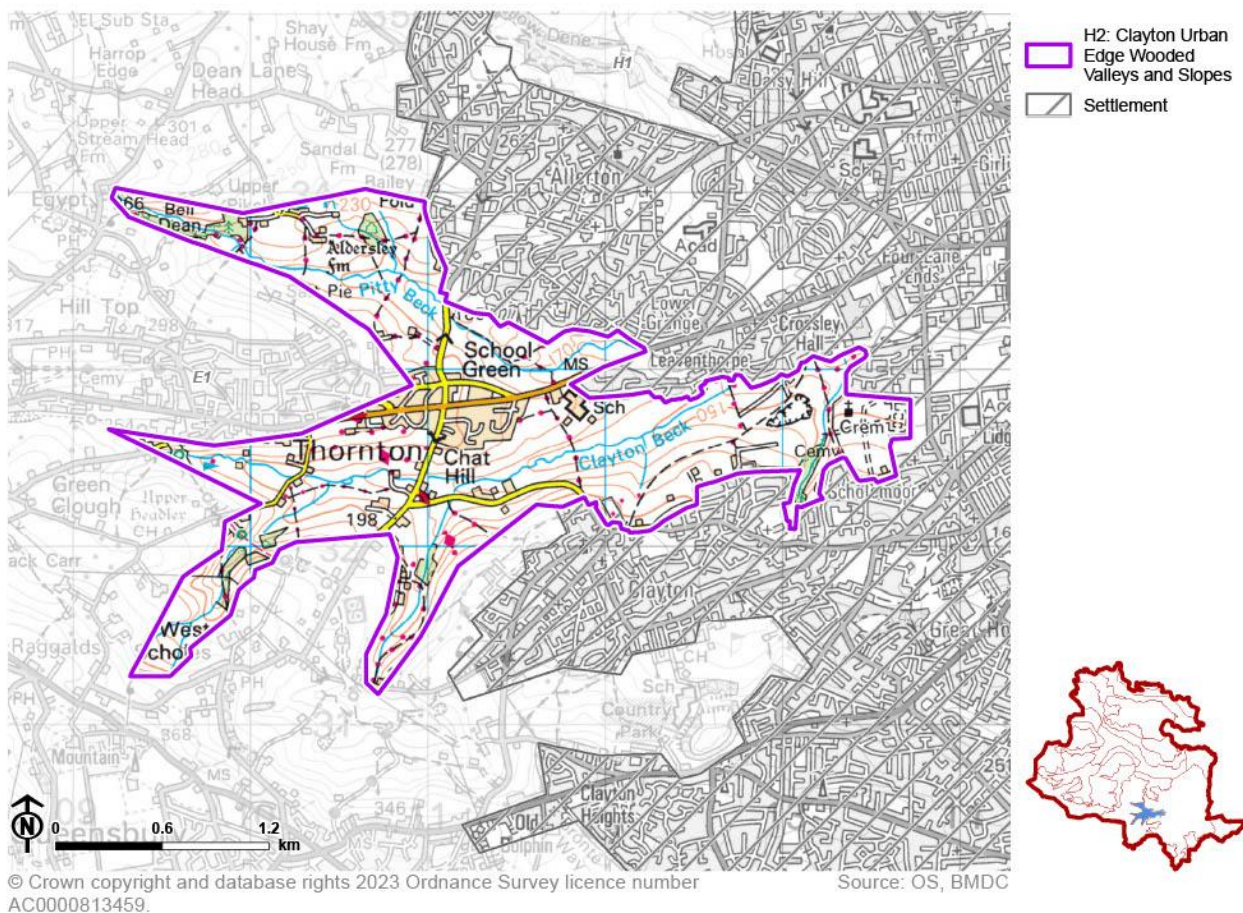
- The bold pattern of woodland emphasises variations in the landform, giving a strong structure to the landscape. In general, the wooded valleys are viewed in the landscape as bold, dark green blocks of trees which run along the stream valleys. These areas have a very enclosed character from within.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

H2. Clayton Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

Location, Context and Summary

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

Figure 3.185: Location of LCA H2



Key Characteristics

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

Figure 3.186: Example photos from LCA H2



Folds of the valley with the Thornton viaduct widely visible.



Pastoral valley slopes with drystone walls in mixed condition.



Settlement of Thornton is distinctive on horizon.



Small-scale piecemeal field pattern of pasture.



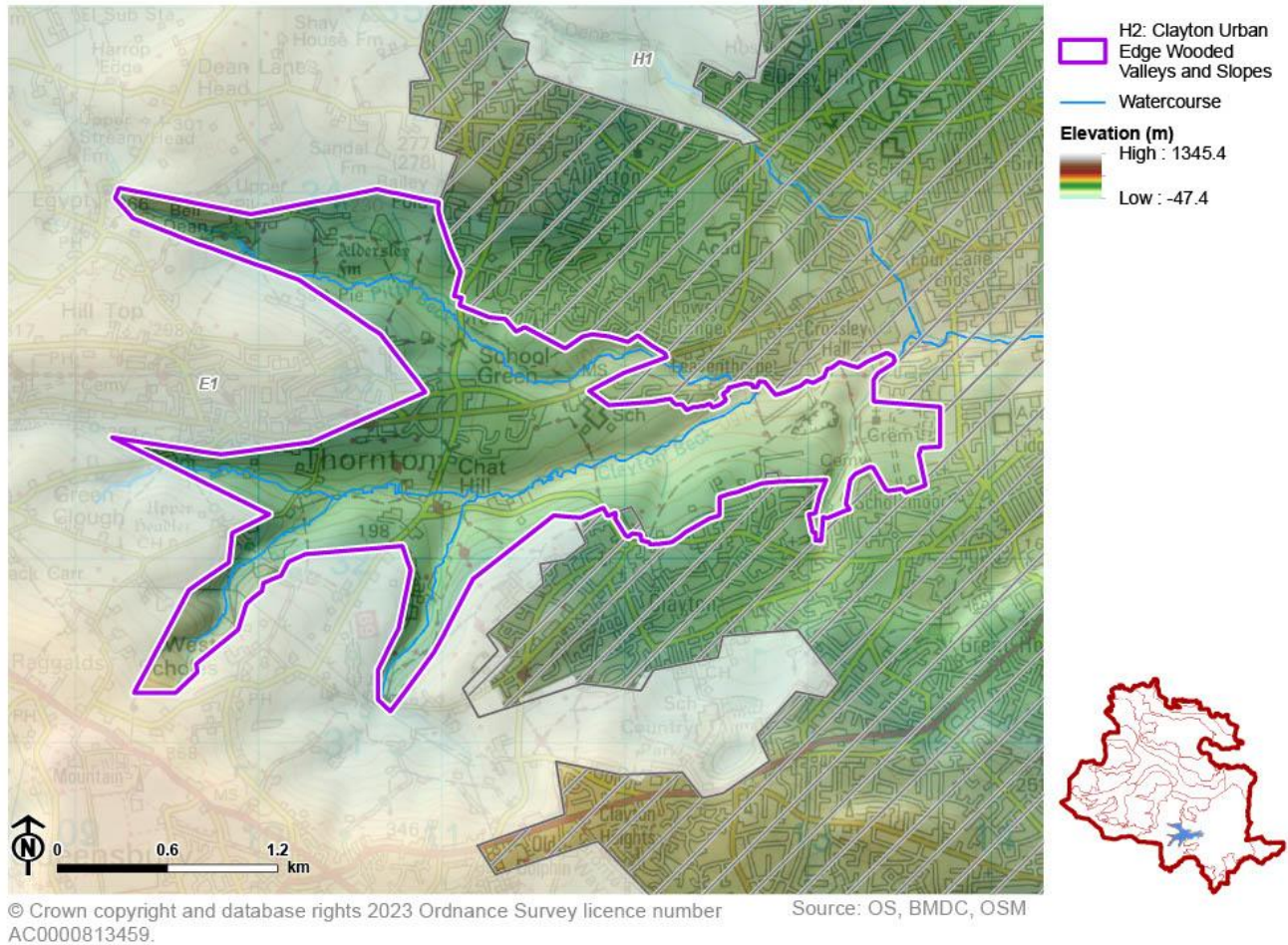
Horse pasture common throughout.



Church of St James key feature on skyline.

Landscape Character

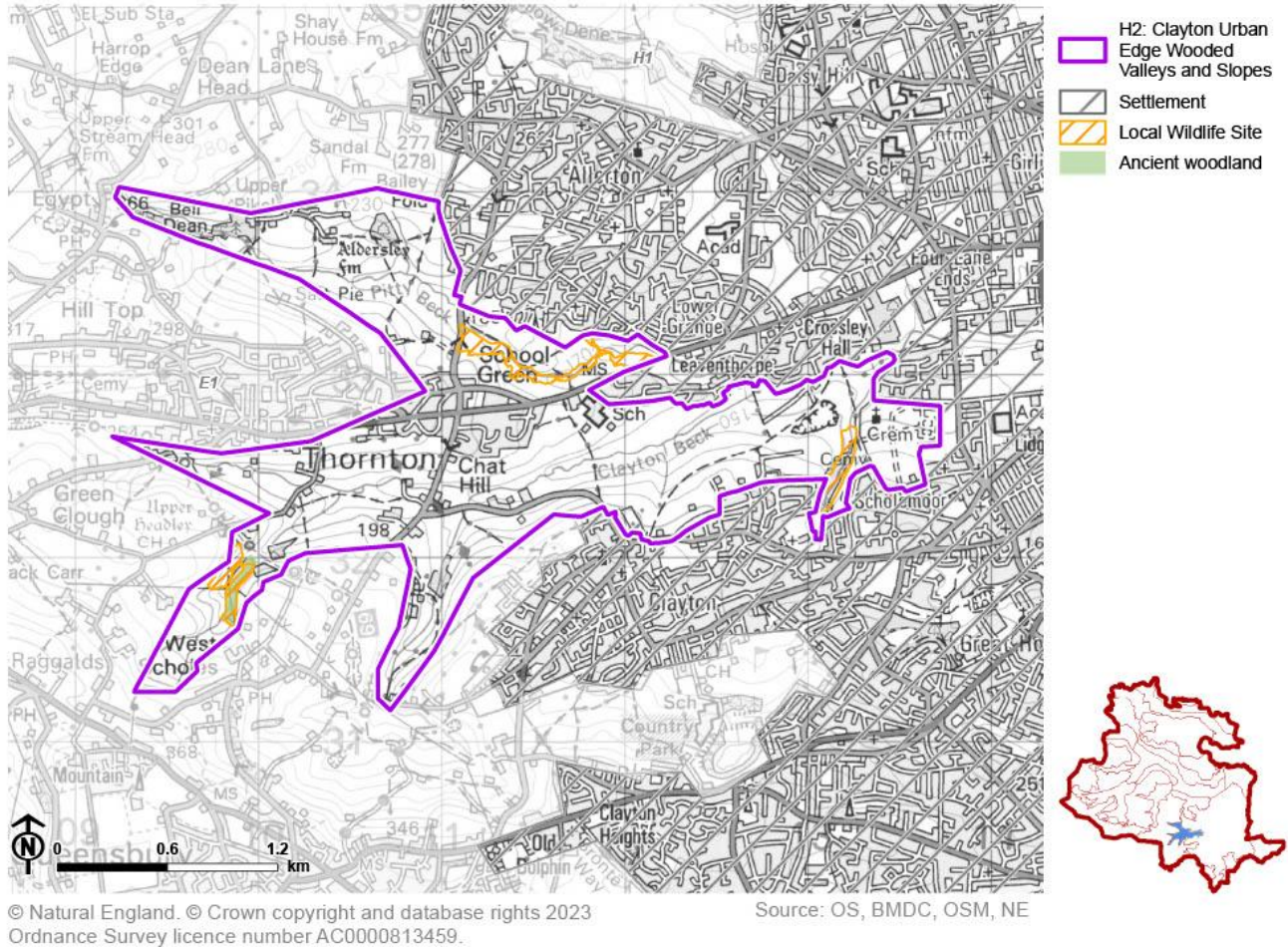
Figure 3.187: Topography of LCA H2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

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

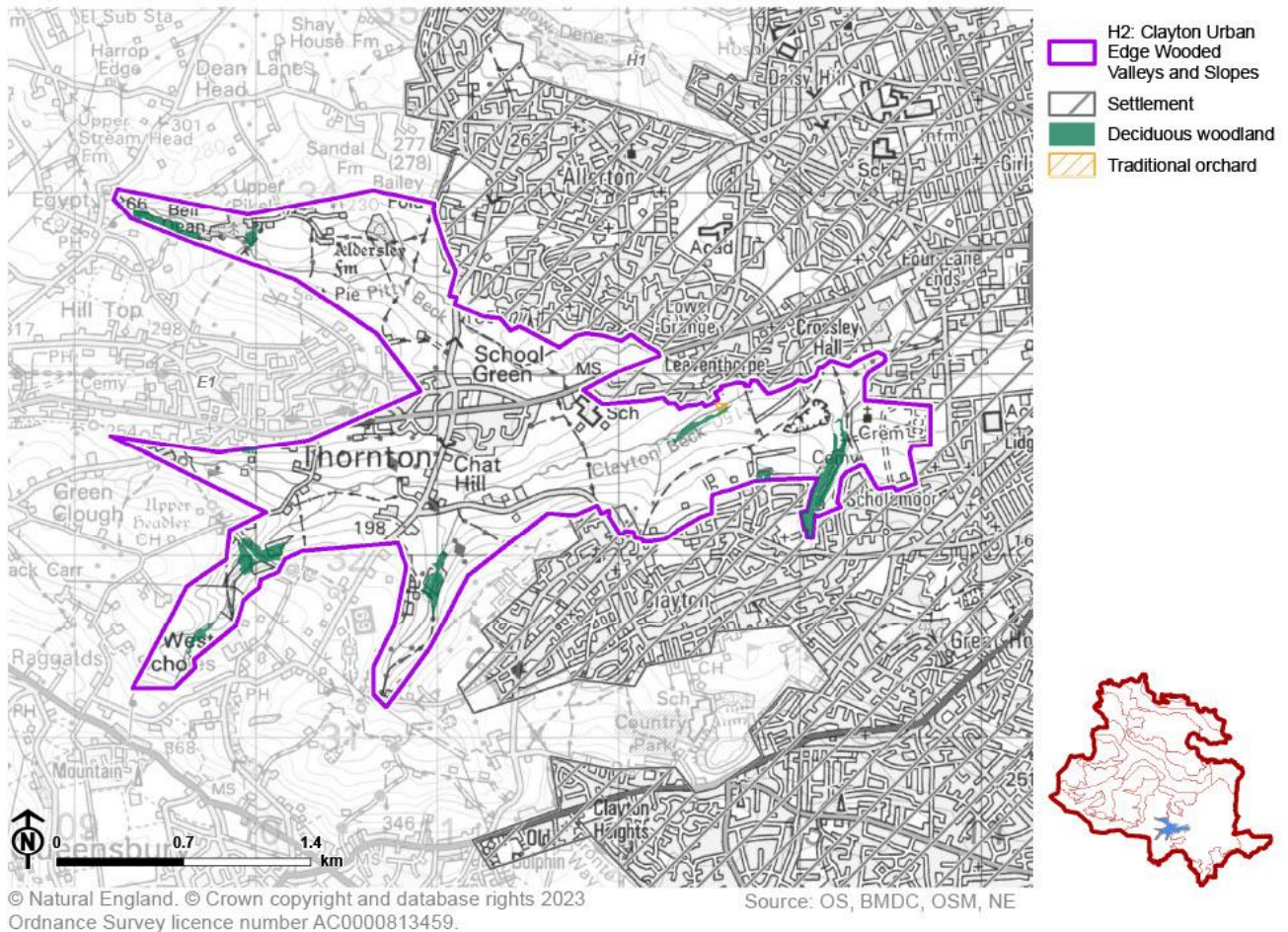
Figure 3.188: Natural heritage of LCA H2



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

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

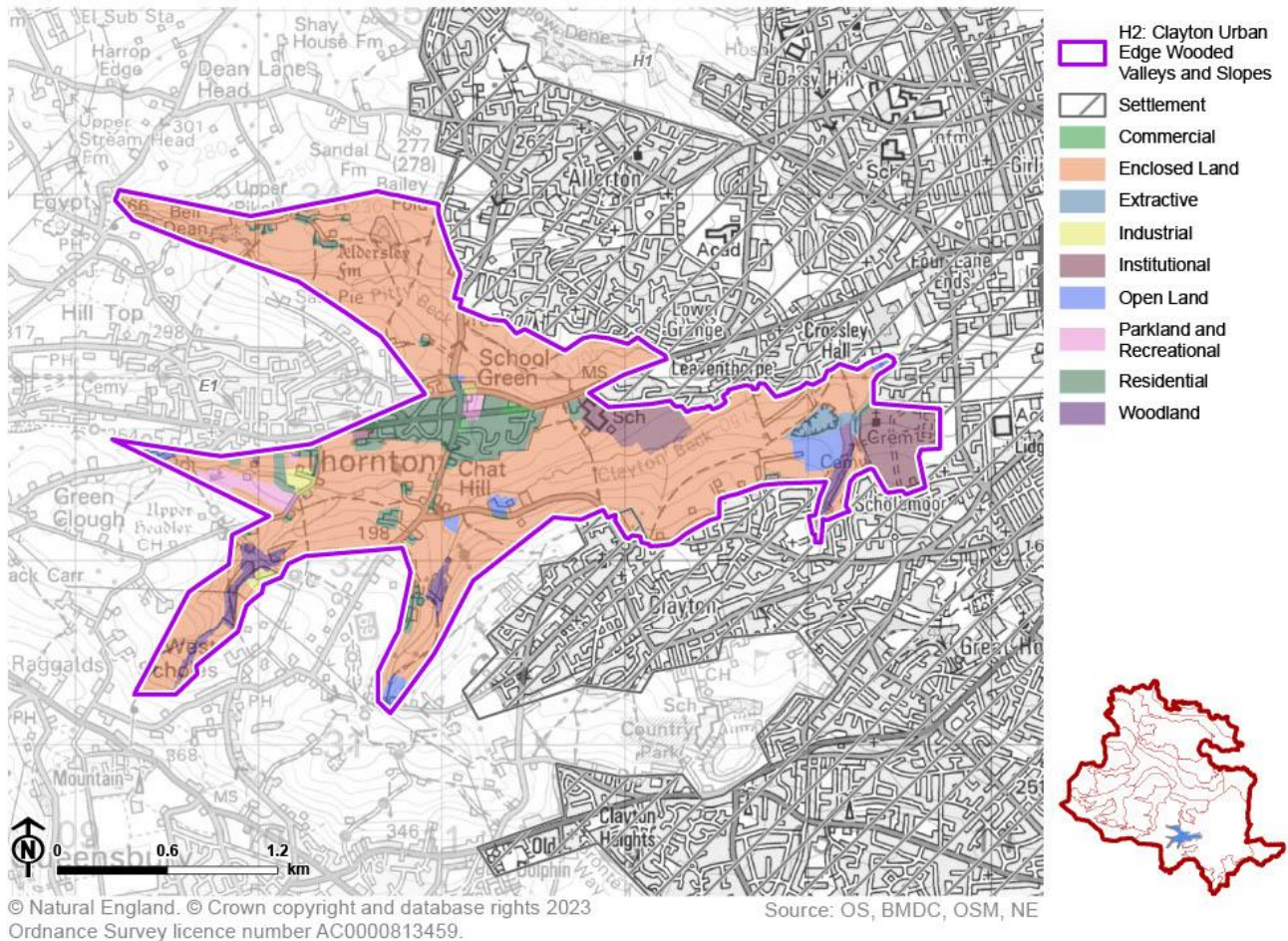
Figure 3.189: Priority habitat inventory of LCA H2



Land Use and Field Patterns

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

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

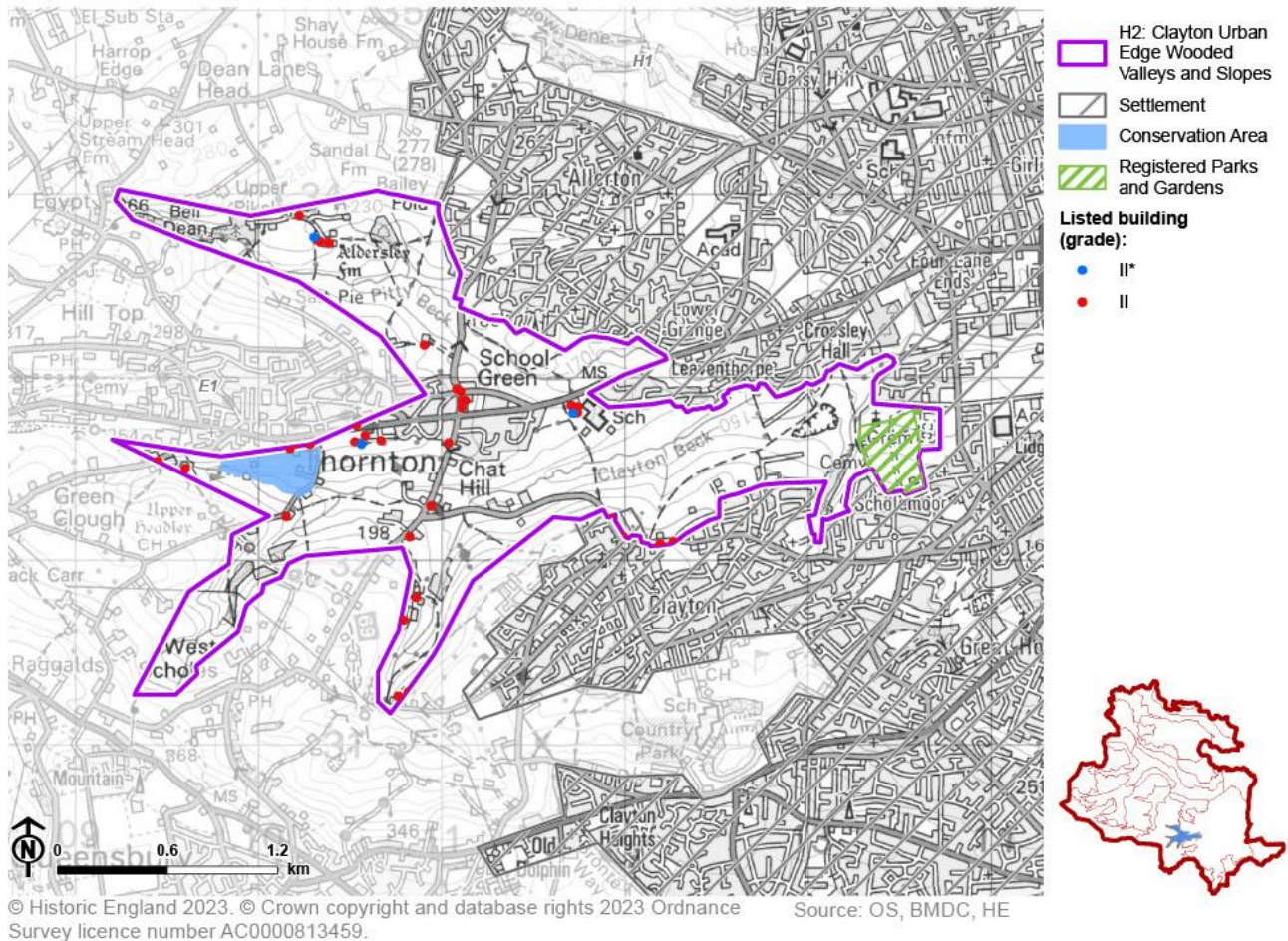


Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

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

- Thornton has literary associations as the birthplace of the Brontë sisters, whose father, Rev Patrick Brontë became the incumbent of St James Chapel in 1815. Now known as the 'Old Bell Chapel', the ruins of the chapel are a Grade II Listed Building.

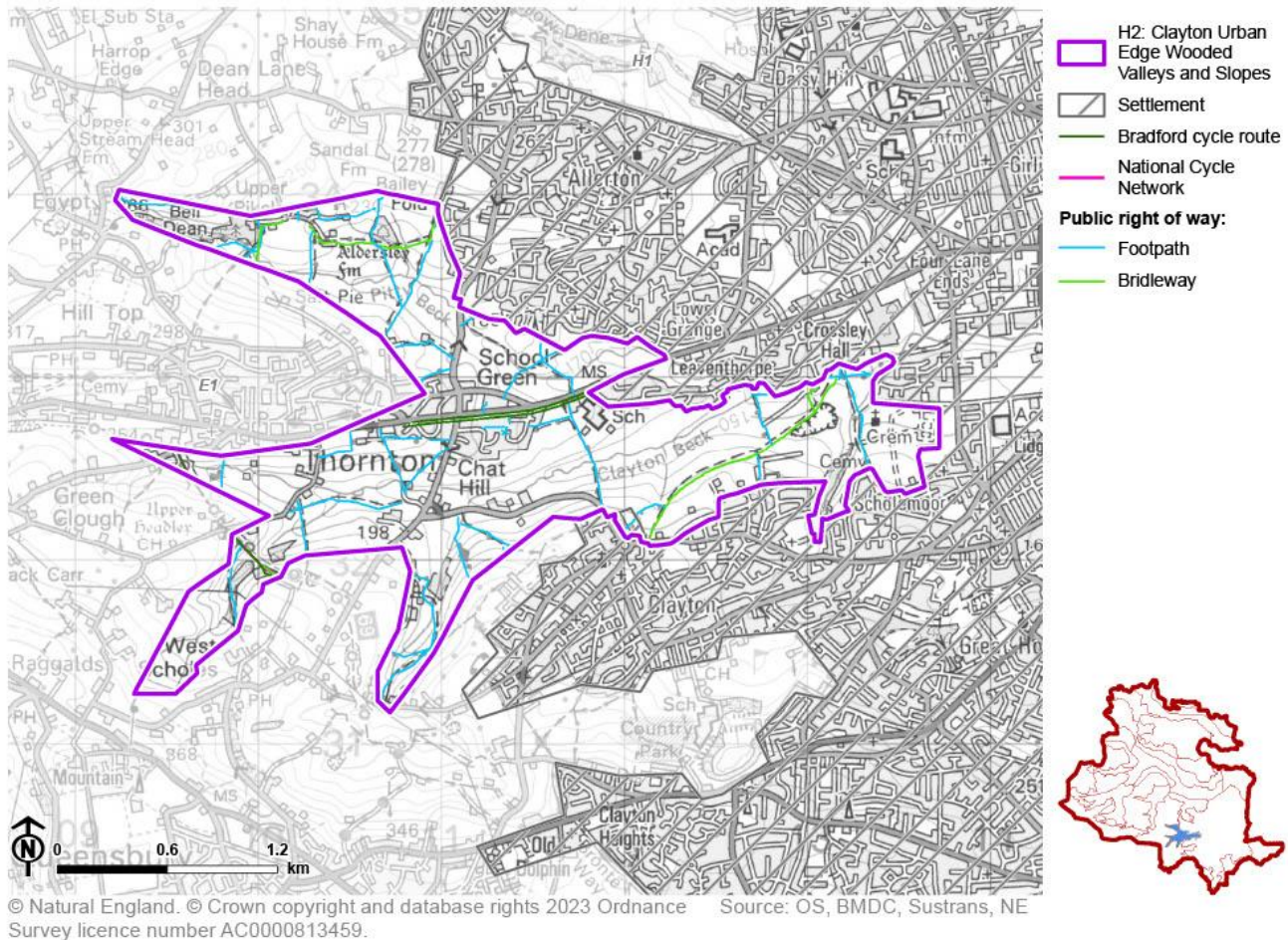
Figure 3.191: Cultural heritage of LCA H2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

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

Figure 3.192: Access and recreation of LCA H2



Access and Recreation

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

Views and Perceptual Qualities

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

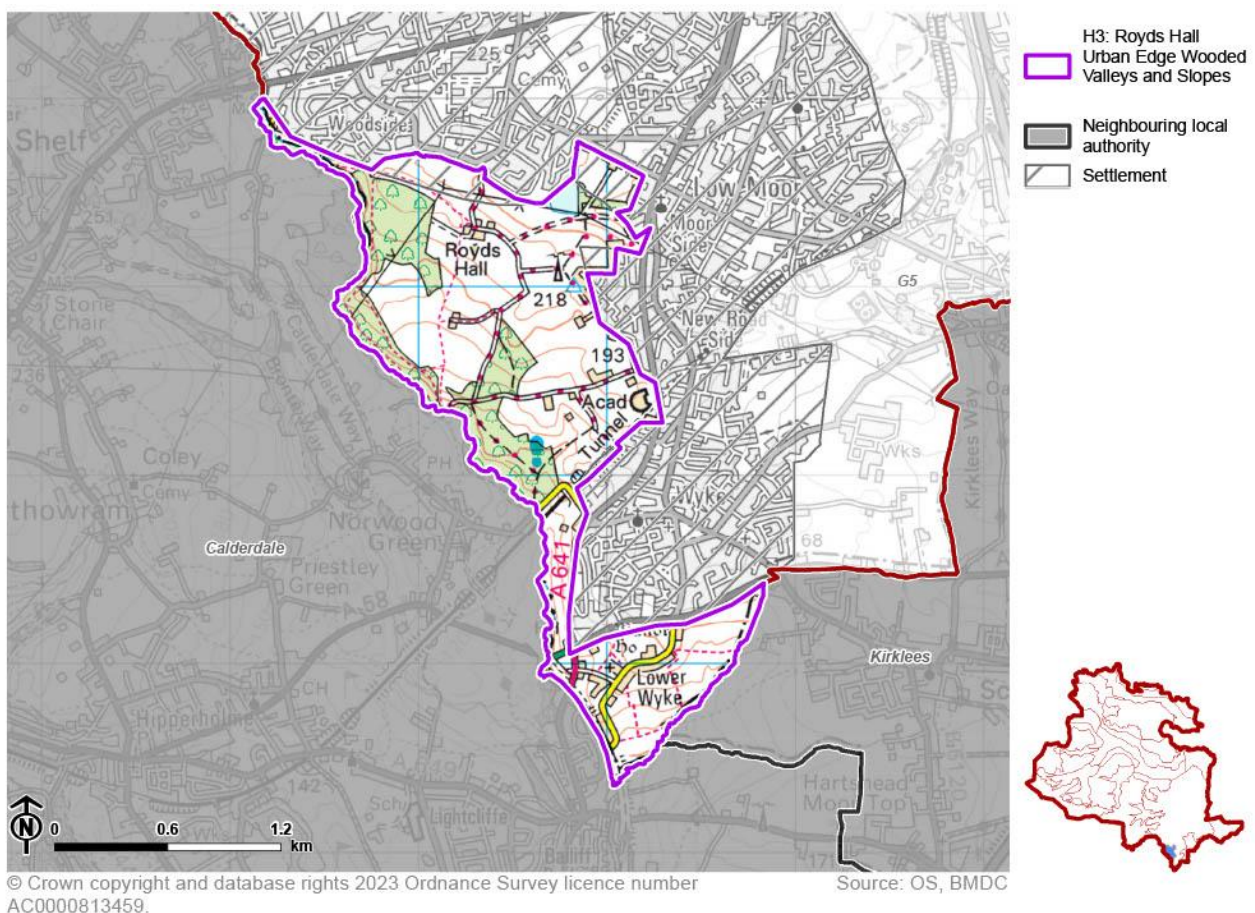
- In views to the west, large pylons and wind turbines in the E1: Thornton Mixed Upland Pasture LCA form prominent vertical features on the skyline.
- The steeper, wooded tributary valleys such as Pitty Beck, High Birks Beck and Hole Bottom Beck have a more intimate, enclosed character than Clayton Beck.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

H3. Royds Hall Urban Edge Wooded Valleys and Slopes

Location, Context and Summary

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

Figure 3.193: Location of LCA H3



Key Characteristics

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

Figure 3.194: Example photos from LCA H3



Pastoral fields standing above Royds Hall Beck and Judy Woods.



Close association with urban edge.



Rural character remains around Royds Hall Manor House and farm.



Park Dam and the urban edge of Low Moor.



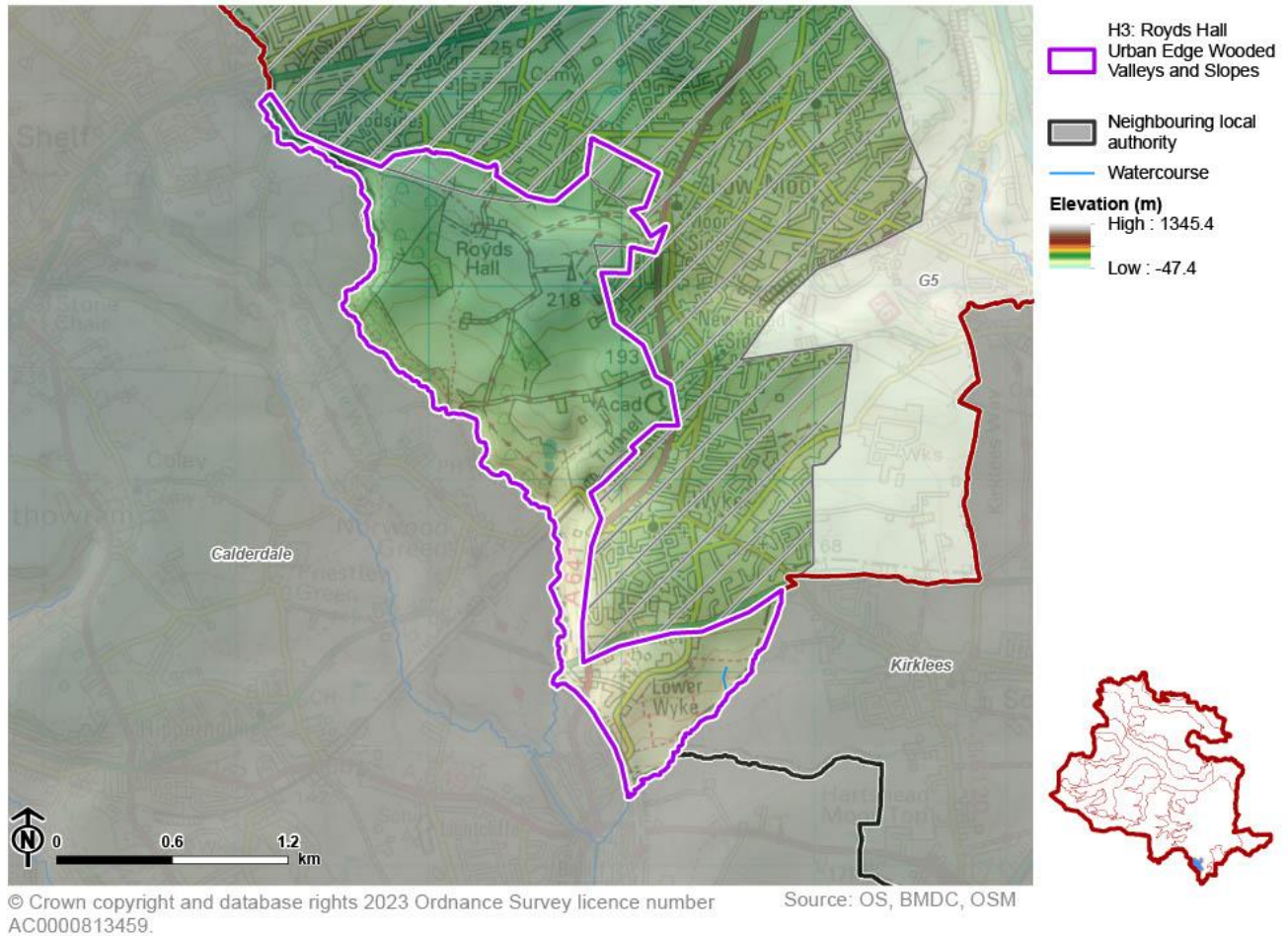
Sense of elevation above Calderdale District to the south west.



Pylons and the urban fringe of Bradford influence wider character.

Landscape Character

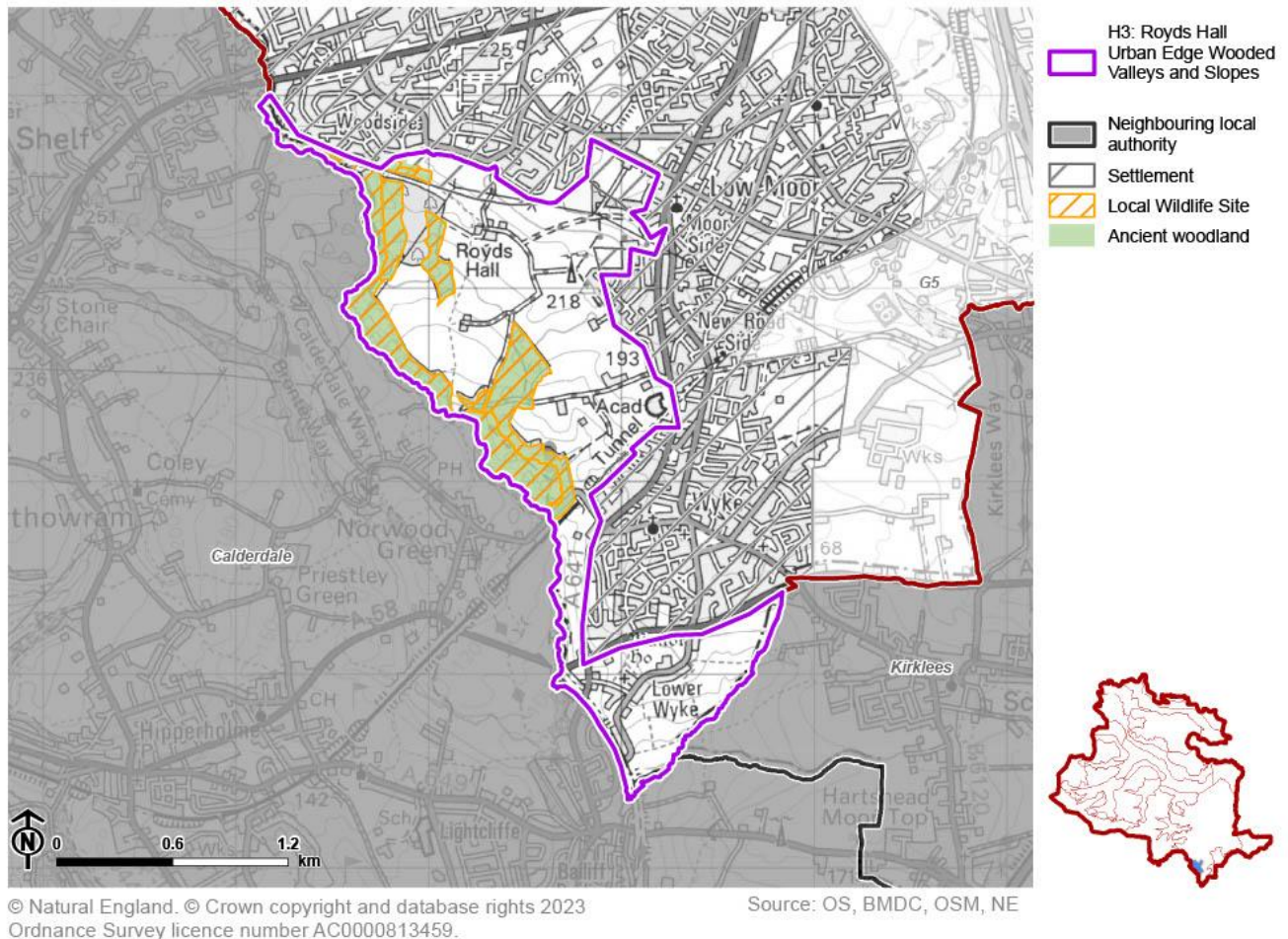
Figure 3.195: Topography of LCA H3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

- The underlying bedrock comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Lower Pennine Coal Measure Formation, as well as Clifton Rock Sandstone. Ironstone nodules are found within the bedrock. The underlying coal measure geology has informed a different character to much of the wider Bradford District which is predominantly gritstone.
- These rocks break down into low fertility acidic soils. The predominant soil type is a seasonally wet loamy and clayey soil with impeded drainage and a smaller area of freely draining loamy soil in the vicinity of Royds Hall.
- There is a small area of soft landslip adjacent to Royds Hall Beck and close to Royds Hall Great Wood.
- Royds Hall Beck flows north to south along an incised wooded valley at the western edge of the area. The stream has eroded a small gorge and a waterfall has formed where harder sandstones overlay softer rock. Wyke Beck and some other minor watercourses are present in the south of the area. Royds Hall Dam forms the only large body of water.
- The landform broadly dips north to south from a high point of approximately 226m AOD at Royds Hall Great Wood to a low point of approximately 100m south of Lower Wyke.

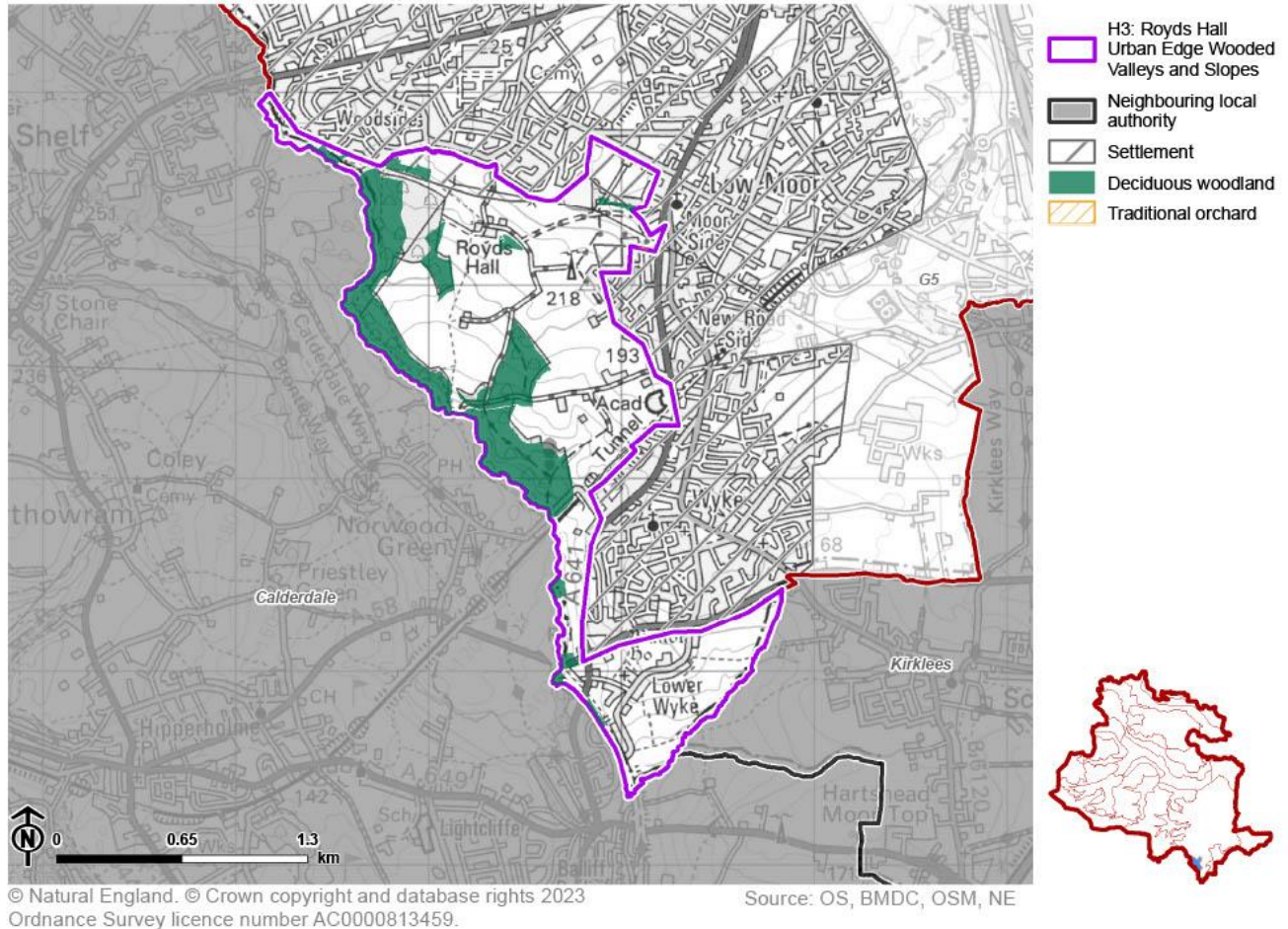
Figure 3.196: Natural heritage of LCA H3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

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

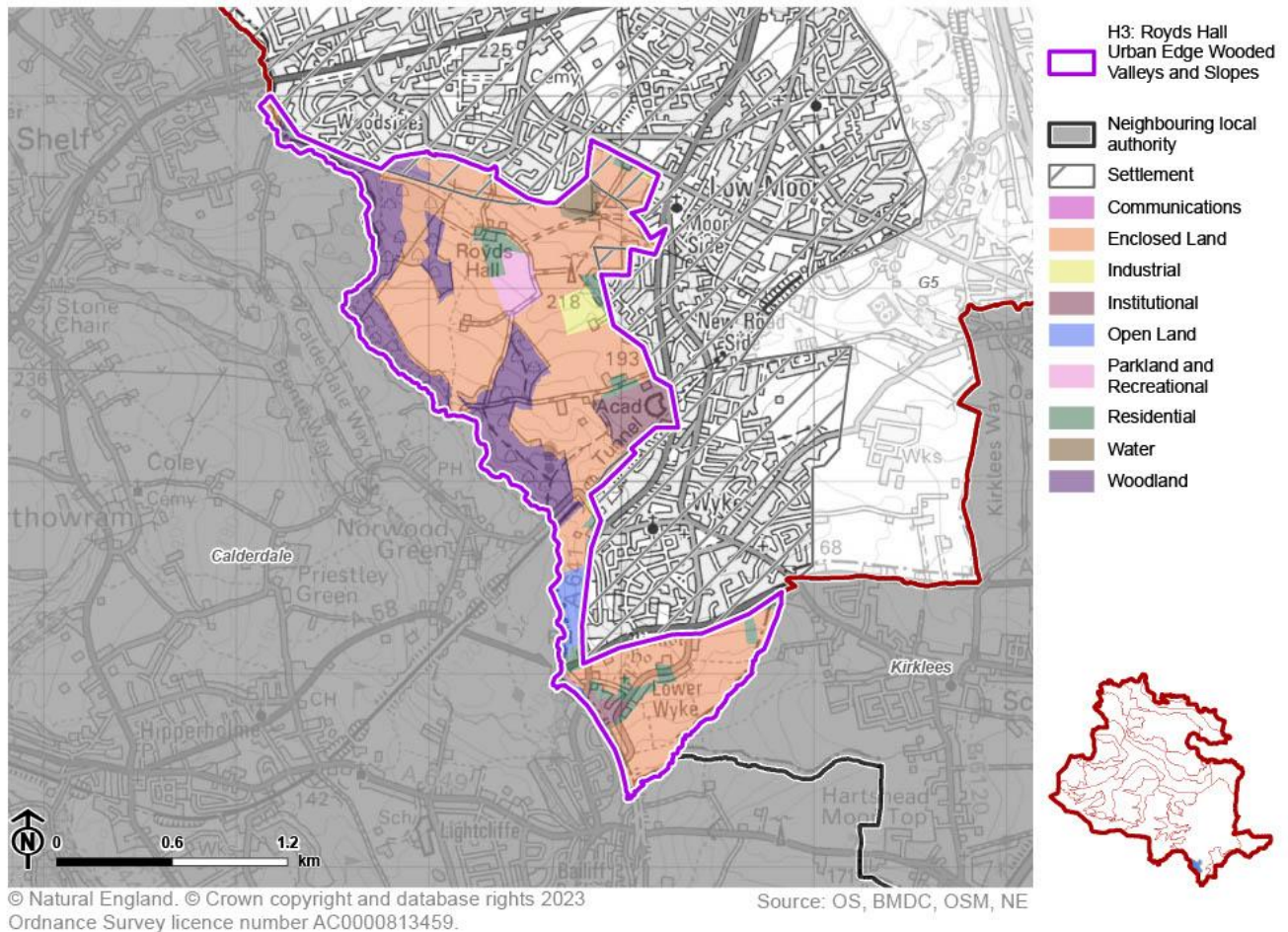
Figure 3.197: Priority habitat inventory of LCA H3



Land Use and Field Patterns

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

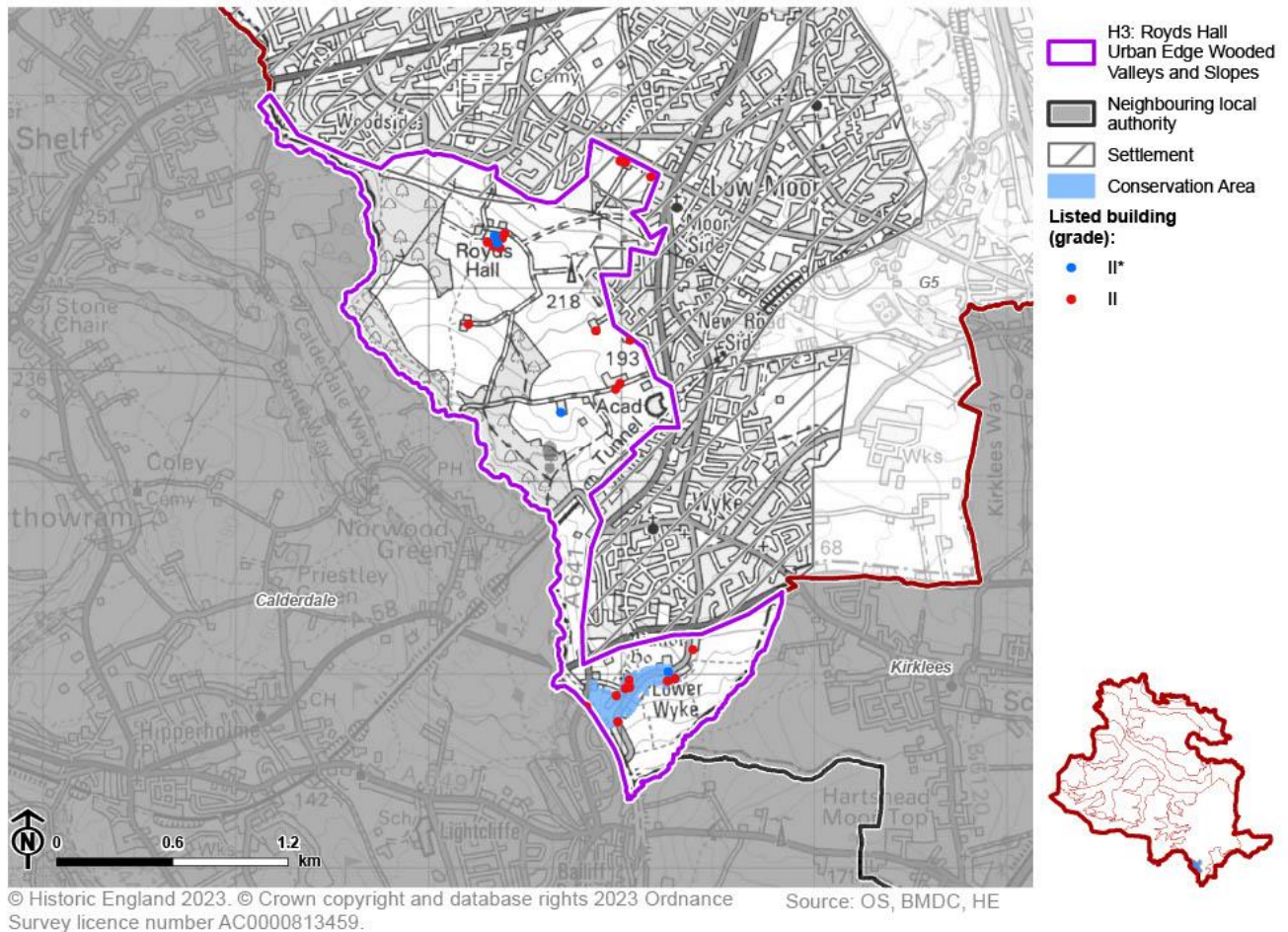
Figure 3.198: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA H3



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

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

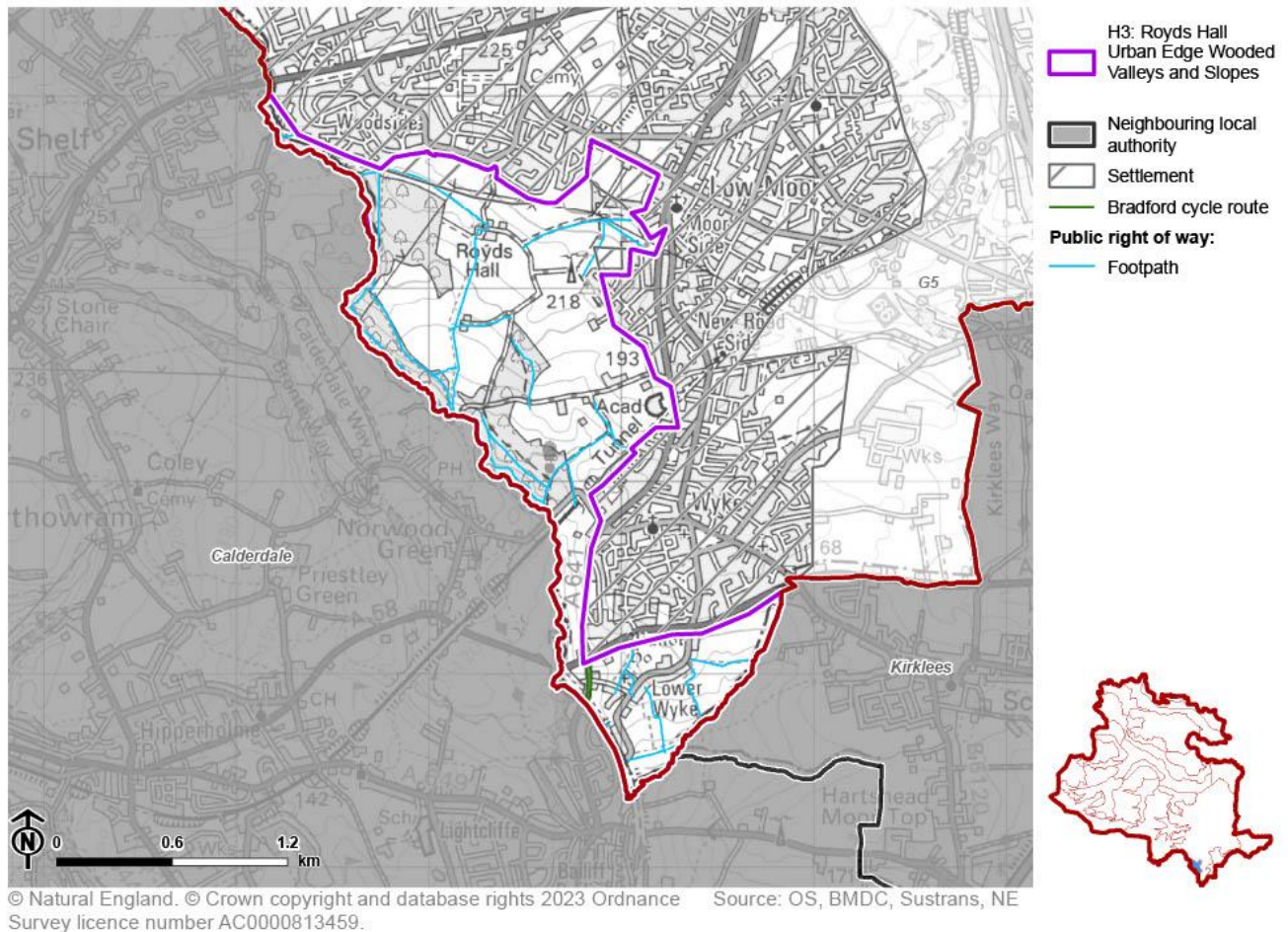
Figure 3.199: Cultural heritage of LCA H3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

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

Figure 3.200: Access and recreation of LCA H3



Access and Recreation

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

Views and Perceptual Qualities

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

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

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

Climate Change

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

Agricultural Change

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

Development

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

Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- Introduction of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and habitat banking related to Biodiversity Net Gain could alter the existing character through landscape-scale habitat creation and enhancements including management changes in some areas. Such changes should take into consideration the key characteristics of the landscape and seek to build upon and enhance character.
- Habitat connectivity along water courses could be impacted by a general trend of deteriorating river condition in England. These river courses are important for retaining biodiversity close to the city.
 - H1: Cottingley Beck and small becks around Chellow Dene, Royds Cliffe Wood and Northcliffe Woods.
 - H2: Pitty Beck and Clayton Beck.
 - H3: Royds Hall Beck forming the western border of the LCA.

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

Heritage at Risk

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

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

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

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

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

Guidance

- Encourage 'slow-the-flow' natural flood management techniques, particularly within the steep-sided river valleys, to reduce flood risk and enhance natural habitats.
- Enhance native riparian vegetation, including with drought tolerant species, natural grassland and rushes.
 - H2: Create vegetation buffers along Clayton and Pitty Becks.
- Manage extent of horse pasture and grazing, particularly on steep slopes.
- Conserve and enhance the characteristic field pattern and retain and repair drystone walls, in the local style and with local material.
- Integrate native tree species and woodland areas within new development to provide connectivity and integrate development into the landscape.
- Avoid development within river valleys, which form linear natural corridors separating the sprawling urban development.
 - H2: Around Thornton is particularly sensitive due to the conservation area designation.
- Support community involvement in management of woodland sites to ensure longevity of management and resilience to cope within increasing visitor numbers.
- If demand for golf courses reduces, consider exploring opportunities for bringing these into public ownership, increasing accessible open spaces within proximity to Bradford.