

Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report Bradford

City of Bradford Metropolitan Council

Final report
Prepared by LUC
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Executive Summary

The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD) was introduced under the Environment Act 2021. It requires all public authorities in England to consider how they can actively conserve and enhance biodiversity. Defra requires all Local Planning Authorities (LPA) and Local Authorities to report and publish what actions they have taken and plan to take over the next five years to meet the EBD. The first EBD report is due within 12 weeks from the 1st of January 2026 and will continue in five-year cycles.

Being two-thirds rural, Bradford district features an extensive and diverse mosaic of green and blue spaces which include sites of international significance. Of international importance, the South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) covers approximately 4,489 ha (12.25% of the district). Three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), including the South Pennine Moors, cover 4,498.25 ha (12.28% of the district). 2% of SSSIs are in favourable condition, well below the national average of 35%. The recently declared Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve (NNR) (1,272 ha), 13 Local Nature Reserves (LNR) (196 ha) and 119 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) (1,487 ha) are additional important components of Bradford district's statutory and non-statutory designated site network. The district has nationally scarce priority habitats including upland heathland and blanket bog. These support a variety of wildlife but also capture and store large amounts of carbon, proving it to be an important resource in halting both the climate and ecological crises. Tree canopy cover, a key asset for biodiversity, air quality and climate resilience, covers 3,349 ha, equivalent to 9.14% of the district, below the national target of 16.5% by 2050.

Across the Bradford district, habitat creation and enhancements have been delivered including extensive restoration works on Ilkley Moor, involving the planting of over 56,000 sphagnum moss plugs, and the creation of wetland habitat at Chellow Dene Wetlands. The Council has invested heavily in green infrastructure and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) including an extensive regeneration programme in the city centre providing 12,000m² of new greenspace, which includes the planting of 250 trees, 2,000 shrubs and wildflowers. This regeneration has received multiple national and regional awards including 'national infrastructure project of the year' at the Constructing Excellence Awards. Between 2020 and 2023, 60,000 trees were planted, equivalent to a tree for every primary school aged child in the district. Habitat improvements and increased green infrastructure provision has been complemented



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by dedicated actions for target species, including the installation of a peregrine nesting box on top of City Hall.

Teams within the Council which have officers dedicated to conserving and enhancing biodiversity include the Countryside & (and) Rights of Way Service (two ecologists and two more waiting to recruit), the parks and woodlands team (including a woodland manager) and the landscape, conservation and heritage team which includes a woodland creation officer. The Council have been successful in obtaining large amounts of external funding for conserving and enhancing biodiversity including £843,500 from the Nature Towns and Cities Fund. The Council support the Bradford Biodiversity Partnership (a collection over 25 organisations with a vested interest in biodiversity conservation and management across the district) and over 20 'Friends of' groups who assist the Council in managing sites important for biodiversity.

The Council has received 169 planning applications which are BNG applicable. Four Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) plans have been approved by the LPA. As of December 2025, there is one legally listed BNG sites in the Bradford district. The Council has been exploring options to establish a series of habitat banks across the district and is working with landowners to facilitate the establishment of further habitat banks.

Over the next five years, the council will explore the options for a council owned habitat bank to deliver BNG. Other major initiatives include delivering the nature towns and cities and the nature and wellbeing projects which both have a focus on improving the quantity and quality of urban green spaces across the district. As of the end of 2025, Bradford Council is preparing its new Local Plan which promises to have a strong environmental focus.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (hereafter referred to as Bradford Council) to meet the requirements of their Enhanced Biodiversity Duty, as per the reporting requirements for the period of 1st January 2024 to 1st January 2026.

1.2 The report brings together existing work including policies, strategies and action plans that Bradford Council have completed or have in progress. It sets out what actions Bradford Council have taken for biodiversity since 2020 and takes a forward look at future actions to 2030. It provides a framework to assess current progress and sets a baseline for future reporting periods.

1.3 Beyond Defra guidance, this report also presents a “state of nature” section providing a baseline of the quantity, quality and accessibility of nature-rich green space across the district. It provides an overview of key national and regional biodiversity targets and the progress the Council is making toward helping to achieve them. Beyond biodiversity, the inclusion of elements focussing on climate resilience seek to emphasise the importance of joined up thinking and the reality of climate risks for now and the future, and how best to ameliorate them and work with nature-based solutions for people, nature and the climate.

1.4 The EBD reporting process brings together different teams within the council whose work delivers, or can better deliver, for biodiversity. It helps to compile achievements, prompt and promote cross-team communications and streamline resourcing in achieving tangible gains for biodiversity.

Why Nature Matters

1.5 Nature is essential for all life on earth. We depend on it for the air we breathe, the water we drink and the food we eat. It boosts health and wellbeing, captures and stores carbon and has a vital role to play in climate change adaptation. Nature underpins all economic activity, and the benefits received from nature is estimated to be valued at 95 trillion pounds.

1.6 Nature also has intrinsic worth beyond the quantifiable value we attribute it through natural capital and ecosystem services thinking. It enriches us spiritually,

brings us great joy and warrants an ethical consideration beyond the framework we conventionally ascribe value, an intangible but important aspect of our humanity and our connection with nature.

1.7 In Bradford district, the conservation and enhancement of nature is key to achieving ‘a sustainable district’, an ambition of the Council Plan. Enhancing biodiversity will also help meet the ambitions and targets of other related strategies and plans across the district (see Chapter 3).

1.8 The Council’s approach to climate change, including the Bradford Climate Action Plan 2025 - 2028, is heavily integrated with its work with biodiversity. This reflects the interdependencies of the twin-crises and effort to mitigate and increase resilience. This report also includes emphasis on climate resilience to highlight this interdependence and outline thinking on how to tackle the twin-crises of climate and biodiversity in a joined-up way.

The Bradford Area

1.9 Bradford is one of five metropolitan districts located in the county of West Yorkshire, England. It covers approximately 141 square miles and is bounded to the north by the county of North Yorkshire and shares district borders with Leeds to the east, Kirklees to the south, Calderdale to the west and Pendle to the northwest (see Figure 1 in Appendix A).

1.10 At the time of writing, Bradford district has a population of 560,200 and is the fifth-largest metropolitan district in England in terms of population, after Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, and Manchester. [\[See reference 1\]](#)

1.11 The district is named after its largest conurbation, Bradford, located towards the southern boundary. It also includes the towns and villages of Keighley, Shipley, Bingley, Ilkley, Haworth and Silsden.

1.12 In proximity to the main urban areas, two-thirds of the district is classed as rural, comprised of open moorland of the South Pennines, farmland, heathland, unimproved grassland, wetland and river valleys. Several statutory and non-statutory designated sites are in place to protect this important network of priority habitats and the species they support. (see Figure 2 and Figure 3 in Appendix A).

Bradford Council

1.13 Bradford Council is a unitary authority.

1.14 The Council has a leader and an executive team, who small group of appointed councillors who take on responsibility for different areas of the Council (portfolios), such as education, transport and community safety. These portfolio holders are responsible for key policy decisions. [\[See reference 2\]](#)

1.15 The climate emergency and environmental health sit within the Healthy People and Places portfolio and planning sits within the Regeneration, Planning and Transport portfolio.

1.16 In total, 90 councillors on the Council make decisions on the delivery of services within Bradford. The Council also has a Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team who are responsible for implementing the decisions made by the councillors.

1.17 The Council employs approximately 8,500 people, such as social workers and town planners, to deliver the services within Bradford district.

Legal and National Policy Context

1.18 This section summarises the national background context for the Enhanced Biodiversity Duty and associated reporting and national conservation targets. Bradford Council's progress in fulfilling the national duties is presented in Chapter 3.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006

1.19 The NERC Act 2006 first introduced the Biodiversity Duty, requiring all public authorities in England to consider what action they can reasonably take for the conservation of biodiversity.

The Environment Act 2021

1.20 The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the Biodiversity Duty and amends the NERC Act as set out above. Under the strengthened duty, public authorities must consider what they can do to both conserve and enhance biodiversity.

1.21 The Act also introduced Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) amongst other key instruments for conserving and enhancing nature. LNRS, prepared by a Responsible Authority, identify priorities for nature recovery locally and proposes measures in locations identified using local evidence and input from local stakeholders. BNG mandates that developers must deliver a biodiversity uplift of at least 10% in some circumstances.

The Environment Improvement Plan 2025

1.22 The Environmental Improvement Plan 2025 took forward the delivery of the Environment Act 2021. It sets out the legally binding targets and actions needed for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural environment. The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) will use EBD reporting to assist in their requirements to monitor the delivery of the Environmental Improvement Plan.

Levelling Up and Regeneration (LUR) Act 2023

1.23 The LUR Act 2023 instructs Public Authorities to “take account” of the LNRS, strengthening the duty of the Environment Act 2021 that requires public authorities to “have regard” for the LNRS. This strengthened duty places an onus on Local Authorities to consider how they can “take account” of the LNRS. The EBD is a mechanism for these bodies to articulate how they have or are planning to deliver this duty.

Method

1.24 This report has been prepared by LUC. The process has included:

1. An inception meeting to discuss the scope, timeline and relevant data to support delivery of the report.
2. Targeted research to identify key targets, metrics, actions and other relevant quantitative and qualitative data that could help capture the local, regional and national objectives and measures and the progress in achieving them.
3. A Questionnaire issued to all Council officers to identify action taken to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
4. A workshop with 40 officers representing different teams across the organisation to discuss and identify relevant strategic targets and actions undertaken to deliver for biodiversity and climate change resilience.
5. Data analysis including spatial analysis through GIS. With support from the local environmental records centre: West Yorkshire Ecology Service, and analysis of other data collated to assess progress against targets.
6. The preparation of this report efficiently and effectively capturing the research and analysis undertaken and delivering the requirements of the EBD reporting.

Target Audience

1.25 This report will provide key information to Defra to assist in the monitoring of Environmental Improvement Plan delivery and to enable them to evaluate whether public authorities are delivering their EBD.

1.26 This report will be taken to the Council's Department of Growth Management Team for approval.

1.27 This report provides a useful overview to Bradford councillors and officers of the contributions the Council has made to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the district to date, helping to bring cohesion and efficiency between the workstreams that the various teams deliver. Importantly, the EBD report sets the trajectory of actions for the next five years.

1.28 This report will be published on the Bradford Council's website and provide information to residents to understand what action is being taken for nature in their district.

Consultation

1.29 This report has been prepared in consultation with Bradford Council officers from a range of Council departments. Data has been collated and analysed through a questionnaire and a cross-team workshop with officers representing Bradford Council functions.

Chapter 2

State of Nature

2.1 This chapter describes the current biodiversity baseline across Bradford. Formed from a set of measurable criteria, it can be repeated in future iterations of EBD reporting.

The State of Nature

Designated Sites

2.2 Bradford's designated site network covers 6,240.16 ha, covering 17.03% of the district. The sites capture the district's most important natural assets, from moorland and blanket bogs in the uplands to open river valleys and ancient woodlands in the lowlands. Together, international, national and local designations protect the best of this resource while supporting connectivity across a farmed landscape with dense urban conurbations. The statutory and non-statutory components, their purpose and distribution are set out below and mapped in Figure 2 in **Appendix A**.

Statutory Designated Sites: SACs, SPA, SSSIs

2.3 Of international and European importance is the South Pennine Moors SAC and South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA, which partly lie within the Bradford district (4,489 ha, 12.25% of the district). The SAC and SPA align with one another and are spread across two locations in the north and west of the district (**see Figure 2**). The site is designated as a SAC given the presence of European dry heaths, blanket bogs and old sessile oak woods. Its designation as an SPA comes from its important breeding bird populations, specifically golden plover, merlin, twite, curlew, snipe and short-eared owl.

2.4 Bradford district has three ecological SSSIs, covering 4,499 ha, and accounting for 12.28% of the district. Bingley South Bog SSSI (4.45 ha) is designated for its mosaic of damp grassland and wetland plant communities. Trench Meadows SSSI (4.8 ha) is designated for its nationally rare lowland meadow habitat. The South Pennine Moors (European designation referenced above) is also designated at the national level a SSSI. A small portion of the geological SSSI Yeadon Brickworks and Railway Cutting is in the northeast of the district. Most of this site (total size 3.3 ha) sits within the Leeds City Council area).

2.5 The percentage of ecological SSSIs in favourable condition within Bradford is 2.08%, well below the national average of 35%. [\[See reference 3\]](#). The percentage of SSSIs in other conditions is as follows:

- 76.30% in unfavourable, recovering.
- 21.46% in unfavourable, no change.
- 0.15% in unfavourable, declining.
- 0.01% in part destroyed.

Statutory Designated Sites: National and Local Nature Reserves

2.6 The Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve (NNR) was declared in May 2025. It is the first NNR in West Yorkshire. It consists of eight component sites spanning across Haworth, Harden, Bingley, Baildon, Shipley, and Ilkley, totalling 1,272 ha (3.47% of Bradford district).

2.7 13 LNRs sit within Bradford district, covering 196 ha (0.54% of the total district). Eight of these LNRs were declared in late 2025. Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework [\[See reference 4\]](#) includes a target of one hectare of LNR per 1,000 people. Bradford district's population is approximately 563,600 (according to the mid 2024 estimate)¹, which means with 196 ha of LNR, the district is currently suffering a shortfall of 367.6 ha of LNR. It is important to note that other non-designated nature reserves and those reserves beyond the district boundaries which also provide access to nature-rich areas for residents are not considered within this calculation and could contribute significantly to residents' access to nature.

Non-statutory Designated Sites

2.8 Complementing the statutory network are 119 LWS (1,487 ha; 4.06% of the district), which provide critical stepping-stones and buffers to the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA/SSSI and other national sites. They are primarily located in the rural areas of the district and support habitats and plant and animal species which are important in the local context.

Habitats and Species

2.9 Bradford supports a diverse range of priority habitats, totalling 7,046 ha and covering 19.23% of the district [\[See reference 5\]](#). 69.85% of all priority habitats are

under a statutory wildlife site designation. The extent and distribution of these are discussed below and mapped in **Figure 3 in Appendix A**.

2.10 Upland heathland constitutes the largest extent of priority habitat within Bradford, covering 3,098 ha (8.46% of the district). It is estimated that upland heathland covers 270,000 ha across England, meaning Bradford features 1.15% of this national resource, which is particularly important for invertebrates and birds [**See reference 6**]. Often, upland heath forms a mosaic with blanket bog, a priority habitat that covers a total of 1,198 ha (3.27% of the district) and supports further terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates. As these priority habitats are primarily located within the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA/SSSI, a considerable proportion is protected under the designated site network, equivalent to 90.92% of upland heathland and 97.97% of blanket bog.

2.11 Bradford has 1,559 ha of deciduous woodland, covering 4.26% of the district, below England's average of 10%. [**See reference 7**] 16.46% of this is protected under the statutory designated site network. 407 ha is classed as ancient semi-natural or ancient replanted woodland, which is only 1.11% of the district and is below the UK average coverage of 2.5%. [**See reference 8**]

2.12 Other priority habitats in Bradford which cover less than 1,000 ha but still contribute significant value to the diversity of the ecological network, include grass moorland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, lowland meadows, fragmented heath, good quality semi-improved grassland and lowland dry acid grassland. These habitat types are sensitive to potential changes in management or land use. Where these occur, it is typically in mosaic with other priority habitat types, however, considered individually, their distribution is relatively localised and/or fragmented.

2.13 Bradford's ecological network includes approximately 284.60 km of rivers and 23.54km [**See reference 9**] of canals navigate through the Bradford district, the majority of which (85.68%) have been assessed as Moderate or Good ecological condition by the Water Framework Directive [**See reference 10**]. This is shown in Figure 4 in **Appendix A**.

2.14 These watercourses support aquatic vegetation, fish and invertebrates, which in turn attract foraging bats, birds, and even otters on the River Aire and River Wharfe. The Priority Habitat Inventory estimates ponds cover 0.04 ha of the district.

Wider Green Infrastructure

2.15 The wider green infrastructure (GI), including nature-rich parks, greenways and other green spaces outside of the principal sites of ecological value, collectively

extends and connect the district's ecological network. The district Green Infrastructure Strategy is to be progressed in 2026 but currently OS Open Greenspace [\[See reference 11\]](#) estimates the GI network to account for 1,924 ha (5.25%) of the district. Public parks, gardens and playing fields offer the largest extent and make up 847 ha (2.31%). Other green infrastructure, such as golf courses represent 632 ha (1.72%), religious grounds and cemeteries (170 ha) and allotments (90 ha) may also contribute to this network.

2.16 Tree canopy cover, which takes the National Forest Inventory of woodland, trees outside of woodland (TOW) and traditional orchards into account, and is a key asset for biodiversity, air quality and climate resilience, is estimated to cover 3,349 ha, which is at 9.14% of the district. [\[See reference 12\]](#) This is below the national tree canopy cover target of 16.5%, demonstrating that further tree and woodland planting is required, in the appropriate place. [\[See reference 13\]](#)

2.17 Tree canopy cover estimates can vary. The White Rose Forest, the community forest for North and West Yorkshire, estimates that Bradford's tree canopy cover is 10.1% [\[See reference 14\]](#)

2.18 Average ward % canopy cover in Bradford district is 16.54%. Shipley has the highest % canopy cover with 33%. Wards with less than 10% canopy cover are City Ward (7.33%), Keighley West (9.03%) and Little Horton (9.91%).

Green Belt

2.19 Green belt land is a designation in the UK that serves as a buffer between urban development and the countryside. South and West Yorkshire, which encompasses Bradford, is one of the 16 green belt areas within England. [\[See reference 15\]](#) Bradford has 23,880 ha of green belt land, equivalent to 65.18% of the district, slightly above the average of 63.32% of the five local authorities within West Yorkshire.

Access to Nature

2.20 **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** in **Appendix A** demonstrate that the largest expanses of green space within Bradford are associated with the heathland and moorland habitats of the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA/SSSI, which are not directly accessible to some populations within the city of Bradford and surrounding towns. These sites of European and national importance are good examples to recognise that some ecological assets cannot accommodate high capacity for access where the qualifying features are sensitive to disturbance associated with recreational access,

such as ground nesting birds. For this reason, consideration of the wider GI network is important, not only to accommodate biodiversity that is important at a range of scales – from national to local and widespread – but also to accommodate the wider benefits of access, health and wellbeing, etc which Bradford needs to serve.

2.21 Tree equity, a rating between 0 and 100, is a method to highlight inequitable access to nature **Figure 5 in Appendix A**. The average tree equity score across all of Bradford district's lower super output areas (LSOA) is 81.8. Twenty-three (7.8%) of LSOA's have a tree equity score of 100. Three LSOA's (041C, 045C, 046A – all in the city centre) have scores <50, meaning that low tree canopy cover is disproportionately impacting the communities that live there. **[See reference 16]** These are areas where future tree planting should be focused to improve access to nature and to provide health benefits.

Climate Change

2.22 The Climate Just tool **[See reference 17]** shows that heat socio-spatial vulnerability, a measure of how climate change-induced higher temperatures will affect certain populations, varies within the Bradford district. The northern rural areas have a relatively low or average heat socio-spatial vulnerability, whilst the dense urban centres of Keighley and the City of Bradford have a higher index than the national average due to the urban heat island effect **[See reference 18]**. In total, 20.07% of the Bradford district has been assessed as having a relatively high, extremely high or acute heat socio-spatial vulnerability. **See Figure 6 in Appendix A**.

2.23 Some of the communities within the Bradford district also have a higher neighbourhood flood vulnerability in comparison to the UK average, as shown in Figure 6 in **Appendix A**. This is particularly the case for those situated in the city centre of Bradford and between Silsden and Keighley along the River Aire, where there is a high risk, meaning there is more than a 3.3% chance of a flood occurring each year **[See reference 19]**. The total area classified as at high risk of flooding from surface water within the Bradford district is only 2.22%, which is lower than the risk related to heat.

2.24 The Council Climate Action Scorecard is an assessment of the action that UK Councils have taken towards net zero **[See reference 20]**. In 2025, Bradford Council scored 42%, just above the national average of 41%. The Council scored 43% in the biodiversity section, 11% above the national average score. It should be noted that as of 2025, Bradford Council have not yet actively taken part in the assessment, and as such, all scores are generated from publicly available information. This has

resulted in an underrepresentation of Bradford Council's true Council Climate Action Scorecard and their action to date to achieve net zero.

2.25 As an alternative to the Council Climate Action Scorecard, Bradford Council undertake the annual Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) assessment. **[See reference 21]**. In 2025, Bradford was awarded a high B grade. According to the CDP, this means that Bradford Council is *'implementing climate action. Evidence shows plans, policies, targets and actions to reduce emissions and address climate impacts'* The council is aiming for an A grade in 2026.

Chapter 3

Meeting the Biodiversity Duty

3.1 This chapter sets out the plans, policies and strategies that form the principal instruments to conserve and enhance biodiversity in Bradford, as well as the strategic policies and objectives for nature that the district has committed to through the delivery of its functions.

The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty

3.2 The Enhanced Biodiversity Duty (EBD) was introduced under the Environment Act 2021. It requires all public authorities in England to consider how they can actively conserve and enhance biodiversity.

3.3 Public Authorities must report their consideration, actions they've carried out to comply with the EBD and how they will comply with it over the next five years.

3.4 Under the Act, the report must include;

- The policies and objectives they have set to meet the biodiversity duty and the actions completed to date.
- What strategies (including the West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy) have influenced their policies, objectives and action and how they have contributed to their preparation.
- How they plan to comply with the biodiversity duty in the next reporting period.
- Any other information they consider appropriate.

3.5 Reports from local planning authorities must also include:

- Actions carried out to meet BNG obligations.
- Details of gains resulting, or expected to result, from biodiversity gain plans they've approved.
- Plans to meet BNG obligations in the next reporting period.

First Consideration

3.6 The duty requires a “first consideration” by all relevant public bodies by January 2024. This consideration should include agreement of policies, objectives and actions that will support the delivery the duty over the next five years.

3.7 In 2024, Bradford Council presented a first consideration to cabinet recommending they note and support the requirement of the EBD. It detailed the background of the EBD report and national conservation targets which Bradford Council should contribute to, existing policies and actions in place to conserve and enhance biodiversity and potential future actions and areas where the council could deliver more for biodiversity.

3.8 This report builds on that consideration, providing further detail on actions and achievements, whilst framing these using national, regional and local targets and metrics.

Local Context and Progress

3.9 This section reviews Bradford Council’s local polices, strategies and plans which refer to biodiversity. **Appendix B** pulls together all targets and actions within these plans and summarises Bradford Council’s progress to date.

Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents

Bradford Core Strategy Development Plan Document [**See reference 22**]

3.10 Adopted in July 2017, The Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) forms an essential part of the Local Plan for Bradford setting the strategic planning framework and policies to guide development within the district up to 2030.

3.11 The vision of the document includes *‘By 2030 [...], Sustainable development and management has been at heart of this growth and prosperity. The district’s unique landscapes, heritage and biodiversity assets have played a vital role in making great places that encapsulates what makes Bradford so special.’*

3.12 The strategic vision for Bradford is supported by 16 strategic objectives. Those strategic objectives with positive implications for biodiversity include:

3.13 Ensure that the appropriate critical infrastructure (including green and social) is delivered to support growth).

3.14 Safeguard and enhance the district's biodiversity assets through careful landscape, woodland and waterways management. In particular, the South Pennine Moors and upland fringe.

3.15 To support the delivery of the spatial vision and objectives, a limited number of strategic core policies are proposed. They set out the core approach to the strategy and inform the more detailed approach and policies within the document. Strategic core policies with the potential to positively impact upon biodiversity include:

- Strategic Core Policy 1 (SC1): Overall Approach and Key Spatial Priorities
- Strategic Core Policy 2 (SC2): Climate Change and Resource Use
- Strategic Core Policy 4 (SC4): Hierarchy of Settlements
- Strategic Core Policy 6 (SC6): Green Infrastructure
- Strategic Core Policy 7 (SC7): Green Belt
- Strategic Core Policy (SC8): Protecting the South Pennine Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC and their zone of influence (ZoI).

3.16 Policies require planning decisions as well as plans, strategies, programmes and investment decisions to seek to:

- Protect and enhance the district's environmental resources,
- Facilitate the management and expansion of vulnerable habitats (primarily blanket bog and woodland),
- Create new and improve existing green infrastructure, areas and corridors,
- Protect greenbelt; and
- Mitigate recreational disturbance on the South Pennines Moors SPA and SAC.

3.17 The strategy includes several thematic policies which seek to protect and enhance environmental assets and use of resources. Those which aim to protect and conserve biodiversity include:

- Policy EN1: Protection and improvements in provision of Open Space and Recreation Facilities
- Policy EN2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy EN4: Landscape

- Policy EN5: Trees and Woodland
- Policy EN7: Flood Risk
- Policy EN8: Environmental Protection
- Policy EN9 – New and Extended Minerals Extraction Sites
- Policy EN11 – Sand, Gravel, Fireclay, Coal and Hydrocarbons
- Policy DS2 – Working with the Landscape

3.18 Policies require plans, policies and proposals to:

- Ensure development contribute positively towards the overall enhancement of the district's biodiversity resource and landscape,
- Ensure development results in no net loss of woodland,
- Ensure flood risk and SuDS measures will be conducted in a way that benefits wildlife,
- Ensure development does not have detrimental impacts on designated sites or important habitats and species outside of designated sites; and
- Protect local green space that is valued for wildlife from development.
- Extraction of minerals should not cause the loss or deterioration of important foraging land with the SPA's Zol.
- Planning Decisions including Plans and development proposals should take advantage of existing features, integrate development into the wider landscape and create new quality spaces.

3.19 Targets in the Core Strategy DPD which relate to biodiversity include:

- Net increase in the % of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented over the monitoring period of the Core Strategy DPD.
- No deterioration in the ecological status of water bodies over the monitoring period of the Core Strategy DPD.

South Pennine Moors SPA and SAC Planning Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) **[See reference 23]**

3.20 Adopted on the 4th of January 2022, this SPD is linked directly to the adopted Core Strategy DPD Strategic Core Policy SC8: Protecting the South Pennine Moors

SPA and the South Pennine Moors SAC and their ZoI. It provides further planning guidance in relation to this policy and sets out a mechanism for the calculation of the financial contributions, by reference to development types, the level of predicted recreational impact on the SPA or SAC, and the measures upon which such contributions will be spent as required under Policy SC8 (ii) 3. The Policy includes:

- No development involving a net increase in dwellings will be permitted within 400m of the South Pennines Moors SPA / SCA.
- Up to 2.5km from the SPA/SAC boundary any development will need to confirm whether the proposed site is ecologically important for supporting populations of birds for which the SPA has been classified. Depending on these findings, developers will need to ensure that any impacts are addressed through mitigation before any planning application can be approved.
- Up to 7km from the SPA and SAC boundary, for any development with results in a net increase in dwellings, mitigation will need to be secured for recreational impacts. This can be through bespoke mitigation (i.e. providing alternative greenspace provision) or through developer contributions to the Council's strategic mitigation of impacts.

Landscape Character SPD [\[See reference 24\]](#)

3.21 The updated Bradford District Landscape Character Assessment SPD provides a robust evidence base to underpin the review of the Local Plan and to assist in the local planning process. It is intended to both inform work on policy development and development management, guiding development that is sympathetic to local character and the qualities of the landscape.

3.22 The assessment identifies pressures and forces for change – including those in relation to habitat management and environmental initiatives. It also includes guidance on the management of habitats to help protect, restore and enhance landscape character.

Homes and Neighbourhoods – A Design Guide (SPD) [\[See reference 25\]](#)

3.23 This design guide sets out eight priorities for the development of new homes and neighbourhoods in the Bradford District. One of the eight principles is 'green'. The priority description states that 'every new development should be seen as an opportunity to plant trees and shrubs, and to create attractive landscapes. Green

corridors, and blue and green infrastructure, should connect areas, helping people and wildlife get about and to sustain biodiversity and create climate resilient places’.

3.24 The design guidance within the SPD is split into three chapters. The first chapter is entitled ‘designing the brief’ and sets out a method for thorough site and context analysis before starting to design. ‘Prioritise the environment’ is one of five principles in this chapter. Whilst in this section of the SPD prioritising the environment is more in relation to air quality and low carbon design, the section signposts to other areas of the document where biodiversity is considered, and the planting of street trees is encouraged.

3.25 The second chapter of the design guidance is entitled ‘creating a neighbourhood’ and consists of 17 principles that developers must consider when designing new homes in the Bradford District. Table 3.1 summarises the design principles linked to conserving and enhancing biodiversity

Table 3.1: Bradford Homes and Neighbourhood Design Guide Principles

Principle	Summary	How to deliver
Biodiversity	All proposals must provide a net gain for biodiversity. This should be done by considering and enhancing biodiversity at the levels of neighbourhood, street and household.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The following scales of biodiversity should be considered and proposed. ■ Neighbourhood: ■ Incorporate SuDs that include features which support wildlife habitats. ■ Ensure that planting is dominated by native species of local provenance. ■ Include nectar and pollen species and berry- and seed-producing species for bees, butterflies and birds. ■ Provide and enhance connectivity habitats and corridors such as tree lines, diverse grass verges, hedges and water features so that species can move through the development. ■ Provide meaningful open spaces with areas for people and areas for wildlife. ■ Street ■ Include areas of wildlife habitats wherever possible. ■ Ensure that wildlife can pass through street environments by creating badger underpasses and hedgehog passes between gardens. ■ Avoid grated drains, which can be lethal for amphibians. Individual House ■ Incorporate swift bricks, bat tiles and bricks, and bird features into the fabric of new homes. ■ Plant each garden with a fruit tree.

Principle	Summary	How to deliver
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Avoid solid fences and walls between gardens wherever possible. Instead use shrubs, hedges and open-rail fences so that animals can move freely through green spaces. ■ Where fences are installed ensure that they incorporate holes to allow hedgehogs to pass through.
Landscape	<p>A landscape strategy must be set out for every housing development proposal which takes every opportunity to integrate well-designed landscape with a rich and native biodiversity into new housing development.</p>	<p>The Landscape proposal should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide a mixture of landscape features including natural play areas, allotments, floral gardens and wild planted areas to provide habitats for local species. ■ Retain existing mature landscape features, particularly the areas that support existing biodiversity, wildlife habitats and protected species. ■ Existing mature trees on the site should be retained. ■ New trees should be planted on new developments. They should have the space to mature and contribute to the development of local wildlife habitats in the future. ■ Include a robust management and maintenance strategy. Community participation is encouraged.
Water and drainage	<p>Local blue infrastructure which enhances biodiversity should be extended and integrated into new residential development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local blue infrastructure should: ■ Promote and enhance native biodiversity. ■ Be well linked to movement, open space, play, landscape and biodiversity strategies.

Principle	Summary	How to deliver
Open space	High-quality and green public open spaces must be provided as part of residential developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An open space must form part of a wider network of open spaces, green infrastructure and streets.
Outdoor space	Housing developments should provide children and young people of all ages and abilities with a variety of safe and accessible play spaces and facilities which are soft, green, inspiring and educational.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local parks and greens should provide a mix of amenities including planted areas.
Green streets	Street design should contribute to creating highly vegetated spaces that enhance biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify larger, primary routes for mature tree-planting. ■ Make boundaries green, where possible, by means such as dense planting, small hedgerows, or railings with planting next to them. ■ Set out a clear maintenance and management strategy for all planting. ■ Identify break-out spaces or small squares for play, seating and planting. ■ Green streets will be most successful when they are designed in conjunction with a series of well-devised open spaces, an effective landscape and biodiversity strategy and with private front gardens.

Area Action Plans (AAP)

3.26 Bradford Council has produced two AAPs for Bradford City Centre and the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor. These AAPs provide a more detailed framework for how the Core Strategy DPD should be delivered in those areas. These are outlined below:

Bradford City Centre AAP [See reference 26]

3.27 This framework provides the planning policies to guide the development and regeneration of Bradford City Centre up to 2030. This is the planning response to the City Plan vision for Bradford City Centre as a 'place that promotes pride, well-being and aspiration.'

3.28 Eight objectives will deliver this vision for the City Centre. Those related to biodiversity include:

3.29 An enhanced natural environment with improved green infrastructure, water management and biodiversity.

3.30 Policies within the AAP which conserve and enhance biodiversity include:

- Policy M5: Biodiversity in the City Centre.
- Policy M6: Green Infrastructure and Open Space within the City Centre.

3.31 Policies put forward Key Biodiversity Interventions such as The Butterfly Express and Key Green Infrastructure such as green roofs which should be delivered over the course of the plan period to improve the ecology of these regeneration areas.

Shipley and Canal Road Corridor AAP [See reference 27]

3.32 This framework provides the policies and proposals which will guide the transformation of the Shipley and Canal Road Corridor up to 2030. This will be delivered across three sub areas: Shipley, the Centre Section and the City Centre Fringe.

3.33 Eleven strategic objectives will deliver this transformation. Those related to biodiversity include:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity and green infrastructure.

- Reduce the impact of climate change through mitigation and adaptation e.g. green infrastructure.

3.34 Policies within the plan which protect and enhance biodiversity include:

- Policy SCRC/NBE4: Biodiversity and Ecology
- Policy SCRC/NBE1: Green Infrastructure
- Policy SCRC/NBE2: Waterway Environments
- Policy SCRC/NBE3: The Bradford Beck

3.35 Policies will protect important habitats located within the corridor and create new habitats, such as the Linear Park, and re-naturalise existing ones, such as the Bradford Beck, which will enhance biodiversity and strengthen ecological connectivity between the three sub areas.

Neighbourhood Plans

3.36 The Localism Act 2011 gives Parish Councils and other relevant bodies new powers to prepare statutory neighbourhood development plans (NDPs) to help guide development in their local area. These powers give local people the opportunity to shape new development as planning applications are determined in accordance with national planning policy and the local development plan. A Neighbourhood Plan forms parts of this local planning framework.

3.37 Between 2018 and 2025, eight NDPs were formally adopted by Bradford Council and now form part of the Development Plan for the Bradford District. These plans have visions, objectives, policies and guidance which aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity within the areas that they cover.

3.38 The Bingley NDP recently completed its examination but has not yet been to referendum.

Addingham Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018 – 2030

[See reference 28]

3.39 Prepared by Addingham Parish Council the plan sets out a framework for future development within the village and surrounding area. The vision for the plan states 'By 2030, the traditional lower Wharfedale character, special setting in the landscape and biodiversity of the Parish will have been protected and enhanced, and the village

will have accommodated necessary new development without damaging these special features and will also have strengthened its resilience to climate change’.

3.40 The plan has eight objectives. None explicitly reference biodiversity, although three are related:

- To conserve and enhance the area’s natural environment.
- To protect and enhance open space, green spaces and recreation sites.
- To strengthen resilience to the impact of climate change.

3.41 Policies within the plan that relate to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity include:

- Policy ANDP13 – Green Infrastructure
- Policy ANDP11 – Local Green Spaces
- Policy ANDP5 – Protecting Addingham’s Landscape Character
- Policy ANDP14 – Responding to Climate Change
- Policy ANDP2 – New Development in and Affecting the Setting of Addingham Conservation Area
- Policy ANDP4 – Good Quality Sustainable Design in Addingham

3.42 Policies require development protects and retain trees, hedgerows and areas of flowing water and creates buffer strips to protect these features, creates new green infrastructure and enhances and extends the existing green infrastructure network, includes native species planting and developers identify the potential to work with existing landowners to promote natural flood management and woodland planting in the Wharfe floodplain.

Bingley Neighbourhood Development Plan 2020 [\[See reference 29\]](#)

3.43 Drafted by Bingley Town Council, the vision of the provisional plan is ‘Bingley town and the villages of Cottingley, Micklethwaite, Crossflatts, Eldwick and Gilstead will be an attractive place to live and work, and which meet the economic, social and environmental needs of its businesses and residents, and which provide a good home for wildlife.’

3.44 Five core objectives will help deliver the vision. Whilst none explicitly reference biodiversity, those related include:

3.45 Bingley will become a walking and cycling town, by fostering the development of better open spaces and connections for walking, cycling and nature between settlements within Bingley Parish and to the town centre.

3.46 Maintain and enhance the distinct landscape and heritage character of the area.

3.47 The following policies support the delivery of the vision and objectives:

- BING8 – Local Green Space
- BING9 – Green Infrastructure Principles.

3.48 Policies include the protection of local green space and that development should contribute to nature recovery, create new and enhance existing green infrastructure and retain existing landscape features (trees, flower beds and hedgerows).

Burley-in-Wharfedale Neighbourhood Plan 2017 - 2030 [See reference 30]

3.49 Written by Burley-in-Wharfedale Parish Council, the plan sets the vision, objectives and planning policies for the village and wider area. The vision for the plan includes that Burley-in-Wharfedale will retain its green belt border and that open spaces will be improved and new ones created.

3.50 Eight core objectives support the vision. None explicitly reference biodiversity. The closest related is:

- To protect and enhance leisure and open space opportunities.

3.51 The following policies and guidance include provisions to conserve and enhance biodiversity:

- Policy BW11 – Protecting Local Greenspaces
- Policy BW12 – Protecting Existing Allotments
- Policy BW15 – Green Infrastructure
- Policy BW1 – New Development Within the Settlement Boundary
- Policy BW2 – Development Outside the Settlement Boundary.

3.52 Policies include that development should not have adverse impacts on important ecological features, retain, create and enhance habitats, biodiversity and ecological networks, protect moorland habitat, protect and enhance the River

Wharfe, protect green spaces, improve access to green space, retain mature trees and that external lighting should protect biodiversity from light pollution.

Harden Neighbourhood Plan 2023 **[See reference 31]**

3.53 Drafted by Harden Parish Council, the vision of the plan is ‘Harden will be a vibrant, inclusive, sustainable rural community, with attractive green spaces [...], making it a desirable place for people to live and enjoy, now and into the future’.

3.54 The vision is supported by 10 objectives. Those related to biodiversity include:

- Conserve and enhance green spaces, heritage assets and the character of the village for everyone to enjoy now and in the future, including access and amenity, and provision of allotments/community gardening.
- Improve resilience to the effects of, and take urgent action against, the climate emergency, working towards becoming a sustainable and low-carbon village.

3.55 Policies related to conserving and enhancing biodiversity include:

- Policy HNPD16 – Harden Wildlife and Habitat Network
- Policy HNPD15 – Green Infrastructure
- Policy HNPD17 – Local Green Spaces

3.56 Policies state that development should include provision for green infrastructure and where possible it connects to the existing Wildlife Habitat Network, achieve biodiversity net gain and that planting should be beneficial for pollinators and wildlife.

Haworth, Cross Roads and Stanbury Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2030 **[See reference 32]**

3.57 Developed by Harden Village Council **[See reference 33]**, the plan has an elaborate vision which includes *‘By 2030, growth and development will be balanced and sustainable[...], The surrounding South Pennine countryside, with its hills and iconic windswept moorland, will be intact, as will the green lungs which separate and permeate its villages’*.

3.58 The vision is supported by 10 aims. Those which refer to biodiversity include:

- To protect green spaces of local community value.

3.59 Policies and proposals which contribute to conserving and enhancing biodiversity include:

- Policy GE1: Green Infrastructure
- Policy GE2: Local Green Space
- Policy GE3: Provision of New Open Space
- Policy H5: New Housing Development – Key Guiding Principles
- Policy H6: New Housing Development on Non-Allocated Sites

3.60 Policies state that green infrastructure should be protected from development which would sever or harms its functions for wildlife and development next to green infrastructure should include measures to enhance or extend it where possible.

Ilkley Neighbourhood Plan 2022 **[See reference 34]**

3.61 The Ilkley 2030 vision is ‘a vibrant, viable, sustainable and successful town, meeting the needs of young and old without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In short, a desirable destination to visit, to work in and most importantly a place where all can live happily and successfully.’

3.62 Nine objectives are identified in the plan. Those relating to biodiversity include:

- Biodiversity and Ecology
 - The plan will value and nurture the area's wildlife habitats and conserve and enhance biodiversity, through the protection and maintenance of all blue and green infrastructure assets, including moorland, woodland, grassland, hedgerows and watercourses.
- Sustainable Residential Development
 - The plan will support residential developments that are well related to the existing built environment and conserve the natural environment, are of high quality and move to zero carbon design.
- Cultural Landscape
 - The plan will seek to conserve and enhance the natural landscape of Ilkley Moor, the green spaces which perforate the Town, the Becks and River Wharfe and the existing Green Belt which surrounds it; will all be protected to the maximum possible extent.

3.63 Policies which support the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity include:

- Policy INDP1 – New Housing Development with Ilkley
- Policy INDP4 – Allotments and Community Gardens.
- Policy INDP10 – Local Green Spaces
- Policy INDP11 – Green Corridors
- Policy INDP13 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity

3.64 Policies include that new housing should not have adverse effects on the South Pennines Moors SPA and SAC (in accordance with legal requirements under Habitats Regulations Assessment), protects four community gardens, green corridors and two community orchards from development, development proposals must maintain and where possible extend and enhance adjacent green corridors, biodiversity should be protected and biodiversity net gain achieved, landscaping schemes are encouraged to conserve, strengthen and enhance ecological features and building design is encouraged to secure ecological enhancements including SuDS, green roofs and roosting opportunities for birds and bats.

Oxenhope Neighbourhood Plan 2022 [\[See reference 35\]](#)

3.65 Led by Oxenhope Village Council, the vision statement of the neighbourhood plan includes ‘[...] These settlements will continue to be separated by open green spaces and wildlife corridors which protect its distinctive rural character and the relationship between settlement edges and the countryside.’

3.66 Policies which support the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity include:

- GP4 – Sustainable Drainage Systems
- GP5 – Community Infrastructure Levy
- H4 – Green Infrastructure
- GS1 – Local Green Spaces

3.67 Policies include that development should seek to achieve biodiversity net gain, include SuDS, include green infrastructure (e.g. wildlife corridors), incorporate planting which is beneficial for pollinators and features suitable for wildlife. Community Infrastructure Levy payments will be used to support biodiversity.

Steeton-with-Eastburn and Silsden Neighbourhood Plan 2021 [See reference 36]

3.68 Jointly made by Steeton with Eastburn Parish Council and Silsden Town Council, the overall aim of the plan includes ‘to promote and protect a healthy and pleasant environment’.

3.69 The overall aim is supported by ten objectives. One explicitly references biodiversity: ‘to conserve and enhance the area’s natural environment’.

3.70 Policies which support the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity include:

- Policy SEWS5 – Airedale’s Valued Landscape
- Policy SWES7 – Infrastructure for New Development
- Policy SWES10 – Local Green Spaces
- Policies include that development should incorporate retention and conservation of existing field boundaries, trees and woodland hedges, Community Infrastructure Levy payments should include monies made available for green infrastructure and public green spaces.

Wilsden Neighbourhood Plan 2025

3.71 Drafted by Wilsden Parish Council the vision of the plan includes that the Wilsden area will be sustained and enhanced through sustainable development and that the natural environment will be preserved and enhanced.

3.72 Underpinning the vision are nine core objectives. Three that explicitly reference biodiversity:

- Manage and influence development to minimise its impact on the natural and built environment.
- Conserve and enhance biodiversity especially for the important green spaces, which are valuable to the community and wildlife.
- Ensure that the distinctive rural landscape, settlement pattern, historic buildings and biodiversity are protected and enhanced.

3.73 This Vision and objectives will be achieved through the implementation of planning and community policies, those related to biodiversity include:

- Policy W/HO1 – Development within Wilsden Village

- Policy W/HO4 – Wilsden Design Code
- Policy W/NE1 – Important Local Green Spaces
- Policy W/NE2 – Ecology and Biodiversity

3.74 Policies state that development will be supported when it can be demonstrated that natural boundaries and features will be retained, the biodiversity of Wilsden should be protected and enhanced and all development should deliver biodiversity net gain.

Overarching Relevant Plans and Policies

Bradford Council Plan 2021 – 2025 [See reference 37]

3.75 The Bradford Council Plan (named ‘Our Council Plan’) highlights the ambitions of Bradford Council over the period 2021 – 2025. ‘A sustainable district’ is one of seven priority outcomes within the plan and includes the Council’s ambitions related to the environment.

3.76 The sustainable district ambition includes that Bradford Council want to become known for ‘proactive management of biodiversity’.

3.77 The plan includes the ‘Tree for Every Child’ initiative to plant more than 55,000 new trees, one for each primary school pupil in the Bradford District.

3.78 Bradford Council have a new Council to cover the period 2026 – 2030. This is covered in **Chapter 7**.

Bradford District Strategy 2025 – 2035 [See reference 38]

3.79 This strategy sets out the key vision and ambitions that Bradford Council will work on with partners over 2025 - 2035. It also provides the framework for the plans of individual organisations who operate within the district.

3.80 The vision includes that the Council will be known as a leader in sustainability.

3.81 The delivery of the district’s vision and ambitions is underpinned by four key shared principles which act as the foundation of all actions taken by the Council. One of the four shared principles is sustainability, which includes a sustainable approach to nature.

3.82 There are no dedicated actions, objectives or targets related to biodiversity or green space.

Bradford Climate Action Plan 2025 – 2028

3.83 This Plan provides a measurable pathway to net zero for Bradford Council.

3.84 The plan's vision is 'A sustainable, healthy, vibrant, and resilient district, ready to seize opportunities and work together to overcome the challenges of a changing climate'.

3.85 It includes eight key priority areas including 'Managing Land for Nature'.

3.86 The plan summarises key collaborative programmes and achievements relating to biodiversity. Actions delivered are captured in **Chapter 4 – Integrated Action**.

3.87 Future actions and targets within the report include:

- Working with White Rose Forest to increase tree cover from 13% to 19% through woodland projects, including street and flood-resistant trees.
- Working with Natural England to declare a NNR (achieved) and a suite of LNRs (achieved).
- Continued support to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the development of the West Yorkshire LNRS.
- Exploring the possibility of developing a Council owned multi-site Habitat Bank in order to support the delivery of 10% biodiversity gain legislation from new developments.
- Including additional policies in the local plan to protect and enhance the natural environment, ensuring new developments mitigate any negative impact from climate change and meet the Urban Greening Factor standards.

Bradford Local Infrastructure Plan (LIP) **[See reference 39]**

3.88 The LIP is a supporting document to the emerging new Bradford Local Plan. The LIP sets out what level of new or improved infrastructure will be required to deliver this proposed growth in the Local Plan. The plan includes actions that are required to enhance and improve Open Space and Green Infrastructure across the district. Actions include:

- Reviewing the quality and access of park provision in Keighley and Bradford East.
- Exploring opportunities to enhance the outdoor network across the district.
- Exploring options and supporting parish/town councils to offer more allotment plots.

An Economic Strategy for Bradford District 2018 – 2030 [See reference 40]

3.89 This strategy sets out the plans to grow Bradford’s economy from 2018 – 2030. It is based upon a model for growth which includes sustainability.

3.90 Within the plan sustainability is described as ‘ensuring growth protects and enhances our physical and natural environments and meets this generation’s needs without compromising those of future generations.’

3.91 There are no direct references to protecting and conserving green spaces or biodiversity.

Bradford District 2035: Regeneration and Growth Plan [See reference 41]

NOTE: This review is conducted on the consultation and engagement draft.

3.92 The plan sets out Bradford’s roadmap for developing a ‘fairer, green and more competitive economy’ up to 2035.

3.93 The strategy includes an ambition to be a global leader in sustainability.

3.94 Whilst the strategy does not include an overall ambition to enhance biodiversity and greenspace across the district, in sections of the report focused on specific areas it includes plans to develop new green spaces in Keighley and to enhance green and blue spaces in Ilkley.

3.95 A key performance indicator included within the strategy is that ‘all major parks received the Green Flag award by 2035’. Green Flag awards include considerations for biodiversity.

Bradford City Centre Green Infrastructure Study [\[See reference 42\]](#)

3.96 The Bradford Green Infrastructure Strategy is to be updated in 2026. The published 2014 Green Infrastructure study covers Bradford city centre. It formed an integral part of Bradford's Local Development Framework process, by informing policies and proposals to be contained in the Area Action Plans ensuring that growth is delivered in a sustainable way with advance planning for Green Infrastructure (GI) provision. It helped applicants, developers and planners to ensure that proposals for development made the most of potential opportunities to improve existing GI and create new GI for the overall benefit of the City Centre / Shipley Road corridor. It developed a long-term vision and strategic framework to support the delivery of GI across the City Centre, identifying any issues of implementation including issues relating to delivery and funding, enabling the economic value of GI assets to be incorporated into the decision-making process.

Bradford District Good Food Strategy 2023 [\[See reference 43\]](#)

3.97 Bradford's Good Food Strategy is led by the Council's public health team. Whilst it is centred upon creating a place and culture where good food is readily accessible to all, the outcomes and action plan within this strategy have the potential to impact upon biodiversity. Two of the four core outcomes of the strategy are 'community-led food growing' and 'a sustainable food system for all'.

3.98 The strategy states that the Council will support efforts to increase the coverage of community growing spaces across the district and ensure community food growing is contributing towards a sustainable food system which helps to improve local environments.

3.99 The strategy includes an ambition for Bradford to have a food system which minimises environmental impact and that Bradford is an exemplar sustainable city of good practice in food production.

3.100 There are no direct references to greenspaces or biodiversity.

The Physical Activity Strategy for Bradford [\[See reference 44\]](#)

3.101 This focus of this strategy is to create a place where it's easier for everyone to move and be active every day.

3.102 One of nine priorities for action in this strategy is greenspace.

3.103 An ambition of the strategy is that all communities have access to high-quality, well-maintained parks or greenspace within walking distance of where they live.

3.104 The strategy also states the importance of protecting existing greenspace in Bradford.

3.105 There are no targets or actions proposed which impact upon biodiversity.

Regional Context and Progress

3.106 This section reviews regional policies, strategies and plans to which Bradford Council contribute and which refer to biodiversity. **Appendix B** pulls together all targets and actions within these plans and summarises Bradford Council's progress to date.

West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

3.107 The West Yorkshire LNRS is currently in draft and scheduled to be approved on March 12th 2026, with publication shortly after. [\[See reference 45\]](#)

3.108 As a supporting authority, Bradford Council has contributed to the creation of the West Yorkshire LNRS through various means. Council officers have attended broad habitat workshops to aid in identifying habitats priorities and measures, contributed to the identification of priority species and conservation recommendations, commented on drafts and reviewed some of the mapping. Council Officers regularly attended supporting authority briefings where they fed back on the LNRS preparation process.

3.109 The West Yorkshire LNRS sets out one aim, three objectives, six habitat themes, and three overarching themes, with water as a blue thread throughout.

3.110 The aim is for West Yorkshire to 'pioneer post-industrial nature recovery and forge a just, blue-green, revolution, from moor to forest, peak to valley, river to city – a bigger, better, more joined-up nature network, whilst the three objectives ensure nature recovery benefits species and habitats, ecosystem services, and people'.

3.111 The habitats chosen within the West Yorkshire LNRS are outlined below:

1. Built Environment
2. Farm and Agriculture
3. Grassland

4. Trees and Woodland
5. Upland
6. Water

3.112 There are 23 priorities which outline what the West Yorkshire LNRS wants to achieve within these six habitats, such as nature-friendly farming and high-quality peatlands. There are also additional priorities for 27 individual species, such as red squirrels and for 13 groups of species, such as freshwater fish.

3.113 ~ 200 measures are then provided, which are the practical actions required to achieve the 23 priorities. For example, measures to achieve high-quality peatland include stabilising and rewetting damaged blanket bog, reintroducing lost plant species and engaging volunteers in peatland restoration. [\[See reference 46\]](#)

3.114 There are also five headline targets, yet to be finalised, for nature recovery that align with the LNRS's priorities and will facilitate future evaluation of progress:

1. A decrease in the number of species at risk in West Yorkshire using the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust 'Yorkshire Species of Concern' dataset.
2. An increase in canopy cover in West Yorkshire.
3. An increase in the area of active peat-forming blanket and lowland bog in West Yorkshire
4. An increase in the ecological status of rivers in West Yorkshire.
5. An increase in access to greenspace in West Yorkshire.

3.115 How Bradford Council will take account of the LNRS is included in **Chapter 7** of the report. Progress Bradford Council has made in achieving these priorities or contributing to these targets in the West Yorkshire LNRS will be recorded in future EBD reporting cycles.

The West Yorkshire Plan 2040

3.116 The West Yorkshire Plan sets out a vision and five missions for 2040 that will drive the combined authority's work to transform lives and communities across the region.

3.117 The plan is underpinned by five missions including 'A sustainable West Yorkshire – making lives greener'.

3.118 Ambitions with the potential to enhance biodiversity include:

3.119 ‘Happy communities living in well-connected, active neighbourhoods with access to culture and green spaces.’

3.120 ‘We will create a sustainable, nature-rich and climate ready region [...]. We will celebrate, protect, and invest in our natural environment, supporting biodiversity, enhancing our green spaces, parks, rivers, canals and moorland.’

3.121 Bradford Council contributes to the ambitions of these plans through the restoration of Ilkley Moor, development of green infrastructure throughout the city and the wetland creation project at Chellow Dene Wetlands (see **Chapter 4**).

Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan **[See reference 47]**

3.122 The Leeds City Region covers all of West Yorkshire including the Bradford district. This strategy sets out how Green Infrastructure will be protected and enhanced across the region. The vision of the strategy is ‘Everybody in the City Region is within easy reach of an outstanding and well used network of green and blue infrastructure that reduces flood risks and supports health, the economy, the environment and a superb quality of life’.

3.123 The strategy has seven priority action areas. Those with the potential to benefit biodiversity include:

- Effective water management and flood risk reduction i.e. developing natural flood management programmes.
- Build green and blue infrastructure into physical development and housing.
- Enhance green and blue corridors and networks – integrating green and blue infrastructure within the transport routes that link our towns, cities and rural areas.
- Plant and manage more trees and woodlands.
- Restore the uplands and manage them sustainably.

3.124 Key projects and actions included in the strategy are:

- Identify and deliver a pipeline of natural flood management projects.
- Embed inclusive growth principles – including green and blue infrastructure and health and wellbeing – into the appraisal of capital development projects.

- Understand the full picture of green and blue infrastructure provision across the region by developing a City Region-wide green and blue infrastructure map.
- Identify funding for the development and maintenance of green and blue infrastructure (this is a major barrier currently).
- Set out how the White Rose Forest in Yorkshire will achieve its share of commitments to creating a Northern Forest.
- Map, plan and prioritise peatland restoration projects across the City Region and identify funding beyond 2020.
- Agree policies and other mechanisms to promote environmental and agricultural benefits in Leeds City Region after Brexit, including through devolution.
- Consistency of green and blue infrastructure planning policy across the city region.

3.125 Bradford Council have contributed to the seven priority actions area of the strategy by supporting the installation of 354 leaky timber and stone dams on Ilkley Moor and the planting of over 56,000 sphagnum plugs, the incorporation of green infrastructure into multiple development schemes including the city centre regeneration, ‘top of town’ development and Great Horton Road transport scheme and the planting of ~55,000 trees between 2020 and 2023.

West Yorkshire Transport Strategy 2040 **[See reference 48]**

3.126 Bradford Council contributes to the production of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy.

3.127 The strategy includes three objectives that must be addressed to realise the ambition of the strategy. One of these objectives is ‘the transport system must have a positive impact on our built and natural environment’.

3.128 Policies in the strategy which impact on biodiversity include:

- *‘Policy 10 - We will protect and, where possible, enhance our Green Infrastructure and townscapes. We will minimise the impact of transport schemes by requiring that all large transport improvement schemes are subject to an Environmental Assessment and action to mitigate adverse impacts.’*
- *‘Policy 32 - We will improve our residential areas with transport and streetscape improvements, using best practice in street design. We will work with local communities to make residential areas safer, healthier and greener, with attractive environments for play, walking and cycling.’*

3.129 Numerous transport schemes including the award-winning city centre regeneration and the redevelopment of Great Horton Road have incorporated SuDS and benefits for biodiversity (see **Chapter 4**). These outcomes are possible in part due to the embedding of the landscape team into the early planning phases of transport schemes in the district.

White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050 **[See reference 49]**

3.130 Bradford Council is a signatory to the White Rose Forest Partnership Agreement. Bradford Council work alongside the core White Rose Forest delivery team to plant new woodland and deliver the wider objectives of the White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050.

3.131 The vision of the strategic plan includes ‘[...] creating a vast and varied treescape that connects and permeates our towns/cities and countryside. Our work has made our region more prosperous and resilient to a changing climate, improved health & wellbeing and supported nature recovery’.

3.132 To bring about the vision, the White Rose Forest partnership will focus on five broad strategic objectives over the period of this 25-year Strategic Plan. These are:

- Expand the area of trees and woodland and improve connectivity - including a base target of increasing tree cover to 16.5% across the project area. This will increase the area of trees and woodland ~46,000 hectares (equivalent to 92,000,000 trees). A stretch target of 18.5% (67,000 hectares, 134,000,000 trees) is also included.
- Protect and restore more trees and woodland – including increasing the percentage of sustainably managed woodland from 62% to 70% by 2050 and percentage of sustainably managed ancient woodland from 72% to 90% by 2050.
- Engage more people, communities and businesses in the planning, designing, planting, management and use of trees and woodland – including Increase the percentage of households with an area of accessible woodland over 0.1ha in size within 500m from 25% to 50% by 2050.
- Promote the transformative role of trees and woodland including - Each Local Authority area has a current, resourced and effective trees and woodland strategy (in line with the White Rose Forest Strategic Plan) by 2050 and Local Planning policies support the White Rose Forest and are securing meaningful

developer investment into the delivery of the White Rose Forest Strategic Plan by 2050.

- Grow the impact and sustainability of the White Rose Forest partnership including – increasing the number of people directly engaged in the core work of the White Rose Forest partnership from 8,000 to 16,000 per year by 2050.

3.133 Due to the vast and varied nature of the White Rose Forest area, there will be differences in priorities across the area. The following local priorities and tree and woodland cover targets for 2050 have been developed for the Bradford district:

- Increase tree and woodland cover from 10.1% to 17% by 2050. This will increase the area of trees and woodland by approximately 2,500 hectares.
- Urban forest planting such as street trees and pocket parks will connect people and nature providing long term benefits to communities and the natural environment.
- Wood pasture planting will benefit our rural areas and connect landscapes. With a focus on grazing land, targeted low-density planting will enhance and preserve productive land.
- Aire catchment planting will provide additional woodland creation benefits such as natural flood management. Catchment tree planting assists with slowing the flow of water to reduce flooding in affected communities.

West Yorkshire Combined Authority Climate Plan 2025-2028

3.134 This document outlines West Yorkshire’s approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change. The vision of the document is ‘A sustainable West Yorkshire, making lives greener’. The mission includes ‘tackling the climate and environment emergency’.

3.135 The plan has six flagship actions including ‘climate resilient and nature-rich region’. Partnering and influencing actions in the plan that Bradford Council could and currently do contribute to include:

- Delivering flood protection through natural flood management.
- Enhancing water quality and water storage.
- Support those working on tree-planting, peatland restoration, and local food systems that deliver and demonstrate sustainability.
- Mitigate against future extreme events by promoting urban greening.

- Deliver for nature and farmer through new farming practices, making space for nature and restore natural features and systems.

3.136 Bradford Council are delivering on several actions included in the plan. These include delivering natural flood management through peatland restoration works at Ilkley Moor, enhancing water storage through development of the Chellow Dene Wetlands, tree planting, promoting urban green through city centre regeneration and delivering sustainability through the Bradford Good Food Strategy. Bradford Council also have Agri-environment schemes on a number of their sites helping to restore natural features and systems in farmed environments.

Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission – Climate Action Plan (Update 2024) [\[See reference 50\]](#)

3.137 Bradford Council is a partner to The Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission. The Commission is an independent advisory group that was set up to support ambitious climate action across Yorkshire and the Humber. It is made up of climate leaders from across the public, private and third sectors in the region.

3.138 This document provides a framework for climate action at the regional level. It has nine guiding principles including ‘put nature first’ and is based upon four pillars of climate action including ‘nature restoration’.

3.139 The plan includes 60 actions set around seven themes. Themes directly related to biodiversity are ‘protecting people and nature in a changing climate’ and ‘managing our land and water so it benefits us all’. Actions within the plan with the potential to positively impact upon biodiversity include:

- Priority D Action 3: Prioritise nature-first solutions, developing and investing in green and blue infrastructure (i.e. nature-based) solutions over grey (e.g. concrete and steel) infrastructure.
- Priority F Action 1: Develop a regional land use and water management approach that helps prioritise restoration of quality habitat and carbon stores [...].
- Priority F Action 2: Implement Local Nature Recovery Strategies across the region.
- Priority F Action 4: Protect and Restore Ecological Systems.
- Priority F Action 6: Prioritise catchment-scale, nature-first approaches to water management that restore the natural health of our diverse rural environments whilst protecting our urban areas from floods and droughts.

- Priority F Action 7: Reduce dependency on synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.
- Priority F Action 9: Develop a regional standard of stewardship for landowners that promotes nature-positive and socially beneficial land and water management.

3.140 Bradford Council has been delivering on several recommended actions within the plan. Regeneration of Bradford City Centre and integration of SuDS into capital works projects has developed green and blue infrastructure across the district and demonstrates taking a nature-based solutions approach. Work on Ilkley Moor including the planting of 56,000 Sphagnum moss and installation of ~350 leaky dams to enhance natural flood management showcases effort by the Council to protect and restore ecological systems (see **Chapter 4**).

National Context and Progress

Environmental Improvement Plan

3.141 The Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 sets binding national targets for habitat restoration, species recovery, tree cover, and protected area expansion. Key commitments include restoring or creating 500,000 ha of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042, halting species decline by 2030 and protecting 30% of England's land and sea for nature by 2030.

3.142 Bradford Council contributes to the Environmental Improvement Plan through delivery of the LNRS, through the Bradford Climate Change Action Plan and implementing policies in the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. Habitat creation and enhancement projects (such as the Ilkley Moor Restoration and Chellow Dene Wetlands) (see **Chapter 4**) support the national ambition of wildlife rich habitat restoration, while the species-specific actions such as the installation of a Peregrine nesting box on city hall contribute to halting species decline. With 17.03% of the district (6,240.16 ha) as a designated site, Bradford Council contributes to underpinning the national 30 by 30 target. Sustained tree planting (see **Chapter 4**) has contributed to a tree canopy cover to 9.14%, not yet meeting the national target of 16.5% (see **Appendix B**).

Chapter 4

Integrated Action

4.1 This chapter sets out the actions Bradford Council has taken for nature, across all departments, through the delivery of its functions and duties since 2020. While the previous chapter outlined the statutory targets and strategic commitments at national, regional, and local level, here the focus is on delivery, highlighting how those ambitions are being translated into concrete projects, policies, and partnerships on the ground.

4.2 This chapter is based on data collated for the purposes of the report via:

- Researching key strategies, policies and plans,
- An online questionnaire and in person workshop with Council Officers,

4.3 It brings together information of the work streams of the Council to identify how it is delivering for nature and climate resilience across its many functions.

Visibility and Resourcing

4.4 Teams within the Council which have officers dedicated to conserving and enhancing biodiversity include the countryside and rights of way service (two ecologists and two more to start in 2026), the parks and woodlands team (including a woodland manager) and the landscape, conservation and heritage team (including a woodland creation officer). Teams without a direct remit for biodiversity yet who do deliver biodiversity enhancements and opportunities to access nature include the public health team, museums, galleries and libraries team, planning and development management, highways and the capital works team.

Designated Sites Network

4.5 Designated sites form the backbone of Bradford's ecological network, providing protected spaces for habitats and species.

4.6 Regarding expansion and enhancement of the designated site network, Bradford has designated new protected sites in the district increasing protected area coverage and worked with partners to deliver habitat restoration within their portfolio.

- In 2025, Bradford Council worked with Natural England to declare the first NNR in West Yorkshire; the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR. The NNR covers 1,272

ha across eight sites. Approximately 90% of the area comprises UK priority habitats. 42% of the reserve was newly protected, with 738 ha's (58%) already designated as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)/ SPA / SAC.

In 2025, Bradford Council alongside Natural England declared the **1st NNR in West Yorkshire**.

- Alongside the NNR declaration, Bradford Council declared eight Local Nature Reserves (LNR) covering 183 ha, across the district. An increase of 1,407% from the previous 13 ha of existing LNR coverage.
- Bradford Council have stewardship and SFI agreements for four sites managed by the Countryside Service (Trench Meadows SSSI, Bingley South Bog SSSI, Harden Moor LWS and Ilkley Moor, part of the South Pennine Moors SSSI, SPA and SAC)).
- Bradford Council Countryside Team work in partnership with the Aire Rivers Trust on the management of Trench Meadows SSSI, Bingley North Bog LWS, Northcliffe Park LS and Damems LWS.
- Bradford Council have worked in partnership with Aire Rives Trust and the local Dawoodi Bohra community to deliver restoration work on Bingley North Bog.
- Bradford Council lease the management of Low Wood LNR to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Managing Land to Enhance Biodiversity

4.7 Bradford Council continues to deliver biodiversity enhancements across its public realm, integrating ecological gains with urban maintenance.

- Led by Bradford's Landscape team and funded through the Transforming Cities Fund, Bradford City Centre has gone through an extensive regeneration scheme. The project has delivered over 12,000m² of new green space and includes the planting of 250 street trees and 20,000 shrubs in the most accessible and visible heart of the city. The project has received a plethora of awards both regionally and nationally (see Fig 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Bradford City Centre
(Source: BBC News)



Bradford’s city centre regeneration scheme involving the creation of 12,000m2 of green space won multiple awards including “national infrastructure project of the year” at the Constructing Excellence Awards.

- Bradford Council supported The Leap (an arts and culture-based organisation) in designing and installing the city’s first eco sculpture park on a disused piece of urban land in Laisterdyke, Bradford. The project involved installing natural made artworks alongside 300 plants and provisions for wildlife including bat and bird boxes and log pile habitats (see Fig 4.2)

**Figure 4.2: Laisterdyke Eco Sculpture Park
(Photo Credit: Rachel Palfrey)**



- In 2023, Bradford Council worked in partnership with The Leap to install a living wall on Laisterdyke Library (see Fig 4.3).

**Figure 4.3: Living wall at Laisterdyke Library
(Photo Credit: Rachel Palfrey)**



- In 2024, Bradford Council were successful in obtaining funding from Natural England for the purchase of a ‘Cut and Collect’ machine to aid with grassland management.
- Six parks in Bradford district (Lister Park in Manningham, Roberts Park in Saltaire, Central Park in Haworth, Harold Park in Low Moor, Peel Park in Undercliffe, and Cliffe Castle Park in Keighley) were awarded a Green Flag Award in 2025. The judging criteria includes biodiversity.

Six parks in the Bradford district received a Green Flag Award in 2025.

- Bradford Council has been supporting a landscaping project at Central Mosque in Bradford City Centre. The aims of the project are to create a new greenspace in the city centre planted with native trees, shrubs, flowers and herbs.
- Bradford Council supports the national “No Mow May” initiative. 1% (19ha) of the district’s parks and green spaces have had mowing reduced and been left to grow wild each year. (see Fig 4.4).

**Figure 4.4: Meadow in Northcliffe Park
(Source: BBC News)**



Development Management – Habitats and Species

4.8 This section summarises of the Council’s work to conserve and enhance biodiversity in development management overall. Biodiversity Net Gain is explored in more depth in **Chapter 5**.

4.9 Bradford Council has requested developer contributions to ecological enhancements to offset impacts, across the district as part of new developments since 2019, preceding mandatory BNG.

4.10 Projects run between Bradford Council and developers to deliver a net gain in habitats within the district include:

- The management of woodland, scrub, grassland and pond habitats at the former Manywells quarry waste tip has been funded by a housing development in Cullingworth.
- An under-construction energy plant on the outskirts of Bradford city, due to be completed by September 2026, is providing financial contributions to the management of Boar’s Well woodland.
- Brierley Hall Woods is being enhanced through contributions from the recent development of 90 affordable houses in Bierley. **[See reference 51]**
- The enhancement of Gill Beck in Baildon by the Aire Rivers Trust, as well as the creation of 4ha of new woodland and hay meadow in East Morton, is being funded in part by a housing development in Baildon.
- Restoration of Coppice Pond at St Ives will be paid for by a housing development in Bingley.
- Biodiversity enhancements including tree, shrub and wildflower planting at a site in Parry Lane was funded via develop contributions.

4.11 Construction projects in the Bradford District adhere to ecological timelines to reduce disturbance in the bird nesting season.

- Bradford Council has requested developer contributions to ecological enhancements across the district as part of new developments, since 2019 preceding mandatory BNG.

Climate Change Resilience – including Natural Flood Management

4.12 Bradford Council is consciously using nature-based solutions to increase climate change resilience within both capital projects and direct habitat restoration.

- Working in partnership with Moors for the Future Partnership, Friends of Ilkley Moor and Rebel Restoration, Bradford Council have undertaken an extensive restoration programme on Ilkley Moor entitled 'Ilkley Moor Resilience'. The project has installed 354 leaky stones and timber dams and 61 pond forming heather bale dams. Over 56,000 sphagnum moss plugs have been planted with the aim of rewetting the moor and creating new areas of blanket bog. 18.1ha of old heather have been cut to limit fire risk and provide new shoots which is a main food source for red grouse. 36.2 ha of Sitka spruce has been removed, targeted areas of bracken have been cut, and 200 trees planted to help shade out regrowth of bracken. This uses the restoration of the moorland ecosystem to increase flood resilience across the wider district – a strong example of how good ecological function is inextricably linked to climate change resilience.
- Bradford Council have supported the installation of forty small monitoring plots on Ilkley Moor over a range of peat depths and vegetation types. The aim is to study how well the sphagnum moss plugs survive and grow in these different conditions. Soil moisture probes have been installed at four of these plots (funded by The Friends of Ilkley Moor) (see Fig 4.4). This monitoring feeds directly back into the restoration programme, ensuring the target habitats establish and are maintained. Effective monitoring is an essential part of any strategic scale nature recovery programme.

Figure 4.5: Sphagnum Moss Research on Ilkley Moor
(Source: Friends of Ilkley Moor)



- Bradford Council secured funding to carry out highway improvements and sustainable landscaping works to an area of the city known locally as the ‘Top of Town’. The project included the installation of semi-mature trees and a network of rain gardens as part of a SuDS scheme. The ‘Top of Town’ works consisted of planting 2,000 plants and 34 trees in amongst the most accessed areas of the district (see Fig 4.5)

**Figure 4.6: Top of Town Redevelopment
(Source: Landscape and Urban Design)**



- In March 2024, the Great Horton Road scheme was completed, incorporating SuDS, rain gardens and street trees (see Fig 4.6), managed as part of the council’s management regime.

Figure 4.7: SuDs scheme at Great Horton Road
(Source: Casey)



- In 2024, Bradford Council worked on a project led by the Aire Rivers Trust to install improvements at Chellow Dene Wetlands. To slow the flow of water during heavy rain, a leaky dam was installed and meanders created in Chellow Dene Beck to bypass a weir and create a more natural flow, allowing fish to move freely and creating better habitat for wildlife. The project was completed by the planting of wildflower seeds, which will produce a vibrant display of wetland wildflowers, attracting pollinators and other important wildlife (see Fig 4.7)

Figure 4.8: Chellow Dene Wetlands
(Source: Environment Agency)



Trees

- From November 2020 to March 2023 Bradford Council ran the ‘A Tree for Every Child’ project which planted ~60,000 trees in schools, gardens and green spaces across the district (see Fig 4.8). A tree was planted for every primary school aged child in the district. The project resulted in:
 - 90 primary schools planting 11,607 native trees / hedges of their grounds.
 - 40 schools installed new mini orchards (composed of 7 trees and 7 fruit bushes).
 - 43,897 trees planted to create new woodlands.
 - 4,000 trees given to households for use in private gardens.

Figure 4.9: A tree for every child
(Source: Trees for Cities)



- In spring 2025 Grow Well to Eat Well, a public health funded campaign, distributed over 200 fruit trees and bushes to workplaces across the Bradford district to create micro-orchards.
- New orchards have been planted in museum grounds across the district.
- Since 2020, Bradford has been recognised as a Tree City of the World to recognise the commitment to urban forestry.

Species

- As part of the Bradford Peregrine Trail, Bradford Council have installed a Peregrine nesting box on the top of City Hall in the city centre. The nest box has been installed to help the breeding success of a resident pair of Peregrines at the clock tower (see Fig 4.9).

**Figure 4.10: Peregrine perching in nest box atop of Bradford City Hall
(Source: Bradford Peregrines)**



- With funding from Natural England, Bradford Council purchased six eDNA kits for white-clawed crayfish. The kits were used to test for the presence of this species in rivers and waterbodies across the district with the ambition to devise a management plan to conserve and protect white-clawed crayfish populations if detected. Data from this work is shared with the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water who are surveying the district's waterbodies to inform wider conservation efforts (see Fig 4.10).

**Figure 4.11: White Clawed Crayfish found in Burley in Wharfedale
(Source: BBC News)**



Air Quality

4.13 Bradford Council has implemented a Clear Air Zone (CAZ). In Bradford, the CAZ is a dedicated area where certain vehicles (taxis, HGV's and motorhomes) pay a daily charge to drive within / into the area. The primary aim of Bradford's CAZ is to improve air quality for health outcomes, but the wider environment also benefits. Bogs and calcareous grasslands, which have adapted to low nutrient availability, are particularly sensitive to air pollution.

Education and Engagement

4.14 Many services across Bradford Council run projects and initiatives to increase awareness and engagement with nature. Most of these projects have a focus on engagement with nature to drive forwards health benefits and reduce health inequalities across the district.

- The Our Tree Project engaged with over 1,000 residents to plant ~60,000 across the Bradford district.
- Bradford Council officers in both the parks and countryside teams deliver talks and practical sessions to local community groups regarding biodiversity in the district.
- Manningham and Eccleshill Library were successful in obtaining £6K of funding from Natural England as part of the Culture Nature Project. The project involved improving greenspace on the library grounds and hosting several craft and walking sessions involving natural materials to raising awareness and understanding of biodiversity (see Fig 4.11).

Figure 4.12: Manningham Library – Improvements to outdoor space
(Photo Credit: Rachel Palfrey)



- In March 2025, Bradford’s Public Health Team commissioned Streetspace to develop the ‘Ginnel Garden Guidebook’. This resource helps support residents across Bradford District to find pockets of unloved and unused spaces in their own neighbourhoods and transform them into pocket parks for both people and nature.
- The ‘Grow Bradford’ project commissioned by Bradford Public Health has seen the team has worked extensively with local communities to expand growing opportunities and develop an accessible online map showcasing community food projects across the district. More than 40 community growing projects have been visited, documented, and featured on the Grow Bradford website and YouTube channel.
- The Grow Well to Eat Well campaign saw 1,000 growing kits disseminated through Council libraries and neighbourhood teams in 2024, coupled with a tailored resources to increase awareness and understanding of growing food.
- Public Health has part fund the Grow to School project which works with 15 schools across the district to offer opportunities for food growing on school grounds.

- Neighbourhood wardens in Keighley have worked with local schools and residents to install wildflower planters across the town.
- In 2024, Bradford Council worked with Natural England and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to host the first HOPE (Health of People and Planet Entwined) network conference. The conference was attended by 50 participants from 30 organisations working on either nature recovery or health and explored ways that these two sectors could work better together across the district (see Fig 4.12).

Figure 4.13: HOPE Network Conference
(Source: Rachel Palfrey)



- Bradford Council are working in partnership with Aire Rivers Trust and the local Dawoodi Bohra community to deliver footpath improvements and to install a bird hide at Bingley North Bog (see Fig 4.13).

Figure 4.14: Bingley North Bog – Site of new Bird Hide Installation
(Source: BBC News)



- In partnership with Calderdale Council and Ecological Estates, Bradford Council have developed Biodiversity Net Gain Guidance for farmers and land managers in the South Pennines. The guidance document informs farms and land managers on how to create biodiversity units on grassland for sale to developers.
- Bradford Council worked in partnership with Bradford City of Culture 2025 to support “Wild Uplands” at Penistone Country Park, a series of new artworks created for the vast skies and expansive moorland views of Penistone Hill Country Park (see Fig 4.14).

**Figure 4.15: Wild Uplands Installation at Penistone Hill Country Park
(Source: Bradford City of Culture 2025)**



- Bradford Council has an extensive taxidermy collection at Cliffe Castle Museum (Keighley) which is used for teaching residents and school groups about biodiversity. The collection has a particular focus on species within the Bradford district. The Museum also hosts the PEATLAND project – a project run by Yorkshire Peat Partnerships to increase awareness and engagement with the upland habitats in the Bradford district.
- Bradford Council support schools to access information and advice on creating climate action plans which include improvements for biodiversity.

Chapter 5

Biodiversity Net Gain – a Tool for Action

5.1 This chapter draws out information specifically relating to BNG. It provides a complete overview of the actions taken and the gains achieved and anticipated resulting from BNG.

5.2 BNG has created a world-first regulatory nature market with ground-breaking policy and legislation. Launched in 2024, the regime is still bedding in; many development types entered scope at different times, and LPAs are only now (mid–late 2025) approving some of the first biodiversity gain plans.

5.3 In terms of BNG monitoring for EBD reporting, Defra has only recently published the high-resolution inputs required for EBD reporting. Therefore, timing and data availability currently limit the BNG impacts that can be reported.

5.4 A short overview of the state of BNG within Bradford is provided in Table 5.1 below:

Table 5.1: Overview of BNG in Bradford January 2024 - December 2025

Criteria	Number
Total number of planning applications received	1,437
Number of applications that are BNG eligible	169
Percentage of applications that are BNG eligible	12%
Number of gain plans approved	4 (Including 2 - onsite only and 2 - a combination of onsite and offsite)
Net change in units	Habitats: 3.89 Hedgerow: 1.16 Watercourses: 0.0
Net change in hectares / kilometres	Habitats: 0.33 Hedgerow: 0.66km Watercourses: 0.0

Actions Taken to Meet BNG Obligations

5.5 BNG is predominantly a planning matter with the assessment, processing and approval of planning applications requiring BNG a responsibility of the planning team and the ecologists embedded within that function. As a result, the majority of actions relate to how these applications are processed and assessed within that function.

5.6 Bradford Council uses Mycelia software to log and monitor BNG data. This provides officers with an easy interface to assess BNG applications. The software provides a robust database of reports that can be used for validations and long-term monitoring.

5.7 In partnership with Calderdale Council, Bradford Council has produced BNG guidance for farmers and land managers in the South Pennines [See reference 52]. The guidance is aimed at creating biodiversity units on grasslands to sell to developers.

5.8 Bradford Council is working in partnership with Bradford University to explore the possibilities of using satellite imagery and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to monitor BNG delivery.

5.9 Bradford Council is exploring options to create a Council-owned habitat bank for the district.

Legal Agreements

5.10 Bradford Council secures biodiversity delivery through legal frameworks, primarily Section 106 (S106) agreements, which embed long-term obligations into development projects.

5.11 S106 agreements can be set up between developers and Bradford Council to ensure that works related to BNG are undertaken and those habitats are secured for 30 years using a Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.

5.12 Bradford Council has set fees for the monitoring of BNG delivery within the district (see Chapter 6 – Monitoring Fees related to BNG).

BNG Banking

5.13 The National Biodiversity Gain Site Register lists all legally secured off-site biodiversity gain sites in England. As of March 2026, one site has been legally registered within the Bradford District.

5.14 Currently one site entitled 'Keighley Habitat Bank' is listed on the Environment Bank website [\[See reference 53\]](#). The site covers 48.72 ha (269.5 BNG units) and hosts very high distinctiveness habitats; fens (upland and lowland) and lowland meadows. Other habitats on the site include ponds (a priority habitat), mixed scrub, upland and lowland acid grassland and mixed woodland.

5.15 An additional two habitat banks are in the process of coming online. Together they cover 56.8 ha (234.56 BNG units) [\[See reference 54\]](#).

Chapter 6

Investment in Nature

6.1 This chapter describes funding for nature-related activities in the district. It covers staff resources, funding secured and partnership commitments. Delivery examples are as described in Chapter 4. The structure of governance for nature is also outlined.

Council Resourcing

6.2 Bradford Council have five ecologists who sit within the Countryside Rights of Way Service in the Department of Growth. This team manages important habitats and designated sites, including the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR and part of the South Pennine Moors (SPA, SAC, SSSI) and provides advice to the Council on BNG, habitat banking and protected species concerns. Their roles are (all to be in place by the next reporting period):

- 1 FTE Countryside Rights of Way Manager
- 1 FTE Principal Biodiversity Officer
- 2 FTE Senior Biodiversity Officers (recruitment ongoing)
- 1 FTE Biodiversity Officer (recruitment ongoing).

6.3 The Council has a dedicated parks and woodland team which manage all parks and woodlands in the district including a dedicated woodland manager (1FTE).

6.4 The council has a dedicated landscape, design and heritage team which also has a focus on integrating nature-based solutions into development schemes across the district. This team includes a dedicated Woodland Creation Officer (1FTE).

6.5 Bradford Council has set up a Climate Action Network (BCCAN), which brings employees together to advocate for sustainability within the Council and beyond through initiatives such as piloting carbon literacy training for officers and elected members, promoting sustainable commuting and recycling campaigns

Council-Led Grant Funding

6.6 Bradford Council operates dedicated funding to enable community and organisational projects that deliver biodiversity, climate resilience and environmental enhancements. These are often achieved as co-benefits from a single project.

Whether these deliver capital funding at the outset of a project or support the maintenance or reinvigoration of an established project varies. The importance of funding to ensure projects, and the benefits they deliver, are maintained and potentially cross-pollinate was raised as an important concern by staff during the EBD workshop.

6.7 Reflecting the priorities of Bradford to deliver for its local populations, such grants ensure that action for nature is not only council-led but also embedded within communities and driven by residents, schools, charities, and local partners. These include:

- **West Yorkshire Mayor’s Climate Community Grant Scheme** - Bradford was one of three local authorities involved in this £1.7 million community grants scheme, launched in 2023, to fund projects which mitigate climate change and support nature recovery in the local area. [\[See reference 55\]](#) Through this, community organisations were able to access grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 to run projects such as preserving or increasing biodiversity in green spaces. In total, almost £370,000 has been allocated to projects across the Bradford district. [\[See reference 56\]](#)
- **Business in the Community (BiTC) Community Climate Fund** – Bradford Council, in partnership with BiTC, will allocate at least £5 million of the £100 million Community Climate Fund before 2030, to community-led climate action that helps cut carbon, build resilience to economic and environmental shocks and create opportunities for better lives

Funding Secured

6.8 Bradford has been successful in securing funding for several research and capital works across the district.

Nature Towns and Cities

6.9 Bradford Council has been awarded £848,503 of funding from the Nature Towns and Cities initiative, founded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Trust and Natural England. Bradford Council plan to spend the funding on the Green Revolution project. The Council aims to work in collaboration with Bradford Institute for Health Research to pioneer ways to evaluate the health benefits that arise from access to nature in the city, whilst developing pathways to green social prescribing. [\[See reference 57\]](#)

The Bradford and South Pennines Nature Recovery Project

6.10 From April 2023 – April 2025, this Natural England funded initiative worked with Bradford Council and delivery bodies across the district to fund projects which both enhanced nature and people's connection to it. Over a two-year period, Bradford Council directly received £65K. In total projects in Bradford district received ~£500k.

Ilkley Moor Restoration Project

6.11 £200K of grant funding was secured from Rebel Restoration by Bradford Council, Moors for the Future Partnership, Friends of Ilkley Moor to deliver moorland restoration at Ilkley Moor in 2024. This funded sphagnum and tree planting, bracken management and heather cutting, improving the diversity and resilience of the moorland vegetation mosaic. [\[See reference 58\]](#)

Purple Moor Grass Control Research Project

6.12 Natural England funding has been secured for the delivery of a Molinia control research project on Pensitone Hill. The project will look to identify effective ways to reduce dominance of Molinia caerulea on moorland and blanket bog. The research project is designed and delivered by Moors for the Future and forms part of a wider research project on Yorkshire Water land holdings.

Service Level Agreements

6.13 Bradford Council has a service level agreement in place with the West Yorkshire Ecology Service, which hosts the West Yorkshire Ecological Record and provides advice and information to conserve the most significant biodiversity habitats and species within the district. [\[See reference 59\]](#)

Planning Related Mechanisms

6.14 Bradford Council leverages statutory planning tools to secure funding for nature, through Section 106 Agreements, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments, the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC SPD and mitigation from recreational pressure and monitoring fees related to BNG from developers.

Section 106 Agreements

6.15 Section 106 Agreements take the form of financial payments or through the delivery of on-site habitat enhancements.

6.16 Between 2020 and 2024 Bradford Council have agreed £477,580 of S106 funding for biodiversity net gains. [\[See reference 60\]](#)

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

6.17 Since 2017, Bradford Council has charged a CIL to certain new developments to fund infrastructure such as parks and open spaces and to support the delivery of the Local Plan and other Development Plan documents.

6.18 £539,000 from the CIL Strategic Fund was allocated to the improvement of parks and green spaces within the Bradford district in 2023/2024 and another £47,000 was allocated for 2024/25.

Monitoring Fees related to BNG

6.19 Bradford Council has introduced a monitoring and reporting body financial contribution to cover the costs associated with reviewing significant amounts of biodiversity data and monitoring reports related to planning consents, as well as to implement habitat management within the district.

6.20 This contribution is required for developments which deliver a 'significant' provision of BNG from on-site habitats (Medium, High or Very High Distinctiveness) or where there is any off-site provision of BNG. The final value of the fee depends on the provision of biodiversity units but starts at £5,000 per application. [\[See reference 61\]](#)

Partnerships

6.21 Bradford Council sustains biodiversity action with a wide network of delivery partners to deliver specific biodiversity projects. Often, these projects are community-led, allowing nature recovery to be delivered efficiently and equitably. These include:

- **The White Rose Forest**, a community forest partnership for North and West Yorkshire, brings together local authorities, landowners, businesses and communities to increase woodland across the district and beyond. [\[See reference 62\]](#)

- The Council is part of the collaborative **West Yorkshire Flood Innovation Programme** (WYFLIP) which focuses on nature-based solutions, water management, flood warning systems and property flood resilience.
- More than 20 **Friends Groups** run projects to maintain, promote and improve certain parks and nature reserves within the Bradford district. [\[See reference 63\]](#)

Case Study: Friends of Ilkley Moor

Friends of Ilkley Moor are extremely active and successful friends of group with over 480 members. In 2025, they hosted over 25 engagement events including guided bird, botany and heritage walks. A group of 15 – 30 volunteers meet each Tuesday to conduct practical conservation measures and footpath maintenance. Overall, the Friends of Ilkley Moor have been responsible for raising over £800k for restoration works on the moor.

- **Bradford Environmental Education Service** (BEES), the environmental department of YMCA Bradford, manages and creates habitats for wildlife on behalf of Bradford Council at Boars Well Urban Wildlife Area, Baildon Moor, Brackenhill Urban Landscape Area and Reevy Mill Dam. [\[See reference 64\]](#)
- **The Aire Rivers Trust** help to create new wildlife rich habitat within the Bradford district as well as supporting the management of existing sites.
- **Friends of Bradford Beck** are a local community group who assist in the management of Bradford Becks and waterways.
- **Bradford Urban Wildlife Group** (BUWG) manages Shipley Station Butterfly Meadow LWS in collaboration with Butterfly Conservation to maximise opportunities for butterflies and has set up the Bradford Peregrine Trail to create roosts and a safe migratory corridor for these birds from Bradford to Keighley. [\[See reference 65\]](#)
- **Yorkshire Wildlife Trust** (YWT) works with schools along the River Aire to carry out habitat management and environmental education, as well as managing Bradford Council's LWS, such as Low Woods, Keighley.
- **Wharfedale Naturalists** manage Sun Lane and Ben Rhydding Gravel Pits LNRs of behalf of the Council.
- **Trees for Cities and YORGreen CIC** carries out native tree and hedgerow planting within the district. Projects include the Tree for Every Child, which led to over 55,000 trees planted across 90 primary schools in Bradford.

- **Fruit Works Co-operative** supports communities in Bradford to plant and maintain local orchards.
- **The Aire Catchment Network** is the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) [\[See reference 66\]](#) partnership for the River Aire and brings together stakeholders from across the catchment to identify and deliver projects designed to achieve multiple benefits for the river and those who live alongside or visit it.

Case Study: Bingley North Bog

- A partnership between Bradford Council, which owns the bog, the Aire Rivers Trust and the local Dawoodi Bohra community, who funded the project.
- More than £10,000 has been spent on the project, which involves invasive species removal, planting of 1,000 hedgerow trees and a new wildlife observation screen, to improve this site for both wildlife and local people. [\[See reference 67\]](#)

Other Stakeholders in Bradford

6.22 Many organisations are working to enhance biodiversity across the Bradford district, although a formal partnership with Bradford Council is not yet established. Their contributions are recognised below.

- **Yorkshire Water** reseeded community meadows in Keighley and Steeton to support pollinators and delivered training on how to make mini meadows to boost biodiversity. [\[See reference 68\]](#)
- **Libraries Connected and Natural England** partnership delivered the Culture Nature project, which awarded up to £6,000 to certain libraries, such as Manningham and Eccleshill, to redevelop their green spaces, connect the local community with nature and integrate these spaces into wider nature recovery in Bradford. [\[See reference 69\]](#)

Highlights & Challenges

- Bradford Council has established a broad partnership ecosystem which engages local volunteers and gains expertise from larger, non-governmental organisations, giving projects reach and resilience to enhance biodiversity.

- Projects are being delivered across the district, in the moorland, woodlands and urban areas, delivering different habitat and species-specific enhancements.

Chapter 7

Looking Ahead for Nature

7.1 This chapter sets out how Bradford Council will fulfil the biodiversity duty over the coming reporting period to 2030. It first considers the challenges facing Bradford before considering how these will be overcome to deliver on the vision and targets of Bradford Council.

7.2 Looking to the future, continuing to meet the EBD has implications for strategic planning and delivery across Council functions. Delivering on the priorities of the West Yorkshire LNRS and other strategies into delivery plans has the potential to be challenging but a hugely important step. The next five years will see greater integration of biodiversity considerations within Council teams and their work areas.

Context and Challenges

7.3 Bradford Council could experience several different challenges over the next five years. These include but are not limited to:

- Reduction in government funding for Council-provided services, including the management of green spaces. Since 2011, Bradford Council has had to find over £350m in cuts and savings. This has reduced the amount of funding available to conserve and enhance biodiversity across the district.
- Funding available to the Council is often available to create new natural assets but rarely is funding available for the maintenance of existing natural assets.
- Changes to national planning policy including the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 and a restriction on Council's to require over 10% wholesale BNG in the National Planning Policy Framework could limit how much the Council is able to deliver for nature.
- Increased pressure from housing and transport development. Bradford Council plans to deliver over 1,800 new homes. Alongside this, mass transit infrastructure, including a new connection between Leeds and Bradford. Whilst development often results in biodiversity loss there is an opportunity to provide significant enhancements for nature through BNG.
- The importance of the visitor economy to Bradford is identified in the Regeneration and Growth Plan 2025 – 2025 [See reference 70]. This provides opportunities to engage residents and visitors in the natural world by

encouraging visitors to parks and greenspaces. However, increased visitor numbers to designated sites requires proactive management and engagement of people to ensure there are no significant adverse impacts on those sites and the wildlife they support.

- New, or exacerbation of already present, invasive and non-native species and diseases affecting native species and impacting the health of natural habitats. Coverage of Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam is extensive across rivers, becks and waterways in the district. American mink have also been recorded within several waterways and pose a direct threat to water voles. Rhododendron is persistent in some woodlands (particularly St Ives), suppressing native ground flora and carrying a deadly disease which can be fatal to over 150 native tree species. [\[See reference 71\]](#)
- Upland blanket bog habitats, such as those found at Ilkley Moor, are becoming increasingly dominated by purple moor grass. This reduces the abundance of sphagnum mosses and prevents the waterlogged conditions, which are needed for carbon storage and to reduce the risk of wildfires. [\[See reference 72\]](#)
- Climate change is leading to more extreme weather events such as droughts and flooding, which affect ecosystem function. Peatland and upland bog habitats – both of which are locally characteristic of the region – are at particular risk of degradation from warmer temperatures

Visibility and Resourcing

7.4 Above existing resource, the Council has committed to appointing two new ecologists in 2026 to support the delivery of biodiversity conservation and enhancement. These positions will sit within the Countryside and Rights of Way service.

7.5 The Council will appoint a Nature Towns and Cities project manager to see oversee the delivery of the Nature Towns and Cities project over 2026 to 2029.

Vision

7.6 Bradford Council has an ambition to be a 'sustainable district' and that it is known for 'proactively managing' biodiversity, yet their vision for biodiversity could be strengthened. At present the Council does not have a dedicated biodiversity or environment strategy. Not all local strategies and policies reference a commitment to conserving and enhancing biodiversity, and where it is referenced, it is with varying consistency (see **Chapter 3**). Few strategies or plans refer to any targets or

committed actions to deliver for biodiversity. Revisions or edits to existing visions, ambitions and objectives with Bradford Council strategies could include:

- An overall statement that Bradford will be a “nature friendly” city / district.
- Where relevant, all strategies and plans include reference to conserving and enhancing biodiversity.
- Inclusion of “restoring” biodiversity across the district.
- A greater emphasis on reducing inequalities and access to nature across the district.
- An aspiration that more residents can connect with and be empowered to take positive action for nature.
- The inclusion of the importance of maintaining existing sites and species as well as creating new areas for nature.
- The addition of quantitative or qualitative targets or committed actions which deliver for nature.

Policies and Strategies

Updating Strategies

7.7 Bradford Council published its new Council Plan 2026 – 2030 in March 2026.

7.8 Actions in the Plan which have the potential to contribute to conserving and enhancing biodiversity include:

- Enhance local biodiversity and greenspaces to improve management of wildlife areas, and partnership working.
- Engage residents to enhance and maintain local green spaces.
- Create visible partnerships across libraries, youth services, leisure, nature and voluntary sector, including physical activity strategy.
- Work with partner agencies to regulate and enforce standards in the public realm (environmental, visible enforcement issues).
- Develop and strengthen community hubs as trusted local spaces for support, activity and connection.
- Deliver local ‘Pride in Place’ programmes to improve neighbourhood environments and support community-led projects.

- Use libraries, museums and cultural spaces to support community engagement, cohesion and neighbourhood activity.
- Rapidly remove fly-tipping and environmental hazards in priority hotspots.

7.9 Bradford Council is set to review and update several plans, policies and strategies spanning the next reporting period. These strategies and policies all have the potential to incorporate aims, objectives, targets and actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity:

- The Local Plan.
- New Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
- The Bradford Climate Action Plan will renew in 2028. There is potential to explore the creation of a combined Climate and Nature Strategy to streamline resourcing, efficiency and effectiveness across the council to deliver a unified strategy and action plan.

Emerging Strategies

7.10 Bradford Council is set to review and update several plans, policies and strategies spanning the next reporting period. These strategies and policies all have the potential to incorporate aims, objectives, targets and actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity:

- Emerging parks and open space strategy.
- The Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR Management Plan.
- Management Plans for any new Local Nature Reserves which are designated by the Council.
- Emerging Allotment strategy.
- Emerging Children's Play Strategy due for publication in 2026.

Strategic Opportunities

7.11 Over the next five years, opportunities exist to continue to deliver biodiversity enhancements within Council-owned sites, particularly upon the newly declared NNR, leverage external funding (including a possible phase 3 Landscape Recovery bid), and deepen partnerships with community groups, research and educational institutes, and businesses. These actions can help Bradford not only meet local targets and contribute to regional and national targets but also ensure the long-term

resilience of its parks, wider green spaces, waterways, and natural heritage. There are also preliminary discussions regarding a south Pennine Moors Protected Sites Strategy.

Taking Account of the LNRS

7.12 Once published in early 2026, Bradford Council will take account of the West Yorkshire LNRS over the next five years by integrating the 23 priorities and measures into the delivery of their policies and plans and how the Council plans to meet their EBD duty. Bradford Council are also looking to update their emerging Local Plan at Regulation 19 (Publication) stage to include a policy relating to the LNRS and BNG.

Delivery Actions

7.13 Bradford Council intends to deliver the following actions to conserve and enhance biodiversity over the next five years, including:

- Working to ensure all communities have access to high-quality, well-maintained parks or greenspace within walking distance of where they live. This will be provided through both The Nature Towns and Cities project (£845,00 funding provided via Natural England, the National Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund) and the Nature and Wellbeing project (£558k funded via Bradford's Public Health Team) to engage and enthuse local people in urban areas to increase the amount and quality of green space in their neighbourhood.
- Working with White Rose Forest to increase tree cover from 13% to 19% through woodland projects, including street and flood-resistant trees.
- Working with Natural England to declare more LNRs.
- Explore the possibility of developing a Council owned multi-site Habitat Bank to support the delivery of 10% biodiversity gain legislation from new developments.
- Include additional policies in the Local Plan to protect and enhance the natural environment, ensuring new developments mitigate any negative impact from climate change and meet the Urban Greening Factor standards.
- Explore more permanent ways to incorporate rewilding into parks and gardens across the district beyond "No Mow May".
- Developing an ancient grasslands project with Calderdale Council and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to gain better evidence on the distribution of CHEGD grasslands in the district.

- Continue to install SuDS as part of capital projects, potential project include a rain garden on Cavendish Road in Keighley.
- City Village a new 1,000 home development in the heart of Bradford city centre plans to create a 'green' city centre neighbourhood with new provisions for greenspace.
- The continuation of support to schools across the district in creating Climate Action Plans which incorporate biodiversity improvements.
- A Molina Trial on Penistone Hill exploring ways to reduce the dominance this invasive species on moorland across the district.
- Bradford Council has plans to spend receipts from the SPA / SAC recreation levy on rangers, education and capital improvements to protect SPA / SAC from recreational pressure.

Priorities

7.14 Actions Bradford Council could prioritise to deliver national, regional and local biodiversity targets across the next five years identified through **Chapter 2** and an analysis of the West Yorkshire LNRS include:

- Deliver nature restoration projects at South Pennine Moors (SAC, SPA, SSSI), Bingley South Bog SSSI and Trench Meadows SSSI to support the national Environmental Improvement Plan target of '50% of SSSIs with actions on track to reach favourable condition by 2028'. Currently, 2.08% of SSSIs are in favourable condition, well below the national average of 35%.
- Increase the percentage of deciduous woodland (priority habitat) which sits within a statutory designated site. Only 16.46% of deciduous woodland currently sit under the statutory designated site network which is less than other priority habitats such as upland heathland and blanket bog which have 90.92% and 97.97% covered.
- Increase the district's average tree canopy cover of 9.14% to get closer to the national target of 16.5% within the Environmental Improvement Plan and the regional White Rose Forest target of 17% by 2050. This is particularly important in urban areas such as inner Bradford and Keighley, where the canopy cover is less than 9%. This will not only improve access to nature but also mitigate the impacts of extreme weather such as heatwaves and flooding.
- Declare more LNRs to improve access to nature, generate community ownership and get Bradford district closer to Natural England Green

Infrastructure Framework's target of one hectare of LNR per 1,000 people, as they currently have a shortfall of 367.6 ha of LNR.

- Increase the delivery of water-related projects, including wetland and wet woodland creation, particularly in the uplands, restoration of marginal river habitats and river re-wiggling, as a way to maximise the benefits of nature recovery for species, ecosystems and people, as highlighted in the West Yorkshire LNRS (see **Chapter 3**).
- Increase nature-friendly farming within the district through agroforestry, sustainable grazing and wetland creation to reverse the decline in biodiversity associated with historic farming practices, as highlighted in the West Yorkshire LNRS (see **Chapter 3**).

Climate Change Resilience

7.15 Though not among the requirements identified by Defra, consideration of the effects of climate change over the next five years and identification of actions to be taken to build climate resilience are essential. The climate and biodiversity crises are inextricably linked, and the rapidly changing climate will affect biodiversity in the UK.

7.16 Bradford Council have declared a climate emergency and has a Climate Change Action Plan in place to build climate resilience across the district. The ongoing monitoring and reporting of these strategies will enable efficiencies moving forward for capturing relevant data for EBD reporting.

7.17 Possible options that Bradford Council could continue to explore to build climate resilience include:

- Restoring upland peatland and blanket bog habitats through initiatives such as sphagnum moss plug planting and installing leaky dams so that they retain moisture, capture carbon and mitigate climate change.
- Focusing on tree planting and the installation of green infrastructure in urban areas where communities are disproportionately affected by the effects of the urban heat island effect and climate change.
- Increasing the use of SuDS, such as those installed at Great Horton Road, Bradford, into other urban areas across the district to enhance biodiversity and reduce localised flood risk.
- Create and restore wetland habitats, particularly in the uplands, to slow the flow of water, reduce river erosion and protect communities downstream from flooding, as exemplified in the Chellow Dene project.

Monitoring and Evaluation

7.18 A variety of metrics can be used to support the monitoring and evaluation of associated targets and objectives. Metrics associated with other reporting, such as the Climate Change Action Plan are preferred to avoid duplication. This table is based on national targets and existing commitment actions with Bradford Council's strategies. Those that the Council could record include.

Target / Action	Source of Target	Metric	Data Sources	Baseline 2025
SSSIs in favourable condition	Environmental Improvement Plan	% of units / features in favourable condition	Natural England	2.03% of SSSIs in Bradford are in favourable condition.
Wildlife Rich habitat created outside of protected sites	Environmental Improvement Plan	Ha of wildlife rich habitats created outside of protected sites.	Bradford Council and partners	No quantitative data but projects such as the Chellow Dene Wetlands contribute to this target.
Increase provision of hedgerows	Environmental Improvement Plan	Km of hedgerows planted	Bradford Council	No data.
BNG Delivery	Local Plan	No. of BNG Units delivered	Bradford Council	5.05
All major parks received the Green Flag award by 2035.	Bradford District 2035	Number of parks with green flag award.	Green Flag Accreditation Scheme	6 parks received Green Flag Award Status.
Increase tree and woodland cover from 10.1% to 17% by 2050.	Regeneration And Growth Plan	% Tree Cover	NFI, Trees Outside Woodlands and Traditional Orchards	9.14% (calculated from NFI, Trees Outside Woodlands (TOW) and Traditional Orchards).

Target / Action	Source of Target	Metric	Data Sources	Baseline 2025
Explore the possibility of developing a Council owned multi-site Habitat Bank	White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 - 2050	No. of sites / ha of land within a council owned habitat bank	Bradford Council	None.
Achieve a grade A as part of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) assessment.	Climate Change Action Plan 2025 – 2028	Assessment grade	Bradford Council	High B
All communities have access to high-quality, well-maintained parks or greenspace within walking distance of where they live.	Climate Change Action Plan 2025 – 2028	% of residents which live within a 15 min walk of accessible greenspace.	1 ha Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population	196 ha of LNR, (2025 shortfall of 367.6 ha)

Target/Action	Source of Target	Metric, Data Source, Baseline 2025
Halt species decline by 2030; increase abundance by $\geq 10\%$ by 2042	Environmental Improvement Plan	<p>The West Yorkshire LNRS includes 27 individual species (e.g. red squirrels, water voles and adders) and 13 groups of species (e.g. farmland birds, light-adverse bats and freshwater fish).</p> <p>To monitor changes in these species / assemblages the following three steps need to be followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decide a suitable metric for each species (e.g. no. of nesting sites).

Target/Action	Source of Target	Metric, Data Source, Baseline 2025
		2. Establish a baseline for each species. 3. Develop a monitoring system for each species.

Chapter 8

Summary and Conclusion

8.1 This chapter summarises the achievements that Bradford Council has delivered to meet its biodiversity duty to January 2026, and concludes the actions required to deliver this to 2030.

State of Nature

8.2 Being two-thirds rural, Bradford district's ecological network is extensive. Bradford's designated site network covers 17.03% of the district (6,420 ha), the majority of this is the South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA/SSSI, covering 12.3% of the district.

8.3 7,046 ha of Bradford district is classified as priority habitat (19.23% of the district). 69.85% of this is under a statutory wildlife site designation.

8.4 Only 2.08% of SSSIs in the district are classified as in favourable condition, well below the national average. However, 76.03% of SSSIs are classified as unfavourable - recovering (above the national average), suggesting that the condition of Bradford district's SSSIs are on an upward trajectory.

8.5 Tree canopy cover is 9.14% compared with the national target of 16.5%. Greenspace accessibility is low compared to the national average, with 367.6 ha of additional LNR required to meet Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework target of one hectare of LNR per 1,000 people.

Headline Achievements

8.6 Bradford Council have taken many steps to enhance biodiversity within the district. The Biodiversity First Considerations Report was agreed in 2024 and will be published along with this report. The Council has an ambition to be 'a sustainable district' and to be known for taking a 'proactive approach to biodiversity management'. The Council has strategic policies in its Core Strategy Development Plan for green infrastructure and protecting the South Pennines Moors SAC/SPA/SSSI. This is supported by thematic themes including ecology and geodiversity, trees and woodland and landscape. The Council has several strategies which reference improvements to the natural environment and provision of greenspace including the Climate Change Plan and the Physical Activity Strategy.

However, the Council is missing a Biodiversity Action Plan or dedicated strategy for nature recovery across the district.

8.7 The Council has officers who have a direct remit for conserving and enhancing biodiversity including three council ecologists. Two more ecologists are coming in 2026 demonstrating a commitment to furthering the staff resource available to protect and enhance of biodiversity across the district. The Council also has a woodlands manager and a woodland creation officer, Council officers in teams without a direct remit for biodiversity also contribute including public health, museums, galleries and libraries, planning, highways and capital works.

8.8 Bradford Council has taken action to enhance biodiversity and greenspaces across the district. Key examples include extensive restoration work on Ilkley Moor including the planting of 56,000 Sphagnum plugs, wetland creation at Chellow Dene Wetlands, planting over 55,000 trees between 2020 and 2023, multiple green infrastructure projects within Bradford city and declaring the Bradford Pennine Gateway NNR in 2025 (the first NNR in West Yorkshire).

8.9 Bradford Council have been celebrated for their regeneration work in the city centre which has created over 12,000m² of new greenspace, this includes winning “national infrastructure project of the year” at the Constructing Excellence Awards.

8.10 Bradford Council supports residents and local communities to play a part in biodiversity enhancements. Highlights including supporting over 20 active ‘Friends of groups’ in the district and the Bradford Biodiversity Partnership.

Next Steps

8.11 Over the next five years, Bradford Council will continue to carry out their duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and meet local, regional and national biodiversity targets.

8.12 Committed actions within Bradford Council’s strategies include increasing tree canopy cover, exploring the possibility of a Council-owned habitat bank for BNG, and continuing to invest in green infrastructure so that all communities have access to high-quality, well-maintained parks or greenspace within walking distance of where they live.

8.13 Priority actions which the Council could explore to further deliver for biodiversity are included in **Chapter 7**

8.14 Policies in the Local Plan will require developers to both conserve and enhance biodiversity. BNG will also offer further opportunities for habitat creation in the district.

8.15 Emerging projects and initiatives including the Health, Nature and Wellbeing project funded through Bradford's public health team and the externally funded Nature Towns and Cities project. These both aim to increase the quality and quantity of greenspaces across the district.

8.16 Bradford Council will continue to support its community groups with a vested interest in biodiversity. Bradford Council will continue to work with schools through creating climate change actions plans and supporting the National Nature Education Park. Multiple council departments including parks and woodlands, museums and galleries and libraries will offer opportunities for the public to engage in biodiversity.

8.17 Appendix B provides a table of the national, regional and local targets and actions which Bradford Council will need to deliver on over the next five years.

Appendix A

Figures

A.1 Location of Bradford District

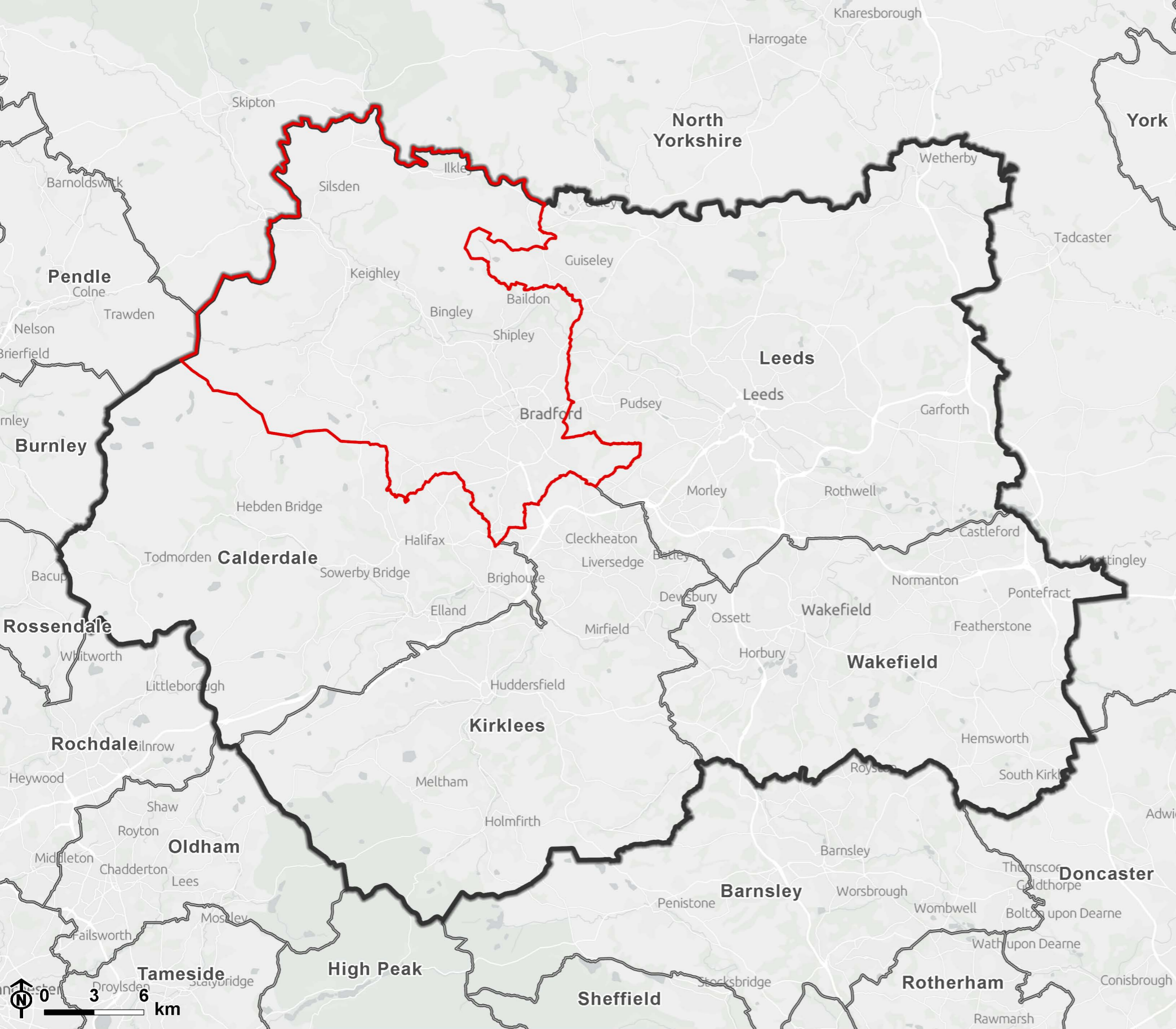
A.2 Designated Sites within Bradford district.

A.3 Priority habitats with Bradford district.

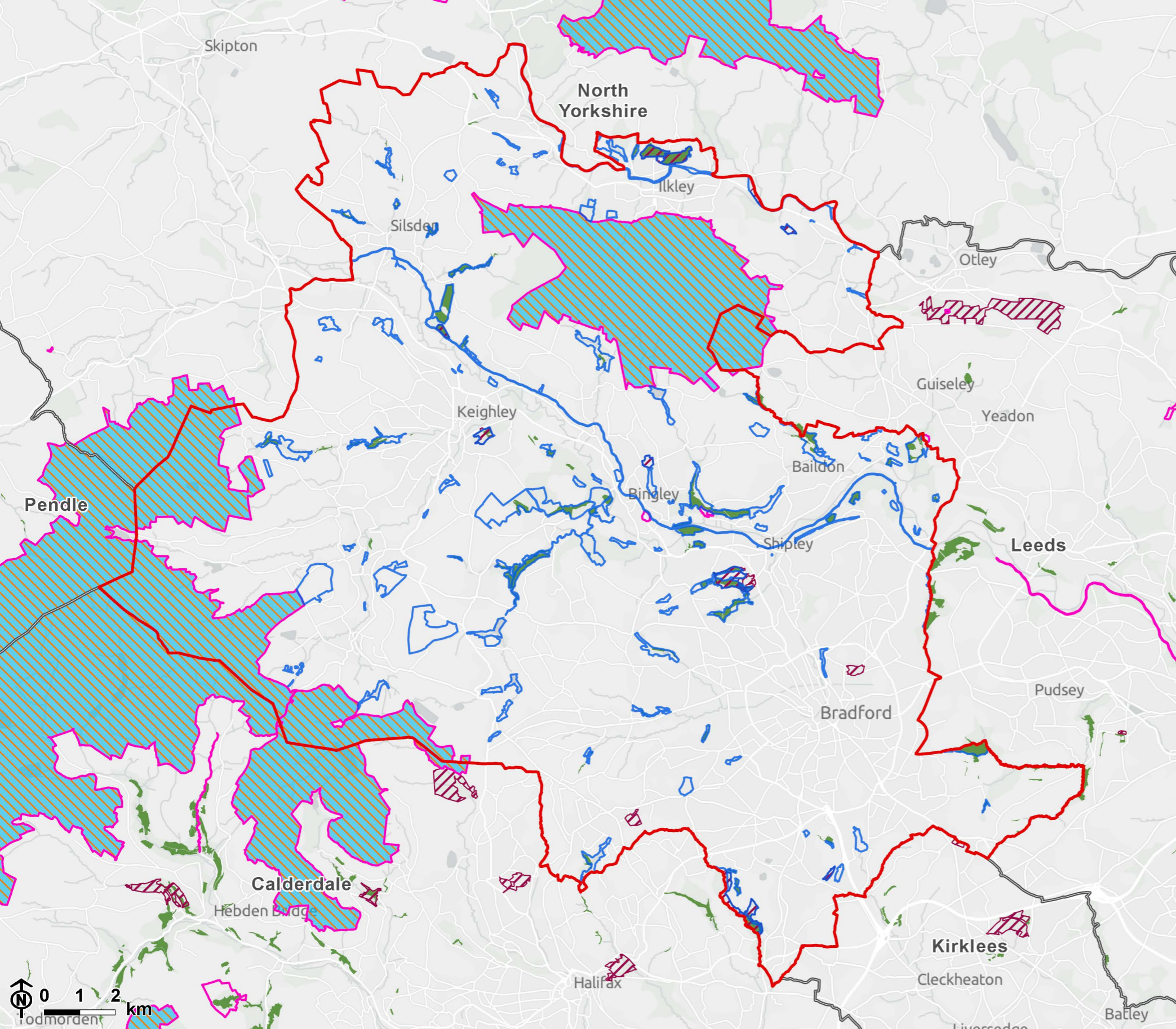
A.4 Water Quality within Bradford district.

A.5 Access to Nature within Bradford district.

A.6 Climate Vulnerability within Bradford district.



- Legend**
- Bradford district boundary
 - West Yorkshire county boundary
 - Neighbouring Local Authority boundary

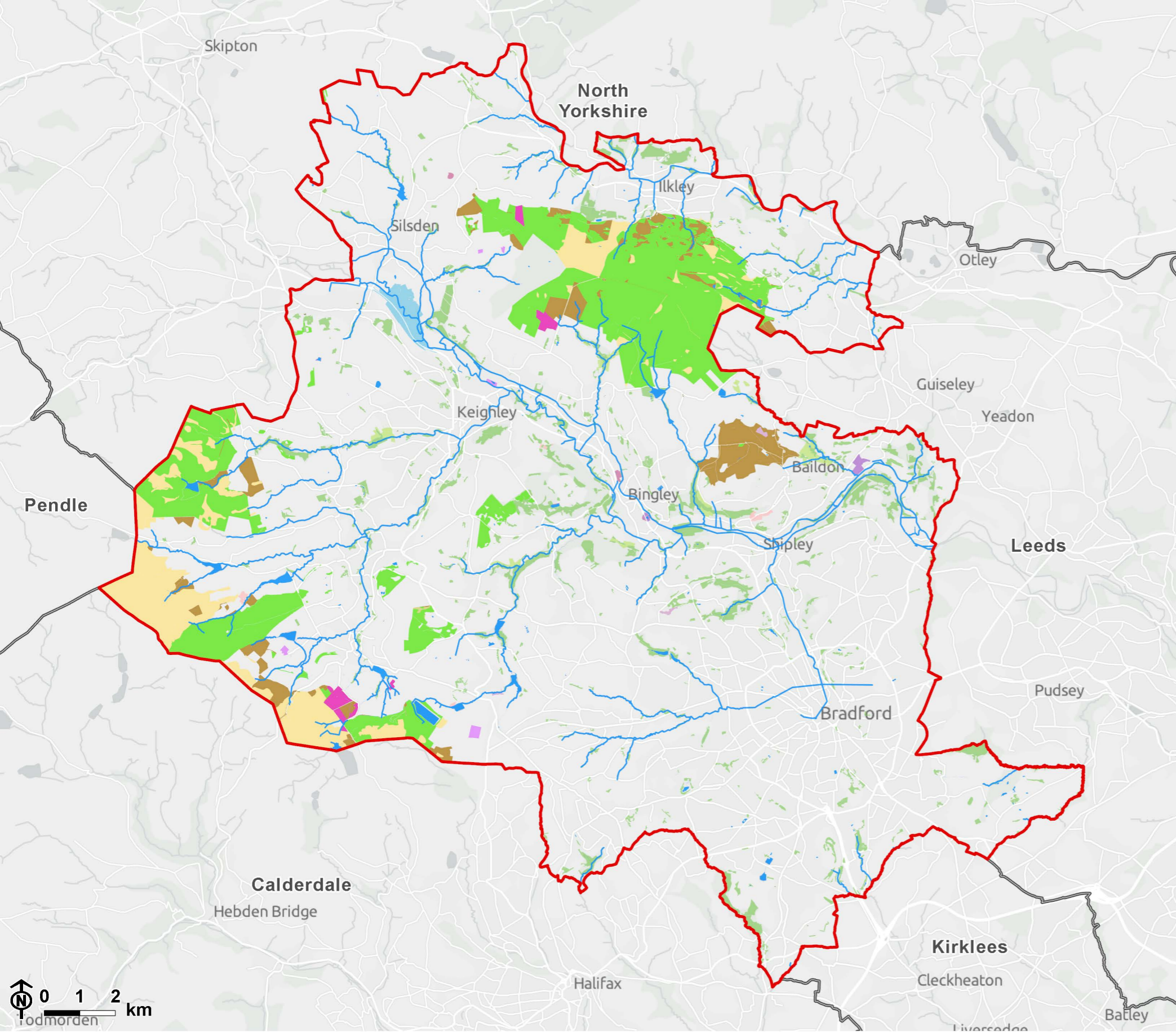


Legend

- Bradford district boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority boundary
- Local Wildlife Sites
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Area of Conservation
- Local Nature Reserve
- Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland
- Special Protection Area

Note: numbers in brackets show the designation area within Bradford district. Local Wildlife Site data is only shown within the Bradford boundary.

Designated Sites	Hectarage (Ha)	% cover of Bradford district	% within a designation
Local Nature Reserve	196.40	0.54	N/A
SSSI	4499.12	12.28	N/A
SPA	4489.30	12.25	N/A
SAC	4489.30	12.25	N/A
Local Wildlife Sites	1486.58	4.06	N/A
National Nature Reserve	1271.71	3.47	N/A
Ancient Woodland	407.34	1.11	90.60



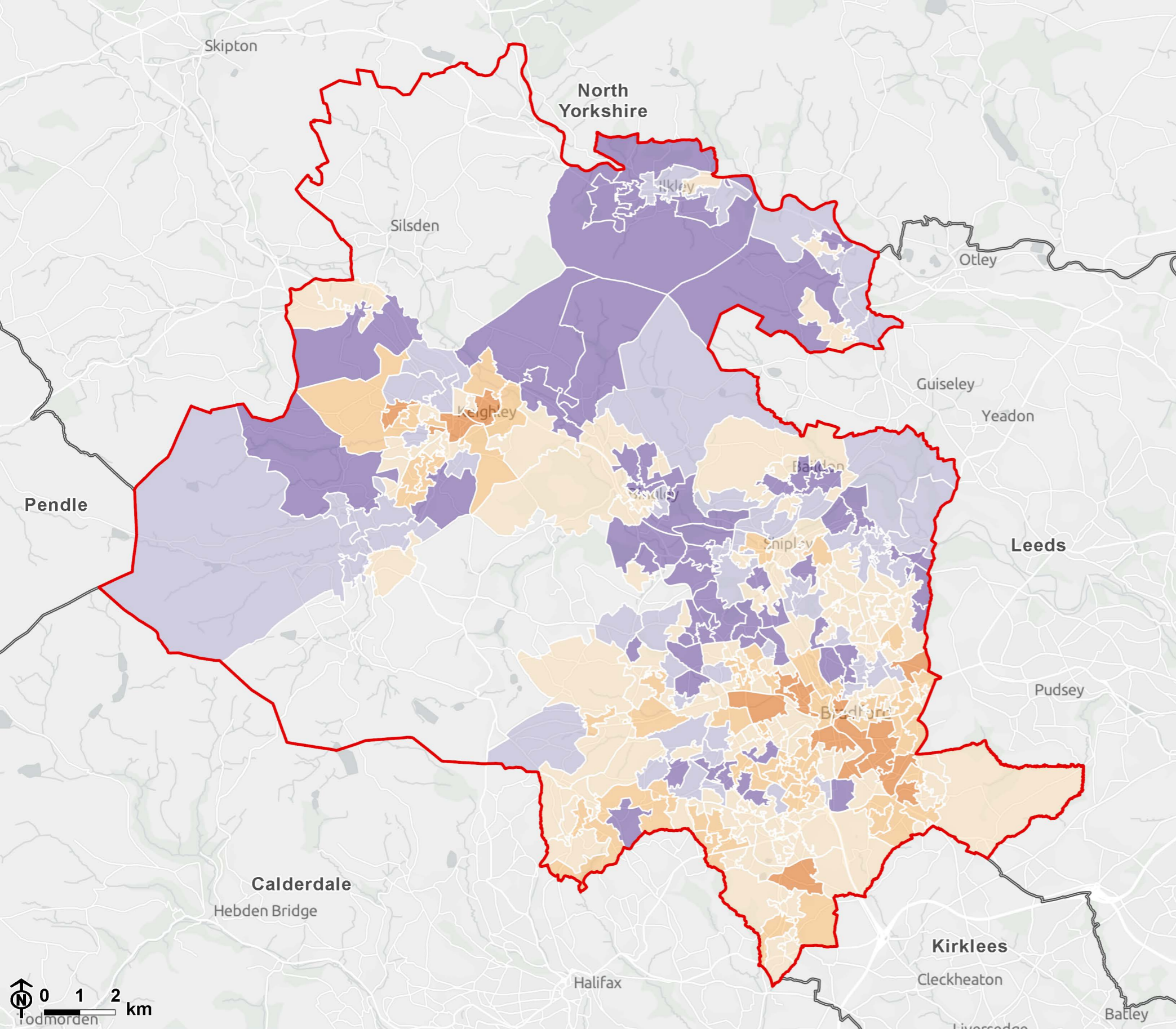
Legend

- Bradford district boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority boundary
- Rivers
- Surface water

Priority Habitats

- 1. Blanket bog (17.3%)
- 2. Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (1.5%)
- 3. Deciduous woodland (22.5%)
- 4. Fragmented heath (1.1%)
- 5. Good quality semi improved grassland (0.3%)
- 6. Grass moorland (10.4%)
- 7. Lowland dry acid grassland (0.3%)
- 8. Lowland fens (0.1%)
- 9. Lowland heathland (0.1%)
- 10. Lowland meadows (1.3%)
- 11. Ponds (<0.01%)
- 12. Purple moor grass and rush pastures (0.2%)
- 13. Traditional orchard (0.1%)
- 14. Upland flushes fens and swamps (0.1%)
- 15. Upland heathland (44.7%)

Priority habitat	Hectarage (ha)	% cover of Bradford district	% within a statutory designation
1. BLBOG	1198.08	3.27	97.97
2. CFPGM	107.33	0.29	N/A
3. DWOOD	1558.99	4.26	16.46
4. FHEAT	79.07	0.22	73.48
5. GQSIG	19.89	0.05	0.07
6. GMOOR	724.02	1.98	78.22
7. LDAGR	17.70	0.05	12.76
8. LFENS	7.60	0.02	59.51
9. LHEAT	10.36	0.03	20.46
10. LMEAD	90.81	0.25	15.61
11. PONDS	0.04	0.00	N/A
12. PMGRP	15.80	0.04	14.96
13. TORCH	3.64	0.01	N/A
14. UFFSW	3.55	0.01	N/A
15. UHEAT	3098.12	8.46	90.92
Total	6934.99	18.93	69.85



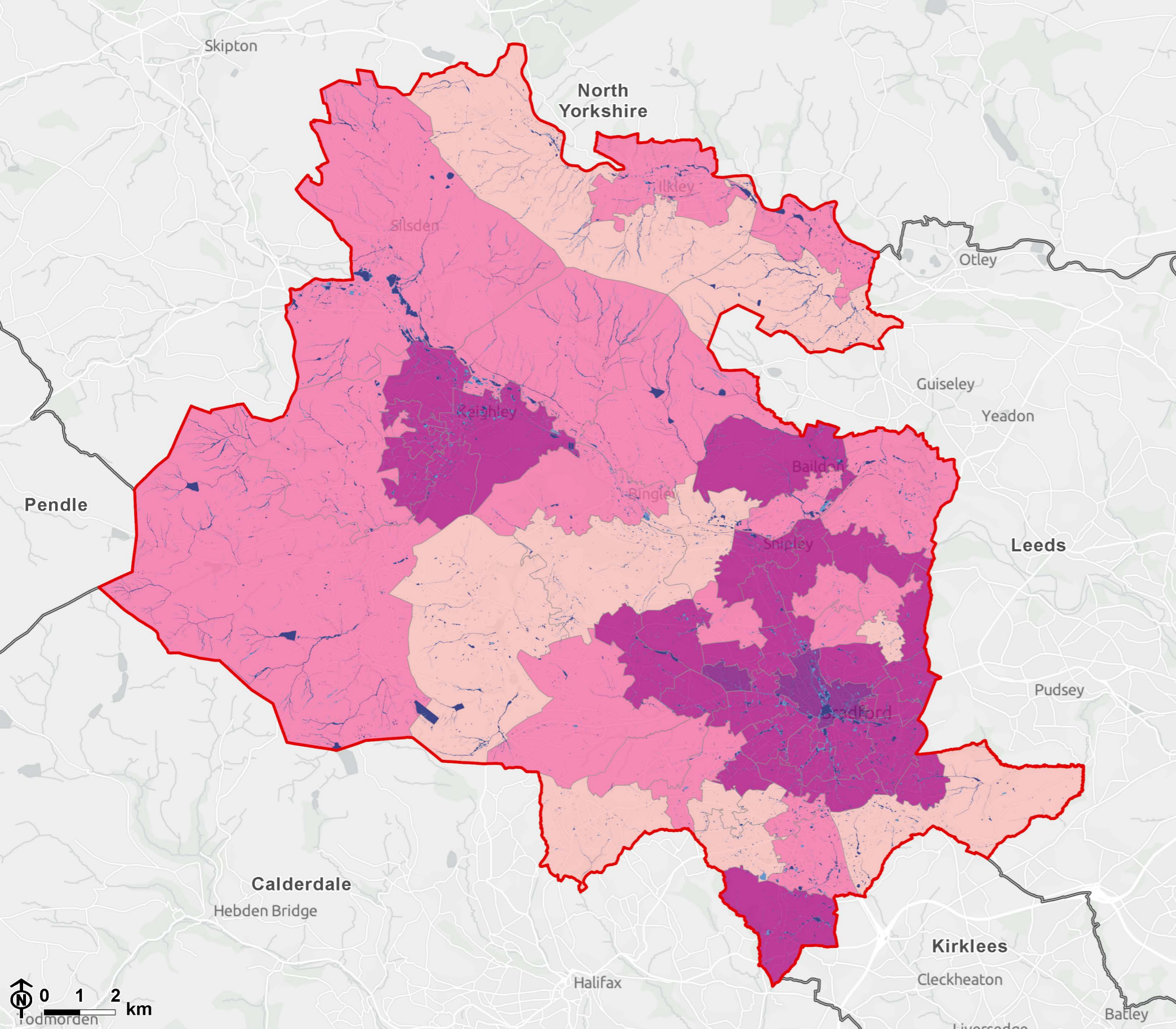
Legend

- Bradford district boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority boundary

Tree Equity Score

- 64 or less
- 64 - 75
- 75 - 84
- 84 - 93
- 93 to 100



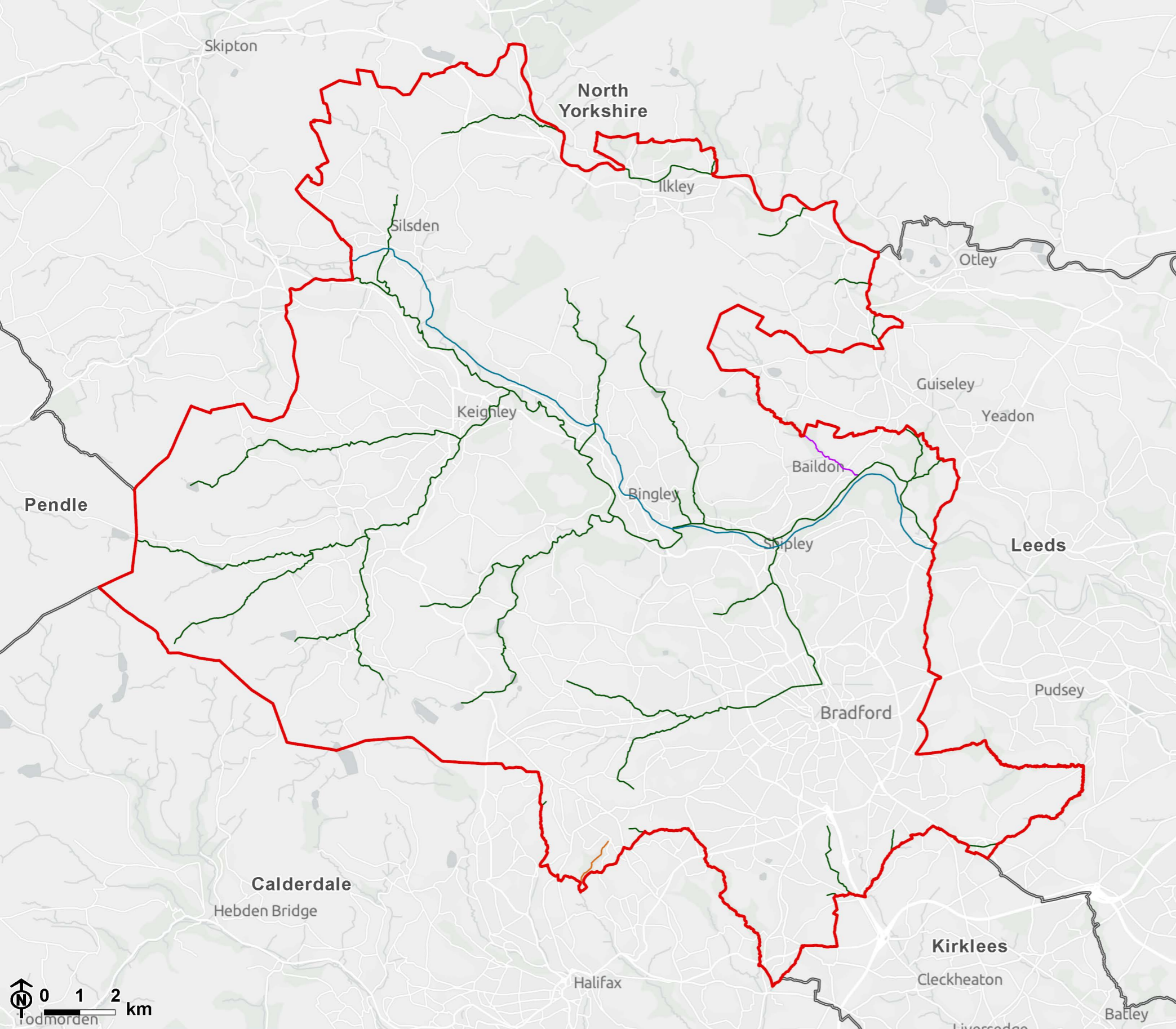


Legend

- Bradford district boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority boundary
- Risk of surface water flooding (RoFSW)**
- Medium (1 in 100)
- High (1 in 30)
- Heat socio-spatial vulnerability**
- ≤ - 2.5 (Slight)
- 1.5 to -2.5 (Extremely low)
- 0.5 to -1.5 (Relatively Low)
- 0.5 to -0.5 (Average)
- 0.5 to 1.5 (Relatively High)
- 1.5 to 2.5 (Extremely High)
- ≥ 2.5 (Acute)

RoFSW	Area (ha)	% cover of Bradford district
Medium	518.47	1.42
High	814.51	2.22

Heat vulnerability	Area (ha)	% cover of Bradford district
Acute	382.10	1.04
Extremely high	959.95	2.62
Relatively high	6010.11	16.40



Legend

- Bradford district boundary
- Neighbouring Local Authority boundary
- WFD Ecological Classifications for waterbodies (2022)**
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Not assessed

Note:
Certain waterbodies have not yet been classified by the Environment Agency and therefore do not appear on this map



Appendix B

Bradford Council's progress against national, regional and local targets 2020 to date

Table B.1: National targets and progress since 2020 to date

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023	Habitat restoration / creation	Restore/create > 500,000 ha wildlife-rich habitat by 2042: 140,000 ha by 2028	Quantitative	Projects such as the restoration of Ilkley Moor and Chellow Dene Wetlands contribute to this target.	Ongoing
Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023	Species protection	Halt species decline by 2030; increase abundance by ≥ 10% by 2042	Quantitative	Actions such as installing the Peregrine nest box on City Hall contribute to this target.	Ongoing
Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023	Protected areas	Protect 30% of land and sea for nature by 2030	Quantitative	12.84% of Bradford district is currently designated as a SAC, SPA, NNR or SSSI (favourable or	Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
				unfavourable, recovering condition).	
Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) 2023	Tree cover	Increase woodland and canopy to 16.5% by 2050	Quantitative	Tree canopy cover is estimated at 9.14%.	Ongoing
Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework	LNR Designations	1 ha of LNR per 1,000 population.	Quantitative	The mid-2024 estimate of Bradford district's population is 563,600, which means with 196 ha of LNR, the district is currently suffering a shortfall of 367.6 ha of LNR.	Ongoing

Table B.2: Regional targets and progress since 2020 to date

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
West Yorkshire Transport Strategy	Green Infrastructure	The transport system must have a positive impact on	Qualitative	Bradford Council have worked on several transport	Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		our built and natural environment.		schemes which deliver benefits for the environment including the city centre regeneration and Horton Road.	
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)	Green Infrastructure	Prioritise nature-first solutions, developing and investing in green and blue infrastructure (i.e. nature-based) solutions over grey (e.g. concrete and steel) infrastructure.	Qualitative	Bradford's green infrastructure projects at the top of tow, in the city centre and at Great Horton Road contribute to this target.	Ongoing
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)		Develop a regional land use and water management approach that helps prioritise restoration of quality habitat and carbon stores [...].	Qualitative		No data

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)	Plans and Policies	Implement Local Nature Recovery Strategies across the region.	Qualitative		The West Yorkshire LNRS is due for publication in 2026.
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)	Habitat Restoration	Protect and Restore Ecological Systems.	Qualitative	Bradford restoration work on Ilkley Moor including plating 56,000 Sphagnum plants and installing 354 leaky dams contribute to this objective.	Ongoing
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)		Prioritise catchment-scale, nature-first approaches to water management that restore the natural health of our diverse rural environments whilst protecting our urban areas from floods and droughts.	Qualitative		Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)	Management of greenspace	Reduce dependency on synthetic fertilisers and pesticides	Qualitative		Ongoing
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission - Climate Action Plan (Update 2024)	Plans and Policies	Develop a regional standard of stewardship for landowners that promotes nature-positive and socially beneficial land and water management.	Qualitative	Bradford Council have contributed to this ambition by developing BNG guidance for landowners.	Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Tree Cover	Overarching Objective: A base target of increasing tree cover to 16.5% across the project area. This will increase the area of trees and woodland ~46,000 hectares (equivalent to 92,000,000 trees).	Quantitative	Bradford Council have increased tree cover by planting over 55,000 trees in 2020 – 2023.	Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Woodland Management	A stretch target of increasing tree cover to 18.5% (67,000 hectares, 134,000,000 trees).	Quantitative		Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Access to nature	Overarching Objective: Increase the percentage of sustainably managed woodland from 62% to 70% by 2050 and percentage of sustainably managed ancient woodland from 72% to 90% by 2050.	Quantitative		Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Plans and Policies	Overarching Objective: Increase the percentage of households with an area of accessible woodland over 0.1ha in size within 500m from	Qualitative		Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Plans and Policies	25% to 50% by 2050	Qualitative		Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Education and Engagement	Overarching Objective: Each Local Authority area has a current, resourced and effective trees and woodland strategy (in line with the White Rose Forest Strategic Plan) by 2050.	Quantitative		Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Tree Cover	Overarching Objective: Local Planning policies support the White Rose Forest and are securing meaningful developer investment into the delivery of the White Rose Forest	Quantitative	Bradford Council have increased tree cover by planting over 55,000 trees in 2020 – 2023	Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		Strategic Plan by 2050.			
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Habitat Creation / Restoration	Overarching Objective: Increase the number of people directly engaged in the core work of the White Rose Forest partnership from 8,000 to 16,000 per year by 2050.	Qualitative	Bradford have invested in urban greening projects such as tree planting at Central Mosque and at Laisterdyke.	Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Habitat Creation / Restoration	Bradford District Objective: Increase tree and woodland cover from 10.1% to 17% by 2050. This will increase the area of trees and woodland by approximately 2,500 hectares.	Qualitative	Bradford Council has a woodland creation officer who works with farmers to encourage tree planting.	Ongoing
White Rose Forest Strategic Plan 2025 – 2050	Habitat Creation / Restoration	Bradford District Objective: Urban forest planting such as street trees and	Qualitative		Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		pocket parks will connect people and nature providing long term benefits to communities and the natural environment.			
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Natural Flood Management	Bradford District Objective: Wood pasture planting will benefit our rural areas and connect landscapes. With a focus on grazing land, targeted low-density planting will enhance and preserve productive land.	Qualitative	Bradford Council have delivered natural flood management projects via restoration works on Ilkley Moor and creating Chellow Dene Wetlands.	Ongoing
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Plans and Policies	Bradford District Objective: Aire catchment planting will provide additional woodland creation benefits such as natural	Qualitative		Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		flood management. Catchment tree planting assists with slowing the flow of water to reduce flooding in affected communities.			
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Data and Mapping	Identify and deliver a pipeline of natural flood management projects.	Qualitative		Ongoing
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Funding	Embed inclusive growth principles – including green and blue infrastructure and health and wellbeing – into the appraisal of capital development projects	Qualitative	Bradford Council has been successful in secure ~£850k from nature towns and cities.	Ongoing
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Plans and Policies	Understand the full picture of green and blue infrastructure provision across the region by	Qualitative		Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		developing a City Region-wide green and blue infrastructure map.			
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Data and Mapping / Habitat Creation / Restoration	Identify funding for the development and maintenance of green and blue infrastructure (this is a major barrier currently)	Qualitative	Bradford Council have delivered restoration works on peatland on Ilkley Moor.	Ongoing
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Plans and Policies	Set out how the White Rose Forest in Yorkshire will achieve its share of commitments to creating a Northern Forest.	Qualitative		Ongoing
Leeds City Region Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan	Plans and Policies	Map, plan and prioritise peatland restoration projects across the City Region and identify funding beyond 2020.	Qualitative	Bradford Council have worked on several transport schemes which deliver benefits for the environment including the city	Ongoing

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
				centre regeneration and Horton Road.	

Table B.3: Local targets and progress since 2020 to date

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
Our Council Plan	Tree Cover	To plant one tree per child in the district.	Quantitative		
Core Strategy DPD	Habitat Management	Net increase in the % of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented.	Quantitative		
Core Strategy DPD	Water Quality	No deterioration in the ecological status of water bodies.	Qualitative		
Bradford District 2035	Quality Greenspace	All major parks received the Green Flag award by 2035	Quantitative	In 2025, 6 major parks in Bradford	

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
				received Green Flag status.	
Regeneration And Growth Plan	Greenspace Provision	All communities have access to high-quality, well-maintained parks or greenspace within walking distance of where they live.	Qualitative	Bradford Council declared 8 new LNRs in 2025 contributing to this target.	
The Physical Activity Strategy for Bradford	Tree Cover	Working with White Rose Forest to increase tree cover from 13% to 19% through woodland projects, including street and flood-resistant trees.	Quantitative	Deciduous woodland covers 4.26% of the district, below England's average of 10%.	
Draft Bradford Climate Action Plan	Designated Site Coverage	Working with Natural England to declare a NNR and a suite of LNRs.	Qualitative	Bradford declared a NNR in May 2025 and eight Local Nature Reserves in late 2025.	
Draft Bradford Climate Action Plan	Policies and Plans	Continued support to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority	Qualitative	Bradford Council officers have supported the development of the	

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		for the development of the West Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.		LNRS through attending workshops and commenting on drafts.	
Draft Bradford Climate Action Plan	Biodiversity Net Gain	Exploring the possibility of developing a Council owned multi-site Habitat Bank in order to support the delivery of 10% biodiversity gain legislation from new developments.	Qualitative	Bradford Council officers have been exploring this possibility.	
Draft Bradford Climate Action Plan	Policies and Plans	Including additional policies in the local plan to protect and enhance the natural environment, ensuring new developments mitigate any negative impact from climate change and meet the Urban	Qualitative	At the time of writing, Bradford's Local Plan is at Reg 18 stage (being drafted). Bradford Council are looking to substantially amend the biodiversity policies at the Reg 19 stage	

Source	Theme	Target	Type	Notes	Progress
		Greening Factor standards.		to take account of BNG, LNRS etc.	

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