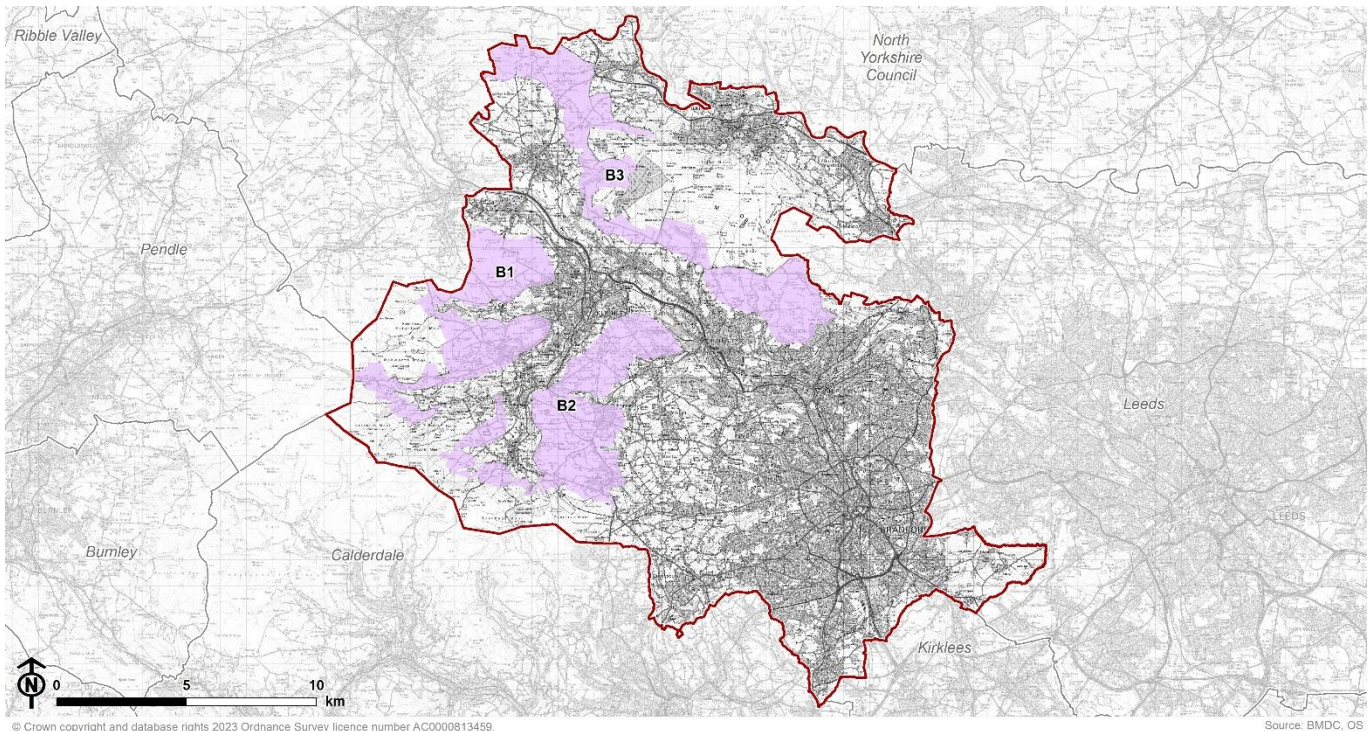


Landscape Character Type B: Moorland Fringe

Figure 3.18: Location of the Moorland Fringe



LCT B Overview

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

There are three LCAs within this LCT:

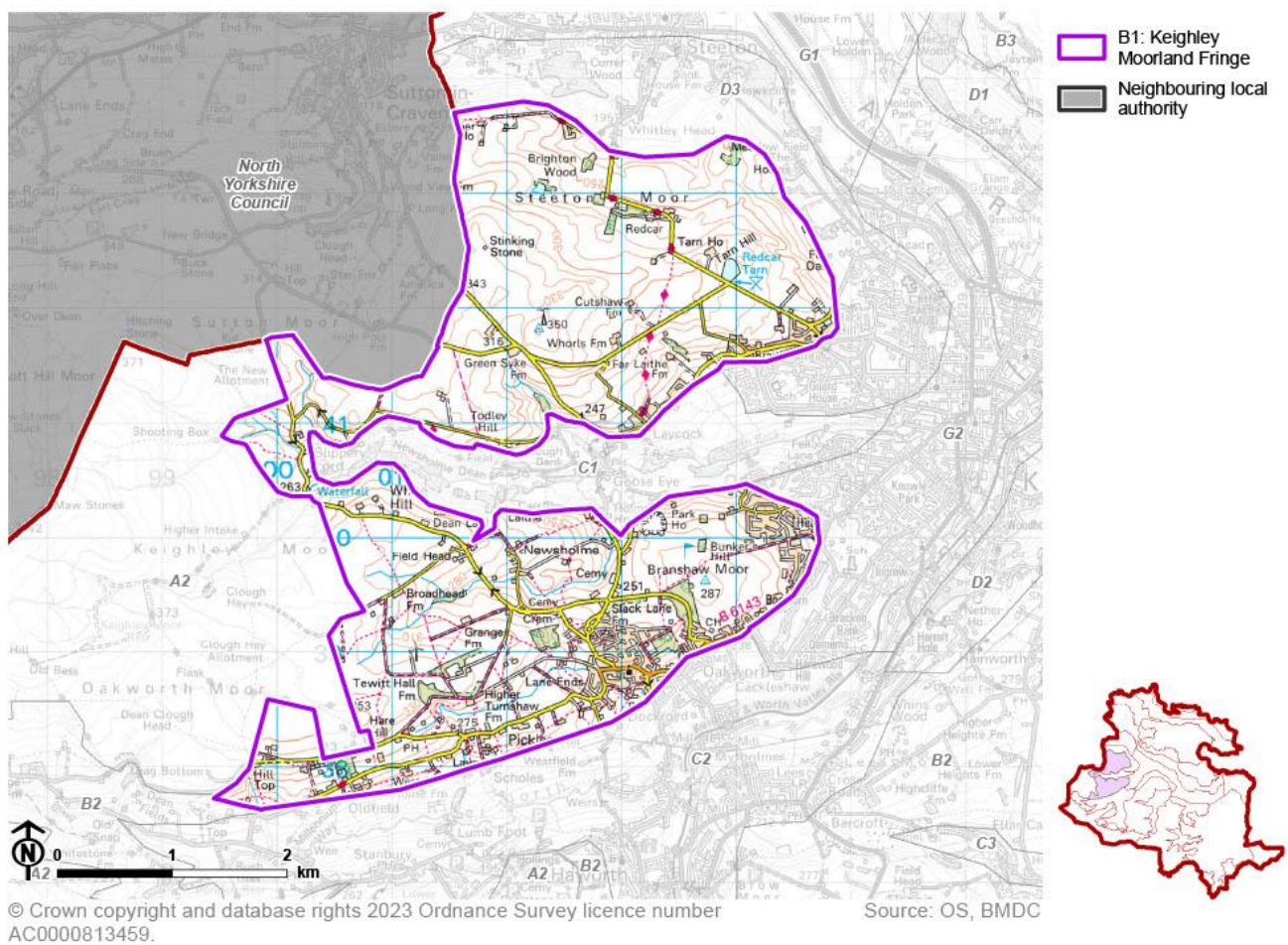
- B1. Keighley Moorland Fringe
- B2. Cullingworth and Haworth Moorland Fringe
- B3. Silsden and Baildon Moorland Fringe

B1. Keighley Moorland Fringe

Location, Context and Summary

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

Figure 3.19: Location of LCA B1



Key Characteristics

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

Figure 3.20: Example photos from LCA B1



Cattle grazing on sloping pasture near Oakworth.



Drystone walls define straight-edged field margins.



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



Recreational use at Oakworth Cricket Club.



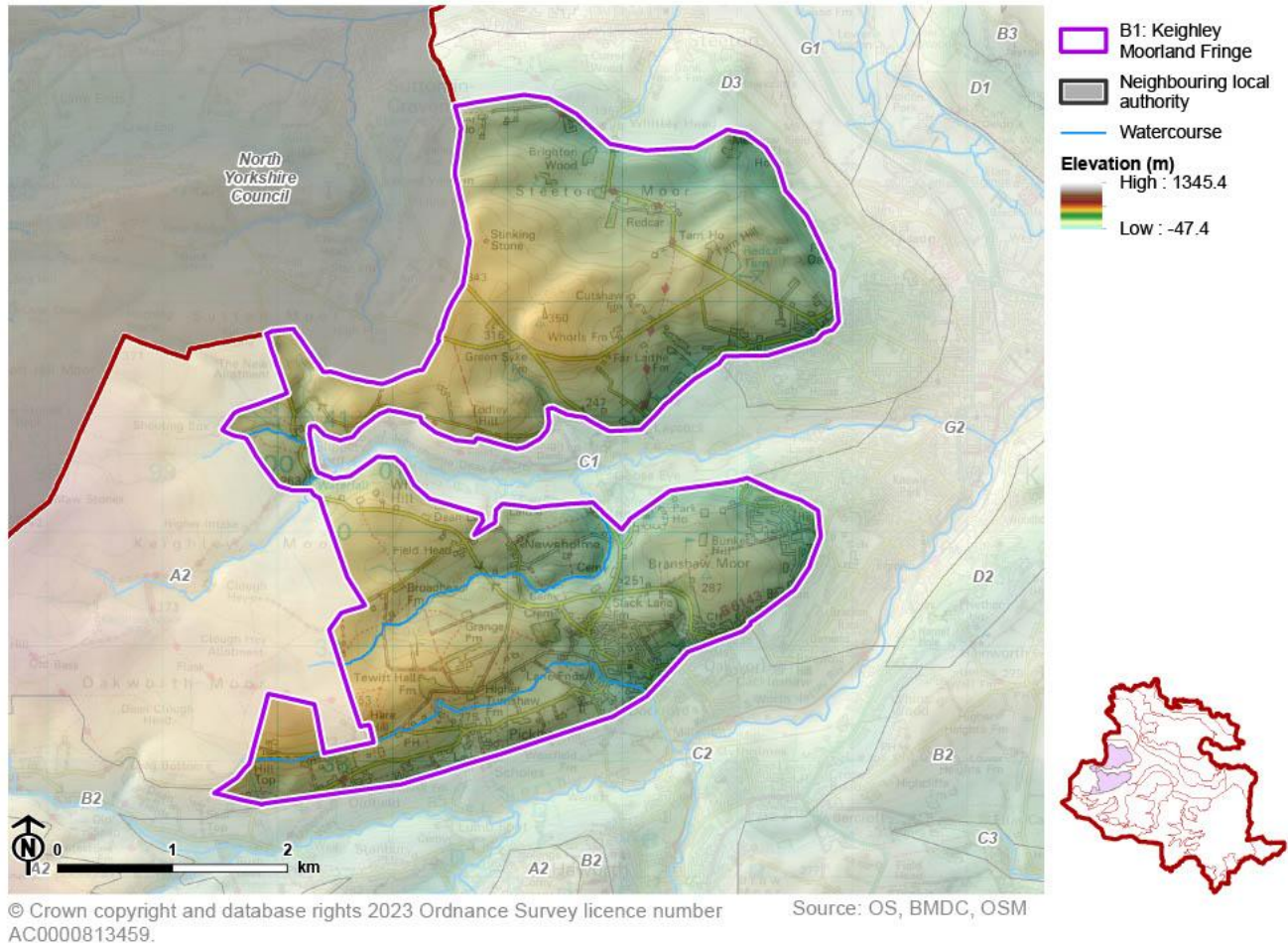
Redcar Tarn popular picnic spot.



Laycock Conservation Area.

Landscape Character

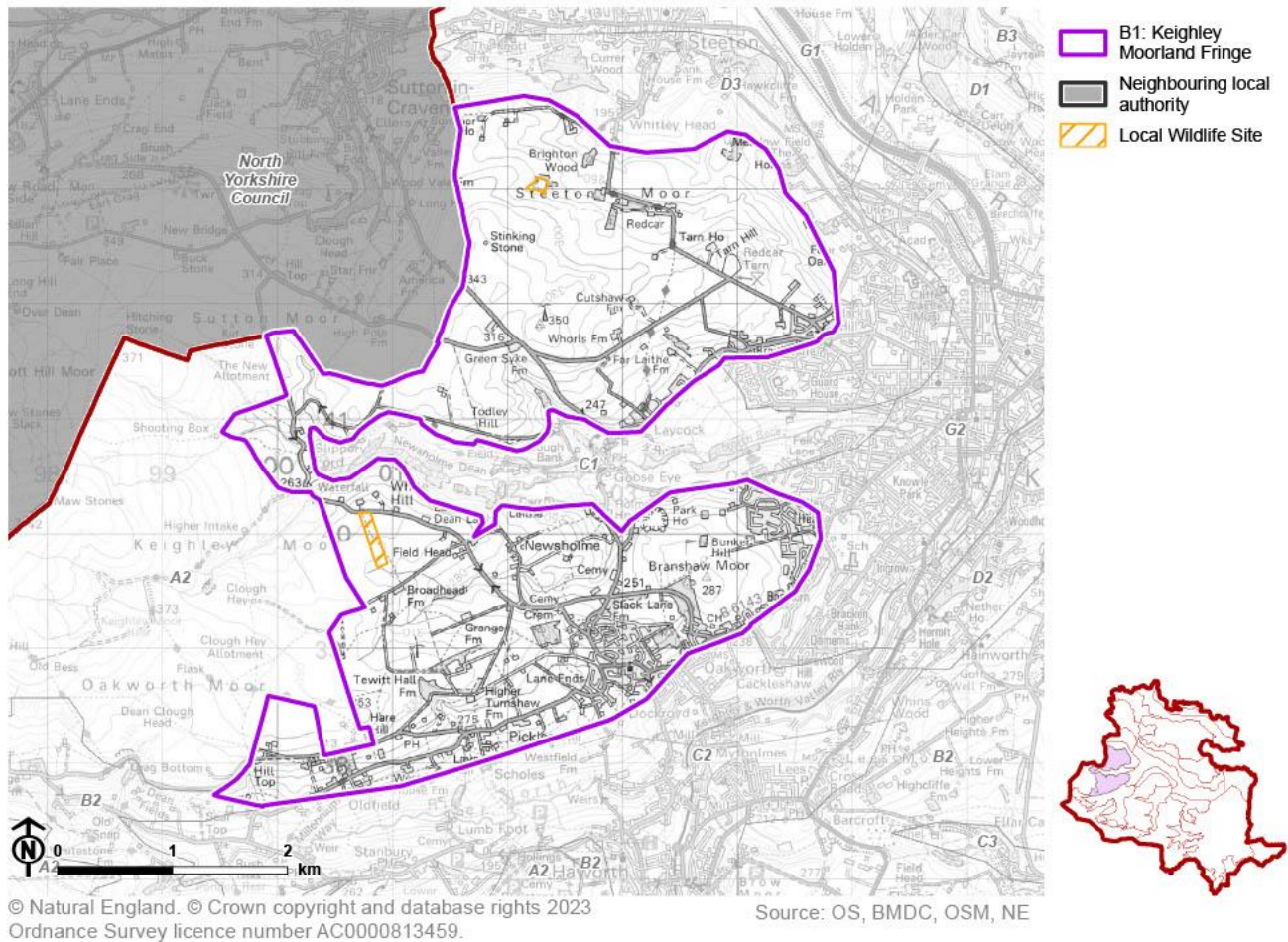
Figure 3.21: Topography of LCA B1



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

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

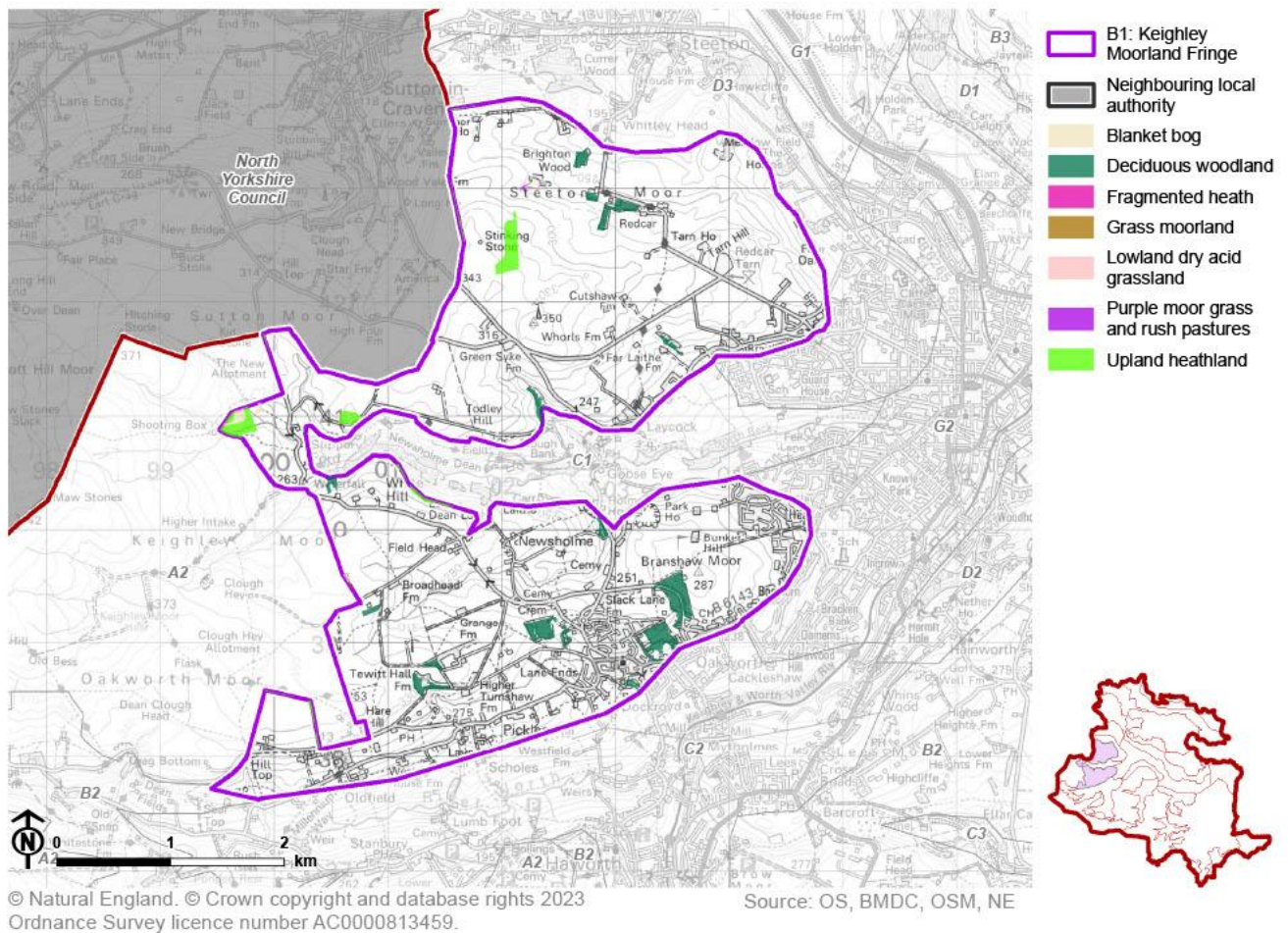
Figure 3.22: Natural heritage of LCA B1



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

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

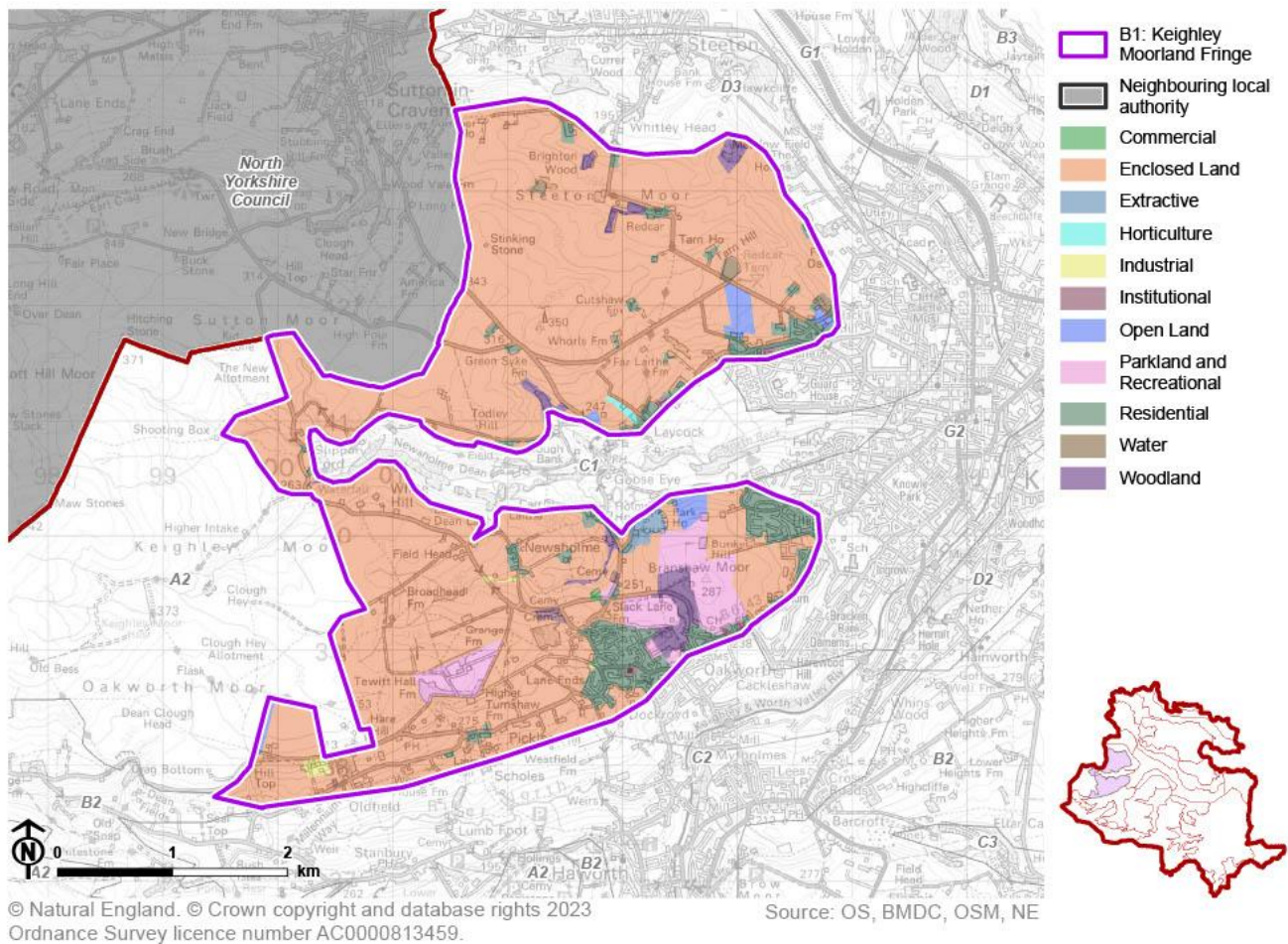
Figure 3.23: Priority habitat inventory of LCA B1



Land Use and Field Patterns

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

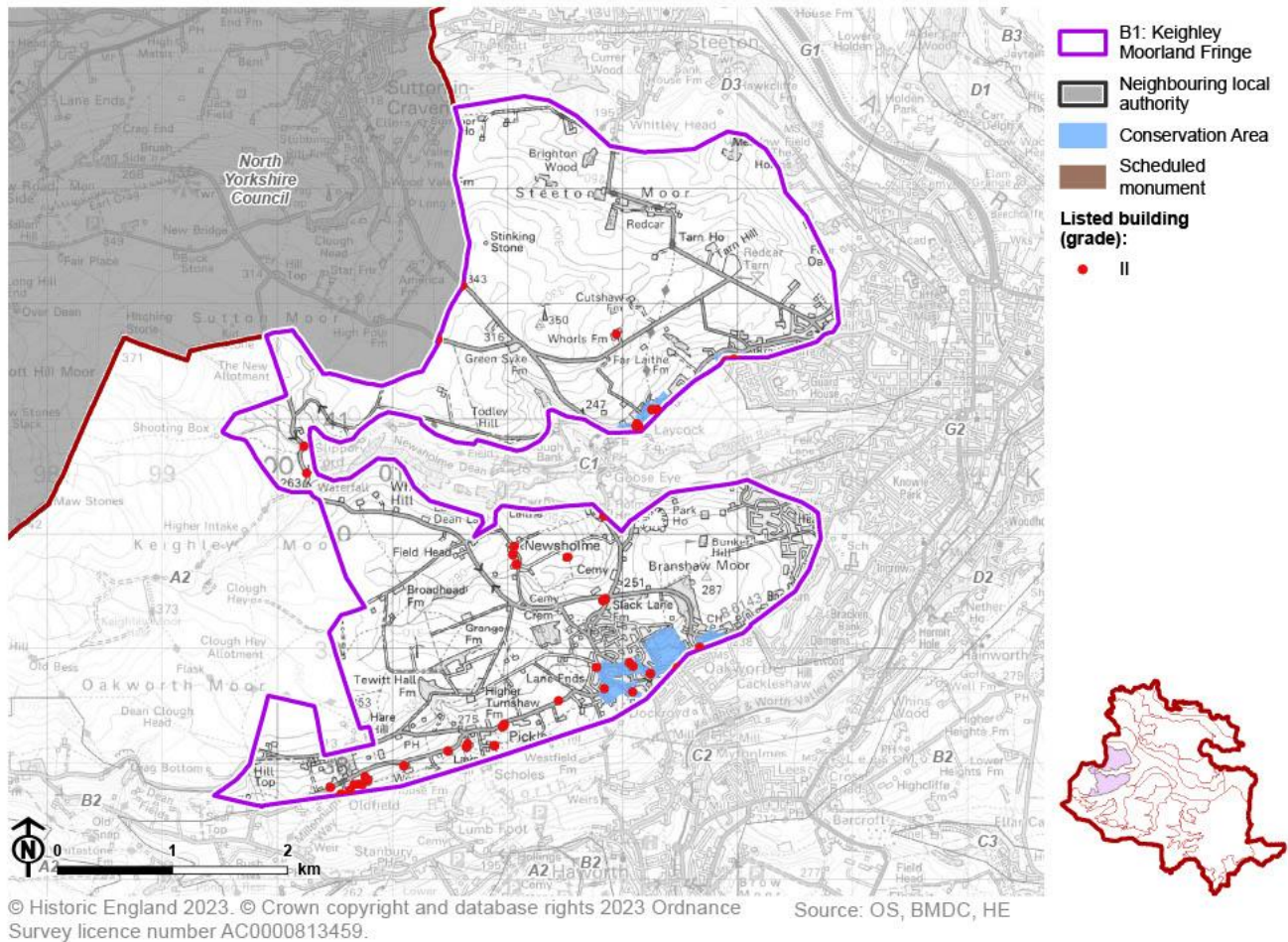
Figure 3.24: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA B1



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

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

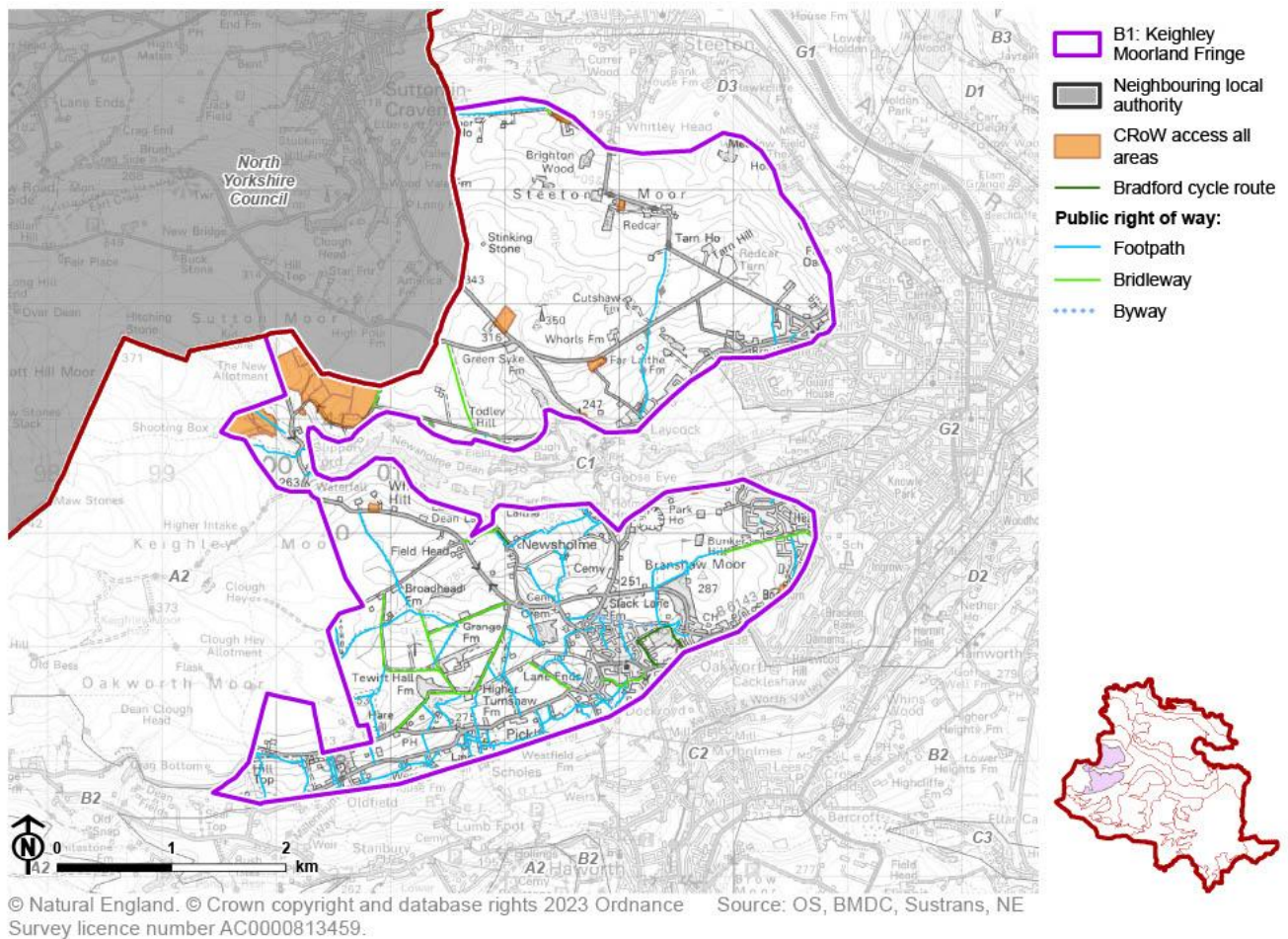
Figure 3.25: Cultural heritage of LCA B1



Settlement and Transport Pattern

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

Figure 3.26: Access and recreation of LCA B1



Access and Recreation

- The area is well served by an extensive network of public rights of way and rural lanes, particularly in the south. This includes the Millennium Way promoted long distance walking route. Short, unconnected sections of cycle route, including part of Route 69 of the National Cycle Network form a fragmented cycle network in the LCA.
- Redcar Tarn, in the north, is close to the Millennium Way and has become a popular picnic spot. The site offers striking views across the surrounding moorland.
- The settlement of Oakworth benefits from good open space provision, including Branshaw Golf Course to the north east and Holden Park within the settlement.
- There are fragments of open access land, remnants from when moorland common was more prevalent throughout the area. The most notable of these is at Grey Stones Hill in the north west, which forms a continuous, large expanse of common land in the adjoining Craven District and on the Haworth Moorland Plateau.

Views and Perceptual Qualities

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

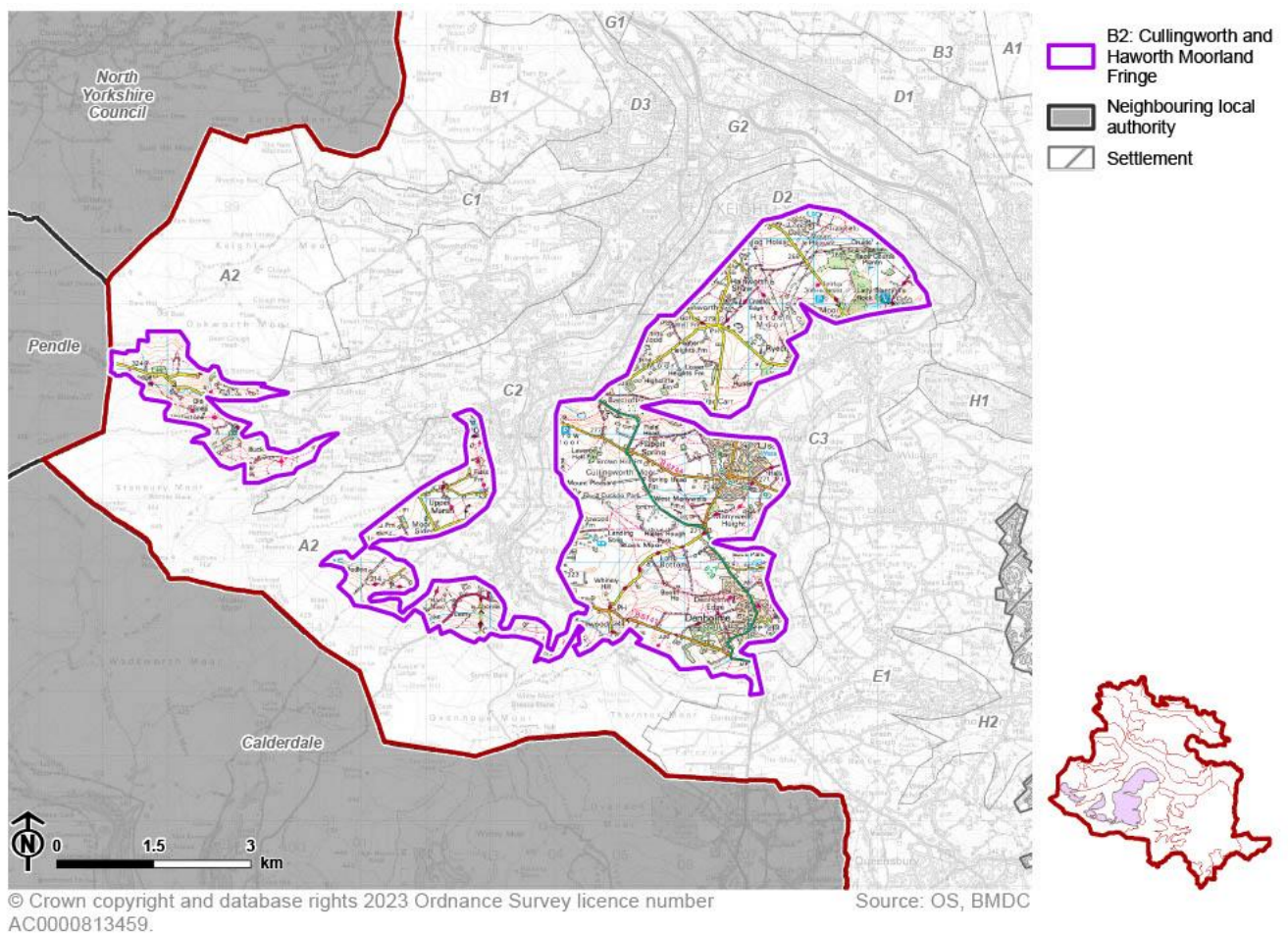
- The network of drystone walls and local vernacular are typical of the upland Yorkshire landscape and inform a strong sense of place.
- Away from major roads and settlements, the perception of wildness is greater and there is a sense of connection to the upland moorlands. Vernacular farmsteads and grazing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

B2. Cullingworth and Haworth Moorland Fringe

Location, Context and Summary

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

Figure 3.27: Location of LCA B2



Key Characteristics

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

Figure 3.28: Example photos from LCA B2



Drystone walls and isolated turbines south of Long Lee.



Disused quarry alongside the Worth Way.



Sheep grazing within enclosed pasture.



Moorland habitat and open access land at Sugden Brow.



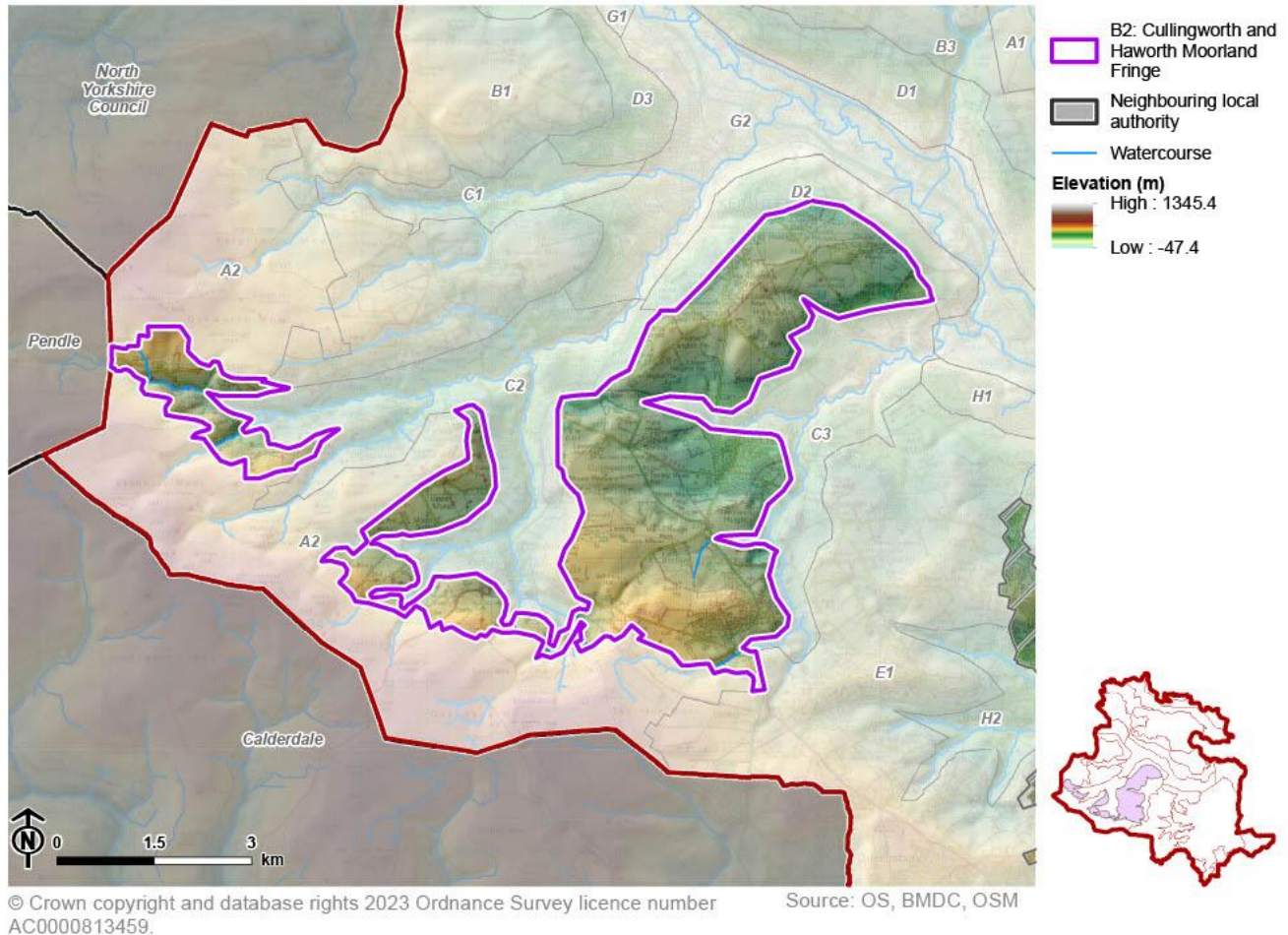
Contrast between unenclosed moorland and geometric enclosure at Brow Moor.



Historic buildings at the St Ives Estate.

Landscape Character

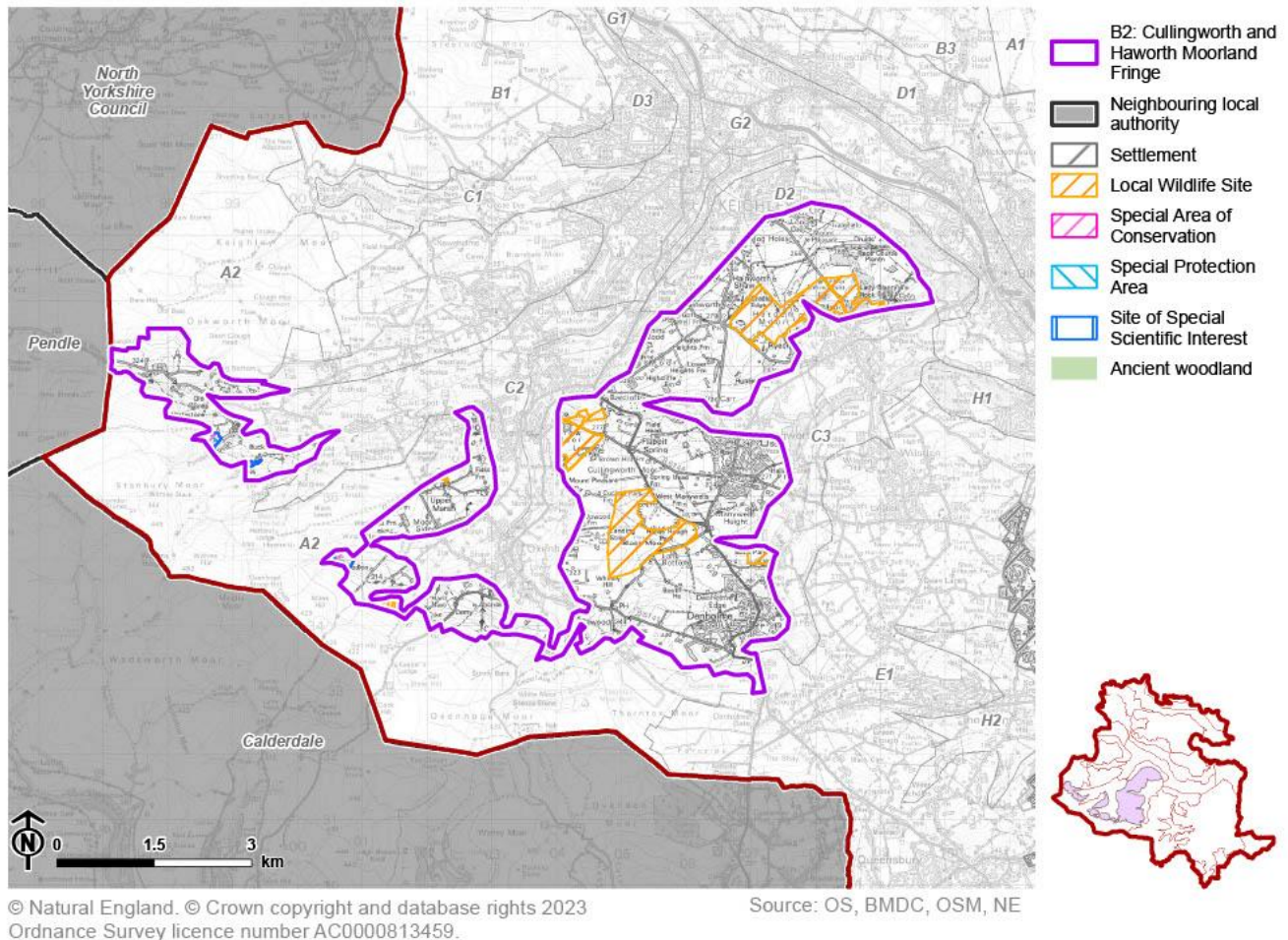
Figure 3.29: Topography of LCA B2



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

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

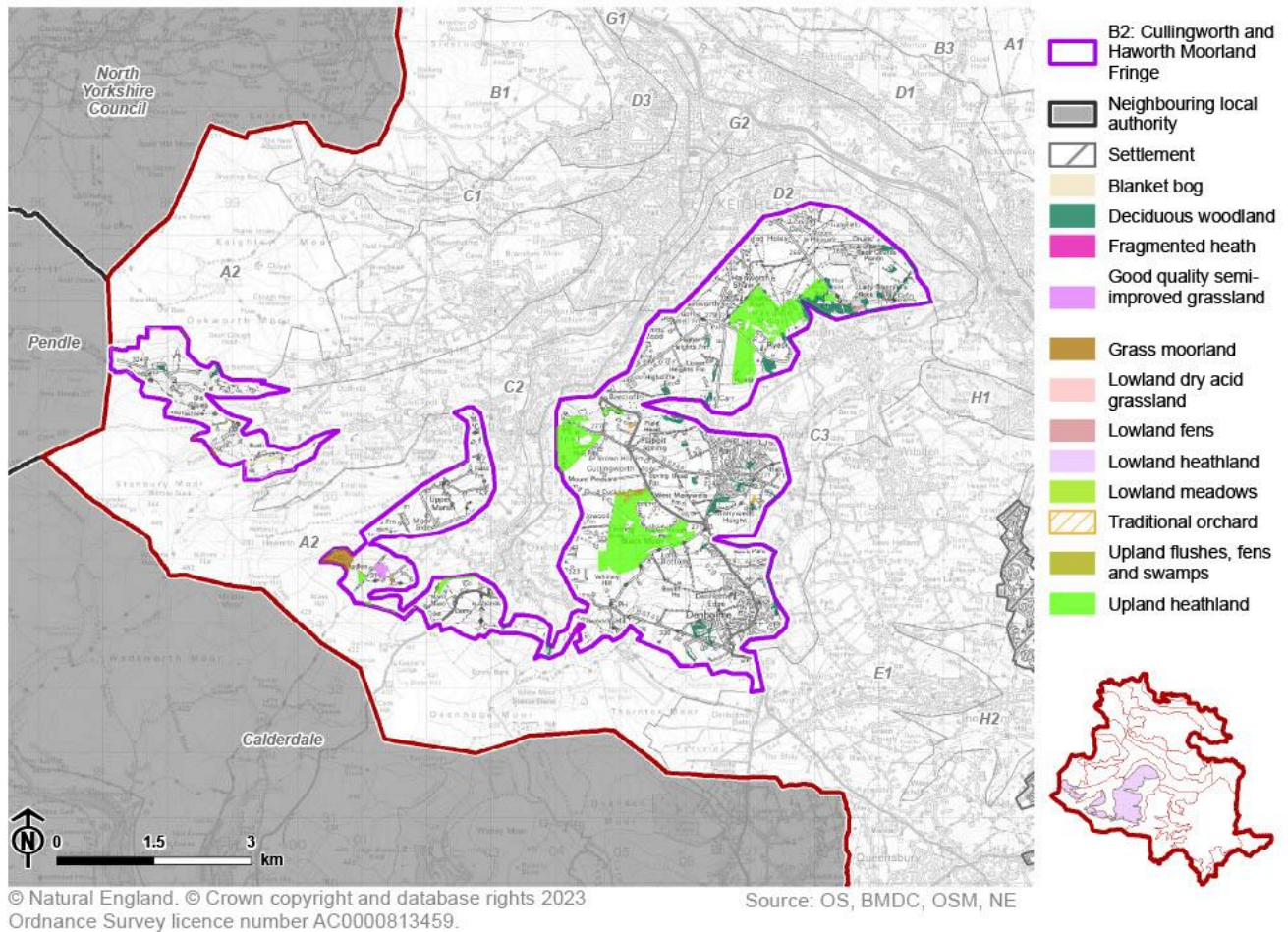
Figure 3.30: Natural heritage of LCA B2



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

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

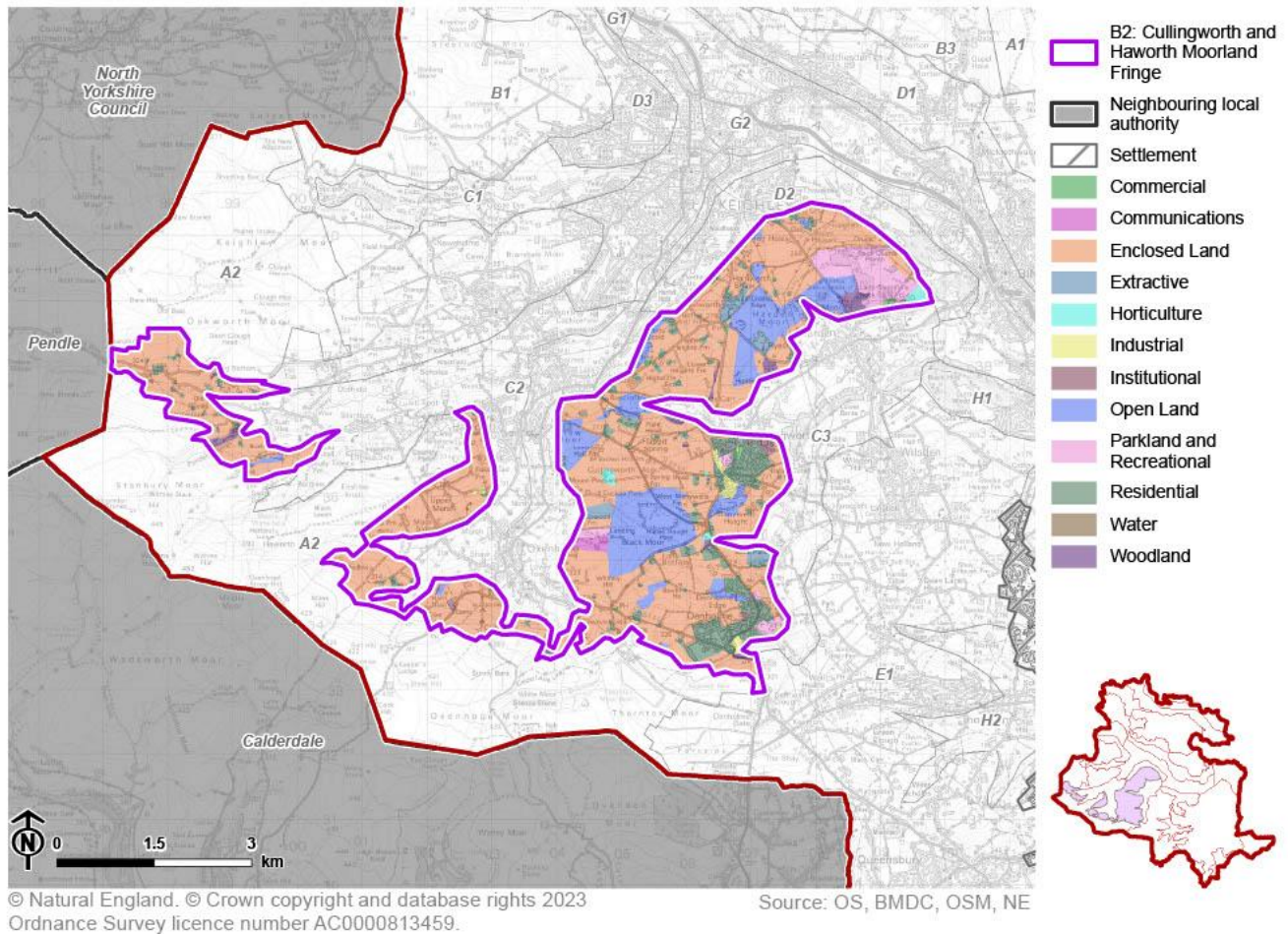
Figure 3.31: Priority habitat inventory of LCA B2



Land Use and Field Patterns

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

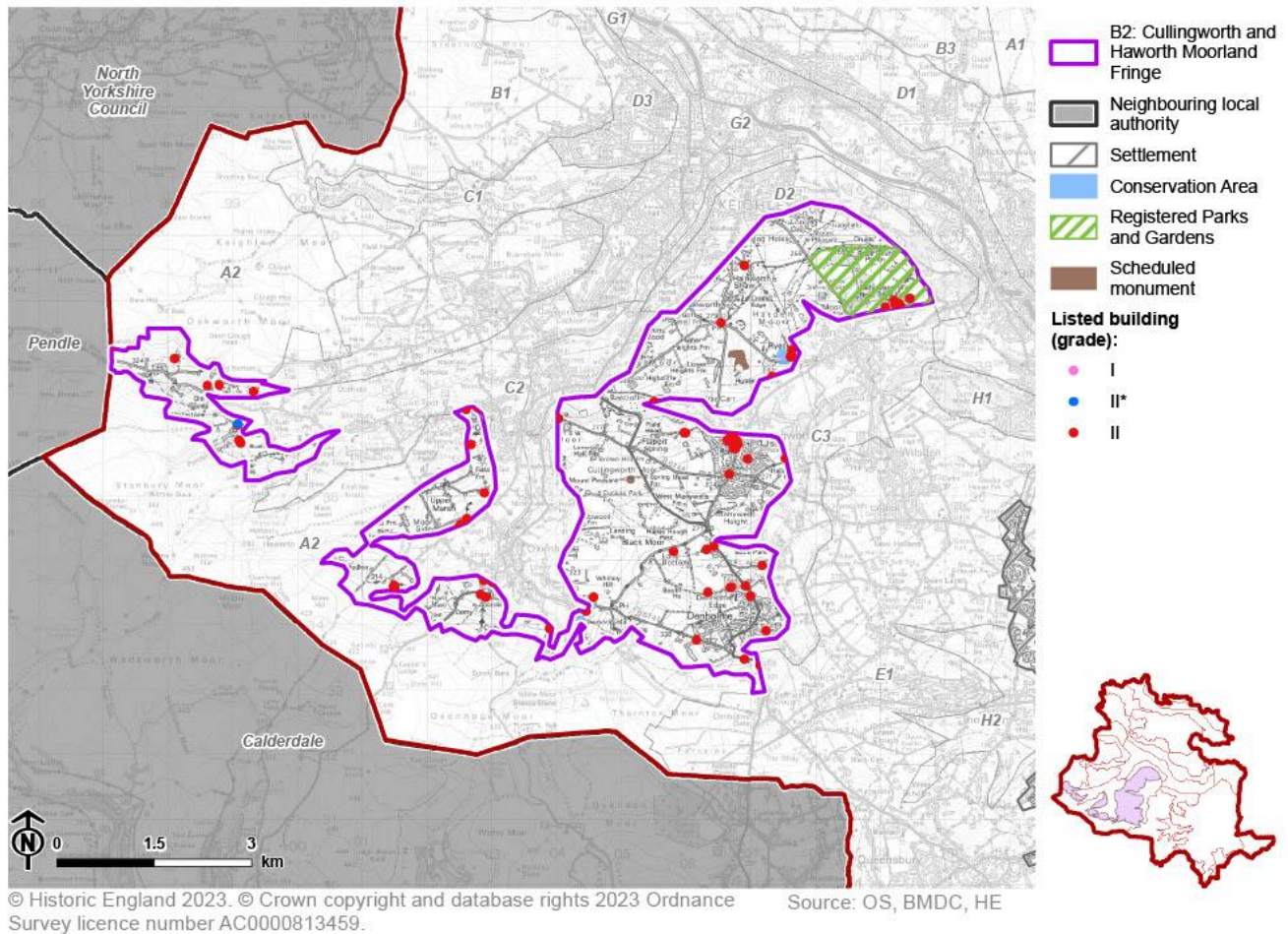
Figure 3.32: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA B2



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

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

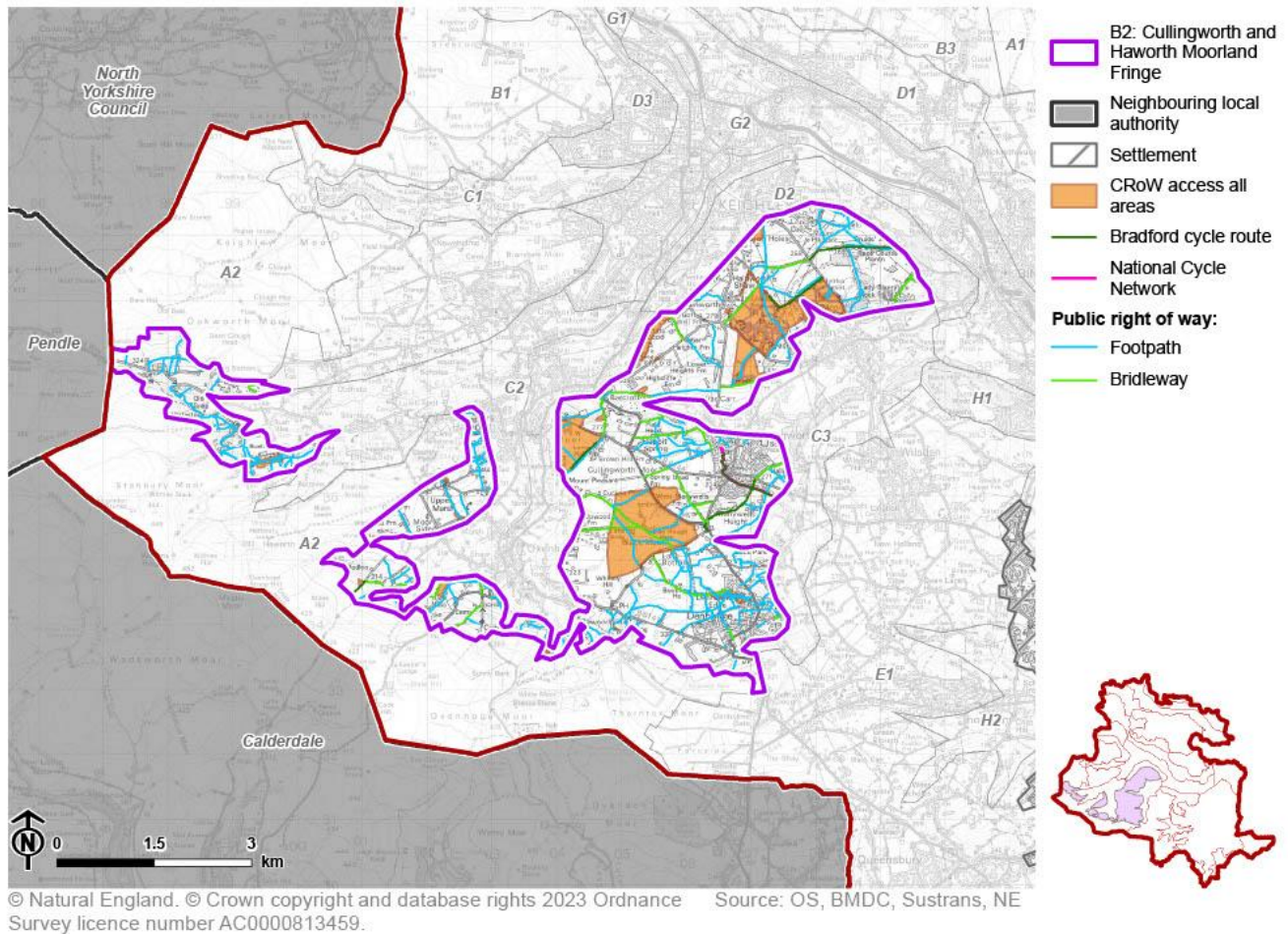
Figure 3.33: Cultural heritage of LCA B2



Settlement and Transport Pattern

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

Figure 3.34: Access and recreation of LCA B2



Access and Recreation

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

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Clough woodland and limited hedgerows create varied texture and views across the undulating topography.
- Fragmented areas of remnant moorland in conjunction with the distinctive geometric field pattern create a varied mosaic of upland land uses and textures which adds visual interest.
- This transitional landscape is influenced both by the notable settlements at lower elevations and a sense of wildness and connection to the upland moors. The variety is reflected in the perceptual qualities of the landscape, with visual and aural

intrusion from settlements prominent in exposed areas to the east. Localised pockets of high tranquillity are present within cloughs and further west.

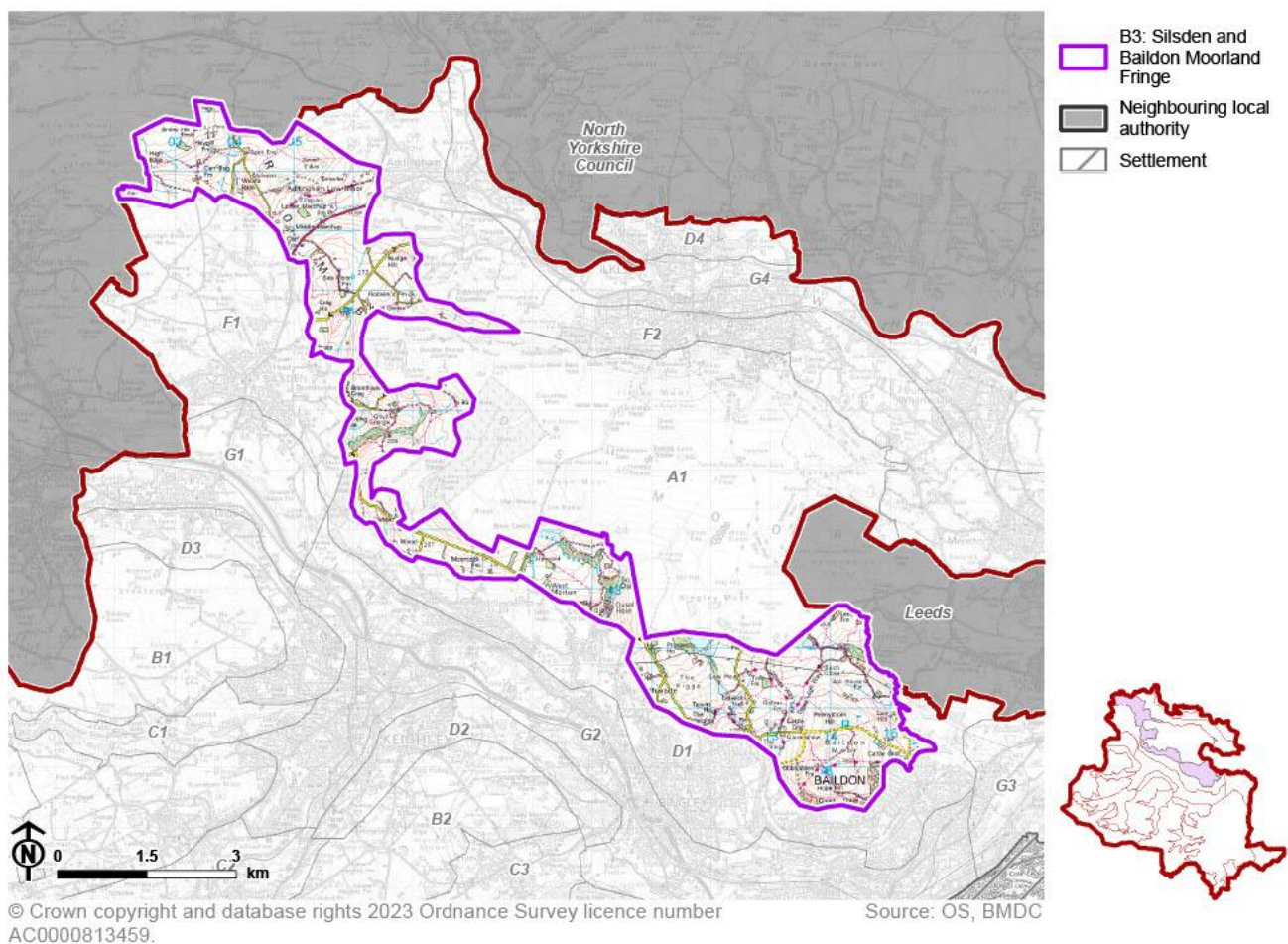
- The presence of 'A' and 'B' roads and expanding settlements detract from a sense of tranquillity. The effect of this is most notable around Cullingworth and in proximity to Haworth and Denholme.
- Tranquillity is higher in the north west and at higher elevations, which tend to be away from more human influences. Tranquillity and night blight (according to CPRE's dark skies mapping) have a greater influence from human activity between Cullingworth and Cross Roads.
- In the east, two overhead electricity lines add vertical intrusions into views and a modern day human element into the remote character of the area. Views to wind turbines at Ovenden Moor and isolated wind turbines within the LCA add to this.

B3. Silsden and Baildon Moorland Fringe

Location, Context and Summary

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

Figure 3.35: Location of LCA B3



Key Characteristics

- Acidic, low fertility soils and sloping topography have resulted in a mostly pastoral, rural landscape, apart from an elevated area of moorland at Baildon moor, which is considered an outlier in the area.
- The field pattern comprises small to medium-scale rectilinear fields as defined by drystone walls or hedgerows, and generally originating from medieval enclosures, creating a strong sense of upland 'Yorkshire' landscape.
- Landcover is primarily improved grasslands, with areas of acid and semi-natural grassland, and small areas of mire and heath in localised areas of elevated landform in the far north and south.
- Woodland and riparian vegetation is concentrated around cloughs and reservoirs forming sinuous bands within the landscape, and occasionally around farmsteads or clusters of cottages.
- Settlement across the area is limited to dispersed farmsteads, as well as small clusters of properties at the lower elevations in proximity to the valley floors.
- Agricultural heritage is evident throughout, in the form of medieval farmsteads and well-defined field boundaries, some of which are of ancient origin.
- Prehistoric cairns, earthworks and enclosures found across the slopes and are indicative of the long history of human settlement and agricultural workings in the area. These contribute to the sense of time-depth in the landscape.
- Long-distance views of the surrounding valleys are afforded from the upper slopes with clear intervisibility between these parts of the landscape and the densely settled valley floors.
- The extensive pastoral fields with strong rectilinear field patterns, sense of connection to the moors, and broad views across the settled valleys below conveys a sense of remoteness and rurality.

Figure 3.36: Example photos from LCA B3



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



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



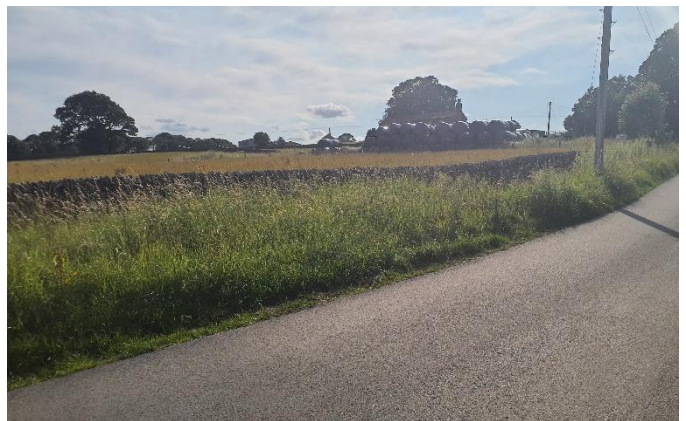
Intervisibility to the settled valley below.



Field pattern delineated by dry stone walls and hedgerows.



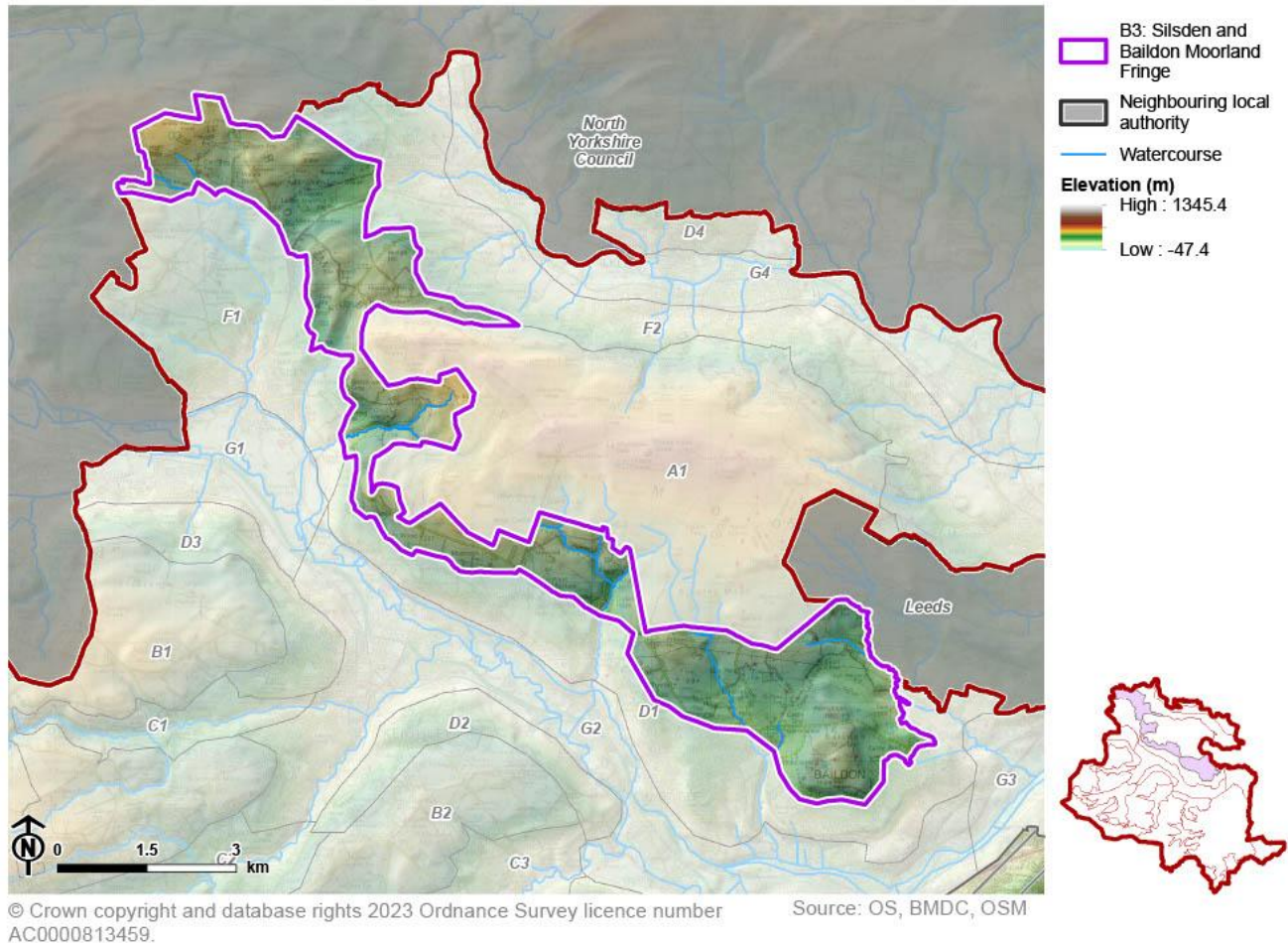
Heritage of agriculture including historic farmsteads.



Dry stone walls border small and medium scale field pattern.

Landscape Character

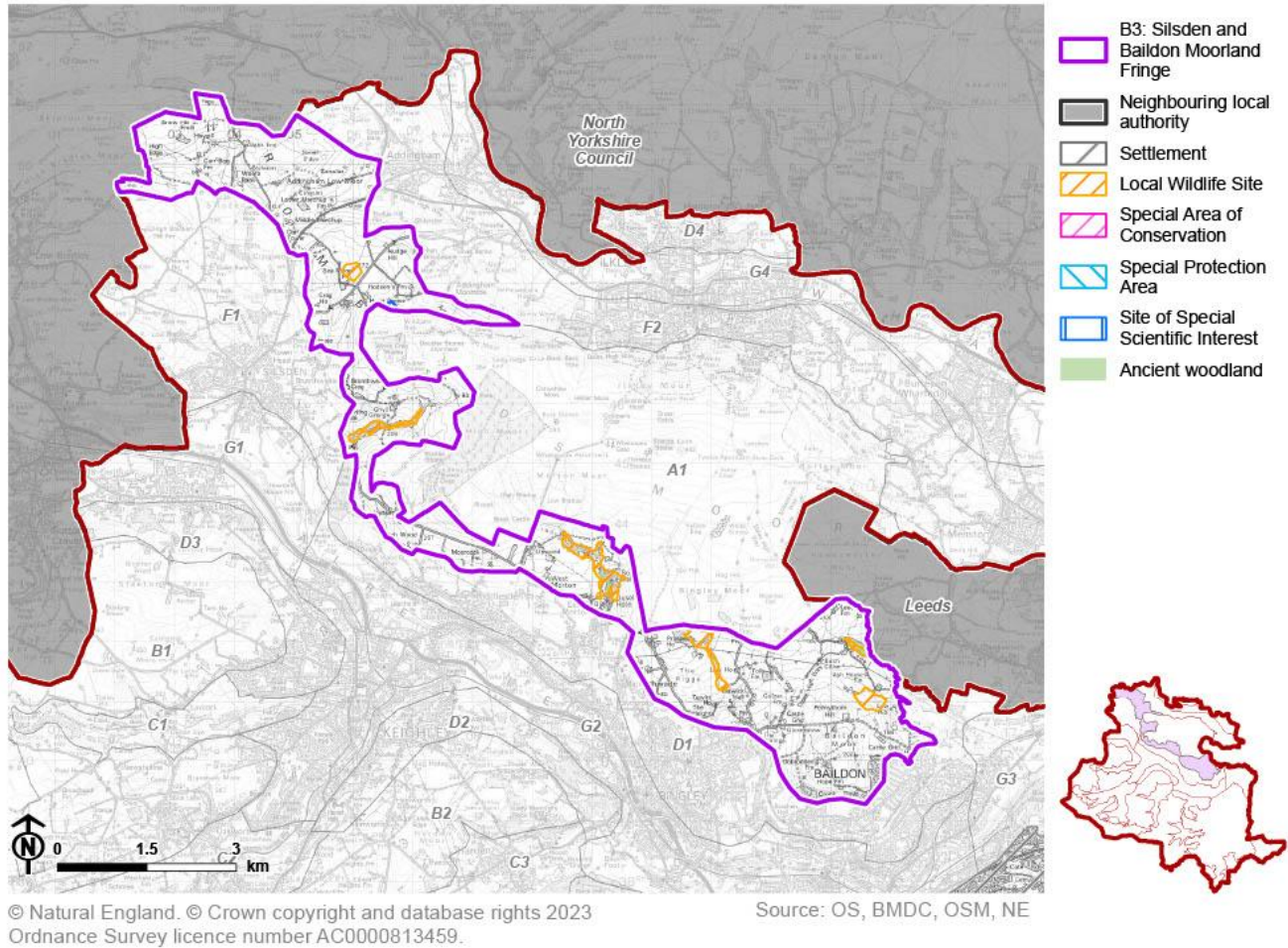
Figure 3.37: Topography of LCA B3



Geology, Soils, Topography and Drainage

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

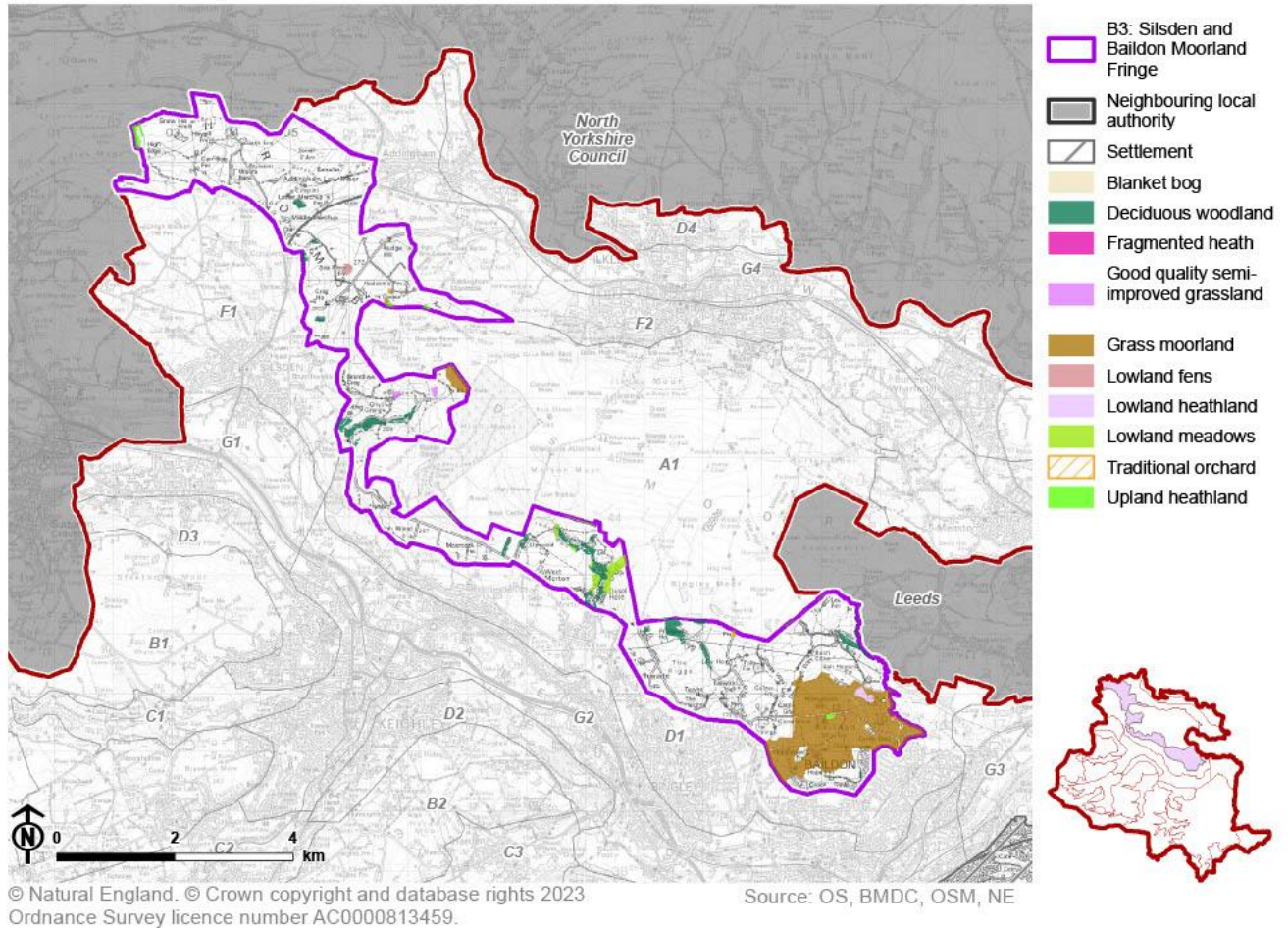
Figure 3.38: Natural heritage of LCA B3



Semi-natural Habitats and Tree Cover

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

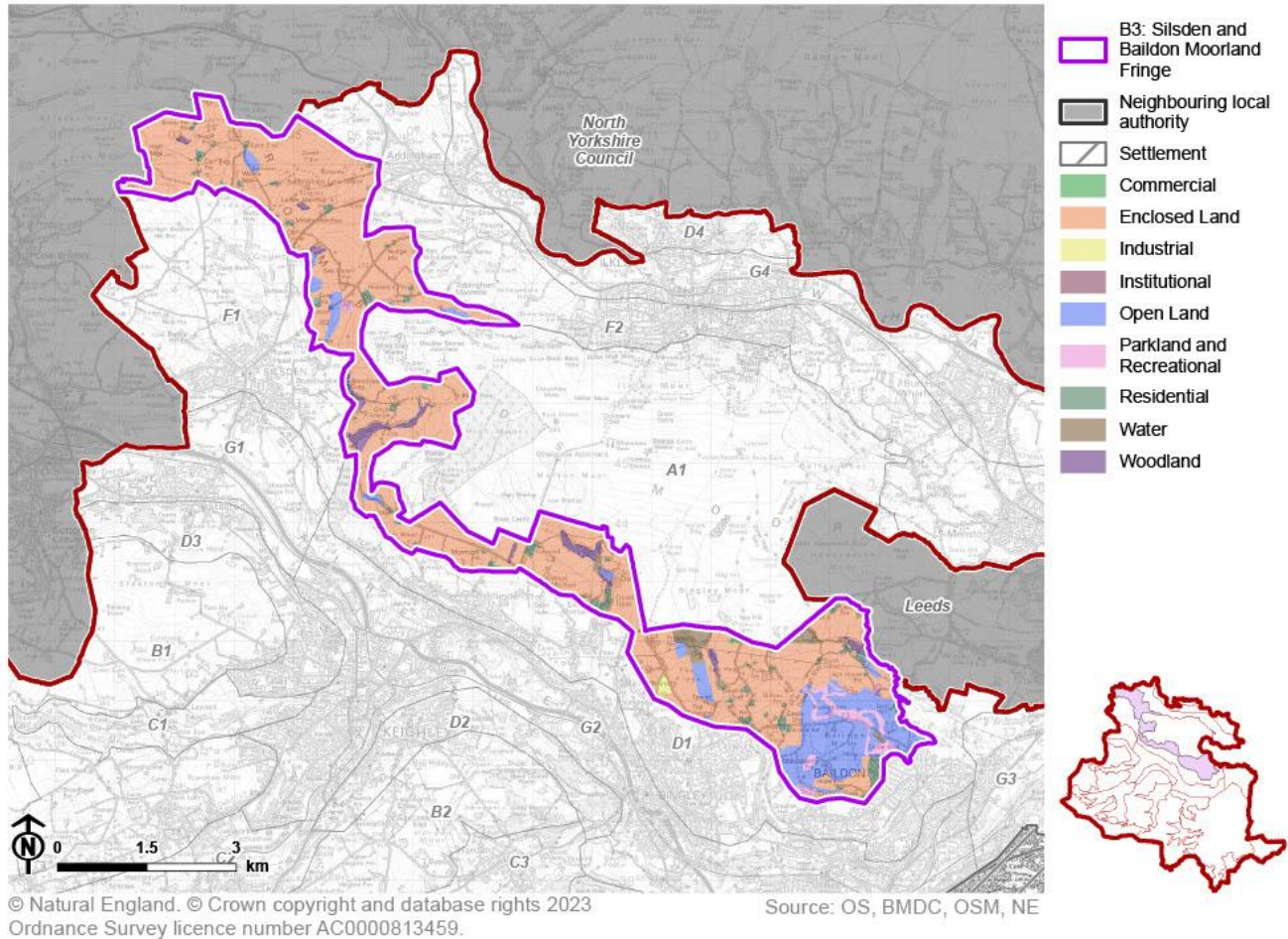
Figure 3.39: Priority habitat inventory of LCA B3



Land Use and Field Patterns

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

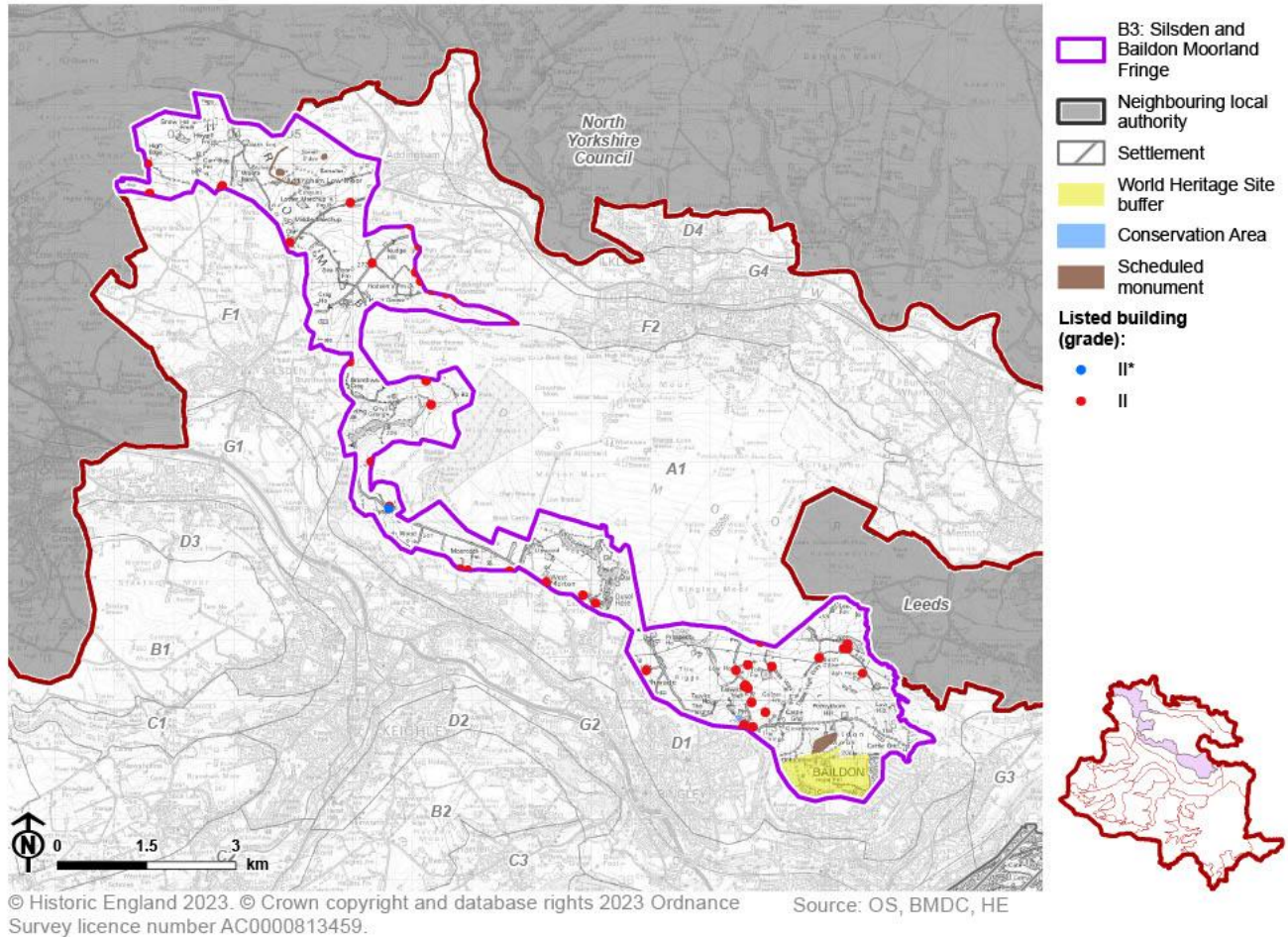
Figure 3.40: Historic landscape classification and cultural heritage of LCA B3



Cultural and Historic Landscape Character

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

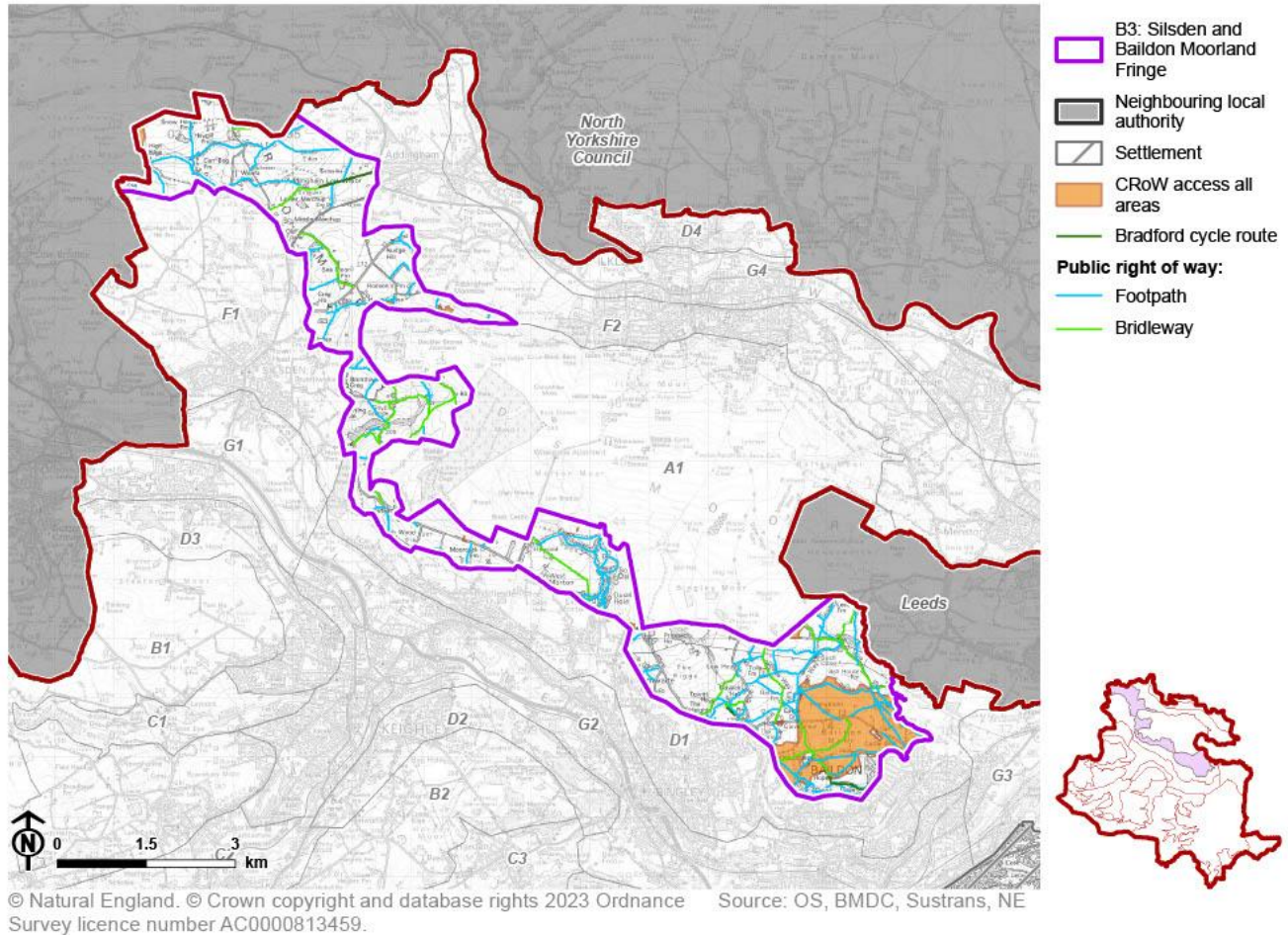
Figure 3.41: Cultural heritage of LCA B3



Settlement and Transport Pattern

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

Figure 3.42: Access and recreation of LCA B3



Access and Recreation

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

Views and Perceptual Qualities

- Long-distance views of the surrounding valleys are afforded from the prominent slopes and elevated areas of moorland at Baildon and Addingham, across pastoral slopes to settlements along the valley floor to the west and south.
- Frequent views to the densely settled valley floors introduces distant elements of human activity and somewhat detracts from the perception of remoteness across the LCA. However, the visual distance to those settlements and the proximity to surrounding pastoral fields and remote moorland enhances the perception of rurality within the LCA itself.
- The scattered vernacular agricultural buildings, varied and historic field patterns and pastoral uses across the LCA contribute to a distinctive and rural character, which gives rise to a more remote and tranquil landscape further up the slopes in proximity to Rombalds Moor.

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

Pressures and Forces for Change – LCT B: Moorland Fringe

Climate Change

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

Agricultural Change

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

Development

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

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

Habitat Management and Environmental Initiatives

- Uncertainty over new Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) and the impact this will have on habitat management for upland farming.
- Introduction of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and habitat banking related to Biodiversity Net Gain could alter the existing character through landscape-scale habitat creation and enhancements including management changes in some areas. Such changes should take into consideration the key characteristics of the landscape and seek to build upon and enhance character.
- Pressure for additional tree planting could detract from the open character and reduce the sense of time-depth created by the intact network of drystone walls.
- New pathogens and pests are increasingly putting pressure on natural habitats, most notably ash dieback, in woodlands which result in the need for tree felling to manage this risk.
 - B2: Ash dieback has resulted in tree loss, notably within St Ives Estate.

Heritage at Risk

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

Tourism, Recreation and Access Pressure

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

Pollution, Littering and Anti-social Behaviour

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

Guidance

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

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