

**LAND BETWEEN WHITECHAPEL ROAD  
AND WHITEHALL ROAD, CLECKHEATON  
(E1883: Plot B, Junction 26, Bradford Road)**

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3/K15/5925

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**Landscape Character Assessment**

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**PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATION**

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This statement is prepared in order to further the allocation of land between Whitechapel Road and Whitehall Road to employment use.
- 1.2. This statement shall indicate the character area of the site. Also, this shall identify how the site has taken the character of the landscape into consideration. In addition, other key features and characteristics of the site shall be identified.

## 2. Existing Land Use

- 2.1. The site is grade 3 agricultural land which is located within the green belt. The site also functions as a pedestrian route for walkers which is called the Spen Valley Heritage Trail.
- 2.2. There are no heritage assets located on the site and there are no heritage assets located within the immediate area of the site.

## 3. Character Area

### 3.1. National Character Area (See Appendix A)

The site is located within the National character area of Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe. Natural England identifies the national character for this area as abundant with industrial heritage and further states that *"The landscape is dominated by industrial buildings and structures such as factories"*. In addition, to this Natural England identifies that this national area has an impressionable wooded landscape and pastoral farming (Sourced: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)).

### 3.2. Kirklees Character Area

In accordance with the Kirklees District landscape assessment site No. E1831 is located within the character area K1: Thornton – Queensbury. The character area stretches from the North-West to the North of Cleckheaton. The character area is separated from the E8 Batley – Dewsbury Rural fringe by the M62.

The site is located within the urban fringe of the settlement of Scholes. Along the boundary of the site are key features that conform with the characteristics of the Thornton- Queensbury area. For example, to the North-East of the site is a block of deciduous trees which is located along a major road. In addition, a strip of trees are located along the East boundary because of the close proximity the site has to the M62. Also, North of the site is a golf course which is a common feature on the fringes of settlements within this character area. Furthermore, the character area consists of predominantly farmland such as the existing site which are often located near small settlements and urban centres such as Cleckheaton and major transport corridors.

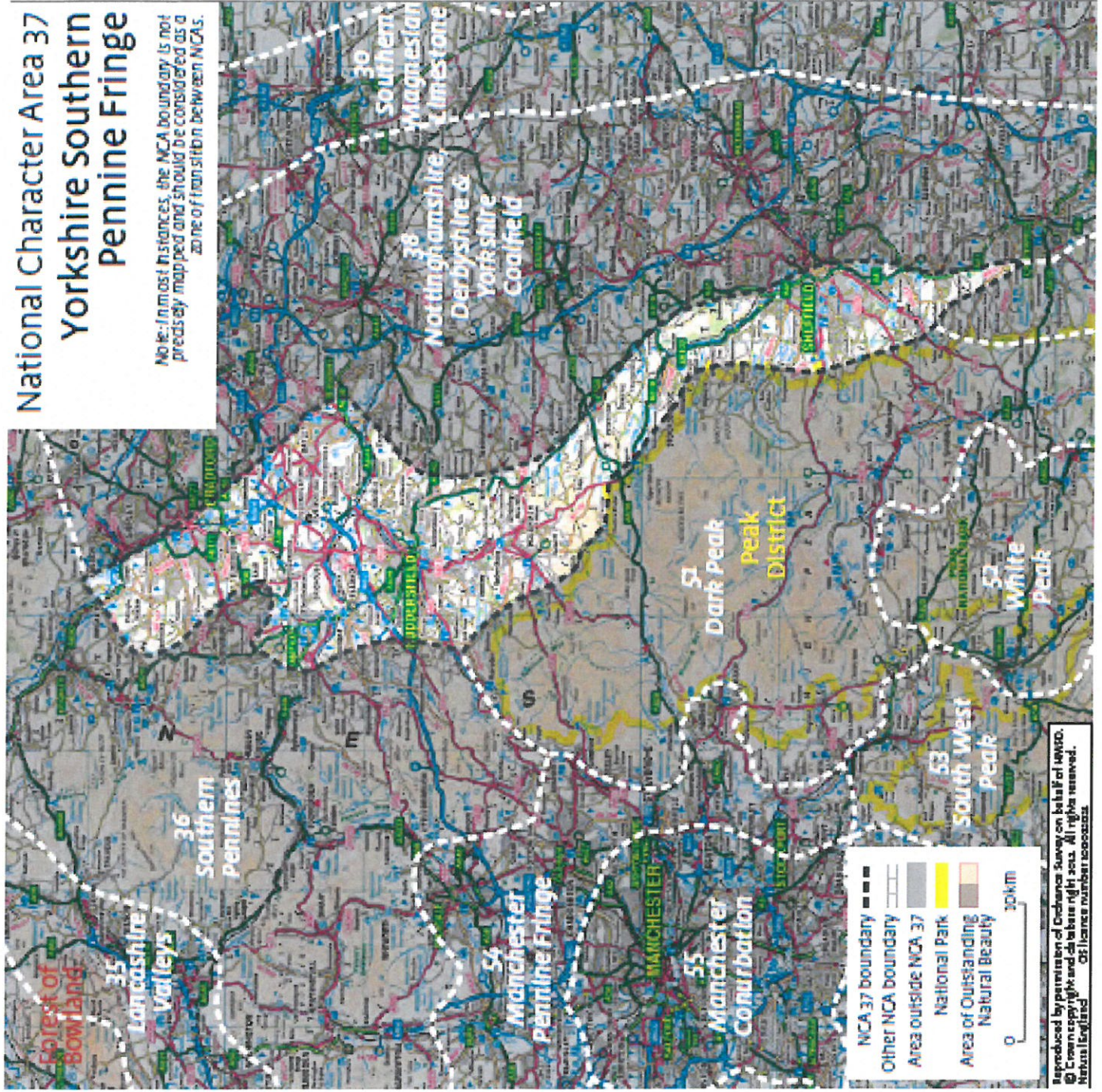
## 4. Master Plan

4.1. A valued feature of this landscape is the Spen Valley Heritage Trail which currently goes through the existing site. Due to this trail being a valuable key feature to this landscape it was incorporated into the masterplan design. In addition, no heritage assets can be viewed from the site so it was understood it was appropriate to alter the trail on site to incorporate it into the design layout. The masterplan preserved the Spen Valley Heritage Trail site access points to prevent any harm to the quality of the trail. In addition, the masterplan aims to improve the existing landscape through water features such as ponds; tree planning, an attractive and inclusive building layout. Also, site problems were aimed to be improved through landscaping for example, the level of tranquillity on site would be improved through the use of planting additional trees along the boundary. This would reduce the traffic noise from the M62 as well as; making the site more visually appealing for walkers and potential workers on site. This would also help to maintain the rural feel for the residents located south of the site and help reduce any noise produced on the site.

## APPENDIX A

# National Character Area 37 Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe

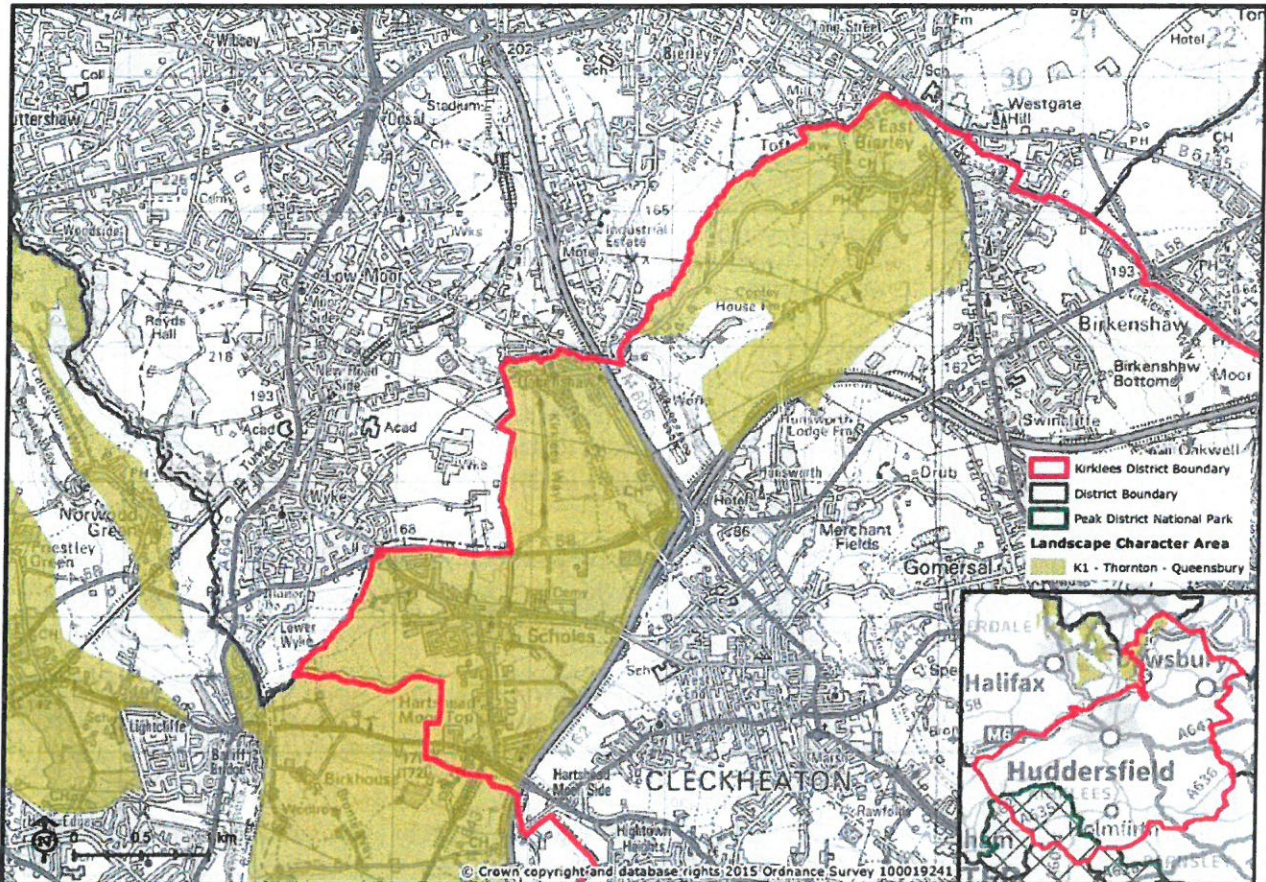
Note: In most instances, the MCA boundary is not precisely mapped and should be considered as a zone of transition between MCAs.



## APPENDIX B

# LCA K1: Thornton – Queensbury

Figure 3.46: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.47: View north towards Bradford

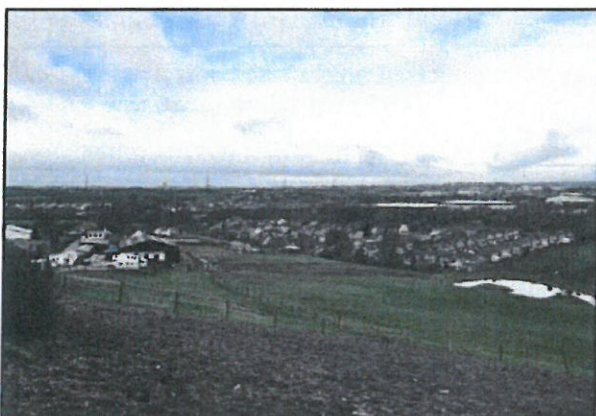


Figure 3.48: View toward M606 and Bradford



This LCA covers rural land in the north east of Kirklees, which rises up above Cleckheaton, Birkenshaw and the southern suburbs of Bradford. There are two parts of the LCA within Kirklees District. The LCA continues to the north-west into Calderdale District.

## Summary of landscape character

### Key characteristics

#### *Topography, geology and drainage*

- The LCA comprises pockets of higher gently undulating ground sloping up from the Batley Fringe Incised Valleys (LCA G11)
- Shares a common geology with most of the District, with the Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation which is underlain by Millstone Grit.
- Minor watercourses originating from springs on the higher ground flow towards the surrounding valleys, creating the rolling landform.

#### *Woodland cover*

- Woodland is generally marginal, with strips and small blocks of deciduous trees remaining alongside major roads or along streams.
- Mature trees along field boundaries and within fields provide interest in the farmed and urban fringe landscape.

#### *Land use and field patterns*

- Extremely varied field pattern, ranging from very large arable fields to small pastoral land which results in a seasonal mosaic of colours and textures in the fields.
- Horse paddocks and equestrian enterprises are common around settlements.
- Some traditional hedgerows and stone walls remain, although often these have been replaced or supplemented by fencing.
- Golf courses on the fringes of settlements, including East Bierley Golf Club and Cleckheaton and District Golf Club.

#### *Semi-natural habitats*

- Few areas of semi-natural habitat, generally limited to riparian woodland and localised wetland habitats along streams.

#### *Archaeology and cultural heritage*

- Disused coal shafts allude to the mining history of the area.
- Several Grade II listed buildings are concentrated around the Conservation Areas at East Bierley, Hartshead Moor Top and Scholes. These include a handful of manor houses.

#### *Settlement and road pattern*

- The main settlements in the area are Scholes, East Bierley and Oakenshaw, which often visually form a continuation of the surrounding urban areas.
- Within the rural fringes, there are scattered farmsteads with buildings of a traditional local stone vernacular.
- The area is crossed by many main roads connecting the large cities in the surrounding districts. The M62 with M606 bound many parts of the LCA.

#### *Views and perceptual qualities*

- From higher ground there are long views across the District and views into Bradford and Calderdale Districts. Views are fairly open due to lower levels of tree cover.
- Although this area is predominantly farmland with relatively small settlements, the surrounding urban centres and major transport corridors have a pervading influence, reducing levels of tranquillity.



## Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	N/A
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Listed Buildings:</b> There are a total of 16 Listed Buildings, all of which are Grade II listed.</li> <li>• <b>Conservation Areas:</b> There are three Conservation Areas with land within the LCA; East Bierley, Hartshead Moor Top and Scholes (Cleckheaton).</li> </ul> <p>None of these assets are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	Although tranquil relative to the surrounding large areas of development, this LCA is perceived as an urban fringe landscape, with associated issues such as fly tipping detracting from its semi-rural qualities. Large-scale pylons on the horizon detract from views in places, and the movement and sound of traffic has an overriding influence on tranquillity.
Role as a setting to development	<p>The LCA forms an immediate backdrop and 'gap' between settlements including Scholes, Hartshead Moor Top, East Bierley, Cleckheaton, Birkenshaw and Oakenshaw.</p> <p>The LCA also forms part of a wider setting to Bradford which is located to the north.</p>
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>This LCA is crossed by several rights of way including the Kirklees Way, Spen Valley Heritage Trail and National Cycle Route 66.</p> <p>There is a small area of Common Land at Toftshaw Moor, close to East Bierley.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	N/A