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Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment

Final Report
Prepared by LUC
July 2015



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Client: Kirklees District Council

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July 2015

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1 Introduction

Background

Purpose of study

- 1.1 This Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) provides a sound evidence base for planners and developers to consider the character and valued features of the different landscapes of Kirklees District when considering new development or land uses. The primary aim of the LCA is to ensure the area's distinctive, varied and dynamic landscapes are considered, and opportunities to enhance and strengthen character are pursued wherever possible. The need for this evidence base is all the more apparent in the context of a changing climate, at a time when action is needed now to strengthen the landscape's resilience to the challenges that lie ahead.
- 1.2 This study was commissioned by Kirklees Council in order to provide an up-to-date evidence base on landscape character within the Kirklees boundary, which can be utilised by planners and developers alike.

National and local policy context

European Landscape Convention (ELC)

- 1.3 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies.
- 1.4 The ELC definition of 'landscape' recognises that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded or outstanding:
"Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors".
- 1.5 The Convention puts emphasis on the whole landscape and all its values and is forward looking in its approach, recognising the dynamic and changing character of landscape. Specific measures promoted by the Convention, of direct relevance to this study include:
 - the identification and assessment of landscape; and
 - improved consideration of landscape in existing and future sectoral and spatial policy and regulation.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.6 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published in 2012, states within its core planning principles that planning should *"take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it"*¹.
- 1.7 The NPPF calls for valued landscapes to be protected and enhanced (para 109), with the greatest weight being given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) (para 115). It also promotes good design and suggests (para 64) that *"permission should be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions"*.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework (2012) DCLG, Paragraph 17.

Local policy

- 1.8 Kirklees Council are currently in the process of producing a new Local Plan, due to be adopted in 2017. This Landscape Character Assessment will form a crucial part of the evidence base and inform landscape policy for the Council going forward.

2 Approach to the Landscape Character Assessment

Understanding the baseline landscape

Overview of the character and qualities of Kirklees

- 2.1 The landscape of Kirklees is widely varied and diverse, often as a result of past human influence and interaction with the landscape, particularly in terms of the exploitation of geological deposits of coal and iron. In the west of the District, upland unenclosed moorland provides a continuation of character from the Peak District National Park, which provides a dramatic backdrop to many views throughout Kirklees and contains internationally valued upland heath, bog and scrub habitat. Moving east, there is a transition to raised farmland plateaux which are incised by the wooded river valleys of the Colne, Holme, Fenay Beck and the Dearne, before rising up to settled rural moorland around Emley Moor and Flockton Moor.
- 2.2 The north and north-east parts of Kirklees are densely settled and are serviced by major roads, including the M62 and M606, which in turn has an effect on the surrounding landscapes, particularly on tranquillity and perceptual qualities. The urban expanse of Huddersfield covers the central northern area of the District, while the settlements of Batley, Dewsbury and Heckmondwike are clustered in the north-eastern corner of Kirklees. Away from the large urban settlements, some small nucleated villages of a traditional gritstone character remain, such as those at Emley and Upper Hopton.
- 2.3 Many of the settlements in Kirklees have their roots in historic mill towns and mining heritage, although some areas have evidence of prehistoric Iron Age settlement, including Meltham. Disused shafts, pits and workings are scattered throughout the landscape, and historic rail and water based transport routes used to support the coal and textile industries that flourished during the Industrial Revolution remain, such as the Huddersfield Broad Canal and the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

Existing Landscape Character Assessment framework

- 2.4 Kirklees District has an existing Landscape Character Framework derived from several previous studies, namely the South Pennines Landscape Character Assessment commissioned by SCOSPA², the Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines³ and the South Pennines Renewable Energy Study⁴. Since the main source for these studies is the 1999 South Pennines LCA, information for the character areas in these studies are out dated. This study aims to provide more detailed and up to date information and data on each of the Landscape Character Areas.
- 2.5 There are a total of eight Landscape Character Types within Kirklees, and a total of 19 Landscape Character Areas wholly or partially within the District. These are shown in Table 2.1 and mapped in **Figure 2.1**.

² LUC (1999) South Pennines Landscape Character Assessment, report to Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities (SCOSPA).

³ Julie Martin Associates (2010) Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines

⁴ Julie Martin Associates and LUC (2014) South Pennines Wind Energy Landscape Study

Table 2.1: Landscape character assessment framework for Kirklees

Landscape Character Types	Landscape Character Areas
A – High Moorland Plateaux	A1 : South Pennine Moors
	A2 : North Peak (Wessenden & Meltham Moors)
D – Moorland Fringes/Upland Pastures	D7 : Peak Fringe Upland Pastures
	D9 : Low Common, Royd Moor & Whitley Common
E – Rural Fringes	E1 : Holmfirth – Meltham
	E2 : Barkisland – Holywell Green
	E6 : Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes
	E7 : Emley Moor Northern Fringes
F – Settled Valleys	E8 : Batley – Dewsbury Rural Fringes
	F4 : Colne (Slaithwaite, Marsden)
	F5 : Holme & Hall Dike (Holmfirth, Meltham)
G – Wooded Rural Valleys	G8 : Holme River Valley
	G9 : Fenay Beck Valley & Tributaries
	G10 : River Dearne Valley
	G11 : Batley Fringe Incised Valleys
K – Coalfield Edge Urban Edge Farmland	K1 : Thornton - Queensbury
M – Industrial Lowland Valleys	M1 : Calder Valley Floor
N – Rolling Wooded Farmland	N1 : Emley Moor
	N2 : Cawthorne Park & West Barnsley Rolling Wooded Farmland

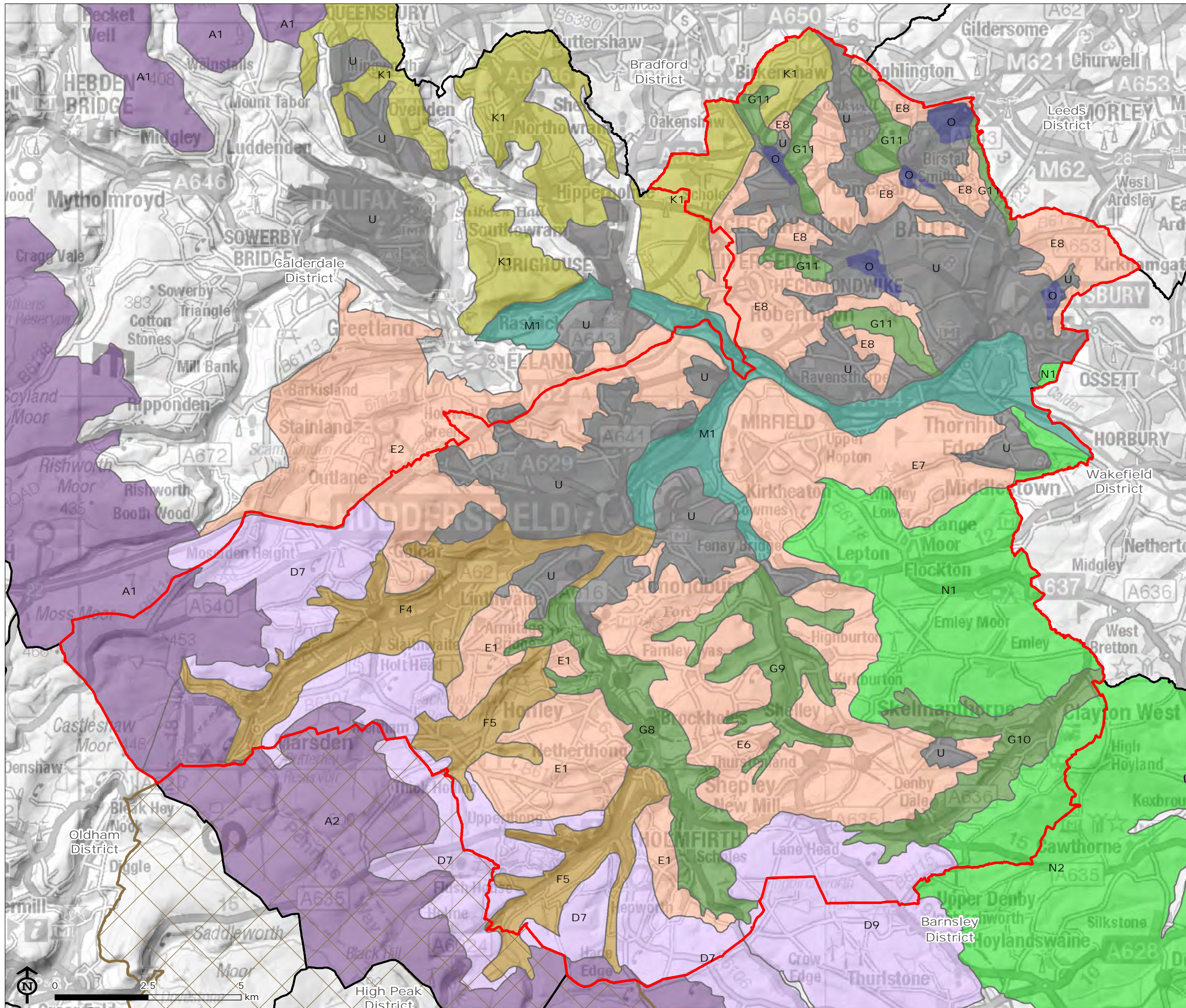
- 2.6 Some parts of Kirklees District are contained within both the Landscape Character Areas from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment⁵ completed in 2008 and the Landscape Character Areas within this study. This relationship is shown in **Figure 2.2**, and referenced in the Kirklees District Landscape Character Area profiles where applicable.
- 2.7 In the national landscape character context, there are four National Character Areas (NCAs) which intersect the District; 36: South Pennines, 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe, 38: Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields and 51: Dark Peak. These are illustrated in **Figure 2.3**. The NCA profiles, published by Natural England, form an additional source of strategic-level information on landscape character to supplement this district-scale study⁶.
- 2.8 This study aims to add detail in the form of key characteristics and valued attributes to existing Landscape Character Areas in order to create a more useful evidence base and planning tool. No alterations were made to the existing LCA boundaries. Landscape Character Types O (Industrial/Business Parks) and U (Urban) are excluded from the study.

⁵ Accessible at: <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

⁶ The NCA profiles are available to download from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making/national-character-area-profiles#ncas-in-yorkshire-and-the-humber>

Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 2.1 Landscape Character Types and Areas



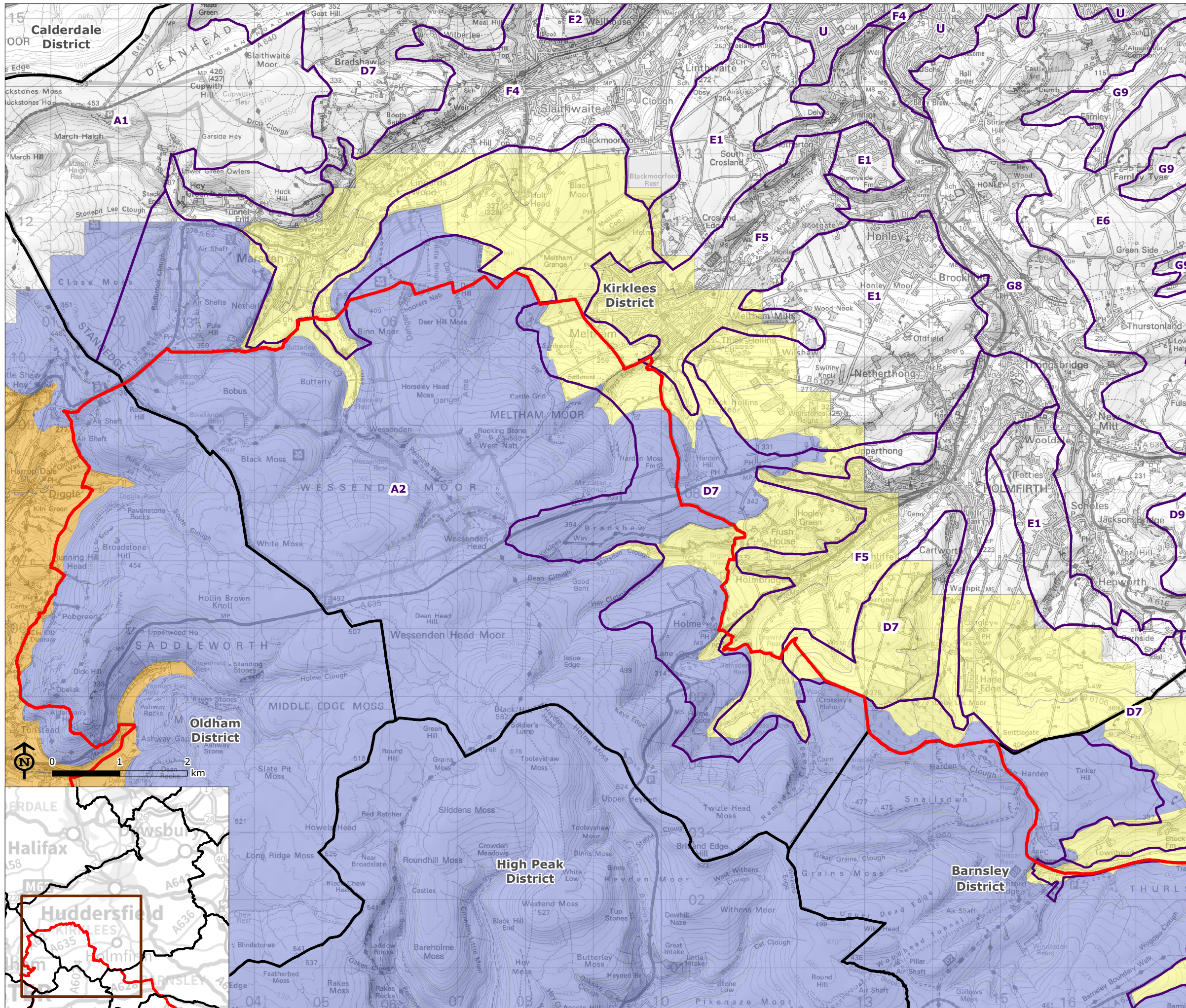
- Study area
- Local Authority boundaries
- Peak District National Park
- A - High Moorland Plateaux
 - A1 - South Pennine Moors
 - A2 - North Peak (Wessenden & Meltham Moors)
- D - Moorland Fringes / Upland Pastures
 - D7 - Peak Fringe Upland Pastures
 - D9 - Low Common Royd Moor & Whitley Common
- E - Rural Fringes
 - E1 - Holmfirth - Meltham
 - E2 - Barkisland - Holwell Green
 - E6 - Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes
 - E7 - Emley Moor Northern Fringes
 - E8 - Batley - Dewsbury Rural Fringes
- F - Settled Valleys
 - F4 - Colne (Slaithwaite Marsden)
 - F5 - Holme and Hall Dike (Holmfirth and Meltham)
- G - Wooded Rural Valleys
 - G8 - Holme River Valley
 - G9 - Fenay Beck Valley and Tributaries
 - G10 - River Dearne Valley
 - G11 - Batley Fringe Incised Valleys
- K - Coalfield Edge Urban Fringe Farmland
 - K1 - Thornton - Queensbury
- M - Industrial Lowland Valleys
 - M1 - Calder Valley Floor
- N - Rolling Wooded Farmland
 - N1 - Emley Moor
 - N2 - Cawthorne Park & West Barnsley Rolling Wooded Farmland
- O - Industrial / Business Parks
- U - Urban

Map Scale @ A3: 1:100,000



Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 2.2: Overlap between the Peak District and Kirklees LCAs



- Local Authority boundaries
- Peak District National Park
- Kirklees Landscape Character Types and Areas

A - High Moorland Plateaux

- A1 - South Pennine Moors
- A2 - North Peak (Wessenden & Meltham Moors)

D - Moorland Fringes / Upland Pastures

- D7 - Peak Fringe Upland Pastures
- D9 - Low Common Royd Moor & Whitley Common

E - Rural Fringes

- E1 - Holmfirth - Meltham
- E2 - Barkisland - Holwell Green
- E6 - Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes

F - Settled Valleys

- F4 - Colne (Slaithwaite Marsden)
- F5 - Holme and Hall Dike (Holmfirth and Meltham)

G - Wooded Rural Valleys

- G8 - Holme River Valley
- G9 - Fenay Beck Valley and Tributaries

U - Urban

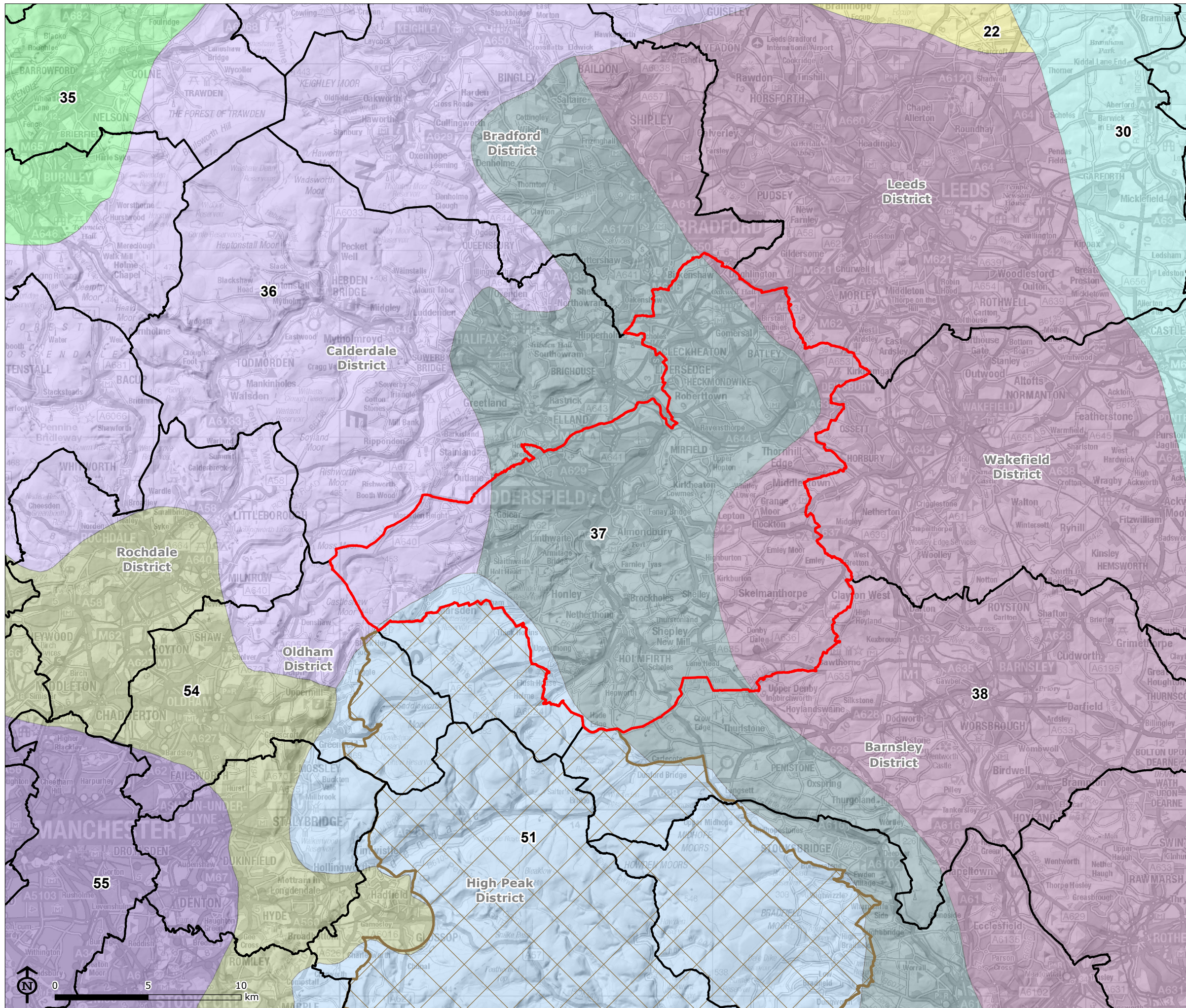
Peak District Landscape Character Areas

- Dark Peak
- Dark Peak Western Fringe
- Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe

Map Scale @ A3: 1:55,000

Inset Scale @ A3: 1:550,000





Kirklees District Landscape Character Assessment

Figure 2.3: National Character Areas

- Study area
 - Local Authority boundaries
 - Peak District National Park
- National Character Areas**
- 22: Pennine Dales Fringe
 - 30: Southern Magnesian Limestone
 - 35: Lancashire Valleys
 - 36: South Pennines
 - 37: Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe
 - 38: Nottinghamshire Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfields
 - 51: Dark Peak
 - 54: Manchester Pennine Fringe
 - 55: Manchester Conurbation

Map Scale @ A3: 1:200,000



Methodology for undertaking the Landscape Character Assessment

- 2.9 The methodology for updating the Landscape Character assessment consisted of two main tasks; a desk-based review of mapping, GIS datasets and available descriptive information for the district, followed by field survey verification to check and add information to the findings of the desk-based study.

Step 1: Desk Study

- 2.10 Using the existing Landscape Character Areas from the previous studies as described in paragraph 2.4, GIS mapping and data was used to draft a set of key characteristics structured under the following headings:

Topography, geology and drainage

Woodland cover

Land use and field patterns

Semi-natural habitats

Archaeology and cultural heritage

Settlement and road pattern

Views and perceptual qualities

- 2.11 In addition to the key characteristics, a landscape evaluation detailing valued landscape features and attributes was drafted for each LCA. This assessment was undertaken using the following criteria, with reference to any local, regional or national designations of relevance:

Geodiversity and biodiversity

- 2.12 This criterion provides an explanation of coverage of local, national and/or international conservation designations, including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protected Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Local Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites.

Cultural and historical

- 2.13 This section identifies local, national and/or international heritage designations including Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Battlefields. It also examines whether any of these assets are include on the Heritage at Risk Register.

Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)

- 2.14 This section is used to identify areas of relative tranquillity in the District using CPRE mapping and information gathered by landscape professionals during fieldwork in Kirklees.

Role as a setting to development

- 2.15 This section identifies where an LCA plays an important role as a 'rural' backdrop/setting to a settlement or urban area.

Access and enjoyment of the landscape

- 2.16 Identifies where there are recreational facilities and opportunities for the experiencing the landscape by the public. This considers the presence of the following assets; Country Parks, Public Rights of Way network, National Trails, Long distance walking routes, Common Land and Open Access Land.

Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park

- 2.17 This describes the role the LCA has (if any) in providing a setting to the National Park with reference to relevant special qualities underpinning the designation.

Step 2: Field verification

- 2.18 The field verification task took place during April 2015 and sought to verify and refine the key characteristics drafted during the desk based exercise, to add new key characteristics not apparent from the desk study (e.g. relating to views and perceptual qualities) and to take representative photos of each of the Landscape Character Areas.

3 Landscape Character Area Profiles

Usage of the LCA

- 3.1 The primary audiences for the Landscape Character Assessment are decision-makers within Kirklees Council and any partner organisations, in addition to developers considering submitting planning applications for proposals within Kirklees. The information contained in the individual LCA profiles will assist both developers and decision-makers in ensuring landscape character and quality is clearly considered in proposals.
- 3.2 It is also hoped that the information contained within this report is of wider interest to the local communities of Kirklees; raising the profile of landscape and engendering a sense of pride and ownership in working together to strengthen the landscapes of the future.

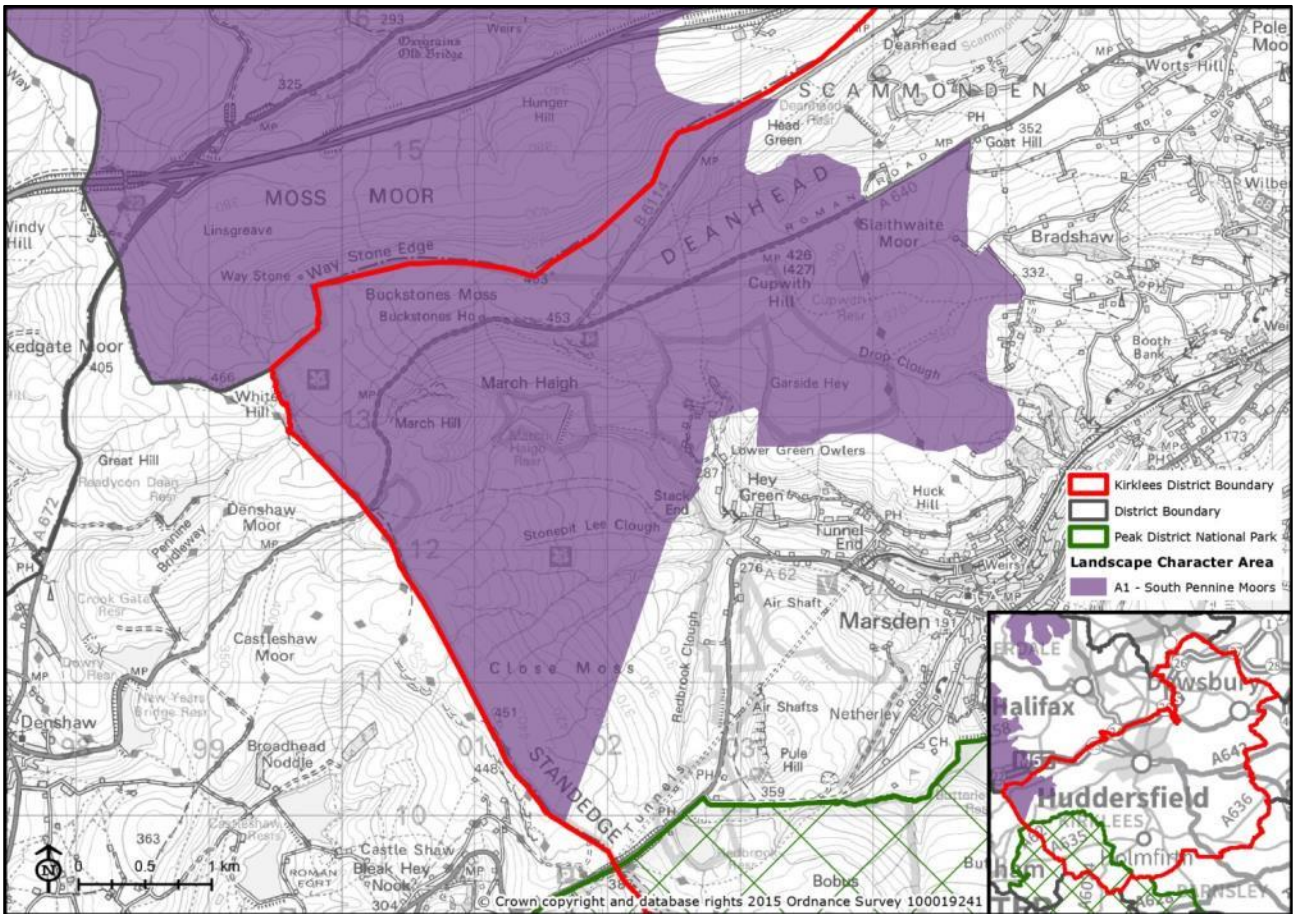
Contents

- 3.3 The Landscape Character Area Profiles are presented in the following order:

LCA Number/Name	Page Number
A1: South Pennine Moors	11
A2: North Peak (Wessenden & Meltham Moors)	14
D7: Peak Fringe Upland Pastures	17
D9 : Low Common, Royd Moor & Whitley Common	20
E1: Holmfirth – Meltham	23
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G11: Batley Fringe Incised Valleys	53
K1: Thornton - Queensbury	56
M1: Calder Valley Floor	59
N1: Emley Moor	62
N2: Cawthorne Park & West Barnsley Rolling Wooded Farmland	65

LCA A1: South Pennine Moors

Figure 3.1: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.2: Looking south from Buckstones car park



Figure 3.3: Looking east from Buckstones car park



This is an exposed, remote, upland moorland plateau located to the far west of the study area. Whilst this LCA covers a relatively small area within Kirklees, this LCA extends into the neighbouring Calderdale District to the north forming a large LCA overall.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- A series of even ridges which form a large scale sweeping plateau which ranges in elevation between 300m and 450m.
- The landform drops in elevation from west to east/ north to south and wraps around March Haigh Reservoir and the upper section of Haigh Clough.
- Large number of streams, cloughs and waterfalls create incisions in the plateau, radiating towards the reservoir and main watercourse (River Colne to the east).
- The underlying Millstone Grit geology creates distinctive physical features such as frost weathered tors, which crown some of the moorland summits.

Woodland cover

- Woodland cover is sparse owing to the elevation and exposure of the landform.

Land use and field patterns

- Land cover dominated by open moorland, extensively grazed as common land. Some small areas of enclosed pasture fields are evident on lower slopes.
- Typically an open and unenclosed landscape. Boundaries, where they do exist, are mostly dry stone walls or post and wire fences.

Semi-natural habitats

- Mosaic of upland habitats including heather moorland, blanket bog, acid grassland and wet and dry heathland.
- Much of the area is contained within the South Pennine Moors SAC, SPA and SSSI, recognised for its heathland, bogs and fens and its international importance for upland breeding bird populations.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Important archaeological landscape with strong historic interest dating from prehistoric times to the Industrial Revolution.

Settlement and road pattern

- Remote and sparsely settled landscape with isolated farmsteads focused on the lower lying, sheltered areas in the Haigh Clough valley.
- The A640 provides the key route through the area, crossing the moorland plateau to the north.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Open in character, with expansive views and wide areas of inter-visibility, particularly to the Peak District National Park to the south and north across Moss Moor in Calderdale.
- The far-reaching views reveal the contrast between the sparsely settled upland moorland of this LCA and the densely populated below.
- A perception of remoteness, isolation and wildness provided by the altitude, absence of trees and settlements and expansive nature of views.

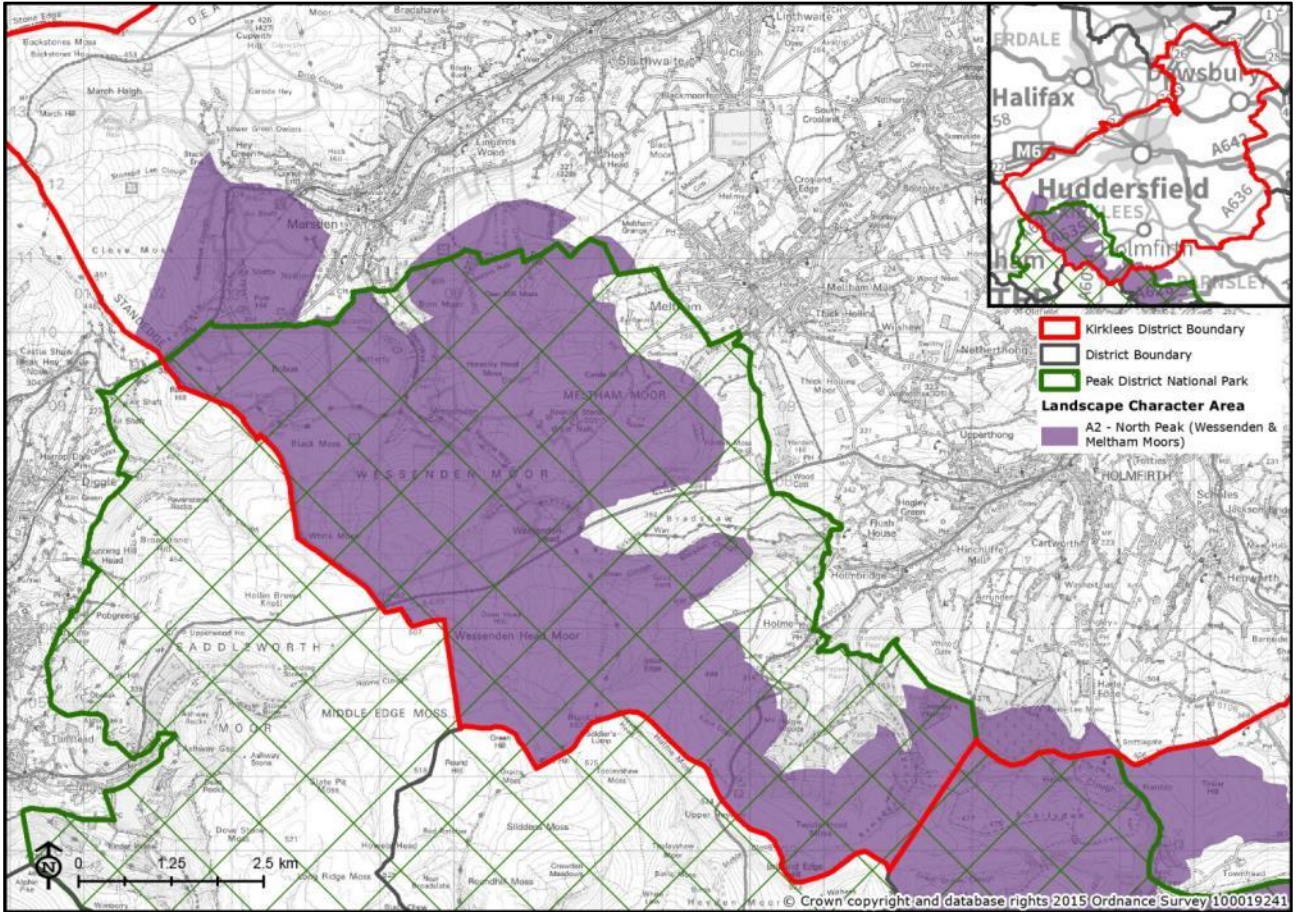
Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC: Approximately 88% of the LCA (excluding the area within the Peak District National Park) is within the South Pennine Moors SAC, covering 1,181 hectares. • SPA: 88% of the LCA is also designated as part of the wider South Pennine Moors SPA. • SSSI: The same proportion of the LCA is designated as part of the South Pennine Moors SSSI. • LWS: Drop Clough is the only Local Wildlife Site in the LCA, covering 0.4 ha. • LGS: There are two Local Geological Sites within the LCA (collectively covering 46.4 hectares); Buckstones and March Haigh.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings: There are a total of eight Listed Buildings in the LCA. These are all Grade II Listed, and none are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	This is a remote landscape with a relative sense of 'wildness' when compared with other areas of the District due to absence of development and the close proximity of the Peak District National Park.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA forms a dramatic backdrop to the settlement of Marsden (located in LCA F4) as well as Diggle, which is found to the south west of the LCA in Oldham District.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	The majority of this LCA is within the Registered Common Land of Marsden Moor, and is crossed by numerous public rights of way, including the Pennine Way National Trail running along the western boundary of the LCA adjacent to Oldham District. Other notable rights of way include the Marsden Moor Heritage Trail from Buckstones Car Park, Kirklees Way and Colne Valley Circular Walk. Some of the land at Marsden Moor is owned by the National Trust.
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	<p>The LCA is adjacent to the Peak District National Park which is located to the south. The LCA is a continuation of the wider moorland expanses of the National Park, contributing to the flow of landscape character beyond the National Park boundary (which is recognised as one of the National Park's 'special qualities').</p> <p>0.3% of the Dark Peak Character Area from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment⁷ overlaps into this LCA, a total of 166ha.</p>

⁷ Accessible at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

LCA A2: North Peak (Wessenden and Meltham Moors)

Figure 3.4: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.5: View of Close Moss from the A62



Figure 3.6: View towards Hey Green from the A62



Exposed, remote, upland moorland plateau located to the far south-west of Kirklees District. This LCA covers a large area and extends into the neighbouring Peak District National Park and Barnsley District to the south.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Large scale sweeping open plateau crossed by ridges and rounded moorland summits, reaching 437m at Pule Hill.
- A number of small tributaries and cloughs (e.g. Red Brook Clough) create incisions in the plateau and drain to the River Colne below.
- The underlying Millstone Grit geology creates distinctive physical features such as frost weathered tors and jagged moorland edges.

Woodland cover

- Woodland cover is sparse due to exposure, limited to occasional shelterbelts associated with isolated farmsteads.

Land use and field patterns

- Open moorland is the predominant land cover, common grazed by sheep. Some small areas of pastoral enclosure are evident on lower slopes.
- Boundaries, where they do exist, are typically post and wire fences or traditional gritstone walls.

Semi-natural habitats

- Mosaic of internationally important upland habitats including heather moorland, blanket bog, acid grassland and wet and dry heathland. The mosaic of habitats is particularly important for breeding upland bird populations.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Important archaeological landscape, with disused quarries and shafts providing evidence of the area's industrial heritage.
- Standedge Tunnel extends beneath the LCA - the longest, highest and deepest canal tunnel in Britain.

Settlement and road pattern

- Remote and sparsely settled landscape with isolated farmsteads focused on the lower lying, more sheltered areas around the fringes of the LCA or strung out along the sparse road network.
- The A62 crosses through this LCA. Some minor roads also provide further access, but on the whole the road network is limited – emphasising the landscape's remote character.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Open in character, with expansive views and unbroken skylines affording intervisibility with the Peak District National Park immediately adjacent to the south, Marsden Moor (LCA A1) to the north and the Colne Valley (LCA F4) below to the east.
- Views, particularly to the west, are long distance, wide angled and reveal the contrast between the sparsely settled upland moorland and densely populated valleys.
- The moorlands form an unspoilt and highly valued backdrop to the settlements of Marsden and Netherley in the Colne Valley below.
- A perception of remoteness, isolation and wildness owing to the landscape's altitude, absence of trees and settlements and expansive nature of views.

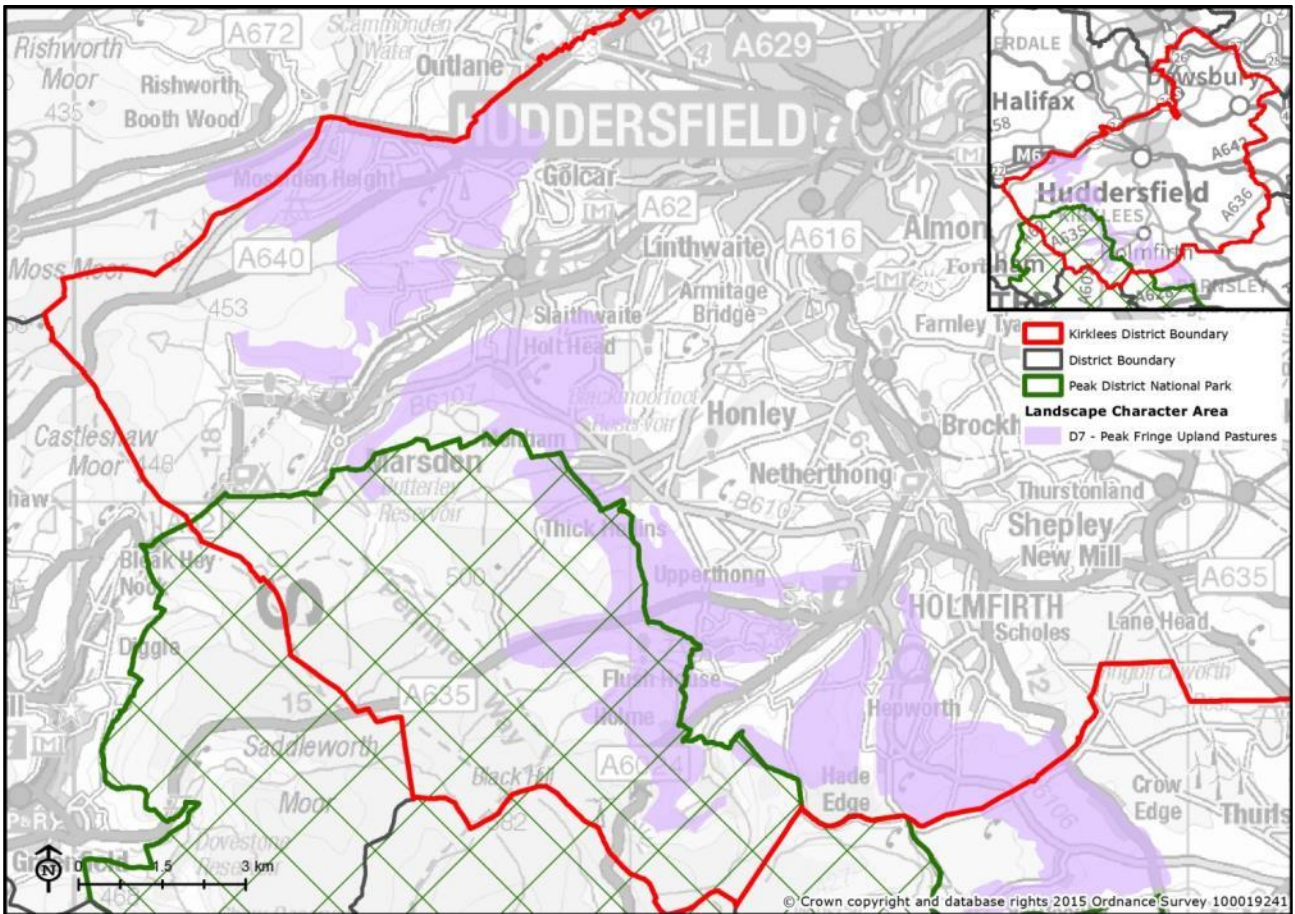
Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC: The South Pennine Moors SAC covers 54% of the LCA – a total of 346 hectares (excluding the area within the Peak District National Park). • SPA: The South Pennine Moors SPA covers over 53% of the LCA; there is also a small part of the Peak District Moors SPA covering 3.6 ha. • SSSI: The LCA includes the South Pennine Moors, Standedge Road Cutting and the Dark Peak SSSI – collectively covering 348 ha. • LGS: There is one Local Geological Site which is located at Pule Hill Quarry near Marsden (0.7 ha).
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: There is one Scheduled Monument in this LCA, located at Close Gate Bridge, which is part of a historic packhorse trail. The bridge is also a Grade II* Listed Building. • Listed Buildings: There are nine Listed Buildings, with one in the Grade II* category (as above). None if these assets are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	<p>This is one of the most tranquil LCAs in the district as a result of its remote moorland character and close proximity to the Peak District National Park, with local levels of tranquillity diminishing slightly on the fringes of Marsden.</p> <p>Noise from traffic on the main A62 can break the overriding sense of isolation and wildness. This is also interrupted by noise from firing exercises from the Deer Moss Danger Area.</p>
Role as a setting to development	<p>The LCA forms a dramatic upland backdrop to settlements in the valleys to the east including Marsden and Netherley.</p>
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>Nearly all of the LCA is Open Access Land and/or Registered Common Land.</p> <p>A number of bridleways and the Pennine Way, Kirklees Way and Standedge Trail long distance path also cross this area. The presence of the Deer Hill Moss Danger Area has associated access restrictions during periods of live firing.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	<p>The LCA is a continuation of the wider moorland expanses of the Peak District National Park immediately adjacent to the south and west, contributing to the flow of landscape character beyond the National Park boundary (which is recognised as one of the National Park's 'special qualities').</p> <p>Just over 7% of the Dark Peak Character Area from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment⁸ overlaps into this LCA, a total of 4086ha. Additionally, 1% of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe Character Area is found in this LCA, covering 151ha.</p>

⁸ Accessible at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

LCA D7: Peak Fringe Upland Pastures

Figure 3.7: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.8: Reservoir near Strines Moor



Figure 3.9: Views west over Kirklees from Hepworth



This LCA consists of a broad pastoral terrace which flanks the eastern fringes of the South Pennine, Wessenden and Meltham Moors. This LCA occurs in four areas focused to the west and south-west of Kirklees with two areas extending into the Calderdale District to the north and Barnsley District to the south. It also forms an immediate fringe to the Peak District National Park.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Broad terrace, found between 200 and 350 metres altitude, flanking the slopes and valleys to the east of the South Pennine, Wessenden and Meltham Moors.
- Underlying geology of Millstone Grit heavily influenced by glacial erosion, which creates a complex landform of open footslopes contrasting with more enclosed valleys.
- Numerous small tributaries, typically flowing from west to east, creating incisions in the landscape.

Woodland cover

- Small areas of mixed woodland within the valleys, shelterbelts associated with farm buildings and some small blocks of coniferous woodland focused to the higher ground to the south.
- Generally the landscape is sparsely wooded due to exposure.

Land use and field patterns

- Land is divided into a patchwork of small, square fields enclosed by gritstone walls or post and wire fencing, with areas of larger intakes and common land on the moorland fringes.
- Rough grazing land and semi-improved pastures are the main agricultural land uses. Other enclosures are intensively farmed, with the bright green sward forming a sharp distinction with the more subdued tones of the nearby moors.
- Parts of the moorland fringe are in a state of transition; with some areas being intensively farmed whilst others are witnessing agricultural decline with a variety of other, non-agricultural land uses.

Semi-natural habitats

- The outer fringes of the area, on the boundary with the National Park, are internationally and nationally designated for their mosaic of upland habitats including moorland, blanket bog, flushes and mires.
- Remnant unimproved upland pastures including colourful species-rich hay meadows and damp pastures form an integral part of the upland mosaic.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Former packhorse routes provide evidence of the historic strategic importance of the moorland fringes (today valued as public rights of way).
- Distinctive vernacular architecture dominated by the local Millstone Grit building stone, including laithe houses and weavers' cottages.

Settlement and road pattern

- Dispersed settlement pattern comprising scattered farmsteads and occasional short terraces of houses. The density of residential properties increases towards the edges of Huddersfield.
- Parts crossed by the A640 and A635. Elsewhere, a network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes connect farmsteads. Stone walls with small grass verges often bound the lanes.

Views and perceptual qualities

- From the open slopes, frequent long views across the intersecting valleys (F4 and F5) and/or out over the urban conurbations to the east are available.
- From the enclosed minor valleys, focused, framed views looking down the valley towards the more settled lowlands are obtainable.

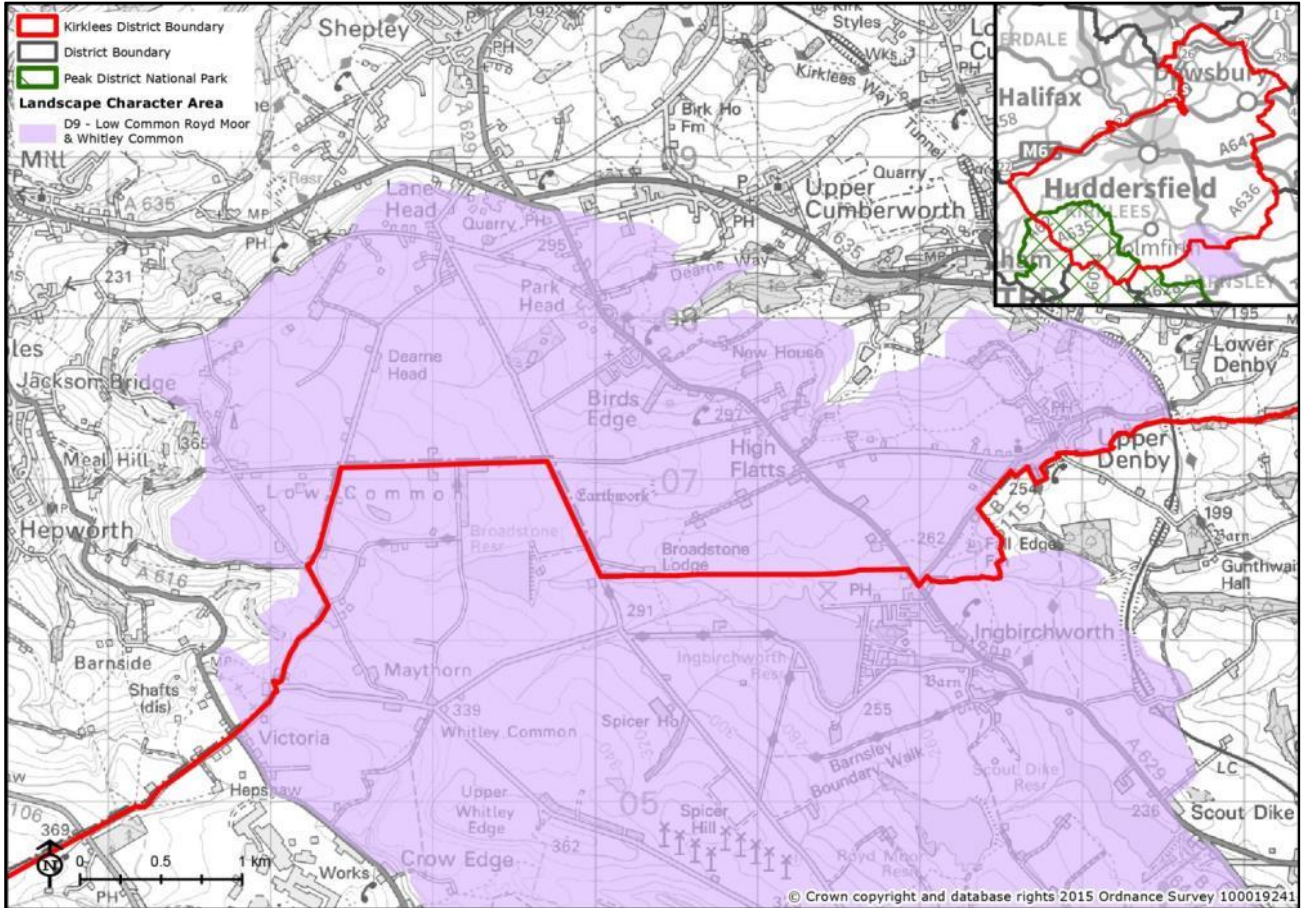
Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC: The moorland fringes fall within the wider South Pennine Moors SAC. This covers 23.6 ha of the LCA. • SPA: The moorland fringes also fall within the wider South Pennine Moors and Peak District Moors SPAs – collectively covering 23.8 ha of the LCA. • SSSI: Small parts of the moorland fringe are also within the South Pennine Moors and Dark Peak SSSIs. • LWS: Seven sites are wholly or partially within the LCA, collectively covering 29.2 ha: Carr Green Meadows, Digley Reservoir/Marsden Clough, Drop Clough, Morton Wood, New Laith Fields, Wild Boar Clough and Yateholme Reservoirs & Plantations. • LGS: There are two sites within the LCA collectively covering 0.2 ha: Butterley Cutting, Marsden and Digley Quarries, Holmbridge.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 161 Listed Buildings within the LCA – one is Grade II* with the remainder Grade II. None are on the Heritage at Risk Register. • Conservation Areas: The LCA includes four Conservation Areas: Helme, Hinchliffe Mill, Holme and Upperthong.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	The LCA is defined by a strongly rural, traditional agricultural character – with close associations with the adjoining more remote moorland landscapes. Perceptions of tranquillity reduce along the eastern fringes with Huddersfield. On the edges of Barnsley District, views to several wind farm developments – including Spicer Hill – introduce prominent moving structures into the open landscape.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA forms a close rising rural backdrop to valley settlements including Holmfirth, Meltham, Slaithwaite and Linthwaite – as well as a more distant setting to Huddersfield. The landscape is also visible from the M62 in the north.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	A strong rights of way network crosses the landscape, including lengths of the Kirklees Way, Holme Valley Circular Walk, Pennine Cycleway, West Yorkshire Cycle Route and Meltham Way. Pockets of Open Access Land extend into the LCA from the National Park, including at Netherley Brow.
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	This LCA provides an immediate setting to the Peak District National Park, including the Meltham, Wessenden and Thurlstone Moors. It contributes to the flow of landscape character beyond the National Park boundary (which is recognised as one of the protected landscape's 'special qualities'). The LCA forms a valued transitional landscape between the developed valleys below and the nationally designated moorlands rising immediately above. 1.5% of the Dark Peak Character Area from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment ⁹ overlaps into this LCA, a total of 851ha. Additionally, 11.4% of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe Character Area is found in this LCA, covering 1763ha.

⁹ Accessible at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

LCA D9: Low Common, Royd Moor and Whitley Common

Figure 3.10: Location Map



Representative photographs

3.11: Long views west over Hepworth



3.12: Views to Emley Moor and Wakefield beyond



This LCA forms a small area of upland pasture located along the southern boundary of Kirklees, extending into the Barnsley District to the south. It lies above the Home Valley to the west and Dearne Valley to the east.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently rising landform, found between approximately 250 and 400 metres altitude, focused around Low and Denby Commons.
- Landscape forms the northern extent of a broad, gently rounded range of hills with a northwest to southeast orientation.
- Underlying geology comprising bands of sandstone, siltstone and mudstones from the Pennine Lower Coal Measures series.
- Ponds, springs and small tributaries drain into nearby reservoirs and the Holme and Dearne Valleys below.

Woodland cover

- Open and sparsely wooded landscape, limited to small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts associated with farm buildings.

Land use and field patterns

- Land is divided into a regular patchwork of small fields, almost entirely grazing pasture, and typically enclosed by gritstone walls.

Semi-natural habitats

- The landscape includes some remnant unimproved upland pastures, including colourful species-rich hay meadows and damp pastures.
- Flushed meadows, ponds and streams also provide interest.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- The nationally important remains of a late prehistoric settlement on Castle Hill occupy an elevated hill-slope position.
- Conservation Areas at High Flatts and Upper Denby, displaying fine vernacular architecture including laithe houses and weavers' cottages of Millstone Grit.

Settlement and road pattern

- Mainly dispersed settlement pattern largely comprising scattered farmsteads. The small villages/hamlets of Birdsedge, High Flatts and Upper Denby serve the area.
- The A629 forms the major route which crosses this area from northwest to southeast. Beyond this road pattern is characterised by a network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes which connect the farmsteads. Stone walls with small grass verges often bound the lanes.

Views and perceptual qualities

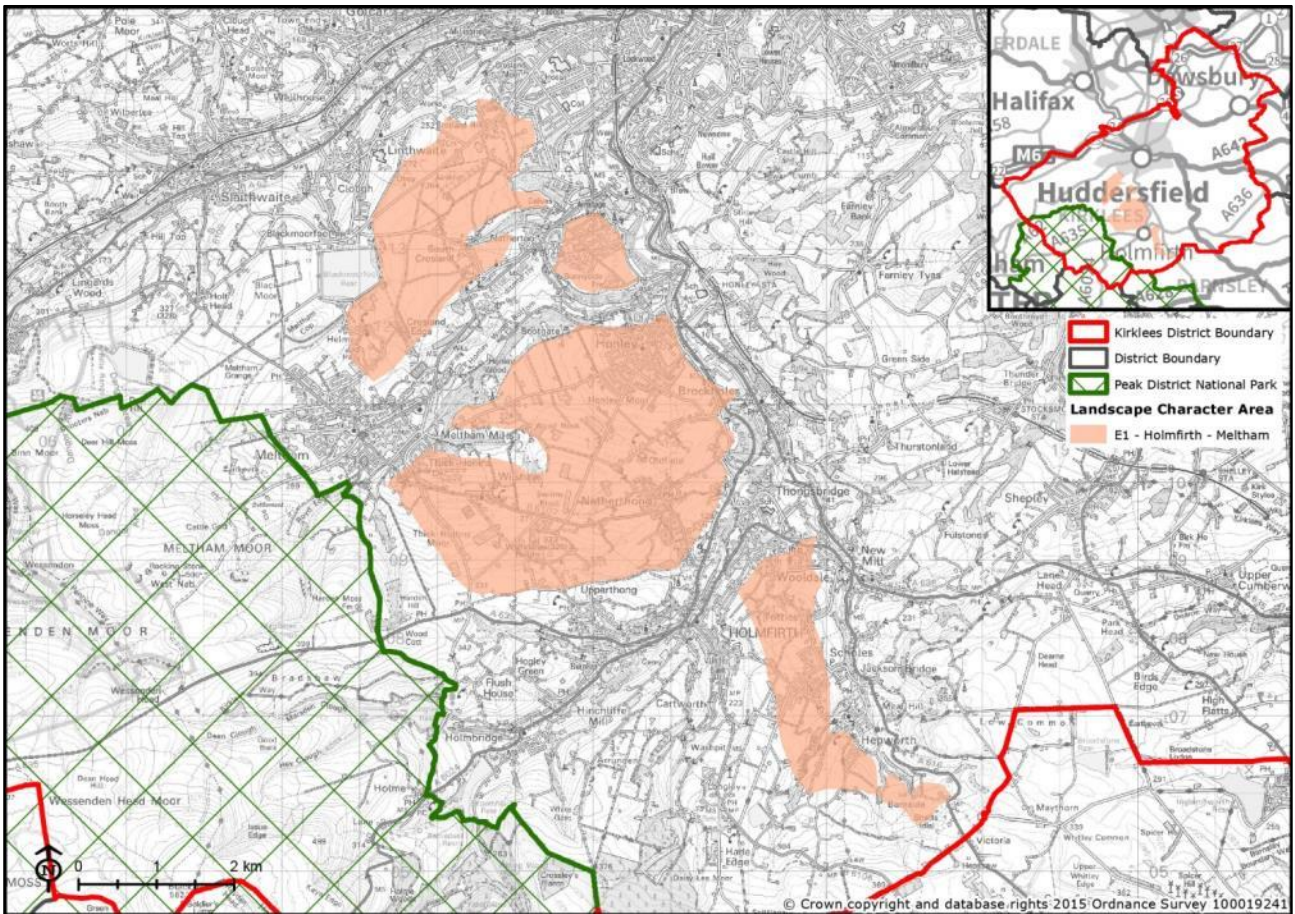
- Open, large scale and quite exposed landscape, the gently rising topography affords long distance open views over the district – including north-west towards Emley Moor and beyond to Wakefield.
- This is a highly rural landscape with strong traditional agricultural feel.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: Denby Delph LWS falls entirely within the LCA, while a very small part of the wider Holme House Wood extends into the north-west of the landscape. These collectively cover 6.9 ha. • LGS: There is one Local Geological Site on the western fringes of the LCA - Scar Hole Quarry, Jackson Bridge (0.3 ha).
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: There is one site within the LCA: Castle Hill prehistoric settlement. This is also included on the Heritage at Risk Register and is vulnerable to arable ploughing. • Listed Buildings: There are 14 Grade II Listed Buildings within the LCA. • Conservation Areas: The LCA includes the Conservation Areas of High Flatts and Upper Denby. <p>None of these assets are on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	<p>This is a sparsely settled landscape with a strong rural nature and important relative levels of tranquillity – broken locally by traffic on the A629. Wind turbines can present visual detractors on skylines – both individual domestic turbines within the LCA, along with views to Spicer Hill Wind Farm and other larger turbines within Barnsley District to the south. The open, elevated character of the LCA creates a sense of scale and strong visual relationship with adjacent landscapes.</p>
Role as a setting to development	<p>The landscape provides an elevated rural backdrop to lower-lying settlements, including Denby Dale (LCA G10), Shepley (LCA E6), Hepworth and Scholes (G8).</p>
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>The LCA is crossed by a number of public rights of way including short lengths of the Dearne Way and Barnsley Boundary Walk.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	<p>Although not adjacent to the National Park, the landscape forms an intermediate setting to Thurlstone Moors which rise up behind the LCA to the south-west.</p>

LCA E1: Holmfirth - Meltham

Figure 3.13: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.14: View towards Victoria Tower



Figure 3.15: Looking north towards Calderdale.



This LCA consists of four areas of rural fringe land located to the south-west of Huddersfield. All four areas fall wholly within the district.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently undulating plateaux often sloping up to the higher moorlands nearby, ranging from between 150 and 300 metres altitude.
- Landscape underlain by Carboniferous Millstone Grit and sandstone.
- Some slopes deeply incised by valleys, through which small tributaries and springs flow to join the Holme River below.

Woodland cover

- Considerable tree and woodland cover, with shelterbelts, field boundary trees, and numerous broadleaved woodlands - many of ancient origin, as well as small scale coniferous plantations.

Land use and field patterns

- Small to medium-scale regular pattern of grassland pastures enclosed by gritstone walls or hedgerows.
- Majority of the fields are improved pastures or managed for silage production.

Semi-natural habitats

- Isolated remnants of species-rich grasslands (hay meadow and wet pastures) exist within the farmed landscape. Flushed meadows are of special nature conservation interest.
- Some substantial areas of ancient woodland, particularly south of Huddersfield.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- A strong historic sense of place with traditional Millstone Grit farmhouses and cottages combining with stone wall field boundaries to create a unified local vernacular.
- A large concentration of Listed Buildings associated with the area's small settlements, many of which include Conservation Areas.
- Disused quarries provide evidence of industrial heritage.

Settlement and road pattern

- Distinctive settlement character of scattered farms, individual rural houses and groups of dwellings clustered into hamlets and small villages.
- A number of larger settlements also exist (including Scholes, Nethererton Moor, Honley and Netherthong).
- Dense network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes linking to nearby urban centres mainly focused to the east.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Proximity of the urban centres exerts an influence on landscape character with urban fringe land uses evident in many areas.
- The elevated nature of the landscape affords long views across the valley settlements and beyond, including into Barnsley and Calderdale districts.
- A strongly rural landscape with pockets of relative tranquillity away from the main settlements. This is enhanced in the west due to the proximity and intervisibility with the Peak District National Park.

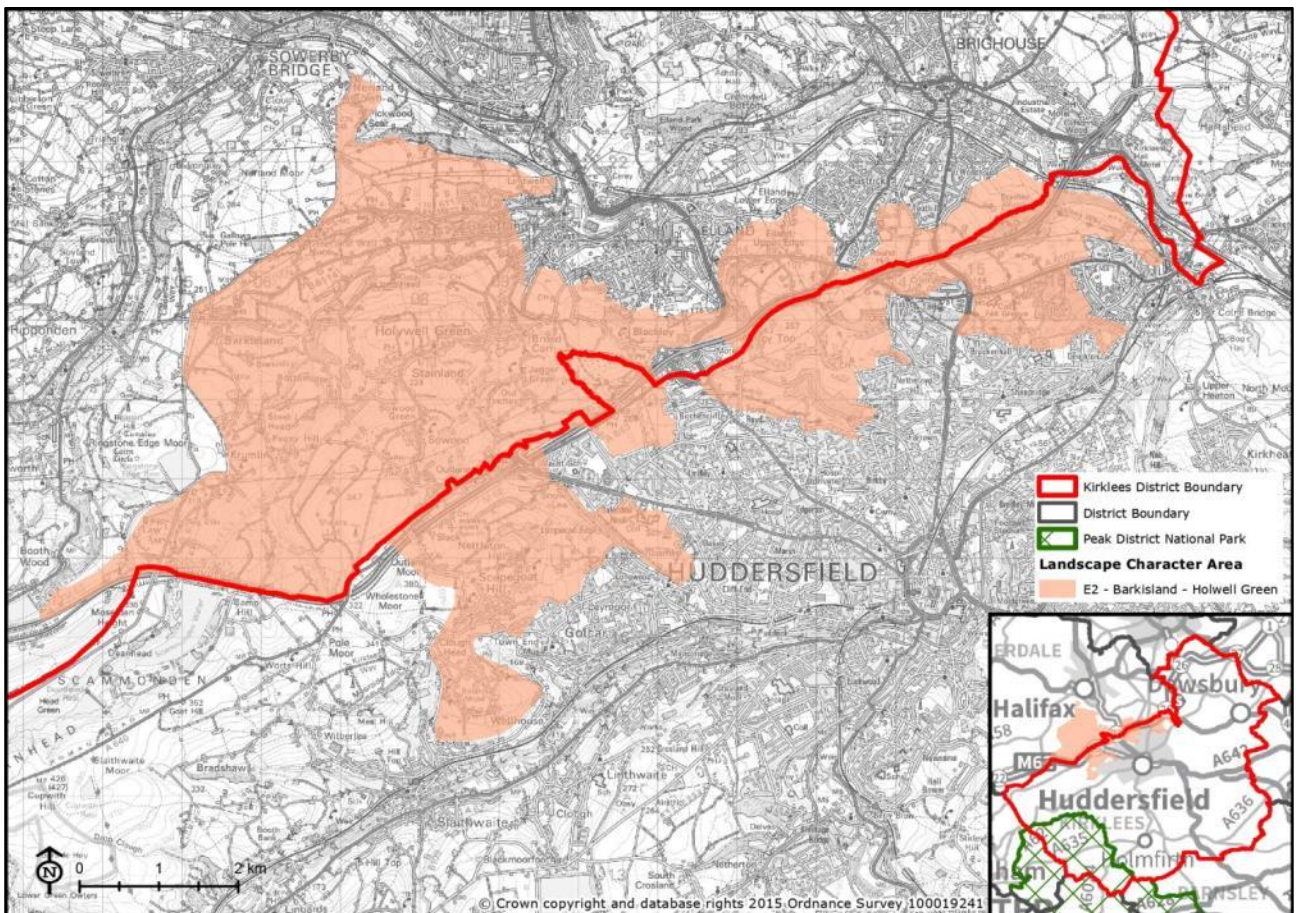
Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: There are seven sites found wholly or partially within the LCA: Bank Wood, Dean Wood, Delves Wood, Holmroyd Wood, Honley Wood, Morton Wood, and Spring Wood. These collectively cover 12.7 ha. • LGS: There is one Local Geological Site at Johnson Wellfield Quarries, Crosland Hill (0.3 ha).
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: There is one site within the LCA: a cairnfield in Slate Pits Wood. • Listed Buildings: There are 188 Grade II Listed Buildings and two Grade II*. • Conservation Areas: The LCA includes land within the following 10 Conservation Areas: Helme, Hepworth, Honley, Netherthong/Deanhouse, Netherton (Corn Bank), Oldfield, South Crosland, Totties, Wilshaw, Wooldale. <p>None of these assets are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	A strongly rural landscape with pockets of relative tranquillity away from the main settlements and busy B-roads. This is enhanced in the west due to the proximity and intervisibility with the Peak District National Park. The frequent presence of traditional stone-built buildings and walls creates a strong historic sense of place and unified underlying identity.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA provides an immediate backdrop to adjacent settlements including Scholes, Netherthong, Honley and Netherton, as well as the south-western suburbs of Huddersfield. Its elevated nature creates a valued rural setting to the developed valleys below, including Holmfirth, Thongsbridge and Meltham.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>A strong network of footpaths and green lanes is supplemented by lengths of the Holme Valley Circular Walk and National Cycle Route 68.</p> <p>Meltham Golf Course is integrated into a woodland setting to the west of the LCA.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	<p>Although not adjacent to the protected landscape, there is a strong visual relationship with the moorlands of the National Park from the south-western fringes of the landscape.</p> <p>0.05% of the Dark Peak Character Area from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment¹⁰ overlaps into this LCA, a total of 27ha. Additionally, 1.7% of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe Character Area, covering 268ha.</p>

¹⁰ Accessible at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

LCA E2: Barkisland – Holywell Green

Figure 3.16: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.17: Heathland near Outlane Moor



Figure 3.18: Radio towers near Scapegoat Hill



This LCA consists of two areas of rural fringe land located along the north-western boundary of Kirklees District, to the north of Huddersfield, extending into the Calderdale District to the north to form part of a larger LCA.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Steeply rising land between approximately 125 and 360 metres altitude. In the west the land rises up towards Wholestone Moor. In the eastern area the land rises towards Ainley Top and other small local hill summits.
- Bedrock geology consists of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, along with the Pennine Coal Measures Group typical of much of the surrounding area.
- There are frequent springs draining from hill summits, and reservoirs clustered around Longwood Edge.

Woodland cover

- Frequent tree and woodland cover, particularly on slopes. There are some larger areas of woodland evident to the south of Ainley Top and north-east of Huddersfield.

Land use and field patterns

- The field pattern is typically of small scale grassland pastures enclosed by gritstone walls, hedgerow boundaries and post and wire fences.
- The majority of the fields are improved and grazed by a mix of both cattle and sheep. Urban expansion and associated land uses are encroaching on agricultural land use in some places.
- Several golf clubs are scattered throughout the LCA, including Bradley Park Golf Club, Huddersfield Golf Club and Outlane Golf Club.

Semi-natural habitats

- The landscape's bands of woodland provide naturalistic land cover and nature conservation interest, including Grimescar Woods – which form a notable area of local wildlife importance.
- There is considerable heathland coverage on higher ground near Outlane Moor, also providing texture within the landscape.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- There are numerous Listed Buildings associated with the landscape's historic villages – buildings of local stone being particularly distinctive and key to sense of place.
- Nationally important archaeological features from the Roman period create a further sense of time depth, including the remains of a camp near Slack.
- Disused quarries and shafts provide evidence of an industrial past.

Settlement and road pattern

- This is an urban fringe landscape located on the immediate doorstep of Huddersfield, comprising small satellite villages, hamlets and individual stone-built cottages or farmsteads.
- There is a dense network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes, which link the area to the urban centres mainly focused to the south.
- The M62 forms a definitive boundary to the north of this character area, and the LCA is also crossed by busy sections of main A-roads linking to Huddersfield.

Views and perceptual qualities

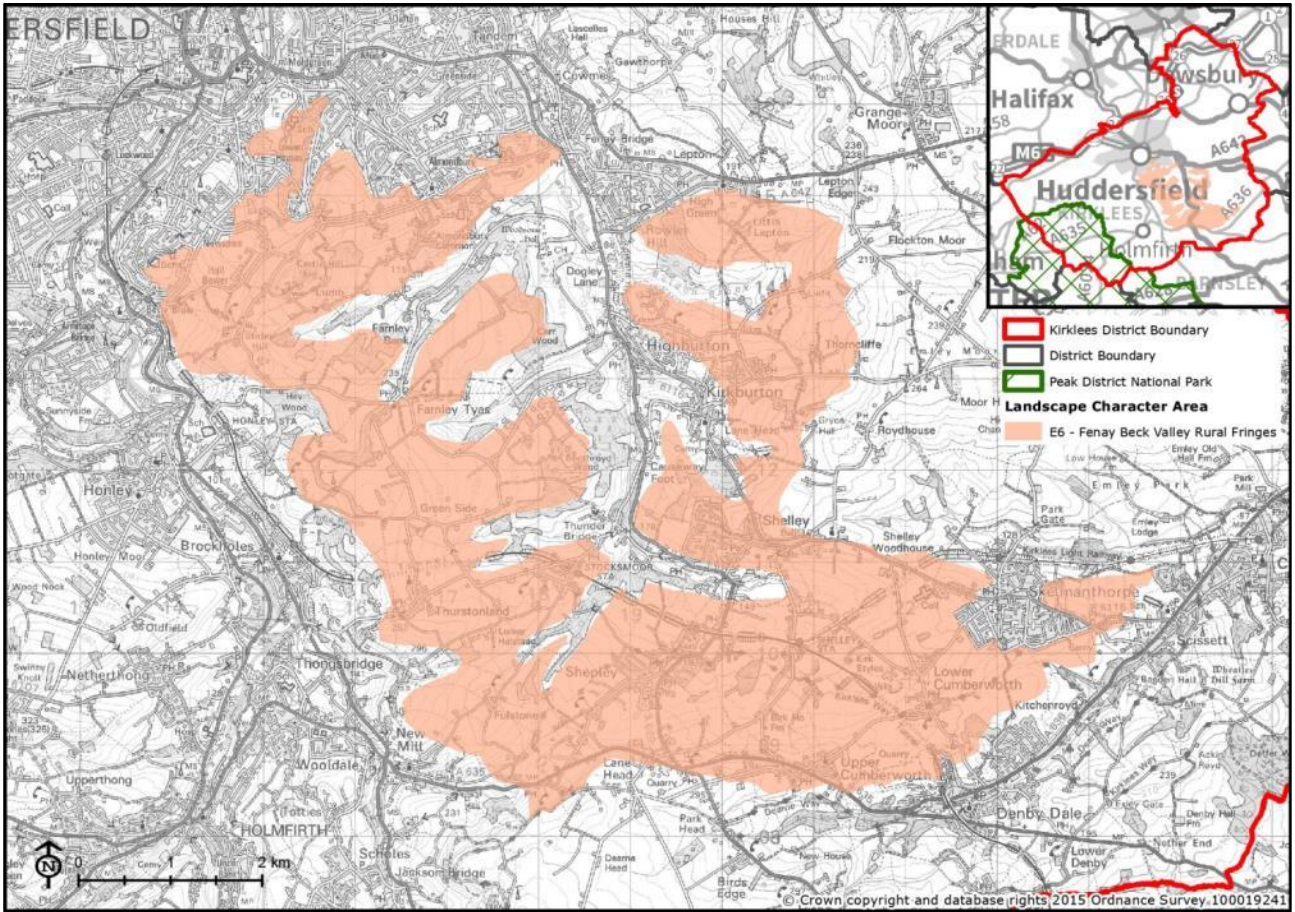
- Although often well-treed, longer distance views, typically focused to the south, reveal the densely settled lower lying urban areas of greater Huddersfield and Brighouse.
- Elevated hill summits and ridgelines afford long views to the north over Calderdale District and also south west towards the Peak District National Park.
- Some areas retain a relative tranquil, rural character despite the proximity of urban development. Increasing urbanisation on the LCA's fringes creates a landscape of transition.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: There are three Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA with total coverage of 37 ha; Bradley Golf Course, Grimescar Woods, Shaw Wood. • LGS: Three Local Geological Sites are found within the LCA - Clough Head Quarry, Longwood Edge Quarry, and Old Lindley Moor (collectively covering 1.2 ha).
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: There are two Scheduled Monuments; the remnants of a Roman Camp near Slack and a Roman tiler at Grimescar. • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 134 Listed Buildings, two of which are Grade II* listed. • Conservation Areas: The LCA partially contains three Conservation Areas; Longwood Edge, Quarmby Fold and Wellhouse. <p>None of these assets are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	Away from the main roads in northern part of the LCA, the landscape mostly retains traditional rural qualities, although the presence of telecommunications towers and small scale wind turbines can add an industrial and further urban influence to the landscape. Elsewhere, urban fringe land uses and the sounds/sights of nearby development – and the M62 – erode levels of tranquillity.
Role as a setting to development	This LCA provides a valued rural backdrop, rising up above the northern edge of Huddersfield. It also provides an immediate setting to several small settlements including Bradley, Nettleton and Scapegoat Hill.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	The Kirklees Way and Colne Valley Circular Walk pass through this LCA and are supplemented by a strong network of other rights of way, particularly in the west of the LCA.
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	Although not directly adjacent to the protected landscape, the LCA's elevated nature affords important visual relationships with the Peak District National Park, the moorlands often forming a backdrop to views to the south-west.

LCA E6: Fenay Beck Valley Rural Fringes

Figure 3.19: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.20: View of Victoria Tower from south



Figure 3.21: View of Shelley and Shepley beyond.



This LCA is formed of rural fringe land located to the south-west of Huddersfield and centred on the Fenay Beck Valley. The LCA is fully contained within Kirklees District.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently undulating plateau ranging from between approximately 150 and 280 metres altitude.
- The LCA is located above the Holme and Fenay Beck River Valleys, rising up in the east towards Emley Moor.
- Local variations in topography create some areas of more complex landform including deeply incised valleys with small tributaries and watercourses which flow towards Fenay Beck.

Woodland cover

- Large blocks of tree and woodland cover found on slopes, particularly in the north east of the LCA. Most are broadleaved woodlands, although there are occasional mixed woodlands with small scale coniferous plantations.
- Shelterbelts and mature in-field and boundary trees contribute to a well-wooded character.

Land use and field patterns

- Land cover patterns are small scale and relatively complex, and vegetation cover is varied.
- Small grassland pastures are enclosed by gritstone walls as well as some hedgerow boundaries.

Semi-natural habitats

- There are areas of acid grassland, scrub, hay meadow and wet pasture found amongst the improved grassland.
- Numerous areas of locally important woodland contribute to naturalistic character, including Upper Park Wood and Wither Wood.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- A strong historic landscape character with traditional stone-built cottages, farm buildings and historic villages.
- The nationally important Castle Hill Fort, to the north-west of the LCA, occupies a prominent position to the south of Huddersfield. In the same location, the Victoria Tower Monument is a widely visible landmark in views from across the District.

Settlement and road pattern

- Dense network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes, which radiate out from the A629 which traverses the Fenay Beck Valley.
- Larger settlements in the south and east, expanding from a historic core (Highburton, Shepley and Skelmanthorpe).
- Elsewhere groups of dwellings are clustered into small villages and the landscape includes numerous scattered farms/individual rural houses.

Views and perceptual qualities

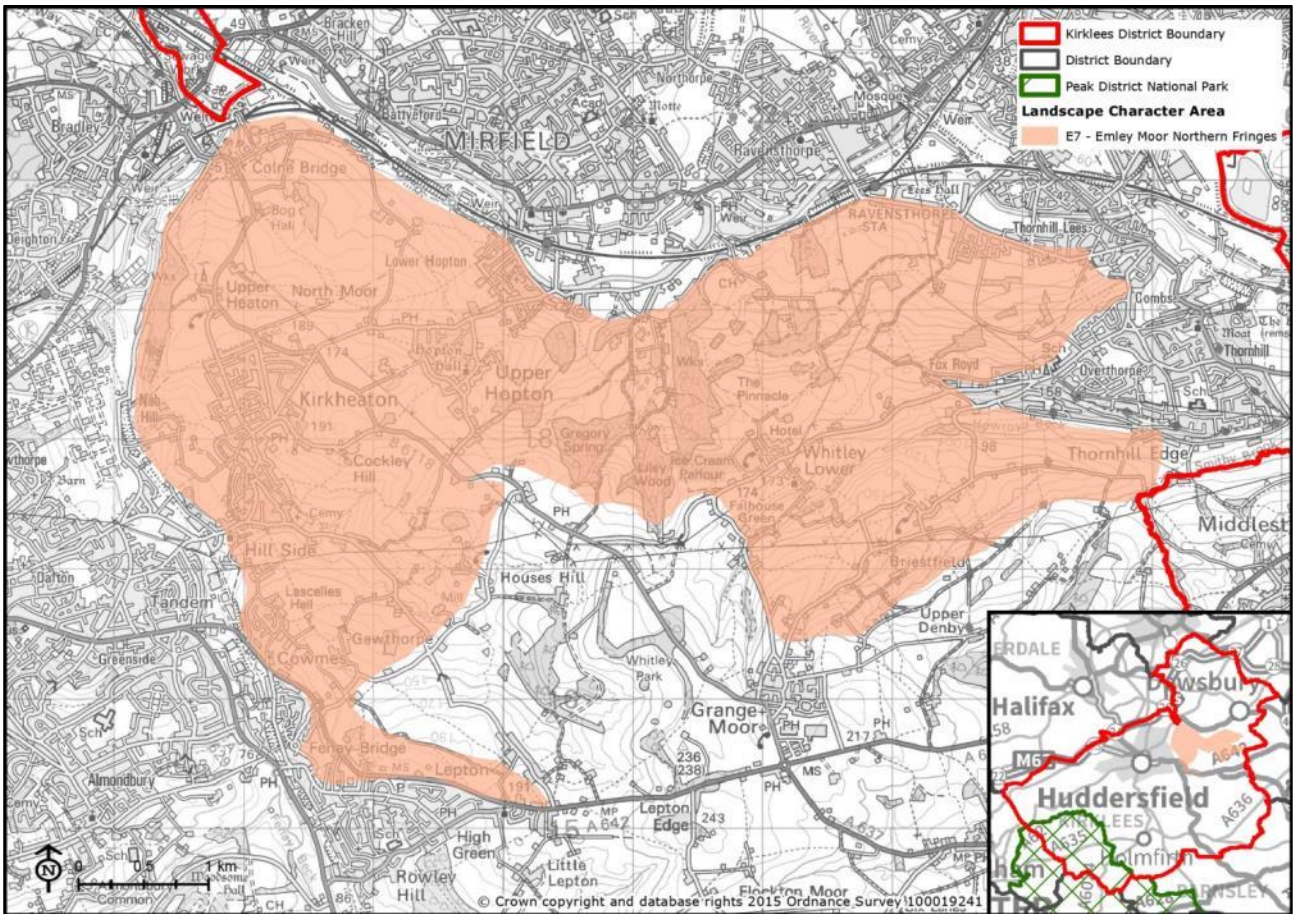
- Mostly a settled and rural landscape, often with long views north across the district and beyond, as a result of elevation.
- There are high levels of intervisibility with Emley Moor (LCA N1). There are also distant views to the Peak District National Park from higher ground near Shelley.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNR: There are two Local Nature Reserves; Castle Hill and Upper Park Wood, collectively covering 11.6 ha. • LWS: A total of 19 Local Wildlife Sites are located wholly or partially within the LCA and cover a total of 83 ha – many of which are woodlands. • LGS: Additionally, there are two Local Geological Sites; Castle Hill near Huddersfield and Upper and Lower Stone Woods near Stocks Moor (3.3 ha in total).
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: The LCA has one Scheduled Monument at Castle Hill Fort. • Listed Buildings: There are total of 181 Listed Buildings in the LCA (three are Grade II*, whilst the remainder are Grade II). • Conservation Areas: The LCA contains eight Conservation Areas; Almondbury, Farnley Tyas, Fulstone, Highburton, Shepley, Skelmanthorpe, Thurstonland and Upper Cumberworth. <p>None of these assets are on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	This is mostly perceived as a tranquil landscape with a traditional rural feel, although this is impacted upon by the main roads and urban development around Shepley.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA provides a direct setting to Shepley and Skelmanthorpe. It also forms an elevated backdrop to valley settlements in LCAs G8, G9 and G10, including Denby Dale, Kirkburton and Armitage Bridge.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>There is a small pocket of open access land located to the south of Shepley Marsh.</p> <p>There are several public rights of way emanating into the wider countryside from settlements, although some areas of the LCA are less accessible. The Kirklees Way long distance walking route runs through the south of the LCA, whilst the Holme Valley Circular Walk is located in the west.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	Although not adjacent to the National Park, there are distant views to the Peak District National Park from Shelley.

LCA E7: Emley Moor Northern Fringes

Figure 3.22: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.23: View of farmland near Whitley Lower



Figure 3.24: View north over Batley



This LCA consists of one contiguous area, contained fully within Kirklees District, located to the east of Huddersfield and forming a rural fringe to the north of Emley Moor.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently undulating elevated slopes which fringe the moors to the south, found between approximately 60 and 200 metres altitude. The landscape drops in elevation towards the River Calder to the north.
- Local variations in topography create some areas of more complex landform, deeply incised by valleys through which small tributaries and watercourses flow (e.g. Howroyd Beck and Valance Beck).
- Bedrock geology is formed from the Lower and Middle Pennine Coal Measures Groups, similar to the wider area.

Woodland cover

- Abundant woodland cover, particularly on the steep valley slopes.
- There are also frequent trees along field boundaries and in fields, as well as numerous blocks of broadleaved woodlands, particularly to the east of Upper Hopton.

Land use and field patterns

- Smaller scale pattern of grassland pastures enclosed by gritstone walls as well as some hedgerow boundaries.
- Majority of the fields are improved and grazed by a mix of both cattle and sheep. Horse paddocks are also frequent, particularly around settlements.

Semi-natural habitats

- There are areas of acid grassland, scrub, hay meadow and wet pasture providing interest and texture amongst the improved grassland.
- Larger areas of broadleaved woodland are a locally important resource for wildlife, including Liley Wood and Whitley Wood.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Disused quarries and shafts are scattered across the landscape, reflecting the area's industrial heritage. There is also a large clay pit east of Kirkheaton.
- Numerous Listed Buildings with a strong built vernacular of local gritstone. Upper Hopton is a Conservation Area.

Settlement and road pattern

- Dense network of minor roads and narrow winding lanes, which link the area to the urban centres focused to the north and west.
- Distinctive settlement character of scattered farms, individual rural houses and groups of dwellings clustered into small villages, a number of larger settlements also exist (including Kirkheaton and Upper Hopton). Buildings are typically of a traditional stone vernacular.
- Proximity of the urban centres exerts an influence on landscape character with urban fringe land uses evident in many areas, a number of large overhead pylons also cross through this area.

Views and perceptual qualities

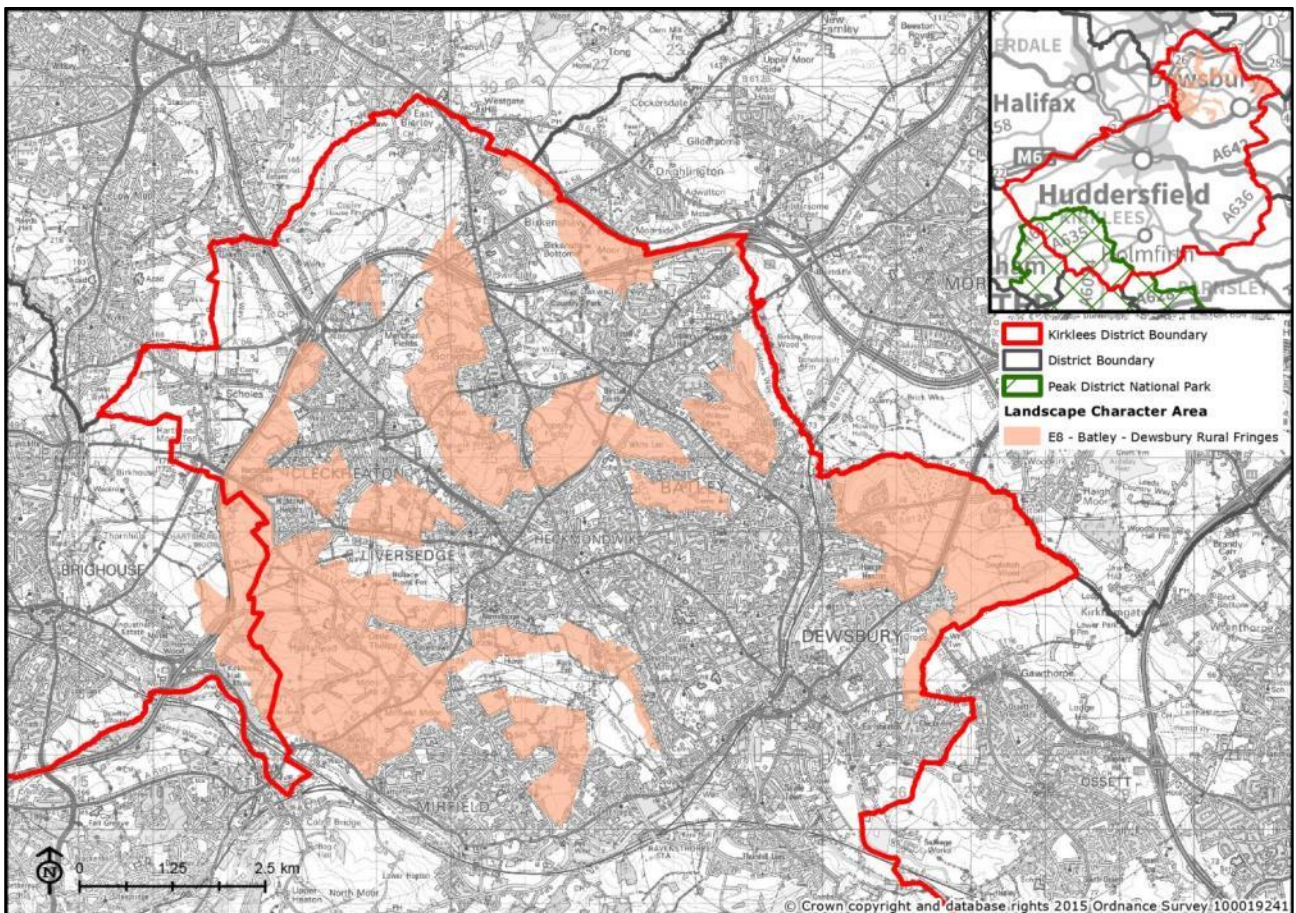
- Although often well-treed, longer distance views, typically focused to the north, reveal the more densely settled lower lying urban areas. These include long views east towards Wakefield District from higher ground.
- A strongly rural landscape, which in areas characterised by a dense network of narrow winding lanes and woodland, retaining a tranquil character.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNR: There is one Local Nature Reserve; Dalton Bank (17.8 ha within this LCA), which also crosses into LCA M1. • LWS: There is a total of eleven Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA which collectively cover 110 ha. The majority of these cover locally important woodland sites.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 30 Listed Buildings in the LCA (two of which are Grade II* listed, while the remainder are Grade II. One of these is included on the Heritage at Risk Register - the Grade II* listed Hopton Congregational Church. • Conservation Areas: There is one Conservation Area located within Upper Hopton.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	Comparatively rural and tranquil especially compared to the settled Calder Valley below (LCA M1), although traffic noise from the M6 (to the east of the district) is evident.
Role as a setting to development	This LCA forms an immediate rural setting to several settlements, including Kirkheaton, Upper Hopton, Lower Hopton, Bristfield and Whitley Lower. It also provides a valued elevated backdrop to Lepton and Thornhill.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>The Kirklees Way crosses through the eastern part of the LCA, whilst part of National Cycle Route 66 is found in the north west corner of the LCA. There is also a dense network of other rights of way, particularly providing access to the many woodland areas in the LCA.</p> <p>Small patches of Open Access Land are found close to Lower Hopton and Thornhill.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	There are occasional glimpses of the moorlands of the Peak District National Park on south-westerly horizons, although the relationship between the LCA and the National Park is minimal.

LCA E8: Batley – Dewsbury Rural Fringes

Figure 3.25: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.26: View south from Hartshead



Figure 3.27: View south from Upper Batley



This LCA consists of nine smaller areas of rural fringe land, focused to the far north-east of the study area, to the north and west of Dewsbury. The most western area extends to the west into the neighbouring Calderdale District.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently undulating land, found between approximately 100 and 200 metres altitude. The land typically falls in elevation towards the surrounding urban areas.
- Local variations in topography create areas of more complex landform, including some elevated ridges and hill summits and parts where the slopes are deeply incised by valleys.
- Bedrock geology consists of the Pennine Coal Measures formation typical of much of the District, with areas of alluvium deposits associated with watercourses.
- To the west a number of tributaries flow into the River Calder, including Nun Brook.

Woodland cover

- Varied tree cover, with trees in shelterbelts, along field boundaries and some areas of broadleaved woodland, which follow streams.

Land use and field patterns

- Typical pattern of small scale grassland pastures with some more limited areas of more intensive arable cultivation.
- Urban expansion and associated land uses spreading into the farmland landscape, including horse paddocks and equestrian enterprises.
- Mix of field boundary types including stone walls, hedgerows and fences.

Semi-natural habitats

- Isolated remnants of species-rich grasslands (hay meadow and wet pastures) exist within the improved grassland, including some wildflower meadows at Colliery Field in Oakwell Hall Country Park.
- Some of the areas of broadleaved woodland are also locally important for wildlife, including Dogloitch Wood and Dunn Wood.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- There are numerous Listed Buildings and the fringes of Conservation Areas around Batley and Gomersal fall in this LCA. Traditional stone-built cottages, Victorian terraces and farmsteads provide a contrasting historic sense of place within the urban context.
- Part of the Grade II listed Kirklees Park is also located to the far west of this LCA, and the landscape includes the nationally important remains of a motte and bailey castle at Castle Hall Hill.
- Disused railways and industrial works provide evidence of the area's coal mining heritage.

Settlement and road pattern

- A fragmented landscape forming urban fringe pockets within and around the Dewsbury, Batley, Mirfield, Liversedge and Cleckheaton conurbation.
- A dense network of A roads, minor roads and narrow winding lanes link the LCA's small villages to the surrounding urban centres. The M62 forms a definitive boundary to the north and west.

Views and perceptual qualities

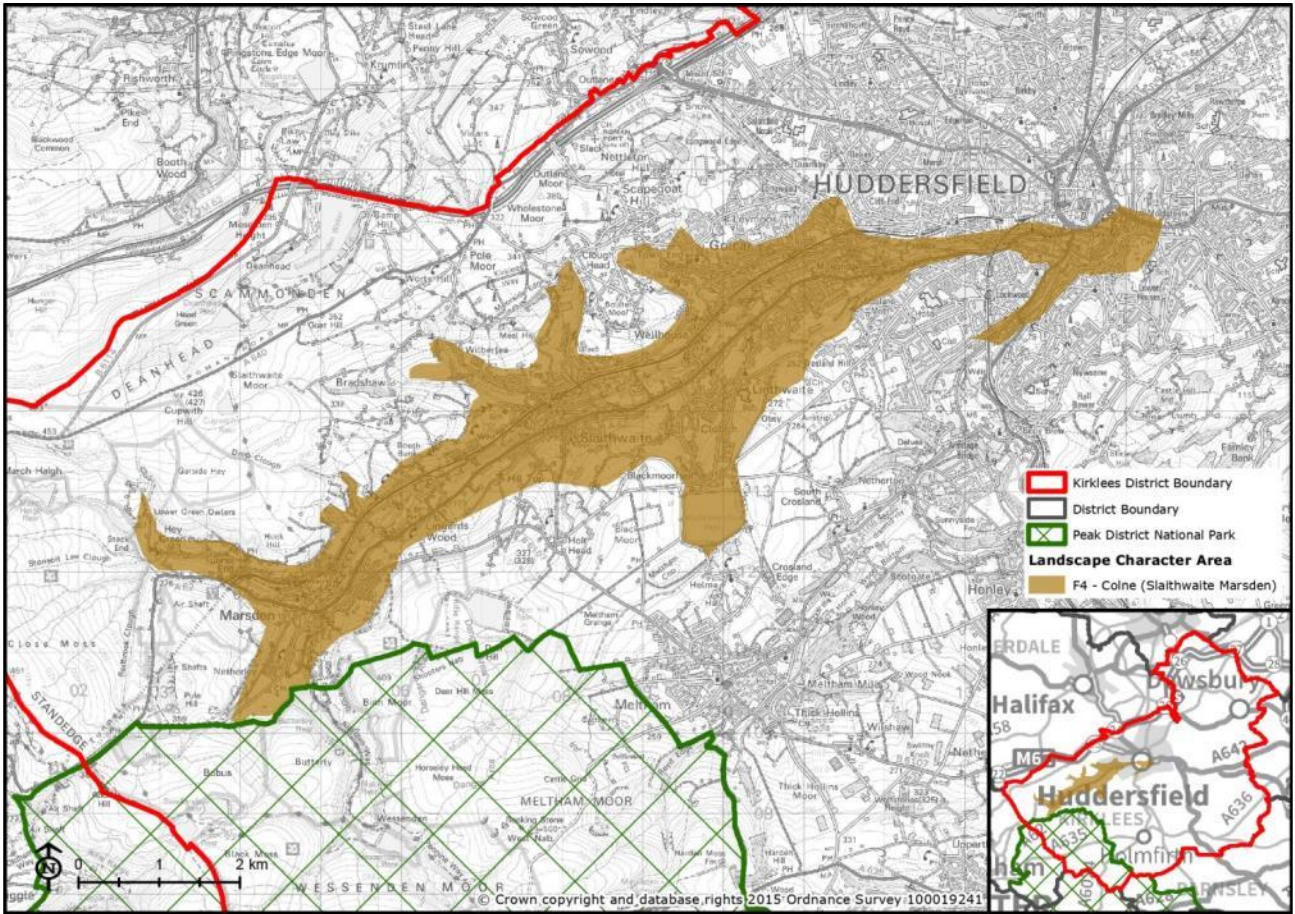
- There are distant views from elevated ridgelines (e.g. in Upper Batley) south towards Emley Moor (including its landmark transmission station) and north towards the industry and urban development of Huddersfield.
- Some areas still retain a relative sense of tranquillity and rural character, however increasing urbanisation creates a landscape of transition.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNR: There are two Local Nature Reserves; Oakwell Park and Sunny Bank Ponds (covering 3.5 ha in total). • LWS: The LCA also wholly or partially contains seven Local Wildlife Sites which collectively cover 21 ha. Most of these are woodland sites.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: There are two Scheduled Monuments in the LCA; Castle Hall Hill (the remnants of a motte and bailey castle) and Walton Cross. • Registered Parks and Gardens: The LCA contains one Registered Park and Garden; the Grade II listed Kirklees Park • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 57 Listed Buildings (five of which are Grade II*, with the remainder Grade II listed). One is on the Heritage at Risk Register (the Grade II* listed Church of St Mary in Mirfield). • Conservation Areas: Six Conservation Areas are partially or wholly within this LCA; Birstall, Cross Bank Batley, Gomersal, Little Gomersal, Station Road (Batley) and Upper Batley. • Registered Battlefields: A small part of the Registered Battlefield of Adwalton Moor is found to the east of Birkenshaw. The site is on the Heritage At Risk Register due to threats from development.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	Away from settlements this landscape forms pockets of relative rural tranquillity amongst extensive development, although large scale pylons, busy roads and urban fringe land uses detract from these qualities.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA forms a backdrop to a large number of settlements due to its scattered urban fringe location. Notably, it contributes to the setting of coalesced settlements of Batley, Heckmondwike, Mirfield, Liversedge, Cleckheaton and Dewsbury.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>The north of the LCA contains a small part of Oakwell Hall Country Park – a popular local recreational resource.</p> <p>There are numerous public rights of way providing access to the LCA from nearby settlements. These include the Brontë Way, Kirklees Way and the Spen Valley Heritage Trail. Part of National Cycle Route 66 also runs through the LCA.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	N/A

LCA F4: Colne (Slaithwaite, Marsden)

Figure 3.28: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.29: View west of Slaithwaite



Figure 3.30: Standedge Canal tunnel



This LCA consists of one contiguous area, focused to the west of the District around the settled valley of the River Colne, which flows from the high ground around the South Pennine Moors to the west in an easterly direction towards Huddersfield.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Deeply incised valley of the River Colne with steps and terraces and deep sided cloughs reflecting the underlying geology and weathering processes.
- The main river is fed by tributaries draining from the moors to the west (LCA A1).

Woodland cover

- Woodland cover is found clinging to the steep valley sides and cloughs. Pockets of woodland are also found in between areas of development.

Land use and field patterns

- Land cover comprises urban land and marginal, regular pastoral fields used for horse grazing which are enclosed by gritstone walls.
- In-bye pastures and hay meadows on the upper valley sides form an important element of the upland habitat mosaic.
- Blackmoorfoot Reservoir is a prominent man-made feature located south of Linthwaite.

Semi-natural habitats

- Broadleaved woodland, much of it ancient origin, is found on the valley sides, supporting important fern, bryophyte and bird species.
- Fens and other wetland habitats provide further nature conservation interest.
- A small part of the upland fringe to the west fringes the nationally and internationally designated moorland habitats of the South Pennine Moors – particularly important habitats for upland bird populations.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Wealth of historical and archaeological interest, reflecting the industrial heritage of the area, including the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and numerous Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.
- Historic mill settlement within the valley, dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The textile mills, with their distinctive chimneys, form dominant features within the valley floor.

Settlement and road pattern

- Dense ribbons of urban and industrial development line the valley floors and sides. There are rows of Victorian terraces lining the road and the valley sides.
- The main transport routes also follow the valley landscape, including the A62 which forms the key route into Huddersfield, along with the main Manchester to Leeds railway line.

Views and perceptual qualities

- This is a contained landscape within limited outward views. These open out on higher valley slopes, including glimpses of the moorlands of the Peak District National Park above Marsden.
- Outward views from within the valley to the pastures, woodlands and moorland edge above are sometimes available providing a rural setting.
- Small scale, well settled landscape with strong cultural associations with the Industrial Revolution.

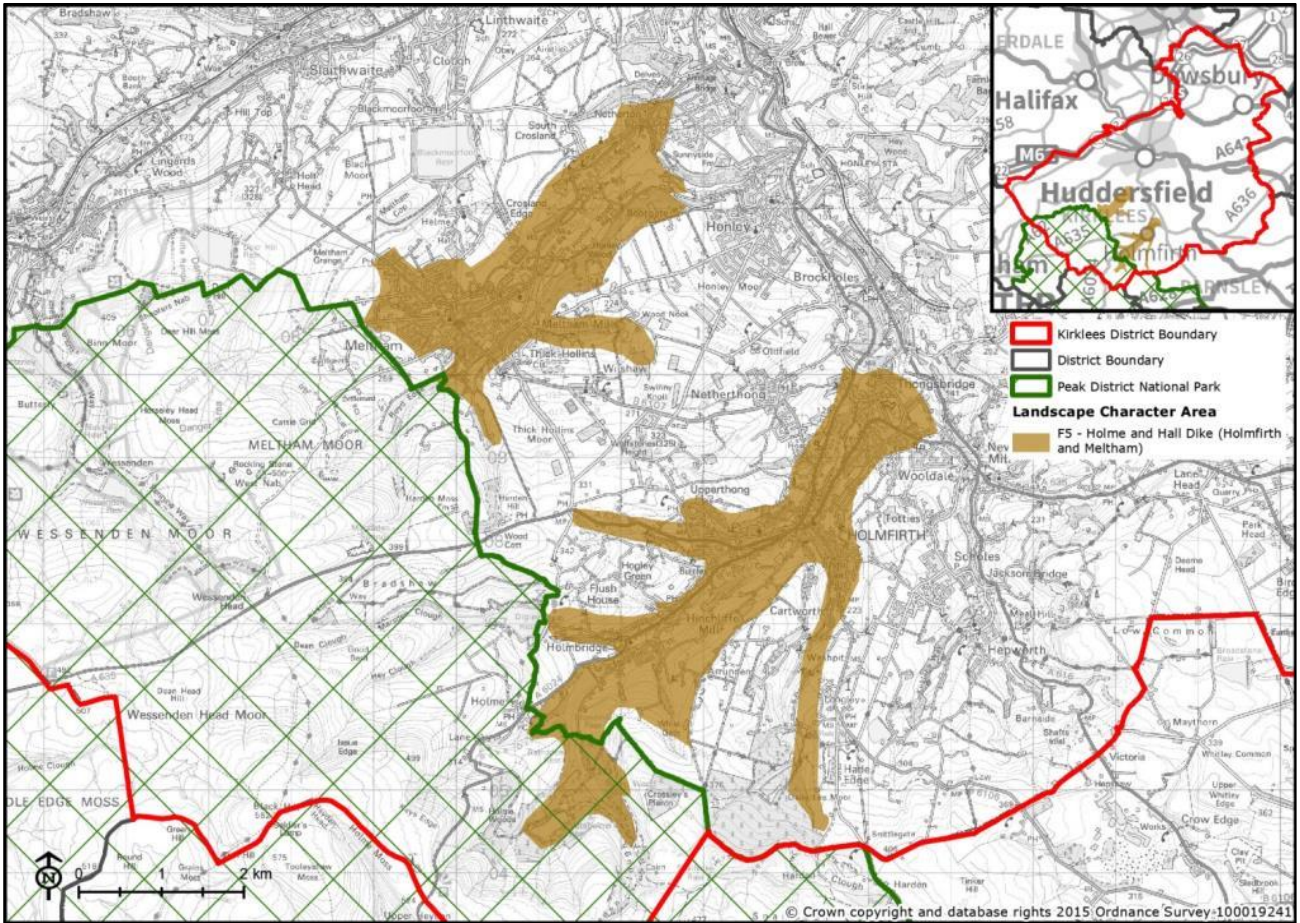
Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAC: In the west adjacent to the Peak District National Park, there is a small part of the South Pennine Moors SAC covering 2.1 ha. • SPA: In the west of the valley there is marginal area of the South Pennine Moors SPA, also covering 2.1 ha. • SSSI: There are two SSSIs in the LCA, a small part of the South Pennine Moors SSSI and Park Clough SSSI – collectively covering 2.5 ha. • LWS: There is one 15.8 ha Local Wildlife Site at Clough House Lane Pond. • LGS: There is also a small part of one Local Geological Site located at Clough Head Quarry near Slaithwaite, covering less than a hectare.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed Buildings: There are 514 Listed Buildings (of which 14 are Grade II* listed, with 500 being Grade II). Seven of these are on the Heritage At Risk Register, including five associated with the Westwood Mills Complex, the Church of St Thomas and Milnsbridge House. • Conservation Areas: There are a total of eight Conservation Areas with parts falling in the LCA covering nearly 16% of the landscape. These are Golcar, Huddersfield Town Centre, Linthwaite, Marsden, Marsden (Tunnel End), Milnsbridge, Slaithwaite and Wellhouse.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	This is a busy landscape with lots of movement owing to transport corridors and urban development along the valley floor. This contrasts markedly with the relative tranquillity associated with the sparsely settled upper valley slopes and edges of the National Park.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA provides an immediate rural setting to development, comprising pockets of countryside between and around settlements including Marsden, Slaithwaite, Linthwaite and the western fringes of Huddersfield.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>Around Marsden, there are frequent areas of Open Access Land and registered common land. There are also small areas of access land elsewhere in the LCA, including to the north of Linthwaite and south of Milnsbridge.</p> <p>There is a dense network of rights of way, including the Colne Valley Circular Walk and the Standedge Trail. National Cycle Routes 68 and 69 also pass through the LCA. Canal towpaths and riverside walkways provide further access opportunities to local communities.</p> <p>Standedge Visitor Centre and nearby sailing club are popular recreational destinations in the west of the LCA.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	<p>The western part of the LCA is directly adjacent to the Peak District National Park, and provides a transitional landscape between the National Park and the developed part of the valley in the east.</p> <p>0.01% of the Dark Peak Character Area from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment¹¹ overlaps into this LCA, a total of 5ha. 2% of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe Character Area also covers this LCA, a total of 331ha.</p>

¹¹ Accessible at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

LCA F5: Holme & Hall Dyke (Holmfirth & Meltham)

Figure 3.31: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.32: View of Brownhill Reservoir



Figure 3.33: Mill chimney west of Holmfirth



This LCA is comprised of the two discrete settled valleys associated with Meltham and Holmfirth, located in the southwest of Kirklees. The heads of the valleys originate on Wessenden Moor – within the Peak District National Park – and meet the main Holme Valley to the east.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Steep incised valleys associated with the upper parts of River Holme and its tributaries, including Hall Dyke which passes through the town of Meltham.
- Underlying bedrock of Millstone Grit typical of the Peak District and the surrounding area, dating from the Upper Carboniferous period, with some sandstone and coal seams.
- The land is more elevated in the west as the valley drains down from the moorlands of the Peak District National Park.

Woodland cover

- Mixed semi-natural woodlands are found along the waterways and on the steepest slopes of the valleys, including Honley Wood and Malkin House Wood. The valley near Meltham is more wooded than the Holmfirth valley.
- Geometric blocks of coniferous plantation are found adjacent to reservoirs in the upper Holme Valley.

Land use and field patterns

- Regular, rectilinear pastoral fields are bounded by low stone walls, sometimes supplemented by wire fencing. Scattered trees are often found along field boundaries.

Semi-natural habitats

- In the west, rough grassland habitats form a transition to the rising uplands of the Peak District National Park.
- Semi natural riparian woodland and wetland habitats are associated with the streams. Honley Wood is locally designated as a Local Wildlife Site, covering much of the southern valley slopes of the Holme Valley.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Evidence of early human occupation around Meltham, including Iron Age sites near to the town.
- Historic mills with prominent chimneys are found along the watercourses, associated with the textiles industry during the Industrial Revolution.

Settlement and road pattern

- In the less steep parts of the valleys, there is dense urban development, particularly associated with Holmfirth and Meltham.
- The main transport routes generally follow the valley floors, with minor roads and lanes traversing the slopes.

Views and perceptual qualities

- The Meltham section of this LCA is visually enclosed either side by steep valley slopes and dense woodland. To the south of Holmbridge there is a clear transition to a more upland character, with features such as reservoirs and coniferous plantation becoming more dominant in the landscape.
- Uplands of Meltham Moor in the Peak District National Park overlook the settlement of Meltham below and the moor is dominant in views to the south west.
- In the upper reaches of the valleys there is clear intervisibility with Peak District National Park, with the southern parts of the area falling within the National Park boundary.

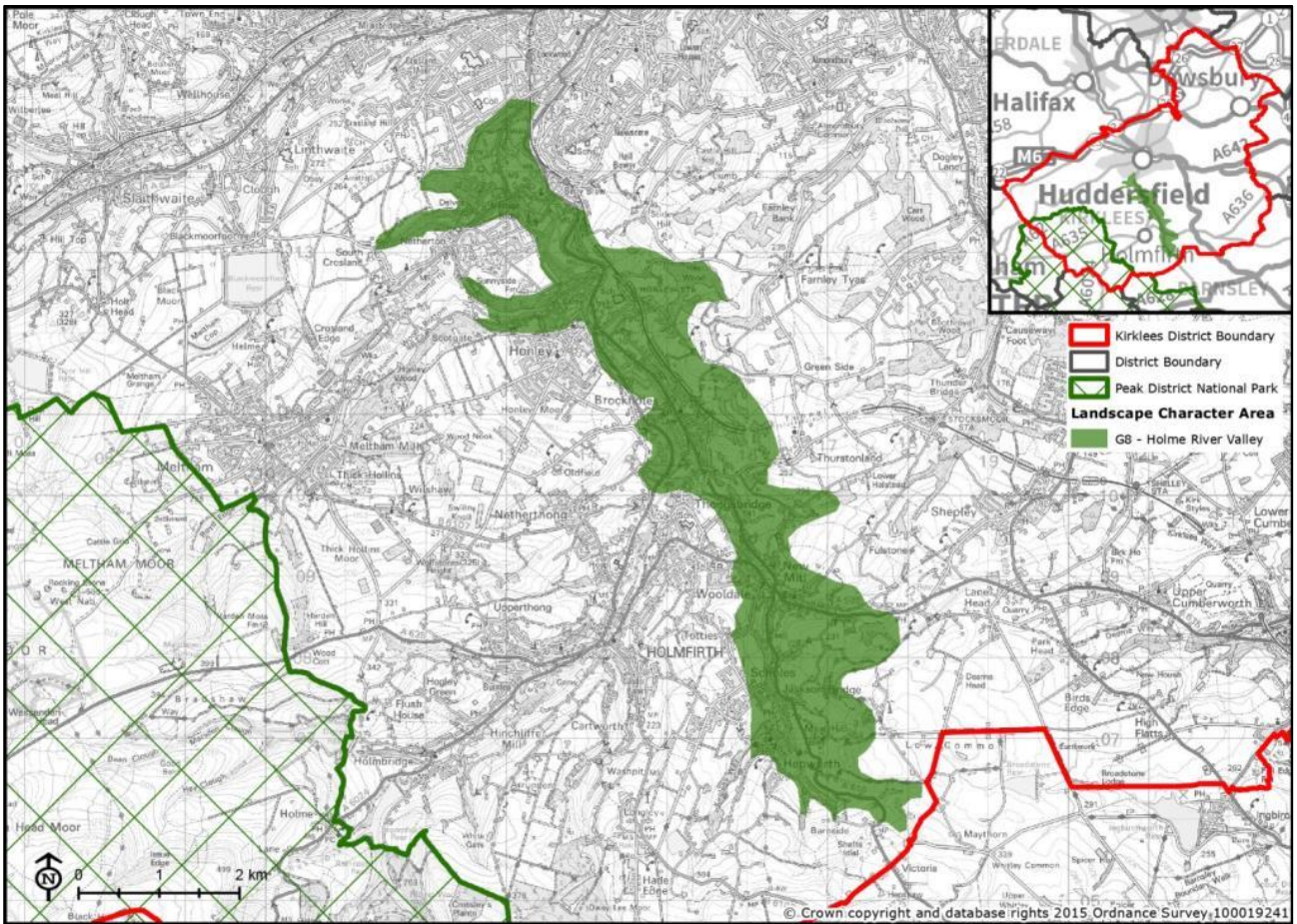
Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI: Part of the Rake Dike SSSI (which is mostly located in the National Park) is found in the south west of the LCA, covering 0.9 hectares. • LWS: There are eight Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA and totalling 119 ha, covering locally valued woodland and reservoir sites. • LGS: There are also two Local Geological Sites; Digley Quarries near Holmbridge and Folly Dolly Falls near Meltham (totalling 0.5 ha).
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: The LCA contains two Scheduled Monuments: Crosland Lower Hall Moated Site (which is also included on the Heritage at Risk Register due to pressure from development) and a cairnfield in Honley Old Wood. • Listed Buildings: There are 185 Listed Buildings, of which one is Grade II* listed while the remainder are Grade II. There is one listed building on the Heritage at Risk Register; the Grade II listed Church of St Bartholomew on Greens End Road. • Conservation Areas: There are eight Conservation Areas wholly or partially within the LCA: Hinchliffe Mill, Meltham, Nether-ton (Corn Bank), South Crosland, Underbank, Upperthong, Wooldale and Holmfirth (which is also listed on the Heritage at Risk Register).
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	There are contrasting levels of tranquillity experienced throughout the LCA, influenced by proximity to development and roads. Perceptions of tranquillity and remoteness are greatest on the fringes of the National Park, where the influence of development diminishes and an upland character prevails.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA valleys form an immediate setting to the settlements of Holmfirth, Meltham and Thongsbridge.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>The LCA contains sections of the Holme Valley Circular walk and the Meltham Way. National Cycle Route 68 also crosses through the LCA at Holmfirth and Meltham. There is a network of other footpaths providing access to the woodland.</p> <p>There are some small pockets of open access land north of Bank Wood. The LCA's reservoirs are also popular recreational destinations.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	<p>This LCA is adjacent to Peak District National Park and thus provides a contribution to the setting of the National Park. The flow of landscape character across the National Park boundary is particularly evident around Holmbridge (one of the 'special qualities' of the National Park).</p> <p>0.03% of the Dark Peak Character Area from the Peak District Landscape Character Assessment¹² overlaps into this LCA, a total of 18ha. The LCA is also covered by 5% of the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe Character Area, a total of 772ha.</p>

¹² Accessible at <http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/strategies-and-policies/landscape-strategy>

LCA G8: Holme River Valley

Figure 3.34: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.35: New Mill and Thongsbridge from east



Figure 3.36: Overlooking the valley from the east



The LCA comprises the settled valley of the River Holme located to the south of Huddersfield. The valley runs in a south-east to north-west direction.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Main valley of the River Holme which runs north towards Huddersfield, and is joined from the west and east by tributaries.
- Geology is typical of the wider area with Millstone Grit bedrock overlain by the coal rich Lower Pennine Formation.
- The valley sides rise up very steeply in the south east, around Jackson Bridge.

Woodland cover

- Deciduous woodland is frequent along watercourses and on the steeper slopes. There is greater woodland coverage in the more sparsely settled valleys of the tributaries which join the River Holme.

Land use and field patterns

- Generally small scale fields between areas of development, mostly rectilinear but with some more irregular shapes on higher ground. Most agriculture consists of dairy and sheep farming.
- Stone walls supplemented by fencing are common as field boundaries. Mature trees are frequently found around the edges and within fields.

Semi-natural habitats

- Semi-natural habitats within the farmed landscape are largely focused on areas of woodland, many of which are locally designated for their wildlife importance.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- The LCA includes several Conservation Areas including Armitage Bridge and Honley, Hepworth and Butterley – particularly reflecting the settlements' Victorian stone-built architecture.
- Textile mills with prominent chimneys are common features along the river, as are weirs.
- The valley has a cultural association with the famous BBC sitcom 'Last of the Summer Wine'.

Settlement and road pattern

- The main A616 road runs the length of the valley. The main Huddersfield to Sheffield railway line also runs along the valley bottom, turning east at Brockholes.
- A densely settled landscape, with numerous villages concentrated on the valley floor. These are characterised by rows of terraces facing the main road and extending up the valley sides.
- At Armitage Bridge there are prominent high rise blocks of flats on the development of Holme Park Court – standing out in the valley landscape.

Views and perceptual qualities

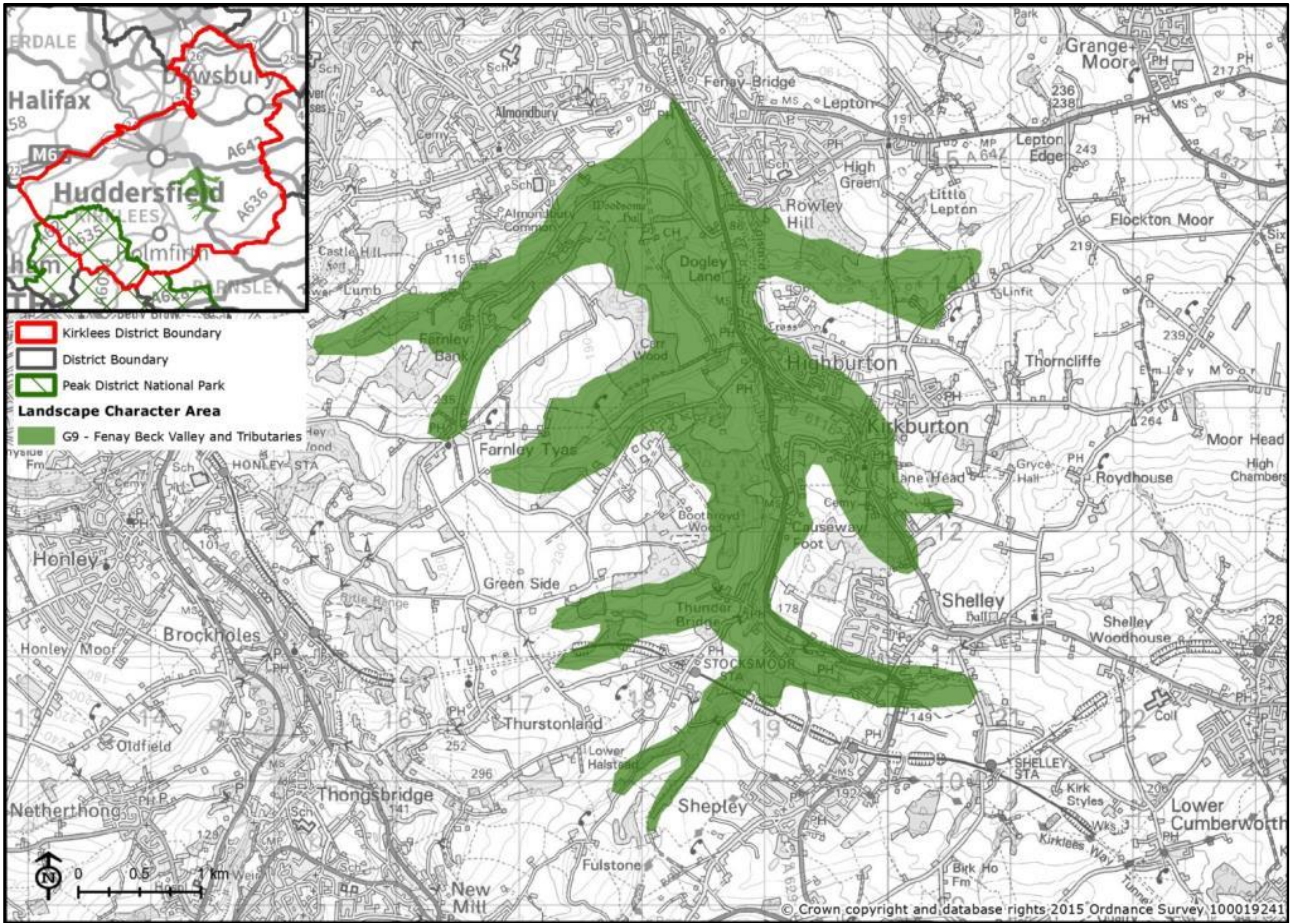
- The valley is generally low lying and visually enclosed by the steep valley sides. Views to the east are mostly contained by the steep topography.
- Where the land rises in the south, views are more extensive and the landscape feels more open. There are distant views west to the Peak District National Park, visible as an upland horizon.
- Urban influence from Huddersfield is evident in the north of the valley, while the southern areas are more rural and tranquil, as are the higher tributary valleys which feel more open and exposed.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSSI: The LCA has one SSSI at Honley Station Cutting which is designated for geological interest (covering 0.5 ha). • LNR: There is one Local Nature Reserve at Upper Park Wood, totalling 3.5 ha. • LWS: There are 12 Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA, collectively covering 114 ha. These are largely concentrated on woodland sites. • LGS: Additionally, there are three Local Geological Sites; Beaumont Park near Huddersfield, Brockholes and Round Wood near Brockholes and Scar Hole Quarry near Jackson Bridge.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: There is one Scheduled Monument in the LCA, a cairnfield in Hagg Wood. • Registered Park and Garden: The Grade II Beaumont Park is found in the northern part of the LCA. • Listed Buildings: The LCA has a total of 135 Listed Buildings, all of which are Grade II listed. • Conservation Areas: There are six Conservation Areas; Armitage Bridge, Butterley, Hepworth, Honley, Netherton (Corn Bank) and South Crosland. <p>None of these heritage assets are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	In the main valley, the landscape has a busy feel as a result of the development and main roads running along the valley floor. Tranquillity levels increase up the valley slopes away from development and major transport routes.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA provides a direct setting to numerous settlements including Jackson Bridge, New Mill, Brockholes and Newtown. It also contributes to the setting of the nearby settlements of Honley (LCA E1) and Thongsbridge (LCA F5).
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	There is a strong network of rights of way throughout the valley, lengths of the Barnsley Boundary Walk, Holme Valley Circular Walk and the Kirklees Way. The LCA's reservoirs are popular recreational destinations.
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	Although the LCA is not adjacent to the Peak District National Park, there is some intervisibility the upper valley slopes, particularly from the slopes in the east of the District.

LCA G9: Fenay Beck Valley & Tributaries

Figure 3.37: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.38: View north-east from Farnley Tyas



Figure 3.39: View west from Kirkburton



This LCA is comprised of the valley of the Fenay Beck River to the south of Lepton, and the smaller tributary valleys that flow into it. The valley accommodates the village of Kirkburton.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- This LCA is made up of the main valley of the Fenay Beck River, which is carved into the Pennine Lower Coal Formation underlain by Millstone Grit – typical of the geology in this area.
- Character is influenced heavily by drainage patterns of the various watercourses running from higher ground and joining the main course of Fenay Beck.

Woodland cover

- High levels of broadleaved woodland cover, particularly concentrated in the west of the LCA along the slopes adjacent to the watercourses.
- Mixed woodlands and some coniferous plantations are found in larger blocks elsewhere on the valley slopes.

Land use and field patterns

- Mostly regular fields of medium scale, with smaller fields found around the edges of settlements. Land is predominantly pastoral with occasional arable use.
- Field boundaries are commonly hedgerows or stone walls which are sometimes supplemented by fencing. Mature trees are frequently found along field boundaries.

Semi-natural habitats

- Several of the woodlands found along the tributaries and the main river are locally designated for their wildlife value, including Woodview Meadows, which also incorporates valued grassland habitat.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Numerous mills are found along the waterways; particularly textile mills.
- Other historical industries associated with this area include leather tanning and coal mining.
- Long history of settlement, a village known as Bertone is recorded in the Domesday Book on the site of Kirkburton.
- Church of All Hallows in Kirkburton is a Grade I listed building which was built in 1190.
- Grade I Listed Woodsome Hall, now used a golf house. The estate was held by a by Norman noble in the 13th century, and the current hall was constructed in the early 1500s.

Settlement and road pattern

- Kirkburton is the primary settlement in the LCA, displaying a variety of building styles.
- Transport corridors generally follow the course of the rivers and dykes along the valley bottom. The A629 main road runs the length of the main valley.

Views and perceptual qualities

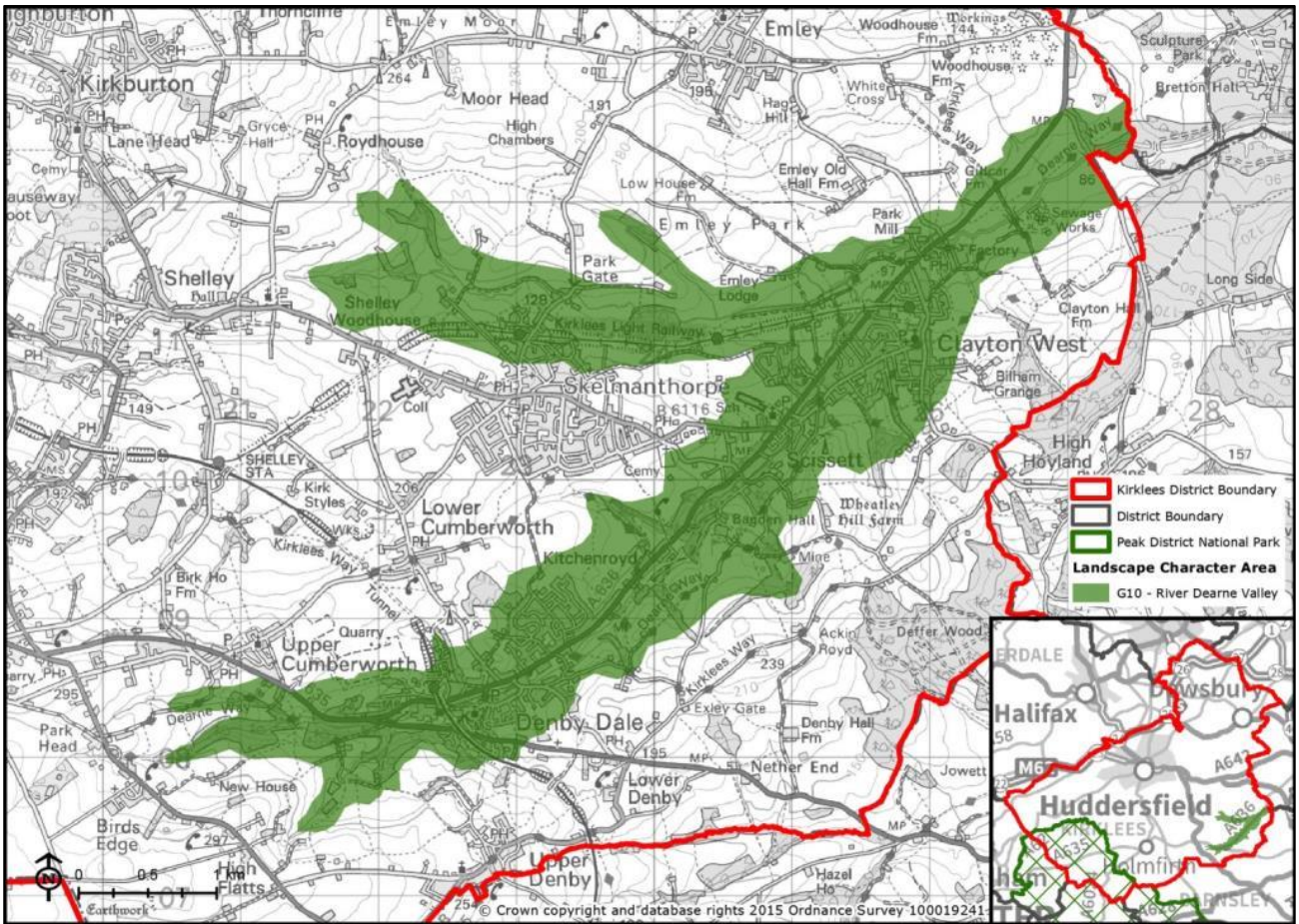
- Generally visually enclosed along the bottoms of the valleys as a result of low lying topography and high woodland cover.
- Some views out of the area north from Woodsome Road. The Scheduled Monument of Castle Hill (and the Victoria Tower) is visible on the skyline in adjacent LCA E6.
- The main valley of the Fenay Beck has been extensively developed and has a strong urban influence. Comparatively, the smaller tributary valleys have little development and are rural and tranquil.
- From the upper valley slopes in the west, there are longer views to the north and east.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: There are 17 Local Wildlife Sites with land in the LCA, collectively covering 135.7 ha. The majority of these cover woodland, grassland and meadow habitats. • LGS: Four Local Geological Sites are located in the LCA, covering a total of 18.8 ha; Burton Dean Quarry near Kirkburton, Hartley Bank Quarry near Thunderbridge, Lepton Great Wood and Upper and Lower Stone Woods near Stocksmoor.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: One Scheduled Monument is found within this LCA; the Market Cross at Highburton. • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 48 Listed Buildings. Two of these are Grade I listed, whilst the remainder are Grade II listed. The Grade I buildings include Woodsome Hall in the north of the valley and the Church of All Hallows in Kirkburton. • Conservation Areas: Four Conservation Areas are found within the LCA: Farnley Tyas, Highburton, Kirkburton and Thunderbridge. <p>None of the heritage assets in this LCA are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	Tranquillity is variable throughout the LCA, with the less developed and more rural tributary valleys being much more tranquil than the main Fenay Beck valley due to the main roads and larger settlements, with development running along much of the valley floor.
Role as a setting to development	This LCA forms an immediate rural backdrop to the town of Kirkburton, Lepton and the smaller settlement of Thunderbridge. It also provides a valued countryside setting to the eastern suburbs of Huddersfield.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	Rights of way generally run from the main valley and provide access to the extensive woodland in the west of the LCA. The Holme Valley Circular Walk crosses briefly through the north western part of the landscape.
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	There are occasional glimpses of the Peak District National Park from higher ground, resulting in a minor visual relationship between this LCA and the protected landscape.

LCA G10: River Dearne Valley

Figure 3.40: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.41: View of Emley Moor from Dearne Way



Figure 3.42: Clayton West, looking west



This LCA is comprised of the steep, settled valleys of the River Dearne and its tributaries, located in the south east corner of Kirklees District.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Relatively broad valleys associated with the upper parts of the River Dearne and its tributaries.
- Underlying bedrock of Millstone Grit dating from the Upper Carboniferous period, overlain by the Pennine Lower Coal Formation which is characteristic of much of the wider area.
- The River Dearne is joined by smaller tributaries including Baildon Dike, Nine Clogs Dike and Park Gate Dike join the River Dearne.

Woodland cover

- A high level of broadleaved woodland cover, particularly on the slopes adjacent to watercourses and to the west of Denby Dale (where it is the dominant land cover).
- Mature in-field trees are a common feature on agricultural land, adding to the wooded character.

Land use and field patterns

- Fields are mostly small scale, forming a variety of regular and irregular patterns.
- Land use also varies; the mix of arable and pastoral fields creating a mosaic of colours and textures which change with the season.
- An assortment of field boundaries is also evident, with a mixture of hedges, fencing and traditional stone walls.

Semi-natural habitats

- The area's extensive woodlands are of important nature conservation interest.
- The semi-natural riparian woodland and wetland habitats associated with the watercourses are also of nature conservation value.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Strong industrial heritage, mostly relating to coal and the textile industry including the production of wool and silk.
- The Kirklees Light Railway runs from Clayton West, and is restored from a section of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway which was opened in 1879.
- Listed Buildings are found throughout the LCA, and include mills, churches and halls.
- The eastern part of the LCA contains part of the Bretton Hall Registered Park and Garden which continues into Wakefield and Barnsley districts.

Settlement and road pattern

- The primary settlements in this LCA are Clayton West and Denby Dale, which both grew as a result of the 18th and 19th century coal and textile industries.
- The main road servicing this area is the A636, which runs along the valley floor. This road meets the main A635 west of Denby Dale.

Views and perceptual qualities

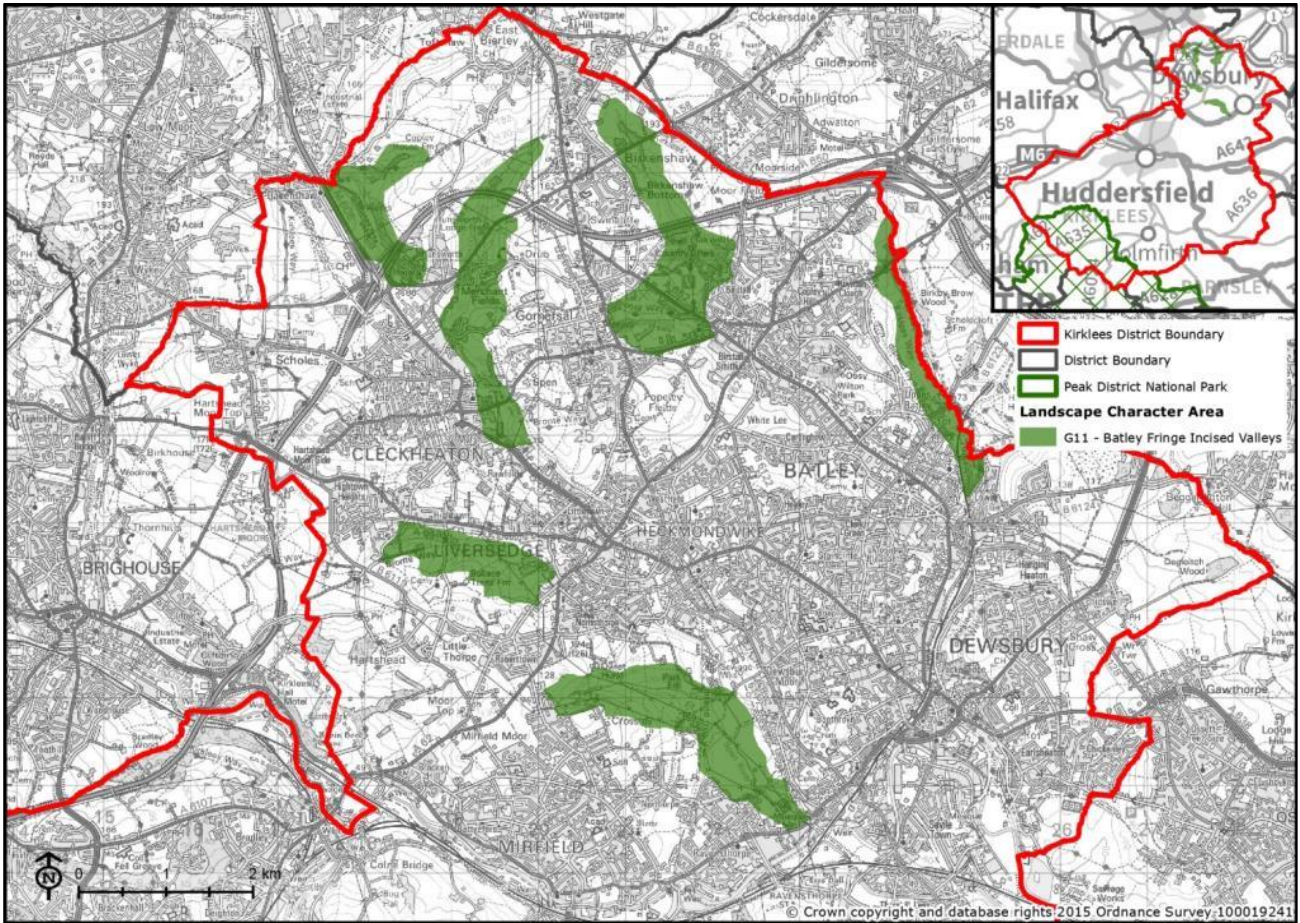
- The main valley floor is densely settled and has a peri-urban feel.
- The tributary sections of the LCA are generally more tranquil and rural and are only crossed by minor roads.
- Most of the valley is visually enclosed by the sloping valley sides and the significant woodland cover, although there are some more extensive views to the south over Barnsley District from higher slopes.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: The LCA wholly or partially contains eight Local Wildlife Sites collectively covering 21.6 ha of the LCA, most of these are woodland sites. • LGS: There is also one Local Geological Site, Cliffe Woods Park Quarry near to Clayton West. This site covers a total of 0.06 ha within the LCA.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Park and Garden: The Dearne Valley contains part of the Grade II Bretton Hall in the east of the LCA, which continues into Barnsley and Wakefield Districts. • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 25 Listed Buildings, all of which are Grade II listed. • Conservation Area: The LCA partially contains one Conservation Area at Skelmanthorpe. <p>None of these heritage assets are included on the Heritage at Risk Register.</p>
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	The main valley bottom is a fairly busy landscape as a result of the extensive development and main roads, although this contrasts markedly with the traditional rural feel of the upper valley slopes and the tributary valleys.
Role as a setting to development	The valley forms an immediate wooded rural setting to the settlements of Clayton West, Denby Dale and Scissett. It also contributes to the setting of Skelmanthorpe.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	Several rights of way pass through this LCA, including lengths of the Kirklees Way which crosses the valley to the east of Denby Dale, and the Dearne Way, which runs along much of the valley's length
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	N/A

LCA G11: Batley Fringe Incised Valleys

Figure 3.43: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.44: View north-east from Hill Top Farm



Figure 3.45: Oakwell Hall



This LCA comprises six small scale valleys found around the edges of Batley in the north east of the District. All of the LCA is contained within Kirklees.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Discrete, small scale tributary valleys surrounding the towns of Batley and Cleckheaton.
- Typical bedrock geology of Millstone Grit overlain by the Pennine Lower Coal Formations. Alluvium deposits occur in localised areas a result of past flooding events.
- Character influenced heavily by drainage patterns of the various watercourses draining into the valleys.

Woodland cover

- Some significant bands of broadleaved riparian woodland, particularly sited along the streams and rivers.
- Mature trees and shrubs can also be found along field boundaries, with occasional in-field trees contributing to the landscape's wooded character.

Land use and field patterns

- A varied and mixed field pattern, often dictated by topography with both pasture and some limited areas of arable cultivation.
- Horse paddocks and equestrian enterprises are common close to settlements.
- Field boundaries are also varied, with some hedgerows with trees. These have been replaced by post and wire fencing in places.

Semi-natural habitats

- The semi natural riparian woodland and wetland habitats are havens for wildlife and act as important wildlife corridors.
- Several sites are locally designated for their natural and wildlife value, including Spen Valley, Oakwell Park and Hanging Wood.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Oakwell Hall is a Grade I listed Elizabethan Manor house which was famously used as inspiration for a setting in a Charlotte Brontë novel *Shirley*. It is now a museum.
- Mills, dismantled railways and stone-built workers' terraces indicate the industrial past of the area.
- Contains a small part of the Registered Battlefield of Adwalton Moor which was the site of an English Civil War battle on 30 June 1643.

Settlement and road pattern

- This LCA is, for the most part, free of settlement, although there are incidences of ribbon development creeping along roads from the urban areas surrounding the valleys.
- The M62 motorway crosses through the northerly parts of this LCA, and there are numerous other main A roads linking the surrounding urban areas.

Views and perceptual qualities

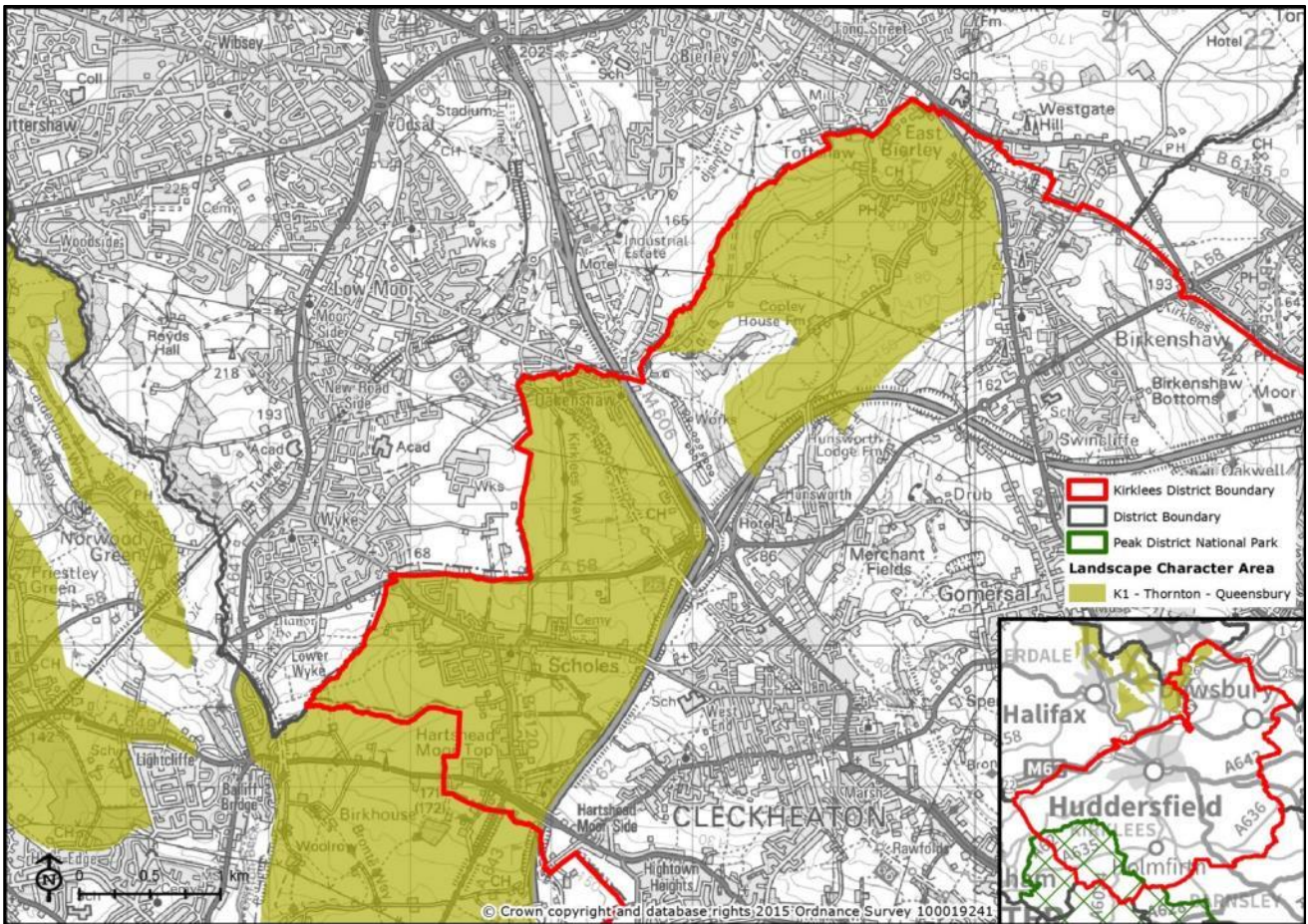
- Views are generally restricted by the low lying topography, the surrounding urban development and frequent trees along roadsides which limit visibility.
- From higher ground and the open upper valley slopes there are longer views to the north and east, including to Bradford from northern parts of the LCA.
- Although mostly undeveloped, there is a strong urban influence, particularly in close proximity to main roads. Despite the urbanising influence, there are locally valued pockets of tranquillity associated with streams and woodland, such as Oakwell Country Park.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNR: There are two Local Nature Reserves at Oakwell Park and Lower Spen Wildlife Area (totalling 36.8 ha). • LWS: There are also six Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA at Cockleshaw Wood, Hanging Wood, Hanging Wood (additional), Hunsworth Great Wood and Little Wood, Lower Spen Wildlife Area and Oakwell Park. These cover 44.6 hectares.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Battlefield: Part of the Registered Battlefield of Adwalton Moor falls within the LCA. The site included on the Heritage at Risk Register, mainly due to development pressures. • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 13 Listed Buildings. One of these, Oakwell Hall, is Grade I listed whilst the Church of St Peter is Grade II* listed. The remainder are Grade II listed. • Conservation Areas: Three Conservation Areas include land within the LCA at Birstall, Gomersal and Upper Batley.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	These rural pockets located in between extensive areas of development offer relative havens of tranquillity, although noise from the M62, which runs to the north and north east of the LCA, detracts from the sense of tranquillity.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA forms a wooded and rural edge and backdrop to the surrounding settlements of Batley, Mirfield, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike, Gomersal and Cleckheaton.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>Due to its close proximity to urban populations, rights of way are common across this LCA. Notably, the LCA is crossed by both the Brontë Way and the Spen Valley Heritage Trail. National Cycle Route 66 also passes through several parts of the LCA.</p> <p>Oakwell County Park is located to the north of Heckmondwike and is an important recreational resource for local communities.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	N/A

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

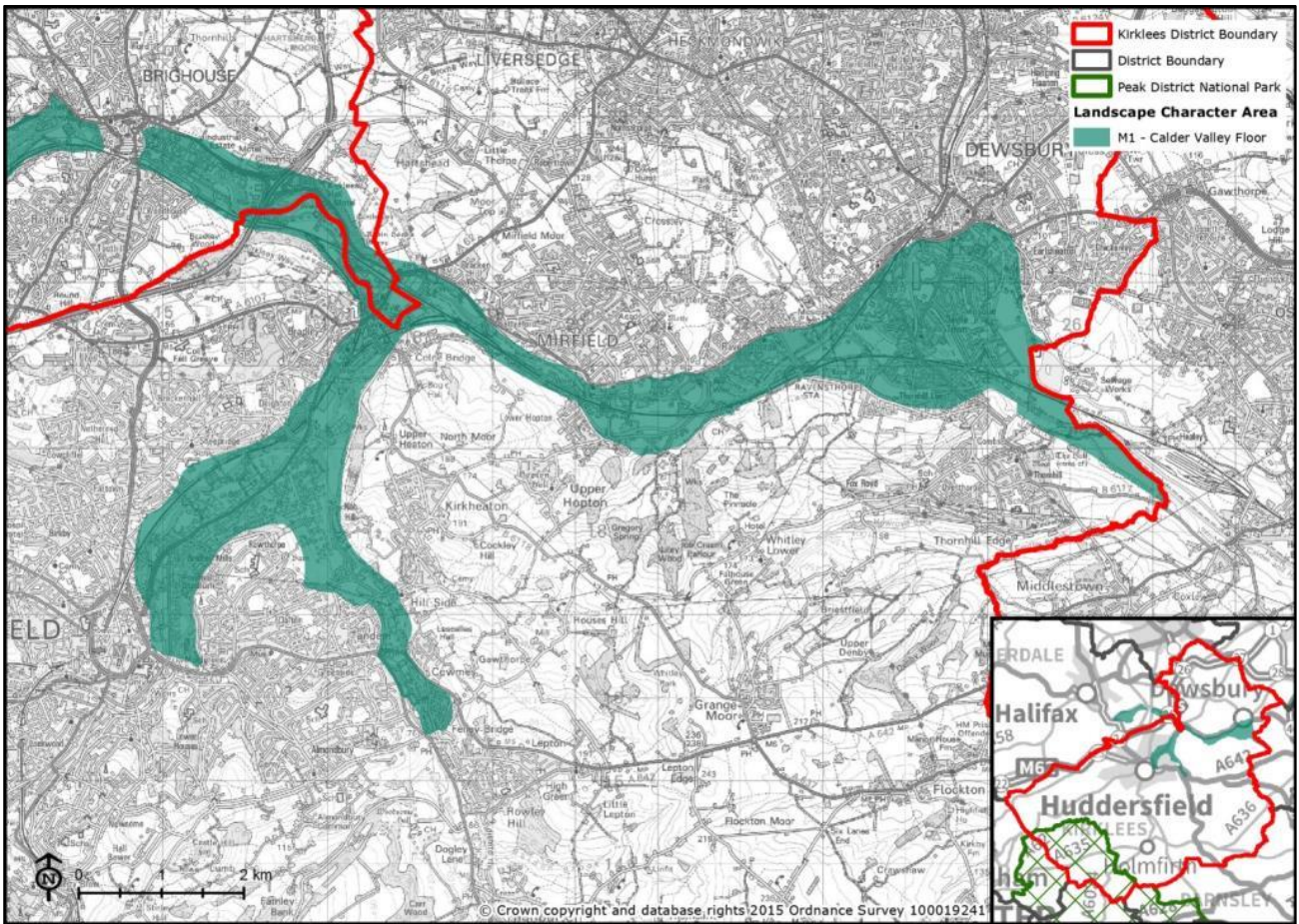
- From higher ground there are long views across the District and views into Bradford and Calderdale Districts. Views are fairly open due to lower levels of tree cover.
- Although this area is predominantly farmland with relatively small settlements, the surrounding urban centres and major transport 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"> • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 16 Listed Buildings, all of which are Grade II listed. • Conservation Areas: There are three Conservation Areas with land within the LCA; East Bierley, Hartshead Moor Top and Scholes (Cleckheaton). <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

LCA M1: Calder Valley Floor

Figure 3.49: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.50: Bridge over canal from the towpath



Figure 3.51: View over the Calder in Dewsbury



This LCA is comprised of the heavily settled and industrialised valley of the River Calder, along with parts of the River Colne and the Huddersfield Broad Canal which pass through the southern parts of Huddersfield.

This LCA continues westwards, following the course of the River Calder, into Calderdale District.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- A valley landscape drained by the River Calder, the River Colne and associated canals.
- Underlying geology of the area is Carboniferous rocks of Millstone Grit, characteristic of the area, with some coal seams. This is overlain by superficial alluvium deposits of clay, silt and sand left from past flooding events.
- Heavily modified drainage pattern, with numerous reservoirs, locks, weirs and canalisation (including the Huddersfield Broad Canal) along the length of the main river.

Woodland cover

- Limited woodland cover as a result of extensive development and alterations to the rivers including the construction of canals.
- Small blocks of deciduous woodland are generally restricted to the valley slopes. Lines of trees are found along many of the water ways, and are more abundant in the east of the LCA in field boundaries.

Land use and field patterns

- Agricultural land cover is very limited due to urban development and is concentrated in the very east of the LCA adjacent to Wakefield District.
- Fields of improved pasture used for grazing cattle are medium in scale and bounded by a mixture of hedgerows with trees and post and wire fencing.

Semi-natural habitats

- Semi-natural habitats are fairly sparse, and mostly consist of urban fringe deciduous woodland, including Sparrow Wood, a Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site.
- Dalton Bank is partially contained within LCA and is designated a Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- A landscape associated with a strong industrial heritage. Rivers and canals played a key part in the success of the textile industry in this area.
- Former textile mills located along the banks of the Calder and are concentrated near Dewsbury. This LCA is part of the wider area known as the 'Heavy Woollen District'.
- Lees Hall in Thornhill is a Grade I listed building and is notable as a 15th century timber framed house with a carved stone ceiling.
- There are numerous Listed Buildings relating to the area's industrial heritage and the Huddersfield Broad Canal.

Settlement and road pattern

- The valleys of the LCA are surrounded by large settlements, particularly Huddersfield and Dewsbury, with industrial estates and warehouses occupying the valley floor.
- Major railway lines also snake along the valley as well as main roads including the A62 and A644.

Views and perceptual qualities

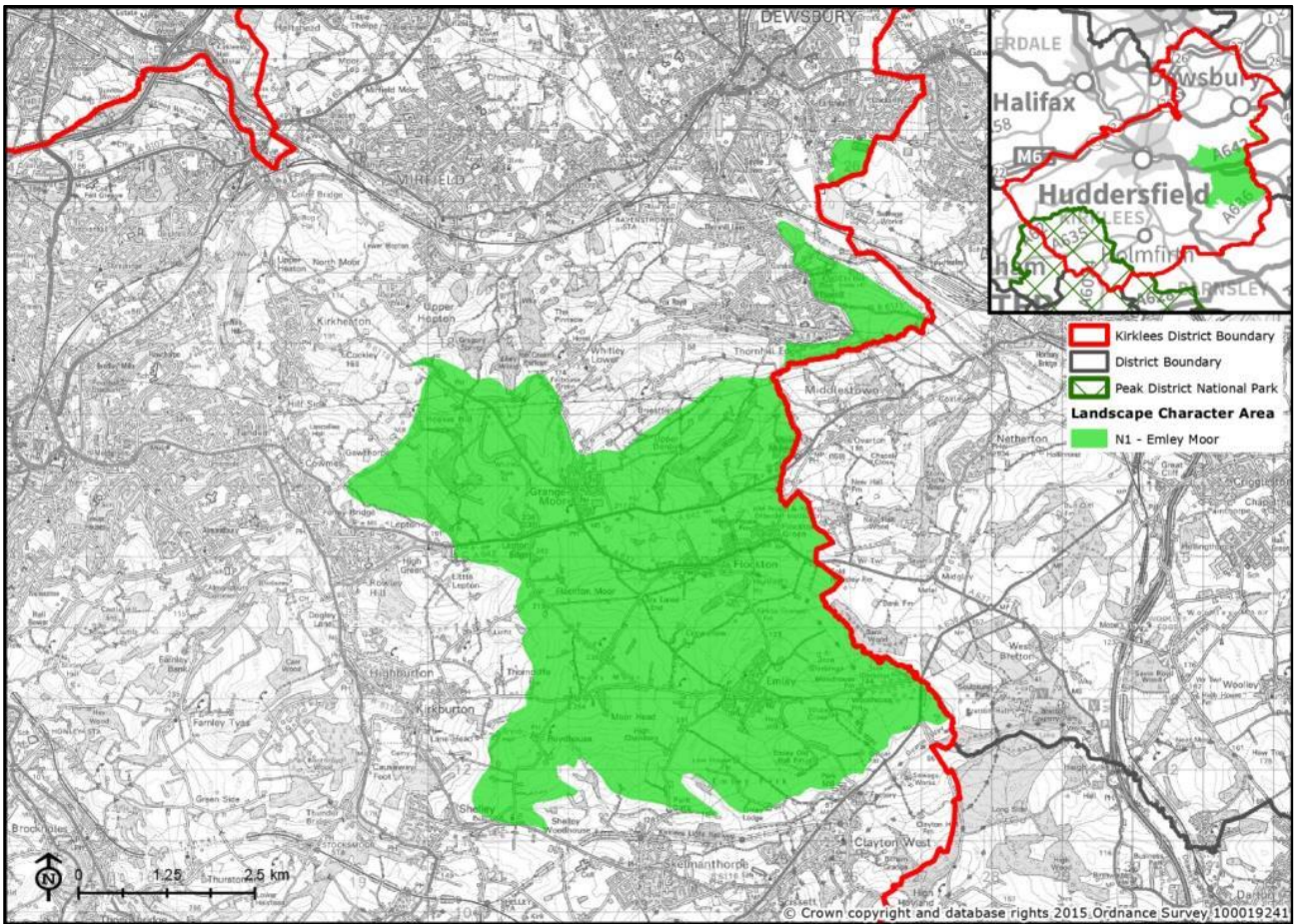
- A heavily urbanised area with little tranquillity, although the area has more of a rural feel in the east.
- Views generally enclosed as a result of the low lying topography, with land rising up either side of the valley.
- As the landscape opens out in the east, there are longer views to Wakefield District.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNR: There are two Local Nature Reserves wholly or partially within the LCA; Dalton Bank and Sparrow Wood – collectively covering 5.2 ha. • LWS: Additionally there are five Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA which cover 13.1 ha of the LCA; Dalton Bank, Sparrow Wood, Whitley Wood, Sir John Ramsden Canal and Clifton Lagoon.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: One Scheduled Monument is within this LCA; Turnbridge on Quay Street which was constructed in 1865 and crosses the Huddersfield Broad Canal. • Registered Park and Garden: This LCA also contains a small margin of the Grade II Kirklees Park Registered Park and Garden, which is also found in LCA E8 and extends into Calderdale District. • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 81 Listed Buildings. 78 are Grade II, two are Grade II* and one is Grade I listed (Lees Hall west of Thornhill Lees). One of these is listed on the Heritage at Risk Register – the Grade II* listed Church of All Saints in Dewsbury which has stonework dating back to ~980AD. The roof and some masonry are in poor condition.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	Little tranquillity is afforded due to extensive urban and industrial development, although the area retains a slight rural quality in the east adjacent to Wakefield.
Role as a setting to development	The pockets of green space located along the river offer an immediate setting to settlements including Dewsbury, Mirfield, Bradley and Huddersfield.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>There are several rights of way which pass through this LCA, including the Kirklees Way in the east of the LCA and the canal Towing Path which continues north into Calderdale.</p> <p>National Cycle Route 66 runs along the River Calder to the south of Dewsbury.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	N/A

LCA N1: Emley Moor

Figure 3.52: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.53: View north from Ash Lane



Figure 3.54: View north-west from Flockton Moor



This LCA consists of the main expanse of Emley Moor, which rises up to the east of the Fenay Beck valley and occupies a large area in the south east of Kirklees District adjacent to Wakefield District.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Elevated, undulating farmland plateau, which reaches heights of up to 265m AOD.
- Crossed by small dykes and becks, some of which originate on the higher ground within the LCA.
- This area is part of the South Yorkshire Coalfield, with Millstone Grit overlain by the mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Coal Measures, with seams rich in coal and iron.

Woodland cover

- Frequent woodland cover, with a mixture of broadleaved copses and plantation, although this is generally scattered across the moor and large blocks of woodland are not a common occurrence.
- Woodland is generally found in blocks with straight edges which are coincident with field boundaries. In-field trees are uncommon.

Agricultural land use and field patterns

- Mixed field pattern, with the scale of the fields dictated by the topography of the land. Hedges, post and wire fencing and gritstone walls enclose the fields.
- Fields are generally improved pasture with some limited arable coverage.

Semi-natural habitats

- There are patches of acidic grassland amongst farmland, along with areas of bracken and gorse.
- Woodlands are locally valued for wildlife, including Kirkby Wood Local Wildlife Site.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Provides a setting to the Thornhill and Hope Pit Conservation Areas. Part of the Bretton Hall Registered Park and Garden is located in the east of the LCA.
- Many of the LCA's buildings are of a traditional gritstone built vernacular.
- Several Scheduled Monuments including the remnants of Thornhill Hall and its moat and grounds, which were ruined during the English Civil War. Village of Emley dates from Anglo-Saxon times and is recorded in the Domesday Book. The church of St. Michael is a Grade I listed building and its earliest parts date from Norman times.
- Rich coal mining heritage, with prehistoric iron ore mining also being evident in the landscape. There are designated remains of day holes (adits); medieval mines.

Settlement and road pattern

- Small rural villages occupy the area, namely Flockton, Emley and Grange Moor. The area is mainly serviced by minor roads.
- The larger A642 and A637 cross the area near Grange Moor.

Views and perceptual qualities

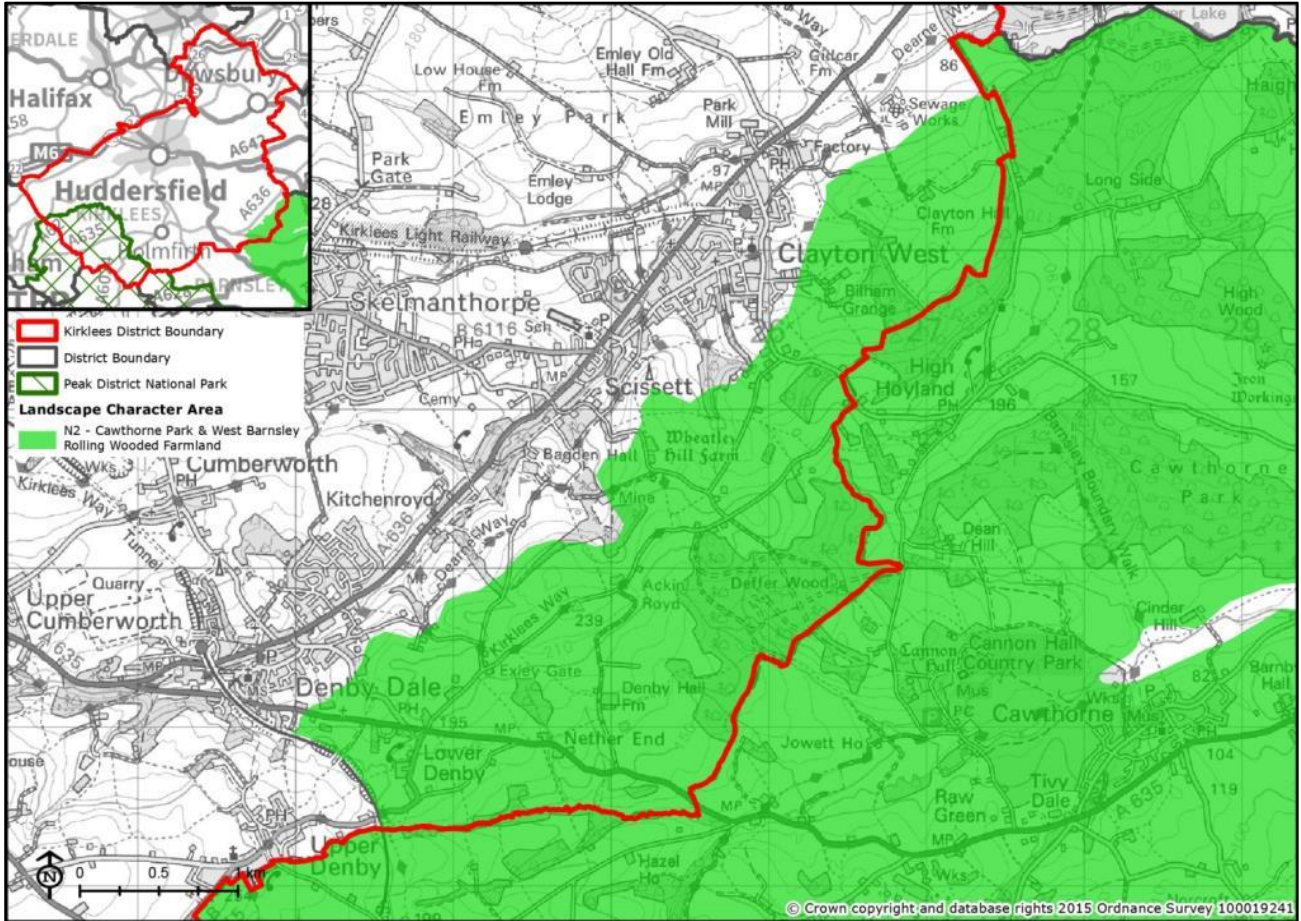
- Emley Moor transmitting station is located one mile west of Emley, which at 330m tall is the tallest free standing structure in the UK and is a prominent feature from across the district. At night the tower is lit by red lights.
- Predominant traditional rural character. The medieval tower of St Michael's Church in Emley is also a valued local landmark.
- Long views north and east towards Huddersfield and Wakefield are afforded by height of the land, but are sometimes interrupted by trees and undulation of the ground.
- The Peak District National Park is visible from Flockton Moor, which also overlooks the Fenay Beck Valley to the west (LCA G9).

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: There are four Local Wildlife Sites wholly or partially within the LCA which collectively cover 6.2 ha. Kirkby Wood is located to the south of Flockton, whilst there are very small margins of Gregory Spring and Liley Wood located in the north of the LCA (the majority of these LWSs are located in LCA E7). Part of Springs Wood is located in the south west of the LCA, although most of this LWS is found in LCA G10.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Monuments: Five Scheduled Monuments are found within this LCA. These include the medieval ironstone pits and day holes to the east and south of Emley (which are both included on the Heritage at Risk Register), a standing cross at Emley, mining remnants at Caphouse Colliery and Thornhill Hall, moat and gardens to the east of Thornhill. • Registered Park and Garden: The Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden of Bretton Hall covers a small part of the LCA in the south east and crosses into both Wakefield and Barnsley Districts. • Listed Buildings: There are a total of 37 Listed Buildings (One Grade I, one Grade II* and 35 Grade II listed). The Grade I Church of St Michael is also included on the Heritage at Risk Register and some parts of the building are in poor condition. • Conservation Areas: There are two Conservation Areas within the LCA. These are Hope Pit (which crosses into Wakefield District in the east) and Thornhill in the north east corner of the LCA.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	The LCA is largely associated with important relative levels of tranquillity, with a traditional rural character, although the presence of main roads in the north of the LCA can detract from this on a local scale.
Role as a setting to development	This LCA forms an immediate setting to the settlements of Emley Moor, Flockton and Grange Moor. It also forms an elevated rural backdrop to nearby larger settlements including Kirkburton and Skelmanthorpe.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	<p>The Kirklees Way crosses through the eastern part of the LCA and goes through Flockton, while there are other locally promoted routes including the Emley Circular Trail and the Emley Village Walk.</p> <p>There is a dense network of more minor footpaths and bridleways throughout the LCA.</p>
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	Although it is some distance from the Peak District National Park, there are distant views to and from the protected landscape from the higher land in the west of the LCA.

LCA N2: Cawthorne Park and West Barnsley Rolling Wooded Farmland

Figure 3.55: Location Map



Representative photographs

Figure 3.56: View south-west from Kirklees Way



Figure 3.57: View towards the Peak National Park



This LCA is comprised of the rural rolling farmland to the south east of Clayton West and Denby Dale. The boundary between Kirklees and Barnsley districts intersects this LCA.

Most of this LCA stretches southwards and is contained within the boundaries of Barnsley District.

Summary of landscape character

Key characteristics

Topography, geology and drainage

- Gently undulating and rolling farmland which rises up higher in the west. Pool Hill rises to 239m AOD.
- Typical Pennine Coal measures geology, with mudstone and sandstone underlain by Carboniferous Millstone Grit.
- Minor springs and streams cross the area, flowing towards the River Dearne or into Barnsley District.

Woodland cover

- Frequent blocks and copses of mostly deciduous woodland, with some small areas of coniferous plantation.
- In-field trees are common, as are mature specimens within field boundaries.

Land use and field patterns

- Fields of varying shapes and sizes with both pasture and arable use.
- Field boundaries are a mixture of hedgerows of various ages, dry stone walls and fencing. Trees are a common feature along field boundaries.

Semi-natural habitats

- There are occasional patches of gorse and scrub found amongst fields, combining with areas of woodland to provide texture and interest in the landscape.
- Deffer Wood is fairly large mixed woodland which is designated locally as a Local Wildlife Site.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

- Wheatley Hill Farmhouse is a Grade II* listed building. Most of the Listed Buildings in the area are farmhouses or barns with a strong stone-built local vernacular.
- Disused mine shafts from the coal mining history of the area are found across the LCA.

Settlement and road pattern

- A sparsely settled and rural landscape, with hamlets and scattered farmsteads linked by minor country roads.
- The A635 crosses through the LCA in the west, going through the settlement of Nether End towards Cawthorne in Barnsley.

Views and perceptual qualities

- Longer views across the district are possible from the hill summits. From Pool Hill there are views to the Peak District National Park.
- Locally, some views can be more restricted by a high level of woodland cover and the undulation of the land.
- A high level of tranquillity and a traditional rural feel throughout due to the lack of urbanising influences.
- Wind turbines, concentrated to the south west in Barnsley, are often visible on the skyline of the LCA. The transmission tower on Emley Moor (LCA N1) and the Victoria Tower monument (LCA E6) are also visible from more open areas.

Landscape evaluation

Valued landscape features and attributes	
Geodiversity and biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWS: There are three Local Wildlife Sites which cover nearly 13% (92.8 ha) of the LCA; Deffer Wood, Riding Wood and Riding Wood (additional). A small part of Deffer Wood extends into Barnsley.
Cultural and historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered Park and Garden: Contains a small part of the Grade II listed Bretton Hall Registered Park and Garden in the east. • Listed Building: There are 12 Listed Buildings within this LCA, two of which are Grade II* listed, the rest being Grade II.
Perceptual qualities (including levels of tranquillity)	The LCA is relatively tranquil and rural when compared with the rest of the district, particularly in the area of Deffer Wood. Tranquillity is slightly compromised close to the settlement of Denby Dale. Wind turbines in the adjacent Barnsley District are often visible on the skyline and add an industrial element to wider landscape character. The unified built vernacular and general lack of modern influence within the LCA itself evokes a strong traditional sense of place.
Role as a setting to development	The LCA forms a rural and generally undeveloped backdrop to Clayton West, Scisset and Denby Dale located to the north in LCA G10.
Access and enjoyment of the landscape	The LCA is crossed by numerous public rights of way providing access to the countryside, including parts of the Kirklees Way and the Dearne Way.
Contribution to the setting of the Peak District National Park	Although there are views to the Peak District National Park from higher ground, these are distant and the relationship of this LCA to the setting of the National Park is minimal.