

Former North Bierley Waste Water
Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins
Lane, Cleckheaton
**Landscape Character
Assessment**

Site ID: E1985



**KIRKLEES COUNCIL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

SUMMER 2015

Landscape Character Assessment

Introduction

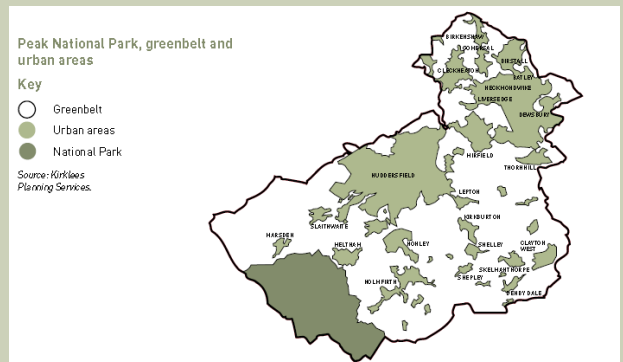
Background

The Kirklees district is situated in the south west of West Yorkshire, and is bounded by the boroughs of Calderdale and Bradford to the north, Leeds and Wakefield to the east and the Peak District National Park to the south—and Greater Manchester to the west.

Kirklees occupies an area of approximately 409 square kilometres, making it the 3rd largest metropolitan district in terms of area.

Although Kirklees is comprised of urban areas, including Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Mirfield, Batley, Marsden and Holmfirth, there are extensive swathes of countryside within the district, the majority of which are designated as Green Belt.

11% (4,574 hectares) of the borough is located within the Peak District National Park.



The objectives of the landscape assessment is to...

(i) describe and analyse the landscape character of a specific area identifying individual landscape types and those features/elements which characterise them;

(ii) provide a landscape framework to:

- guide and inform those responsible for development, landscape change and the management of landscape;
- seek to conserve and enhance the characteristic landscape types of the area;
- seek to avoid management methods and forms of development which would be detrimental to landscape character;
- specify measures to meet land management objectives;
- identify areas where little or no original fabric remains, where there are opportunities to create new landscapes.

(iii) identify the factors which have had an influence upon landscape change in the past and those that are likely to do so in the future, in making recommendations on how to respond to these changes;

(iv) have regard to local perceptions of landscape both past and present, 'sense of place' and areas of local landscape value.

Landscape Character Assessment

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Key to Landscape types

Fringe farming	
Traditional farming	
Open plateau	
Maintained grassland parkland	
Valley side	
Woodland development	
Woodland brownfield	
Industrial	

Methodology

Landscape Character Assessment is a standard methodology for identifying, describing, classifying and mapping what is distinctive about our landscapes. It shows us their variety, and helps us to understand what makes one landscape different from another

This Landscape Character Assessment has been produced following nationally recognised guidelines.

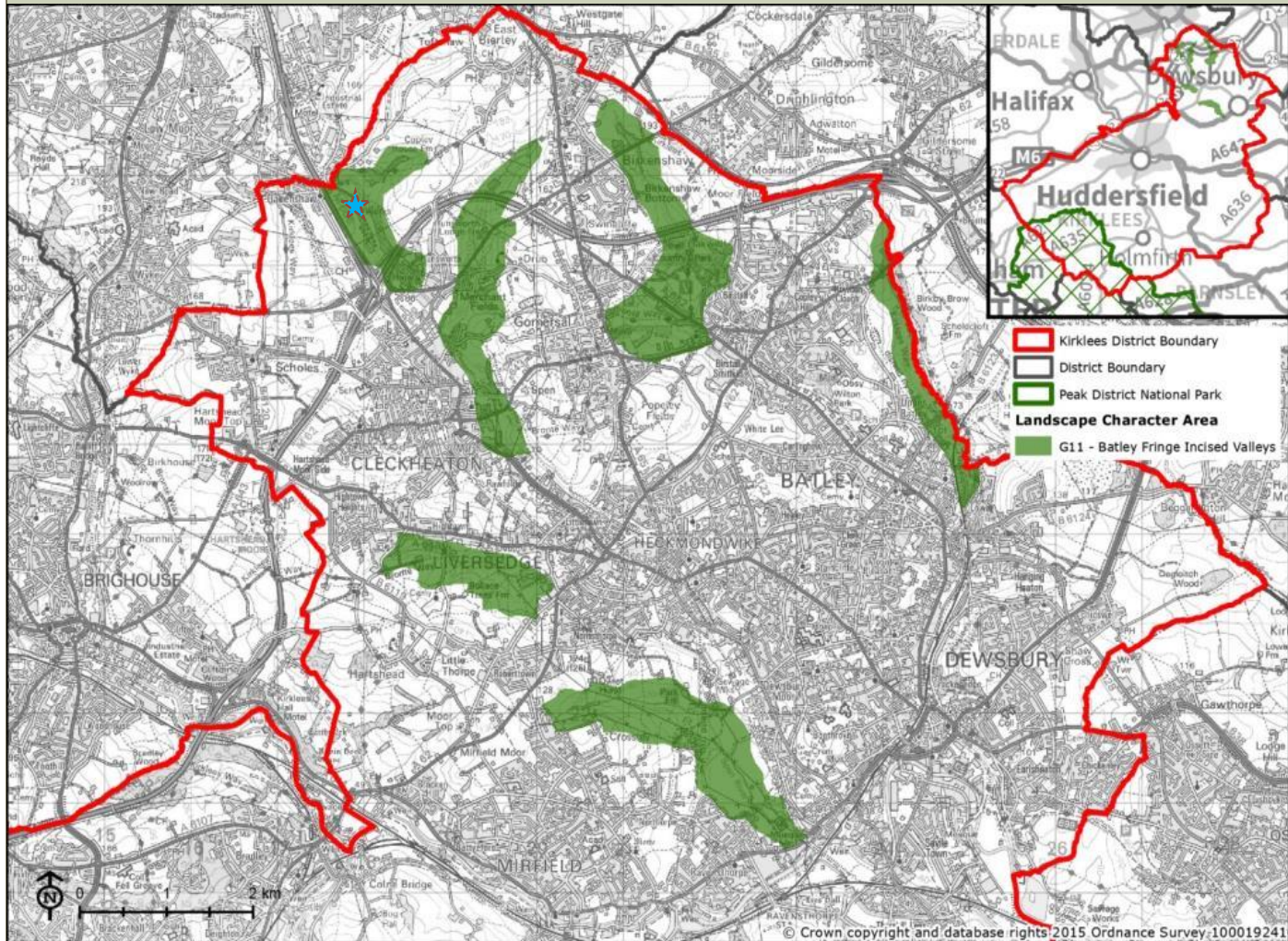
The methodology follows three steps;

- i) collection and review of data as a desk study, giving a general preliminary indication of landscape character areas or types
- ii) a period of field study recording both objective data and subjective responses to the landscape itself and testing the draft character areas;
- iii) an analysis and description of the collected information in the form of the report, with recommendations such as landscape guidelines or planning policy guidance, as required.

Local Character Profile Plan

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins Lane, Cleckheaton

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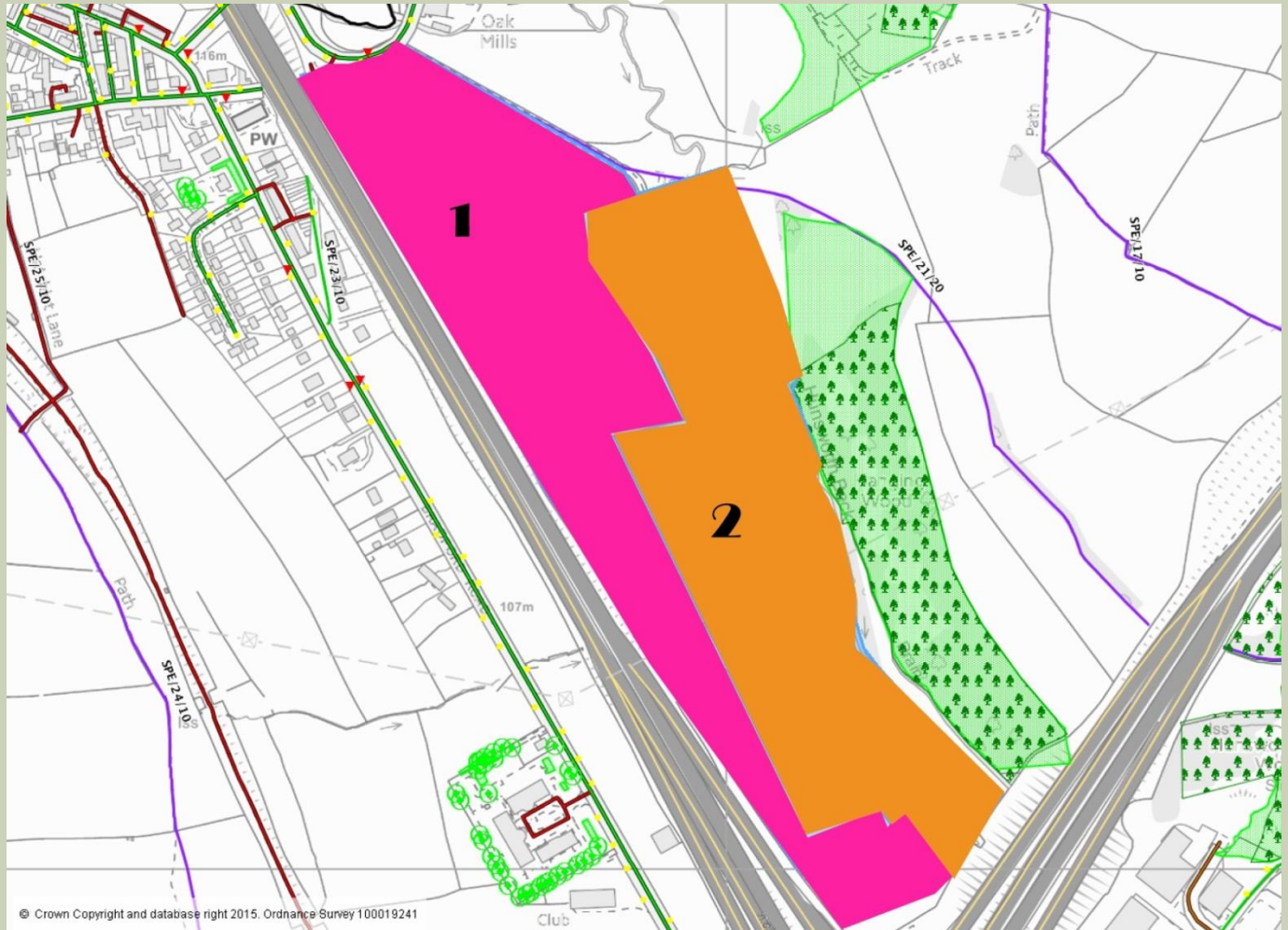


National character area profile 37. Yorkshire Southern Pennine fringe
Local Landscape Character Profile: LCA G11 Batley Incised Valleys

Landscape types plan

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins Lane, Cleckheaton

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This is a strip of land bordered on the west by the M606 motorway. The M62 motorway and major junction 26 is on the south side.

It lies mostly within the Local Character Profile area National Character Area Profile No. 37 - Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe

The area consists of 2 landscape types.

1- Fringe farming



2- Industrial



Landscape Character area Summary

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins Lane, Cleckheaton

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- **Physical influences**

- **Topography**

- One of the discrete, small scale tributary valleys surrounding the towns of Batley and Cleckheaton. Gently rolling land. Character influenced by drainage patterns of the various watercourses draining into the valleys.

- **Geology**

- 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.

- **Ecological influences**

- Hunsworth Beck watercourse runs along the eastern edge of the site and the area of ancient woodland (Hanging Wood and Chatts Wood) to the east of the site. Small blocks of trees and hedgerow within the site.

- **Human influences**

- Pockets of residential on the north and western side of the site, Oak Mills. The biggest influence to the site is the derelict industrial water treatment plant area which occupies approximately half of the site area. The M606 and M62 motorway together with associated traffic noise affect two sides of the area. Electricity pylons cross the site at the southern end.

- **Past settlement**

- The site has a rural agricultural past. Most of the field patterns have now gone. In the 1880's a small section of the site was developed as a water treatment process plant and by the 1950's had taken up half of the land boundary as is evident today.

- **Industrial patterns**

- The footprint of the former water treatment plant still exists now as derelict land.

- **Visual Character**

- There are two visual characters, one of a poor degraded derelict site with empty buildings now barely used; and the pastoral land adjacent to it, dominated by the former treatment plant.

Landscape Type 1.

Fringe farming

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• **Key Characteristics**

- Residential properties along Bradford Road. Arable /pastoral farmland sandwiched between M606 and the former water treatment plant.

• **Landform**

- Gentle incline from west to east toward Hunsworth Beck, gentle slopes.

• **Vegetation**

- Sporadic stretches of hedgerow and intermittent trees with woodland to the east (just off site).
- Grass edges , pasture.

• **Tree cover**

- No tree cover, sporadic and minor.

• **Land Use**

- Arable/pasture.

• **Enclosure and views**

- Timber post and rail fencing, remnants of hedgerow and trees. Views are limited as the site is a valley, tree edges, woodland and fields beyond are pleasant.

• **Settlement and buildings**

- Mixed building types, from agricultural, industrial and residential edge the site.

• **Transport and Access**

- There is an access track toward the water treatment plant that joins Cliff Hollins Lane.

• **Landscape condition**

- This part of the site is semi improved grassland, pastoral in a declining condition due to its immediate surroundings.

Landscape Type 1.

Fringe farming

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- **Recreational**

- No visible recreational use or access for this land although Public right of way no. SPE/21/20 abuts the site along the north eastern boundary

- **Noise**

- Traffic noise from the nearby motorways overrides everything.

- **Historical cultural**

- Oakenshaw Mill was situated at the north end of the site together with a mill pit and other pits, around 1850 the area was entirely rural and farmed land. By the 1880's a tramway track running north to south ran straight through the middle of the site but this had disappeared by the 1920's. By this time some of the fields have been lost to the water treatment plant and by the mid 1950's the plant has expanded even more in to the field and site layout we see today.

- **Subjective description.**

- A struggling piece of rural land heavily affected by motorway and dereliction



Typical images of landscape type 1



Landscape Type 1.

Fringe farming

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Main strategies

Conserve where landscape character is strong, in good condition and has features, which distinguish the area from other areas.

Restore where the underlying character is still reasonably strong but the overall structure and individual elements and features are in decline.

Enhance where the underlying character is weak with no clear defining structure, and where positive action is needed to create an improved landscape structure.

Create where there is opportunity for a radical change to the existing landscape.

Condition /character matrix

Conclusion: STENGTHEN & ENHANCE

Character : Weak

Condition: Declining

The landscape character of this area is weak and its condition is declining due to the pressures of motorway and industrial dereliction nearby.

The site will be **strengthened and enhanced** by sensitive development.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Strengthen And Conserve	Conserve
	Declining	Strengthen And Enhance	Conserve And Enhance	Conserve And Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore And Enhance	Restore
	Weak		Moderate	Strong
		Character		

Landscape Type 2.

Industrial

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• **Key Characteristics**

- Semi derelict water treatment plant situated in the valley bottom adjacent to Hunsworth Beck. There remains some usage of the site for Highway maintenance storage, elsewhere the site appears unused and abandoned.

• **Landform**

- Valley bottom with flat levelled access and hard surfacing within a defined compound.

• **Vegetation**

- Any vegetation is confined to the peripheries as in Area type 1.

• **Tree cover**

- Any tree cover is confined to the peripheries as in Area type 1.

• **Land Use**

- Derelict industrial, some current use as storage for materials for Highways Maintenance. Large vehicles still use the access track down to the former plant.

• **Enclosure and views**

- The site is a compound, bounded by steel security fence and gates. Views toward the east are of the valley side, fields, trees and woodland.

• **Settlement and buildings**

- Semi-derelict buildings and structures of brick and concrete form still remain on the site

• **Transport and Access**

- Access to this site is along an access road from Cliff Hollins Lane. The site is bounded on all sides by major transport routes.

• **Landscape condition**

- The condition of the site is poor because of its abandoned and neglected state. Many of the buildings are empty and declining fast. The site is un-maintained.

Landscape Type 2. Industrial

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- **Recreational**

- The site has no evident recreational use by the public.

- **Noise**

- The whole area is dominated by traffic noise from the nearby M606 and M62 motorways.

- **Historical cultural**

- Originally agricultural farmland. By the 1880's a tramway track running north to south ran straight through the middle of the site (approximately where the access track is now) but this had disappeared by the 1920's. By this time the water treatment plant had been built and by the mid 1950's the plant had expanded into the site layout we see today

- **Subjective description.**

- A struggling area of abandoned industrial land heavily affected by dereliction and motorway noise.



Typical images of landscape type 2



Landscape Type 2. Industrial

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Main strategies

Conserve where landscape character is strong, in good condition and has features, which distinguish the area from other areas.

Restore where the underlying character is still reasonably strong but the overall structure and individual elements and features are in decline.

Enhance where the underlying character is weak with no clear defining structure, and where positive action is needed to create an improved landscape structure.

Create where there is opportunity for a radical change to the existing landscape.

Condition /character matrix

Conclusion: CREATION

Character : Weak

Condition: Poor

The landscape character of this area is weak and its condition is poor due to the industrial dereliction and abandoned usage of this site, it is declining fast.

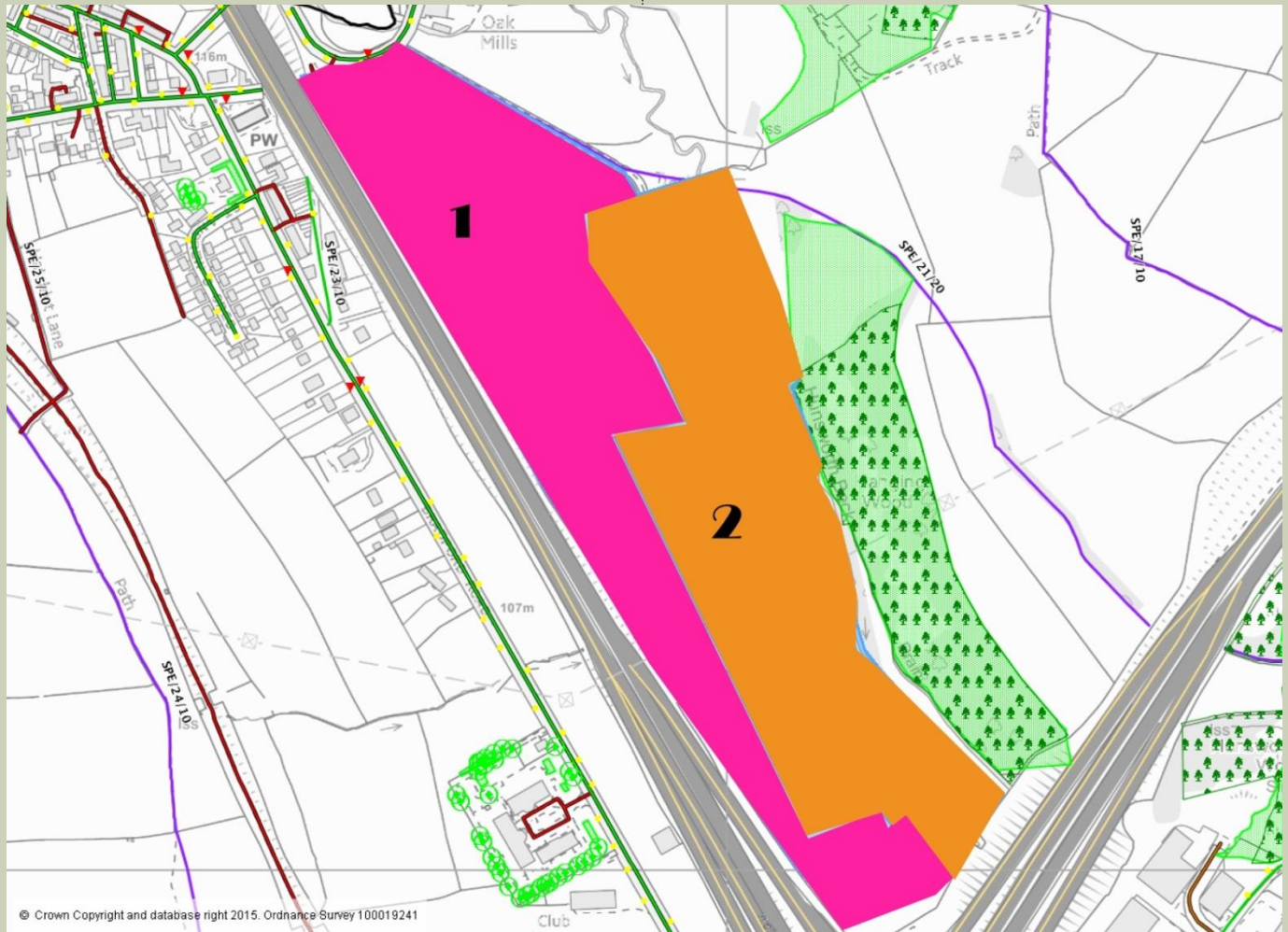
The site will benefit by the creation of new and sensitive development.

Condition	Good	Strengthen	Strengthen And Conserve	Conserve
	Declining	Strengthen And Enhance	Conserve And Enhance	Conserve And Restore
	Poor	Creation	Restore And Enhance	Restore
	Weak		Moderate	Strong
		Character		

Conclusion Plan

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins Lane, Cleckheaton

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Landscape Type 1

Character : Weak

Condition: Declining

Conclusion: Strengthen and Enhance

The landscape character of this area is weak and its condition is declining due to the pressures of motorway and industrial dereliction nearby.

The site will be strengthened and enhanced by sensitive development.

Landscape Type 2

Character : weak

Condition: Poor

Conclusion: Creation

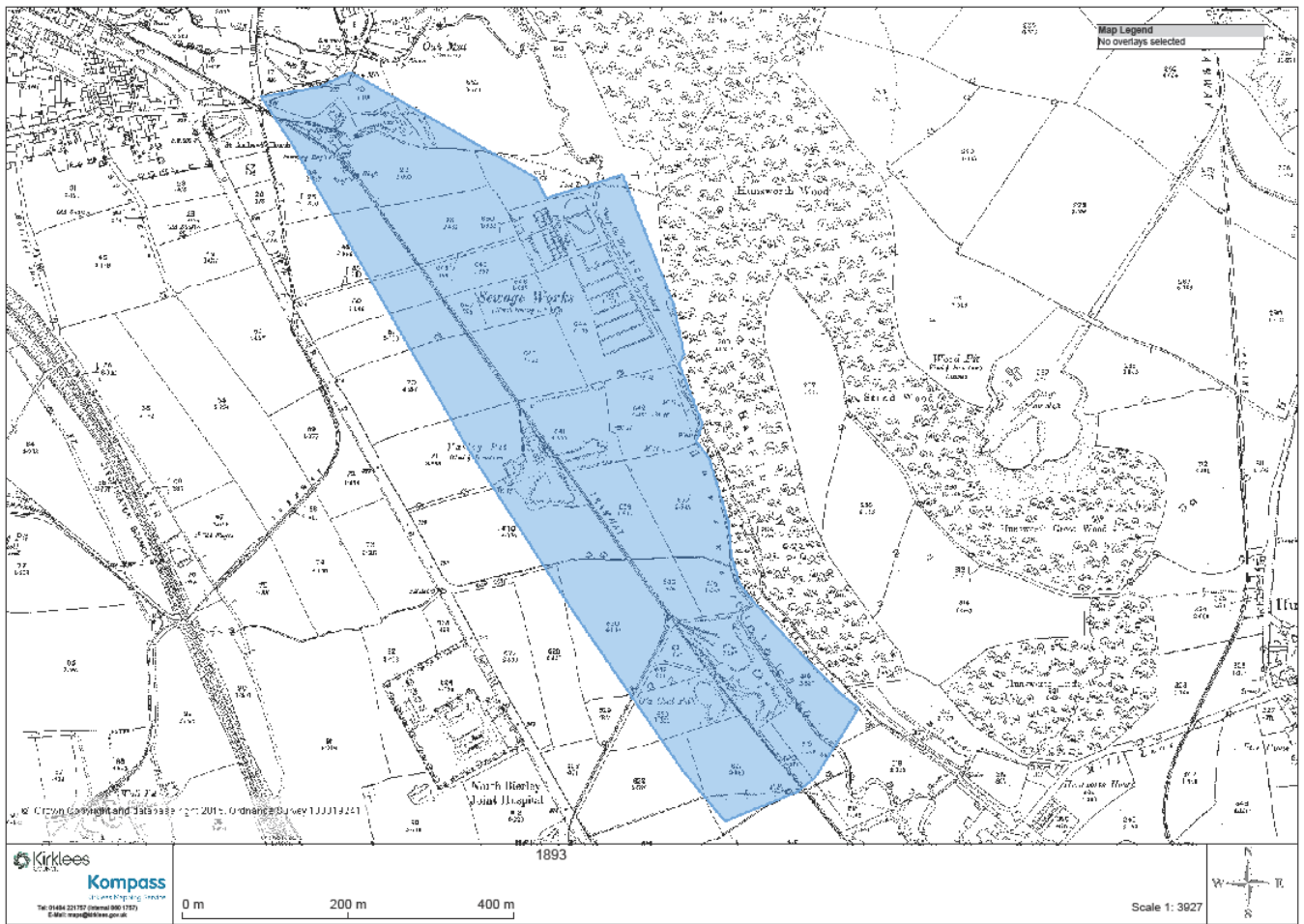
The landscape character of this area is weak and its condition is poor due to the industrial dereliction and abandoned usage of this site, it is declining fast.

The site will benefit by the creation of new and sensitive development.

Historic Plan

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins Lane, Cleckheaton

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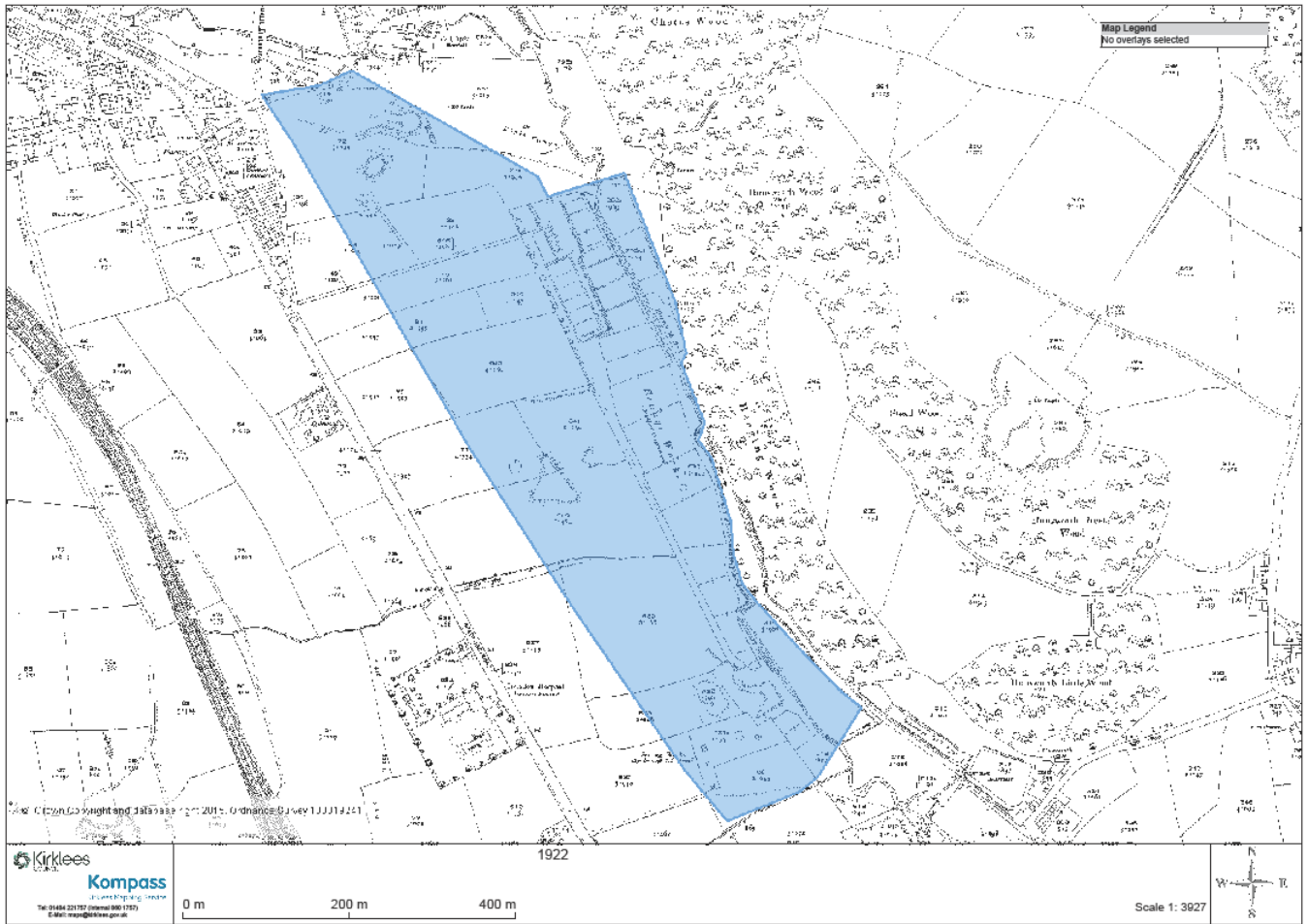


1893

Historic Plan

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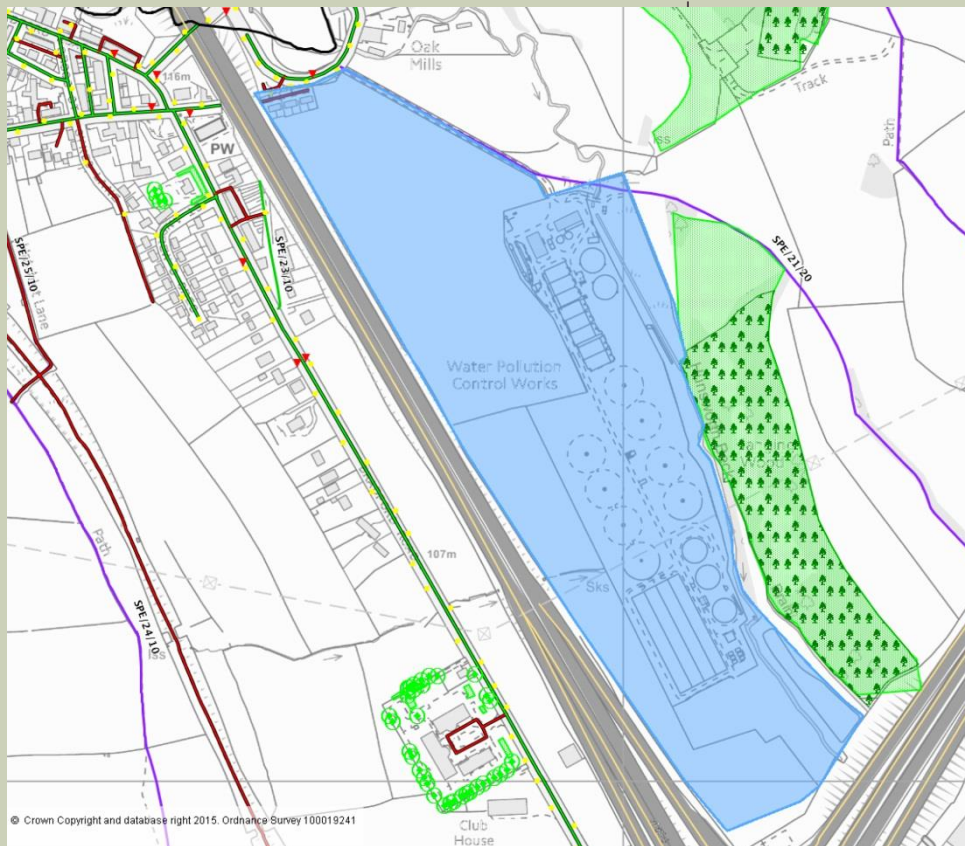


1922

Information Plan

Former North Bierley Waste Water Treatment Works, Cliff Hollins Lane, Cleckheaton

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Map Legend	
Street Furniture	
▼	Signs
●	Lamps
■	Feeder Pillars
■	Bollards
Tree Preservation Orders	
□	Ancient Woodlands_2012
□	Conservation Areas
□	High Hedge
●	TPO Areas
Adopted Register	
Highway Register	
—	Adopted
—	Part Adopted
—	Private
—	all others
PROW - Current	
Claimed Paths	
—	BOAT
—	Bridleway
—	Footpath
—	Restricted Byway
—	all others
PROW	
—	Bridleway
—	Byway
—	Footpath
—	all others
—	Pennine Way
—	PW_Sections
Landscape and Nature	
□	ssi
□	Special_Protection_Area
□	Wildlife Significance
□	Local Nature Reserves
□	sssi