

## D1 Calder Terrace

The character area comprises the broad shelf of land that lies above the incised valley of the river Calder. It forms part of the 'internal' landscape of the South Pennines and differs from the moorland fringes on the edges of the upland, which are characterised by their extensive views out across the surrounding urban areas and flat plains beyond. The land is enclosed into small pastures by regular gritstone walls and traditional farmhouses are scattered across the area. In views across the terraces the valley of the River Calder is virtually hidden from view – only occasional glimpses of the dense woodland which fills the deep cleft provide a clue to its existence. Apart from the points where upper wooded cloughs penetrate the terrace, and the small clumps of trees sheltering individual farmsteads, the whole area is open and virtually treeless and has a 'remote' upland character. The patchwork pattern of fields is the dominant feature of the landscape and there is a clear and sharp division with the high unenclosed moorland. The farms include important areas of in-bye land including some that are still managed as traditional hay meadows. At least visually, the upland pastures of the Calder terrace retains an intact character, although it is nevertheless very vulnerable, particularly to changes in farming practice and the pressures induced by its proximity to Halifax and Huddersfield. A large number of historic routes and packhorse trails, such as the Long Causeway, which originated as high level routes between the valleys cross this area and now provide an important part of the public Right of Way network. The stone lined tracks are an important historic artefact and a locally distinctive feature.