

D2 Blackwood Common

This area lies on the spur of high land between the two tributary valleys of Cragg Vale and the Ryburn. In terms of landform and land cover this area is essentially similar to the upland pastures of the Calder terraces described above (D1). It is distinguished by the greater degree of development, with small land holdings and numerous individual farmhouses scattered across the area. The reason for this difference is not entirely clear. The dense network of footpaths, rights of way and packhorse routes indicate the strategic importance of the area as a route between the two valleys and to the urban centres of West Yorkshire and some of the farmhouses are known to have their origins as early coaching inns on these historic routeways. Another distinction is the views towards the urban areas; the high rise developments of Sowerby Bridge and Halifax form the focus for the view along the Calder Valley.