

F2 Calder (Todmorden, Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd) LCS calls this F2: Calder (Walsden, Todmorden, Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd)

The valley of the Calder runs from Todmorden, in the west to Sowerby Bridge and beyond in the east. It is a deep, steep sided densely wooded valley, which from its floor feels particularly enclosed. The action of glacial meltwater has deepened the Calder, forming the characteristic steep sided 'valley within a valley profile', with the river flowing in a deep gorge. Such is the depth of the valley and sense of confinement, compounded by the dense woodland cover, that from the top of the slopes most of the valley remains hidden. The river and its tributaries played a central role in the development of industry in the area, providing an important transport route and a powerful influence in the location of the settlements. The valley's importance as a transport corridor has endured, with routes parallel to the river in the form of a major road (A6033), the Rochdale Canal and the railway. The market towns of Todmorden and Hebden Bridge, are attractive thriving centres, exhibiting their industrial past and former wealth through the mills, grand buildings, and the characteristic architecture, such as the 'double decker' houses. To the eastern end of the valley around Mytholmroyd and Sowerby Bridge extensive postwar development gives the valley a more urban character. The upper Calder valley is distinctive in that the settlement centres are clearly defined and separated by important areas of intact countryside with areas of inbye pasture, enclosed by gritstone walls and extensive blocks of ancient woodland filling the side cloughs.