

F3 Ryburn (Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden)

The River Ryburn drains the high land of Rishworth Moor and flows in a northerly direction to join the Calder Valley at Sowerby Bridge. It is a narrow thickly wooded valley and forms an important transport corridor creating the route for the main A58 road and a railway line (now dismantled). The road is lined by a narrow band of linear development, and small settlement centres at Rishworth, Ripponden, Kebroyd and Triangle which retain elements of their industrial heritage including a number of disused mill buildings and chimney stacks. The character of the Ryburn valley is still predominantly rural with the valley slopes covered by thick bands of broadleaved woodland and the distinctive patchwork of pastures. Generally, settlements are confined to the valley floor and do not climb the side slopes, unlike those of the Irwell and Calder Valleys. The rural character is reinforced by the avenues of beech trees that line the road corridor.