

Low Bradley Conservation Area Appraisal August 2016

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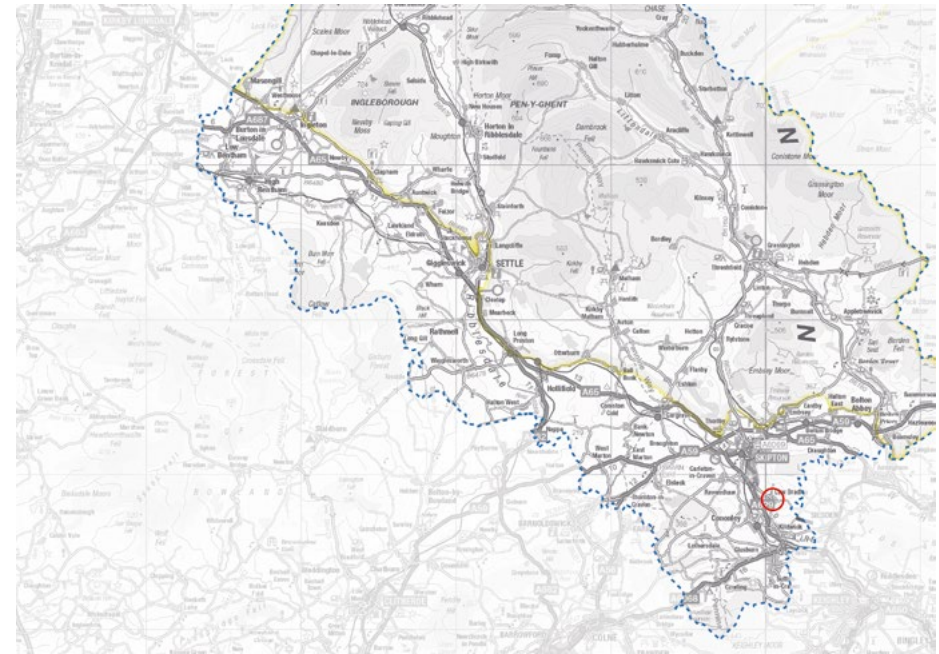


Introduction

How to use this document

This Conservation Area Appraisal should be read in conjunction with the document *Introduction to Craven Conservation Area Appraisals*, which can be downloaded from the Craven District Council website. This document contains an explanation of the purpose and methodology of this Appraisal, together with a general introduction to the history, landscape, buildings and settlement forms of Craven.

When viewed as a pdf document, this Appraisal includes an interactive map with a series of layers that can be activated using the menu panel that appears on the left-hand side of the report. Refer to the *Introduction* document for advice about how to reveal this menu panel. These layers, which can be turned off and on in any combination, illustrate aspects of the Appraisal that are described in the text. These elements are: the conservation area boundary, Victorian Ordnance Survey maps, listed buildings, key buildings, significant views, open space analysis and woodland. At any time the map can be found by clicking the MAP button on the bottom right corner of every page.

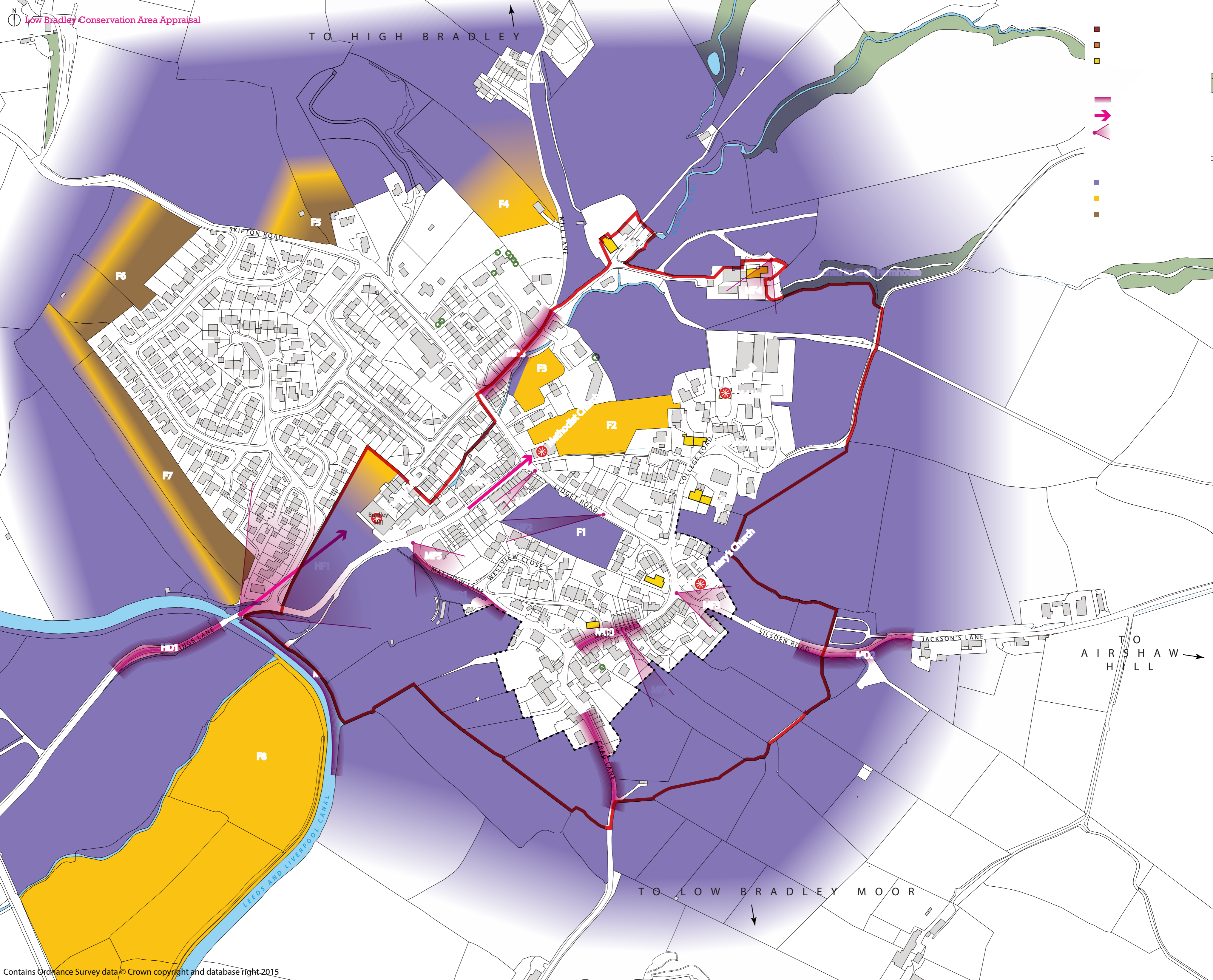


Location of Low Bradley

Overview of the conservation area

Bradley is composed of High Bradley and Low Bradley, known collectively as Bradleys Both. Low Bradley is located to the south-east of the two and is a picturesque former wool and mill village with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal running to its southwest. The Conservation Area encompasses the historic settlement of Low Bradley and its immediate surrounding open countryside.

Designation date: 1979



1.0 Character

1.1 Historic & contemporary development

- The 1891 OS map (see the map at the front of this Appraisal) shows that development was largely restricted to the main roads through the village. Most densely developed was Main Street and there was no development at all along Matthew Lane at that time. Small clusters of development away from the main streets existed around Old Hall and Mill Lane.
- There are some small modern infill housing developments, notably Westview Close and Lidget Croft which form small closes. The latter of these particularly disrupts the consistent linear form of the historic development though the buildings themselves relate to the rest of the Conservation Area adequately.
- Towards the edges of the historic settlement, particularly to the north and northwest, are former farm buildings which do not relate to the street so closely and tend to be surrounded by more open space.

- You are often aware, if not overtly, of the large twentieth-century housing estate to the north-west, where Low Bradley has expanded (this is outside the Conservation Area boundary).

1.2 Spatial and built character

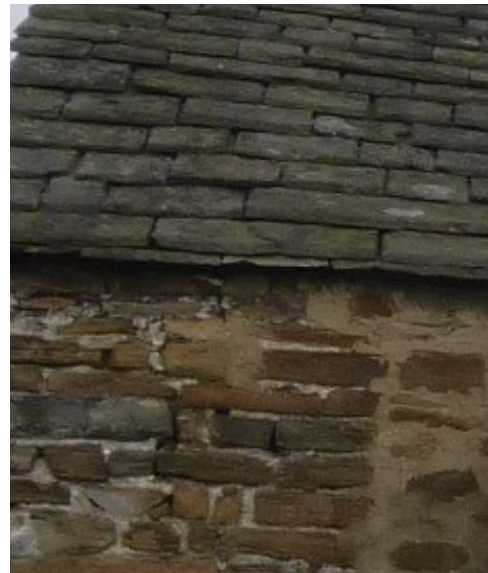
- The Conservation Area has a tight-knit historic urban grain which gets denser towards the centre of the Conservation Area. Most houses on the central streets front on to the back of the pavement or are set slightly back, behind a small front garden enclosed by dry stone walling.
- Most of the streets curve gently, creating attractive views, full of promise. The consistency of the use of stone for the buildings and walls is a strong characteristic of the Conservation Area and District at large.

- The buildings are by and large two and three-storey houses with pitched roofs of varying size, age and grandeur (Old Hall is the only really grand house). Many were originally associated with the wool and cloth industry of the area, either as part of the cottage industry or later as homes for the industry's workers.
- There are also many examples of converted farm buildings. Some were agricultural buildings attached to the farmhouse, others were detached, most are recognisable as former farm buildings from the remains of their arched cart entrances. A few survive in their original use.
- Other uses which tend to occupy distinctive building types include the two places of worship and one, possibly converted, former chapel on Crag Lane, the public house on Crag Lane and the Village Hall.
- Bradley Mill is now flats but its size, position and chimney make it an important visual landmark as well as an important aspect of the village's history.

1.3 Materials and palette

- Walls: Gritstone coursed and uncoursed;
- Window reveals: Gritstone, sometimes tooled
- Gateposts: Gritstone monoliths
- Roofing: Westmorland slates; Grey slates (Yoredale sandstone)
- Windows: Timber windows: traditionally casements but sashes used widely in the nineteenth century; numerous instances of historic windows having been replaced with upvc, these detract from the character of the Conservation Area
- Pavements: Stone paving as well as extensive areas that have been replaced with tarmac, granite kerbs
- Road surfaces: Asphalt

- Street furniture: Street lighting is generally galvanized steel columns.
- Other: Some good surviving ironwork on front boundaries



Grey slates



Millstone grit

1.4 Key buildings and structures

- Bradley Mill, Ings Lane - Unlisted
- Methodist Church, Skipton Road - Unlisted
- St Mary's Church, Silsden Road - Unlisted
- Old Hall, College Road – Grade II



Bradley Mill, Ings Lane



Methodist Church, Skipton Road



St Mary's Church, Silsden Road



Old Hall, College Road

1.5 Relationship with other settlements

To the north-west of the Conservation Area are extensive estates of largely twentieth-century housing. This does not enhance the character of the Conservation Area and means there are no real views out to the northeast.

High Bradley is half a kilometre away to the north and forms a small group of buildings which are not easily visible from Low Bradley.

2.0 Landscape and Open Space

2.1 Overview

Although the centre of the historic settlement within the Conservation Area has a dense urban grain, the surrounding landscape is nearly always visible in views from it. There are also still areas of open pasture within the village that often afford longer views to the landscape beyond and are a reminder of the historic settlement pattern (visible on nineteenth century Ordnance Survey maps). Consequently, landscape and open space are an integral part of the character of the Low Bradley Conservation Area.

2.2 Methodology

The following categories have been used to assess the contribution of open space to the Conservation Area and are shown as a layer on the map at the front of this Appraisal:

Purple: Open space that makes a strong contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area

Yellow: Open space that makes some contribution to character and appearance of the Conservation Area

Brown: Open space that makes no or negligible contribution to character and appearance of the Conservation Area

Areas of open space and individual fields that need particular comment or have been identified as making a less than strong contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area have been numbered for reference in the descriptions below. Refer to the 'open space analysis' layer on the Appraisal map that can be accessed from the button on the bottom right corner of the page.

2.3 Open space assessment

West side of the Conservation Area: south of Skipton Road and north of Ings Lane

*With the exception of those areas immediately adjacent to the 20th Century housing, predominantly makes a **strong contribution** to character and appearance*

- On the west side of the Conservation Area is a large mid-twentieth century estate that is a continuous part of the settlement of Low Bradley. Beyond are fields and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.
- The parts of the fields (F6 and F7) that immediately adjoining the twentieth-century housing estate make a very **limited contribution** to the character of the Conservation Area. They are physically separated from it by the extensive housing development. These fields are experienced on the approach into the Conservation Area from the swing bridge on Ings Lane, just outside its boundary: the fields are visible from here on the

edge of the twentieth-century development, the end of which comes between F7 and Ings Lane. F7 therefore makes a **negligible** contribution.

- From this position, it is possible to see the landscape rising beyond the whole settlement of Low Bradley from the northwest round to the southeast. Beyond F6, the fields are part of this continuous belt of landscape and therefore contribute strongly to the wider character of the settlement and the Conservation Area.
- Away from the later housing estate, westwards the fields contribute greatly to the character of the Conservation Area. The open fields up to Woods Laithe are highly visible from Ings Lane, and with the Canal, form part of the wider landscape setting of the Conservation Area.

South side of the Conservation Area: between Ings Lane and Silsden Road

*Predominantly makes a **strong contribution** to character and appearance*

- To the south of the settlement there are long views across the Aire Gap towards the lower Pennines (e.g. **HD1**) (these views can be appreciated from throughout the Conservation Area). The Leeds-Liverpool Canal is visible (mainly because of the belt of trees running along it) in the middle distance, it then loops close to the settlement on its southwest side.
- The boundary of the settlement of Low Bradley along this southern side has changed very little in the past few centuries. The historic pattern of tofts and crofts (see *Introduction to Craven Conservation Area Appraisals*) survives well with their drystone walls. This field pattern can be seen from the Canal and Ings Lane to the southwest.
- Most of this land to the south makes a strong contribution to the character of the Conservation Area which can be experienced from numerous public routes: Ings Lane, the Canal tow path, Crag Lane and Silsden Road as they enter the settlement from the landscape on this side. The open space between the historic settlement and the Canal visually links the two and represents their historic relationship. The views south and southeast from Matthew Lane towards the Canal and across the Aire Gap beyond are also aesthetically of value.
- Within the loop of the Canal one of the large fields (F8) is surrounded by dense tree belts and is not easily visible from the approach to the Conservation Area from Ings Lane or from the Conservation Area itself. It has therefore been identified as making **less of a contribution** than the other, more visible, fields.

East side of the Conservation Area: between Silsden Road/ Jacksons Lane and North Gill

*Predominantly makes a **strong contribution** to character and appearance*

- The landscape on the east side of the Conservation Area rises to the east towards Low Bradley Moor and northeast towards Airshaw Hill. Within the settlement you are aware of the topography as Main Street rises to the northeast and there are constant views (**MF2, MF3**) between the buildings out to the landscape.
- Jackson's Lane is a historic route in to the Conservation Area from the East; from here there are views of the village nestled between the hills (**MD2**).
- The character of the village periphery on this east side has not substantially changed since the end of the nineteenth century and, like the south side, the field boundaries are the surviving boundaries of the medieval tofts and crofts (see *Introduction to Craven Conservation Area Appraisals*).
- The basic pattern of historic development with the sites of Old Hall, Bradley Gill, and the former site of Bradley Mill (see north side of the Conservation Area below), slightly detached from the main cluster of the historic settlement with open fields around them survives and is important to the Conservation Area's character and appearance.
- The open space on the east side of the Conservation Area is therefore an essential aspect of the character of the Conservation Area.

North side of the Conservation Area: Between North Gill and Skipton Road

*Predominantly makes a **strong contribution** to character and appearance*

- The landscape on the north side of the Conservation Area rises quite steeply towards High Bradley. The Conservation Area's northwest boundary runs closely along the course of North Gill, west of which the development dates from the twentieth century.
- This boundary consists almost entirely of twentieth and twenty-first century development. The main exception is the converted former corn mill site which lies on the northwest side of North Gill.
- This recent development to the northwest is continuous with the development within the Conservation Area boundary and separates the landscape to the northwest from the historic development of the Conservation Area.
- Directly north of the former corn mill and around Mill Lane the landscape is clearly visible from within the Conservation Area and there are many glimpsed views out (**MD5**).
- F4 is visible from the Conservation Area and does make **some contribution** as part of its landscape setting but adjoins some of the recent development.
- F5 is further removed from the Conservation Area and is not easily visible from it. It is also directly opposite the twentieth century housing estate and so makes a **negligible** contribution.

Within the Conservation Area

F1

F1 is an historic enclosed field and, along with F2, is a remnant of the open space that existed between the medieval settlement along Main Street and the nineteenth-century development that grew up behind the mill on Ings Lane. There is a good view (**HF2**) from the northeast corner towards the southwest across the field with the Mill chimney prominent beyond and the Aire Valley spreading out beyond the village into the distance. The aspects of this view that make it aesthetically pleasing are also defining characteristics of this Conservation Area. This open space also allows a clear view from the northwest corner of this field on Lidget Road looking across F1 to the hills to the south east.

F1 is a prominent feature of the village that allows significant views across the Conservation Area to the landscape beyond and is both a reminder of the way of the village developed and of its historic agricultural character. It therefore makes a **strong contribution** to the character of the Conservation Area.

F2

This is an historic field with drystone walls, and like F1, it is a remnant of the open space that existed between the medieval settlement along Main Street and the nineteenth-century development that grew up behind the mill on Ings Lane. F2 can only be clearly seen from Skipton Road, across the Methodist Church's car park. It does not have the prominence or some of the aesthetic qualities of F1 but is still a remnant of the historic development and rural character of the Conservation Area. It therefore makes **some contribution** to its character and appearance.

F3

F3 is an historic field that is visible from Mill Lane. It has been developed all around its periphery with housing since 1891 and affords views to the Methodist Church to the southeast (**MD5**). It has aesthetic value with its dry stone wall and the North Gill stream running through it with a belt of attractive trees along it. F3 *contributes* to the experience of travelling along Mill lane and to the rural character of the Conservation Area.

3.0 Views

Refer to the map at the front of this Appraisal

3.3 Highly significant fixed views (HF)

HF1 From the Canal tow path and small park, on the east side of the Bradlley Swing Bridge towards the former Bradley Mill – The trees in the small green open space north east of the Canal form a vista towards the former Mill building which stands prominently. This view is significant for its association with Low Bradley's industrial history and the historic and visual link between the village and the Canal.

HF2 Framed view over the houses looking west from Lidget Road, across the field in the centre of the village to the Mill chimney and countryside beyond – There has always been an open space at the centre of the village around which the development has grown. The field to the south-east of Lidget Road retains a rural character with its rubble stone walling and unlandscaped pasture. The topography of the village

means there are long views from the northeast corner across the field to the south-west, with the rooftops beyond and Bradley Mill's chimney providing a focus, beyond is the Aire Valley and the Lower Pennines.



View south east from Lidget Road (HF2)

3.4 Highly significant dynamic views (HD)

HD1 Approach into the Conservation Area on Ings Lane looking north east towards Bradley Mill. – The approach to the Conservation Area along Ings Lane is bordered by fields with boundaries of rubble stone walls. Ahead, to the northeast, is Bradley Swing Bridge over the Canal and beyond is the former Bradley Mill. This approach incorporates these defining characteristics of the Conservation Area making it significant.

3.1 Moderately significant fixed views (MF)

MF1 South-east through the arch of Mount View to the courtyard and buildings beyond – This is a framed urban view into a domestic courtyard. This is an evocative survival of the village’s historic townscape.

MF2 South-east along the Drive of Sedgemoor House from Main Street to the countryside beyond – The drive is lined with rubble stone retaining walls and leads the eye to the hills to the east. This is one of many views from the historic village core to the countryside beyond.

MF3 From Main Street south-east along Silsden Road to the countryside – This is another view from the historic village into the countryside. It is framed by St Mary’s Church and the stone cottages on the corner of Main Street and Silsden Road.

MF4 From the north-east corner of Ghyll Farm south west over the village and countryside beyond – This is a panoramic view, where you can get a sense of the wider setting of the village in its landscape. The view is over the Aire Valley, surprisingly little of the village is actually that visible due to the topography but the Mill chimney and some of the rooftops can be seen.

MF5 South-east along Matthew Lane from Ings Lane – This view gives a clear impression of the village’s historic boundary. Matthew Lane is developed consistently on its northeast side but on this junction is still undeveloped on its southwestern side and is bounded by a stone wall.

MF6 From Ings Lane north-east towards the Methodist Church – The developed stretch of Ings Lane in the historic village is relatively straight and rises towards the northeast, terminating with a view of the front elevation of the Methodist Church with hills behind. This is a designed bit of townscape that is of aesthetic value and also represents the historic religious values of the village.



MF6

3.2 Moderately significant dynamic views (MD)

MD1 From Matthew Lane south to the Canal and the countryside beyond – Like MF5, this view takes in this aesthetically and historically significant village periphery. The fields (including the recreation ground) between Matthew Lane and the Canal are well-kept and slope gently down to the Canal which is lined with mature trees.



View south west over the Sports Ground (MD1)

MD2 Views into the Conservation Area along Crag Lane and Silsden Lane – There are clear views of the historic village in its landscape context from Crag Lane, the uniformity in the building materials and heights and the prominence of the mill chimney gives the impression of an historic industrial village. From Silsden Lane the view of the village is more restricted by the topography and tree cover.



View south west from Matthew Lane (MD1)

MD3 North-east along Main Street and south-west back down Main Street with its back drop of hills – Main Street is one of the oldest streets of the village and it is lined with buildings of historic value. Looking northeast the winds gently, creating attractive urban views. To the south-west there is the additional backdrop of the valley in the distance.

MD4 Along the Leeds – Liverpool Canal in both directions from the northeast bank – the north bank of the Canal where it loops close to the village is within the Conservation Area, from here there are aesthetically significant views in either direction along the Canal with the valley to the southeast and the hills rising on the northwestern side of the banks. The Canal has an important historic and aesthetic relationship with the village and its unspoilt character is significant to the Conservation Area.

MD5 Views of Mill Lane, with glimpses of open countryside between the buildings.



MD4

4.0 Traffic and Movement

4.1 Pedestrian

The centre of the village is sufficiently quiet and the traffic sufficiently slow during the week that pedestrians can move unimpeded around the village. The pavements are well-maintained but not consistent and often disappear where roads narrow. The instances where there is parking on pavements means pedestrians are inclined to walk on the roads in the centre of village.

4.2 Vehicle

Much of the time there is little traffic in the Conservation Area as it is not really a through-route. Many of the roads in the village are unmarked which enhances the attractive historic character of the Conservation Area.

4.3 Parking

There is not enough residential parking within the village, partly no doubt due to lack of space so it seems to be common to park on the pavements.

The free car park by the Canal is within easy walking distance of the village centre and does not affect any important views or the character of the settlement.

5.0 Recommendations for Further Work

- Identification of buildings that positively /negatively contribute to the character of the Conservation Area.
- Further research into the historic development of the village
- Suggested Article 4 Directions
- Identification of development problems and pressures and potential solutions
- potential to improve area along Ings Lane to reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflict and improve the experience of entering the village from this direction and views of the mill