

## NCA 37 Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe

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### *Overview*

The long-narrow, north-south NCA runs along foothills on the eastern Pennine edge, from Bradford in the north to Sheffield in the south. It is included within the Upland and Upland Fringe Agricultural Landscape Type, though overall it is highly urbanised and industrial, particularly between Bradford and Huddersfield in the north, and around Sheffield in the south. The major river valleys that cross the NCA are also the focus of smaller towns and villages. Between, especially in the central section, the landscape is more rural, characterised by remnant moorland and rough grazing on the higher land, and enclosed pasture lower down. The dominance of urban areas is reflected in the network of major roads and rail lines that connect the towns and cities. Fields are regular and enclosed by drystone walls, though on the eastern side there is more arable in fields enclosed by hedges. Given the developed character of much of the NCA, woodland coverage is reasonably good at 11%. Of this, 40% is ancient woodland. Most woodland is found on the valley sides, though there are blocks of coniferous woodland north of Sheffield. The NCA profile highlights the significance of the wooded valleys west of Sheffield that run into the centre of the city.

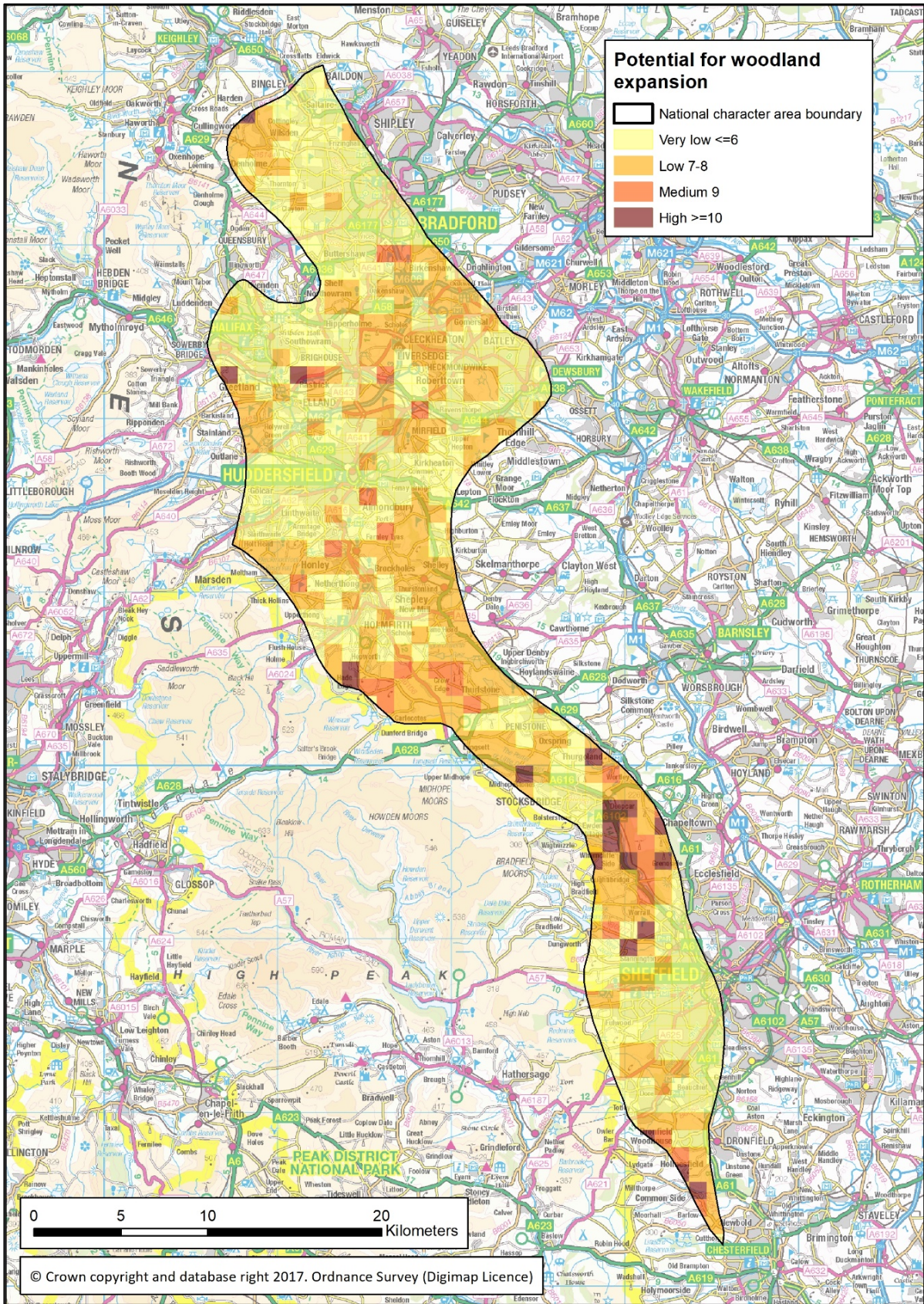
### *The Historic Environment Character*

The developed character of the NCA means that evidence for prehistoric settlement is partly confined to the higher land. Here there is evidence for Bronze Age settlement and Mesolithic flint scatters. There is also surviving evidence for prehistoric and Roman settlement within ancient woodland. From the late medieval period, industry has been a major factor in the settlement of the valleys, particularly woollen textiles in the towns to the north, and iron then steel industries around Sheffield. The area became heavily industrialised in the post medieval period, particularly with the introduction of steam power, as there were plentiful raw materials, such as ironstone for the cutlery industry, and supplies of water, wood, then coal for power. The management of woodland as fuel for industries is reflected in its relatively good level of survival despite the extensive urban areas.

### *Opportunities for Woodland Expansion*

The mapping of historic and natural environment attributes indicates only a low potential for woodland expansion, reflecting the extensive urban development and the moorland areas between. Much of the existing woodland cover is fragmented, however, and there are opportunities for new woodland within the valleys and on the valley sides to create links within the habitat networks. The creation and expansion of valley woodlands is one of the main opportunities highlighted by the NCA profile, both as a means of water filtration and preventing soil erosion, but also as a measure to enhance landscape character.





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