

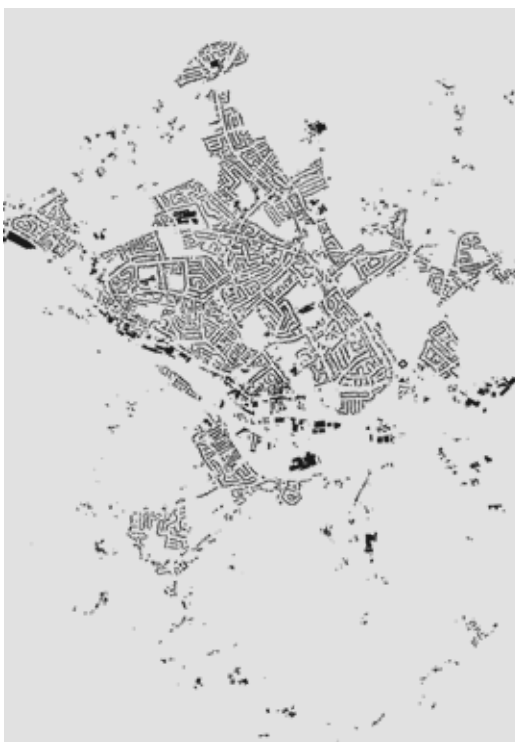
# MIRFIELD

## Neighbourhood Area

# DESIGN GUIDE

**Quality information**

Document name	Ref	Prepared for	Prepared by	Date	Reviewed by
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Mirfield figure-ground plan

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**The traditional built-fabric of Mirfield is well preserved in places and there is a strong overall character in terms of materials. The issue that can occur with new development is that it provides 'just another housing estate', a non-locally specific one-size fits all solution that does not align with the special character of Mirfield. This lack of context specific and responsive design erodes the overall settlement character with new homes or buildings that could be anywhere in terms of layout, type and materials. This generic development typology is not acceptable to the communities of Mirfield.**

Fitting in with the settlement and landscape character is important. Looking at Mirfield's settlement patterns by location, within the urban character area and within the landscape helps create development that fits in its context. Working with the topography of the valley and ensuring new development is not overbearing in terms of position or scale, and sits comfortably within typical building heights, whilst also steering clear of flood risk areas is likewise critical.

The main routes through the town are especially important to retain the traditional character as these often link between the numerous historic areas that were first settled. Defining streets and plots with traditional boundaries is key to overall character of the town. Common problems like parking location and eroding boundaries undermines existing places, and new developments often fail to get these details right and include suitable screening to

parking and definition to the streetscene, creating vehicle dominated spaces.

Enhancing the attractiveness and success of the town centre and historic core is especially important. Protecting and enhancing Mirfield's heritage assets is important to the identity of the town. Looking for opportunities to improve public spaces and streets as a key setting to historic buildings is also an overlooked aspect that can also reduce the dominance of vehicles within the public realm and make places for people and movement. Sensitively reusing and adapting Mirfield's industrial building stock is a beneficial way to retain links to the historic identity of the town. There are many great examples of this happening already.

Also, in contrast to the town centre, Upper Hopton includes a Conservation Area and has a distinct rural village identity which requires quite different set of design responses to the town centre or northern suburbs for example. Reflecting this rural character is equally important outside of the main town.

Meeting the challenges of climate change and creating adaptable, future-proof homes is key to all areas. Mirfield has adapted and must continue to innovate. Repeating the past in terms of pastiche and bolt-on design elements to buildings is not what is sought. Outstanding and innovative designs that increase levels of sustainability are encouraged, for example, using passive design principles, low-embodied energy materials and providing affordable homes. This can be done sympathetically to the historic character of Mirfield and add carefully integrated new aspects to the town's identity.



Figure 1: Some examples of housing being built today in Mirfield (middle line) which pays scant regard to the rich local character, design quality and heritage of buildings and spaces in Mirfield (top and bottom rows).



Introduction

# 01

# 1. INTRODUCTION

**This document describes Mirfield as it is today and its heritage, highlighting a range of qualities valued by its residents. Local knowledge, views, ideas and a great deal of research involving AECOM and a small dedicated community driven team. The design preferences and objectives of the community are considered hand-in-hand with an objective evidence base that can help to inform good design in Mirfield.**



*Figure 2: Restaurant occupying traditional stone-built hall in Mirfield*

## 1.1 Background

The neighbourhood area has seen sizeable housing growth with 400 dwellings allocated through the local plan. There is an extensive area of Green Belt which surrounds the built area, there are a significant flooding issues along the River Calder and the existing urban areas are dense with little potential for major new development.

The neighbourhood area can be broadly characterised by two distinct areas, the north of the neighbourhood area is urban with an historic core (an area that is potentially suitable for a Conservation Area). The south of the neighbourhood area is largely rural with some small villages, one of which (Upper Hopton) has a Conservation Area and rural village character.

This Neighbourhood Plan is not allocating sites so there is no requirement for site specific master planning. However, there is a need for guidelines for several markedly different areas types across the neighbourhood area.

## 1.2 Document scope

The overarching aims of this Design Guide are to promote locally distinctive new development and sensitive redevelopment in Mirfield that builds from the historic character that gives the neighbourhood area its sense of place. Many recent developments have attempted to be sympathetic to their historic context but there has also been much sprawling suburban development that has enveloped the historic settlements over time.

The buildings, streets and spaces of the area should be designed to be beautiful, add to the sense of place and follow the traditional settlement pattern and building vernacular, or innovate with purpose (be more sustainable). deliver contemporary high-quality design solutions that delight and are robust and future.

This report provides an evidence base for the Mirfield Neighbourhood Plan policies relating to the design of new developments and the treatment of existing buildings and spaces.

## 1.3 Document structure

The document is structured in 4 sections, two of which contain design guidance (as highlighted below):

1. Introduction

**2. Context & Identity**

**3. Code Area Guidelines**

4. Next Steps

A1. Appendix



## 1.4 Aims & objectives

The following objectives were derived from engagement with the Neighbourhood Plan team and their planning consultant:

### 1. Present analysis of key neighbourhood area features:

- Analyse the spatial pattern of the neighbourhood area and its various settlements, including the following frameworks; Movement structure, Landscape structure, Neighbourhood structure; and Townscape & Heritage,
- Define the different character areas types of the neighbourhood area, from a landscape and built-form perspective (for example: Town centre, Urban, Suburban and Semi-Rural village);

### 2. Protect heritage and define Code Areas across the whole neighbourhood area:

- Identify historic focus areas, characteristics and features that make Mirfield special;
- Promote and reinforce these with code area design guidelines.

### 3. Encourage the right types of development in the right place:

- Promote locally distinctive models for new development and regeneration;
- Focus on how heritage can be used as a catalyst and focus of regeneration; and
- Require characterful homes and developments that respond to their context.



## 1.5 The design vision

*The vision is to ensure that all new developments, be they infill plots, regeneration sites, or urban extensions are based on a considered understanding of the town's history, character, landscape and an understanding of community aspirations and needs. Urban design and landscape design principles and new technology can all help to deliver a sustainable future - one that meets the needs of today and safeguards Mirfield so that it can meet the needs of future generations to come.*

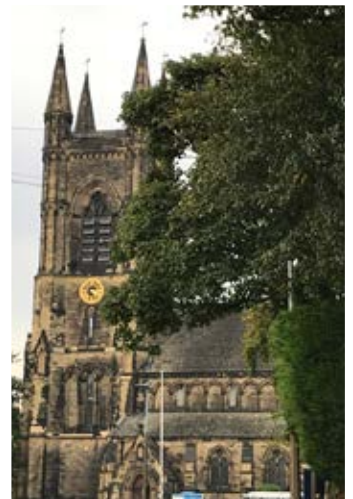


Figure 3: Photographs of a variety of places and features around Mirfield

## 1.6 Planning policy & guidance

This section references relevant policies and guidance at the national and local levels that have informed the preparation of this guide and should further inform development proposals in the neighbourhood area also.

### 1.6.1 National Policy & Guidance

- **National Planning Policy Framework (2023 update)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places significant emphasis upon design, stating that good design is indivisible from good planning. NPPF requires local authorities to give significant weight to outstanding or innovative designs and should refuse permission for poor design that fails to take opportunity to improve character and quality of an area and how it functions.

- **National Planning Practice Guidance**  
The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) sets out further guidance on the importance of good design, what is a well-designed place and what processes and tools can be used to achieve good design.

#### Key guidance documents:

- **The National Design Guide (2019), National Model Design Code (2021)**

The National Design Guide (NDG) and National Model Design Code (NMDC) set out the 10 characteristics of a well-designed place and demonstrate what good design is and how to code for it in practice. The characteristics are: Context; Identity; Built Form; Movement; Nature; Public Spaces; Uses; Homes & Buildings; Resources; and, Lifespan (see diagram)



Figure 4: National Design Guide diagram for 10 characteristics of a well designed places

- **Secured by Design Homes (2023)**  
Sets out detailed considerations for how the design of new build homes can help reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime.
- **Manual for Streets (2007)** The key recommendation of the Manual is that increased consideration should be given to the 'place' function of streets. This function is essentially what distinguishes a street from a road, where the main purpose is to facilitate movement.
- **Building for a Healthy Life (2020)** sets out a checklist for how good design can be achieved in residential schemes. To be read in conjunction with the original Building For Life 12 document.
- **Sport England Active Design Principles**  
The design of development can have positive impacts on health and well-being. The Sport England Active Design Principles provides guidelines for how the design of the built environment can increase physical activity

## 1.6.2 Local Planning Policy

### The Kirklees Local Plan (adopted 2019)

The Kirklees Local Plan was adopted on 27 February 2019. It comprises the strategy and policies document, allocations and designations document and associated policies map.

Key policy references include: **LP24 Design, LP25 Advertisements and shopfronts** and **LP26 Renewable and low Carbon Energy**.

### Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance:

- **Housebuilder Design Guide SPD**  
This guidance is intended for use by residential developers and aims to ensure future housing development is high quality, socially inclusive and built to high environmental standards. The document provides guidance for housing developers on working with the Council at the outset of the development process to meet our aspiration of achieving quality places.
- **House Extensions and Alterations SPD**  
This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to help householders, developers, agents and architects who are planning and designing an extension or alterations (householder development) to an existing residential property, including conservatories and outbuildings, such as garages. It provides detailed guidance regarding the standard of development that will help achieve a well-designed house extension or alteration required by the Council.

- **Open Space SPD**

The Open Space SPD provides detailed guidance for applicants and the local community on the requirements for open space, sports and recreation provision to serve new housing developments. It sets out a five step-by-step approach to be used in determining the types, amount and location of open space required to serve new housing developments across Kirklees.

- **Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note**

The draft Biodiversity Net Gain Technical Advice Note provides clarity for applicants on how to achieve biodiversity net gain through development within Kirklees and supports national and local legislation. It sets out clear guidance on how biodiversity should be considered throughout the development process, including the utilisation of Defra's Biodiversity metric to demonstrate a 10% net gain in biodiversity which is due to be mandated by the Environment Bill.

### Other documents and guidance:

- Kirklees Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (2017)
- Upper Hopton Draft Conservation Area Appraisal (2007)
- Mirfield Design Statement (2002) - see Appendix (A1) for Building Requirements and Summary

## 1.7 About this design guide

### 1.7.1 Where does it apply

The design guidance in this document refers to major development (more than 10 homes), minor development (less than 10 homes), small scale infill development and redevelopment of existing buildings.

Aspects of the guidance also applies to streets and public realm design and as such can inform the improvement of spaces along streets in the town and local centres.

The design guidance ties in with good urban planning towards low carbon, walkable neighbourhoods and active travel that enables 'living locally', benefits mental health and promotes community cohesion.

The guidance applies to new development that requires planning permission and is not generally aimed at the individual householder.

The design guidance aims to add detail to local planning policy but does not supersede any aspect of it. Likewise, for listed buildings and conservation areas that are addressed in this guidance the local planning authority remains the primary source for planning advice regarding what development may be permitted.

### 1.7.2 Justifying alternatives

Exceptions to this guide are possible but must be robustly justified and in keeping with the spirit of the design guide. The guide is not intended to stifle creativity or excellent

design solutions that are in keeping with or complimentary to the historic character of the town or enhance the sustainability or meet the local needs for housing within the town.

These issues should be considered on their merits and competing aims balanced through the design and planning process but must be both high-quality and well-designed.

Alternatives that gain widespread support from the community, due to their use type (for example a community facility) should be judged on their merits.

### 1.7.3 Community engagement

Consultation with different demographics and stakeholders, regular communication and close liaison with community groups must form a key part of the design process from an early stage, where designs can be affected and improved. This must continue throughout Outline Application, Reserved Matters stages as part of both design process and formal consultation.

Following up with monitoring and surveys of built development can also help with innovation towards delivering sustainable, well-loved developments. Using the design guide topics is a useful way to structure dialogue with stakeholders and evidence local distinctiveness within designs, and find appropriate precedent schemes.

### 1.7.4 Who will use the design guide?

The Design Guide will be a valuable tool in securing context-driven, high-quality, sustainable new development in Mirfield. It will be used differently by different groups in the planning and development process, as summarised in the following table.

An important way this document can be used is as part of consultation and engagement on new developments

with residents and community groups that aims to address local preferences and expectations for design quality.

The guide can be used to facilitate conversations on key topics to align expectations and to help achieve a balance of design aims.

A design guide alone cannot automatically secure good design outcomes, but it will help inform a better design process and give clarity on design expectations for all concerned.

Potential users	How they will use the design guide
<b>Applicants, developers, &amp; landowners</b>	As a guide to community and Local Planning Authority expectations on design, allowing a degree of certainty – they will be expected to follow the Guidelines as planning consent is sought.
<b>Local planning authority</b>	As a reference point, embedded in policy, against which to assess planning applications.  The Design Guidelines should be discussed with applicants during any pre-application discussions.
<b>Neighbourhood plan steering group (and Parish Council)</b>	To inform the writing of design policy within the neighbourhood plan.  As a reference when commenting on planning applications, ensuring that the Design Areas inform proposals
<b>Community groups &amp; local residents</b>	As a tool to promote community-backed development and to inform comments on planning applications.
<b>Statutory consultees</b>	As a reference point when commenting on planning applications.

**Table 01:** User groups and how they will use the design guide



Context & Identity

02

## 2. Context & Identity

### 2.1 District Context

The following is an extract from Kirklees Local Plan Policy, 2019 (Policy Justification 11.4, Design). It outlines the Kirklees District context to the neighbourhood area, whilst highlighting many key issues that are highly applicable to Mirfield's neighbourhood area and addressed in further detail throughout this document.



#### Kirklees District

*Kirklees is a diverse district, encompassing a range of development styles and types from different eras. Several hilltop settlements have medieval origins, whilst the valleys and main towns were developed from the industrial revolution.*

*Development in the latter half of the last century was focused around large industrial [expansion] and car-dominated residential [estates]. From the end of the last century, to now, former industrial land in the middle of settlements has been re-used for residential, leisure and retail development.*

*Kirklees has more heritage assets than any other local authority in Yorkshire. Many of these are intrinsic to the character of the townscape, further information is in the policy on the Historic Environment.*

*The canal network across the district is a legacy of the industrial revolution; new development can help to enhance its setting and support the recreational role that it has today.*

*The topography across much of the district, particularly towards the Pennines in the west of the district, means that views and vistas should be given particular consideration, especially towards the Peak District National Park.*

*The diverse built and natural environment in the district presents a range of different challenges, requiring bespoke solutions to help respect and enhance character, particularly within conservation areas and when development proposals may impact on the setting of listed buildings.*

*The urban areas of the district are surrounded by Green Belt where national policy states that local planning authorities should plan positively to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity. Development in the Green Belt should wherever possible ensure the use of vernacular building styles and traditional materials and that surface and boundary treatments are sensitive to their setting. Native species should be used if any planting is required in order to mitigate the impact of development.*

## 2.2 The Neighbourhood Area

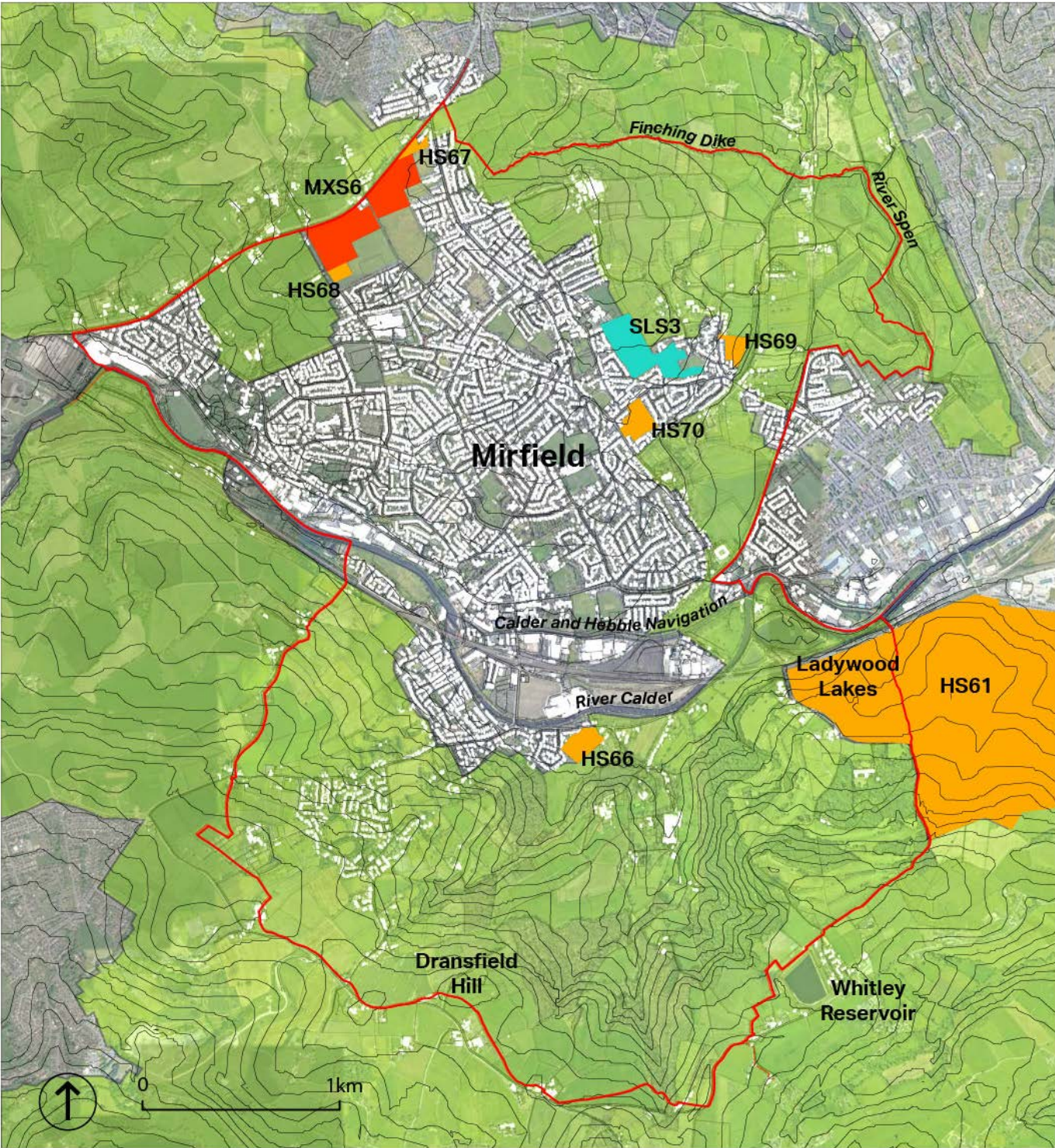
Mirfield is a town and civil parish in Kirklees, West Yorkshire (formerly part of the West Riding of Yorkshire historically). It is approximately 6.7km northeast of Huddersfield. It is on the A644 which links between Brighouse and Dewsbury (a main district centre). At the 2011 census it had a population of 19,563. The town is served by Mirfield railway station and straddles the River Calder, up both slopes of the Calder Valley but more densely to the north. Almost two-thirds of the plan area is designated Green Belt. Several housing and mixed-use sites are allocated within the area. To the East, mostly outside of the NDP boundary, is a large allocation of housing for up to 4,000 homes (Dewsbury Strategic Riverside Site). The village of Upper Hopton has a designated Conservation Area.

### Overview & guidance note

The neighbourhood area covers a broad range of locations, including the main settlement of Mirfield (town centre and suburbs) and hillside village of Upper Hopton; the river Calder valley, and road, rail, and canal infrastructure serving current and former valley bottom industry. The settlement areas are surrounded by Green Belt and rural farmland with a few scattered hamlets and other, mainly agricultural buildings.

**Design guidance in this document applies to the neighbourhood area as outlined in red on the adjacent map.**





- Neighbourhood area
- Other policies
  - Green Belt
  - Housing allocation
  - Mixed use allocation
  - Safeguarded land

Figure 5: Mirfield neighbourhood area & Local Plan development sites

## 2.3 Settlement Origins

Located within a significant former coal mining area and various other industries including wool textiles, agriculture and malting (processing malt for food and drink) played a part in its history. Likely an agricultural settlement originally (e.g. Upper Hopton), the various villages expanded significantly during and after the industrial revolution and changed into a sprawling developed area with the addition of housing developments and modern business activity / diversification.

- Originally Mirfield will have been covered by forests that were compacted over many thousands of years and compressed to coal which, once found, triggered a lucrative mining industry in Mirfield through C19 and early C20.
- In 1871 a first church had been built and consecrated in Mirfield. The tower still stands next to the parish church (itself a highly visible local landmark).
- In C14 Mirfield was a prosperous centre for the woollen industry, based mainly around textiles, but it was already a place of some agricultural and industrial importance and later the emphasis moved towards mining and malting.
- Before the late 1960's Mirfield was the site of a busy locomotive depot and sorting sidings covering a great area and with much activity. Closure of the Battyeford Station and the Leeds New Line impacted the town as part of national railway saving strategy.
- The River Calder has been the life blood of the town from fishing (and even skating) to the movement of resources on the Victorian constructed Calder and Hebble Navigation. This proximity and takeover by industry of an ecological corridor comes at an environmental and biodiversity cost (will need to achieve biodiversity net gain now).
- Various quarry sites and slag heaps associated to the mining industry have long been shut down and some sites were built on and/or redeveloped for new housing schemes.

### Guidance

By looking at historic mapping (see samples over page) it is possible to see the historic layout and distinctive elements of the various settlements - centres, routes, spaces and buildings, that have merged in places to form the present day settlement area of Mirfield.

**Both the elements that have been lost (but are recorded, for example in mapping or photographs) and the elements that remain within the urban fabric are a design resource that should be used to identify successful patterns and precedents for new development that is in keeping with its context and location.**



Figure 6: Historic OS Map Extracts (1892)



Figure 7: Historic OS Map Extracts (1948)

### 2.3.1 Historic Focus Areas

A primary purpose of this document is to set out an evidence base that helps to protect and enhance the historic character of the town and its various significant heritage assets within the setting of the Calder River Valley, setting the tone for regeneration and planned development.

Historic Focus Areas are highlighted to help understand the origin of the settlements, their underlying character, and a better understanding of local identity within Mirfield's merged - suburbs. An understanding of these areas and the local vernacular features within can help inform new development as such.

The Historic Focus Areas were identified from historic mapping and consultation with the NP steering group who sense checked the selection to provide a representative sample across the area.

Most of the focus areas originated as a small village, hamlet or settlement based around a church, farmstead or industry. Most have now been merged by later suburban settlement growth to become part of a more continuous urban area (with the exception of Upper Hopton, a distinct village within the Green Belt).

The following Historic Focus Areas were identified from studying historic mapping and field observations of the built environment:

1. Upper Hopton
2. Town Centre (Eastthorpe)
3. St. Mary's and Towngate
4. Little London City (inc. Lee Green & Green Side)
5. The Knowle
6. Northorpe
7. Battyeford
8. Lower Hopton
9. Calder Valley Industry
10. Rural landscape (Greenbelt)

#### Guidance

The overriding characteristics of many pockets of historic development in Mirfield include; building alignment to sloping topography, views and relationship to the wider valley; connecting low front boundary walls and use of sandy coloured brick and stone as building materials.

**It is important that new buildings add to this local vernacular or innovate with purpose and respect for the general material palette and building typologies of the neighbourhood area.**

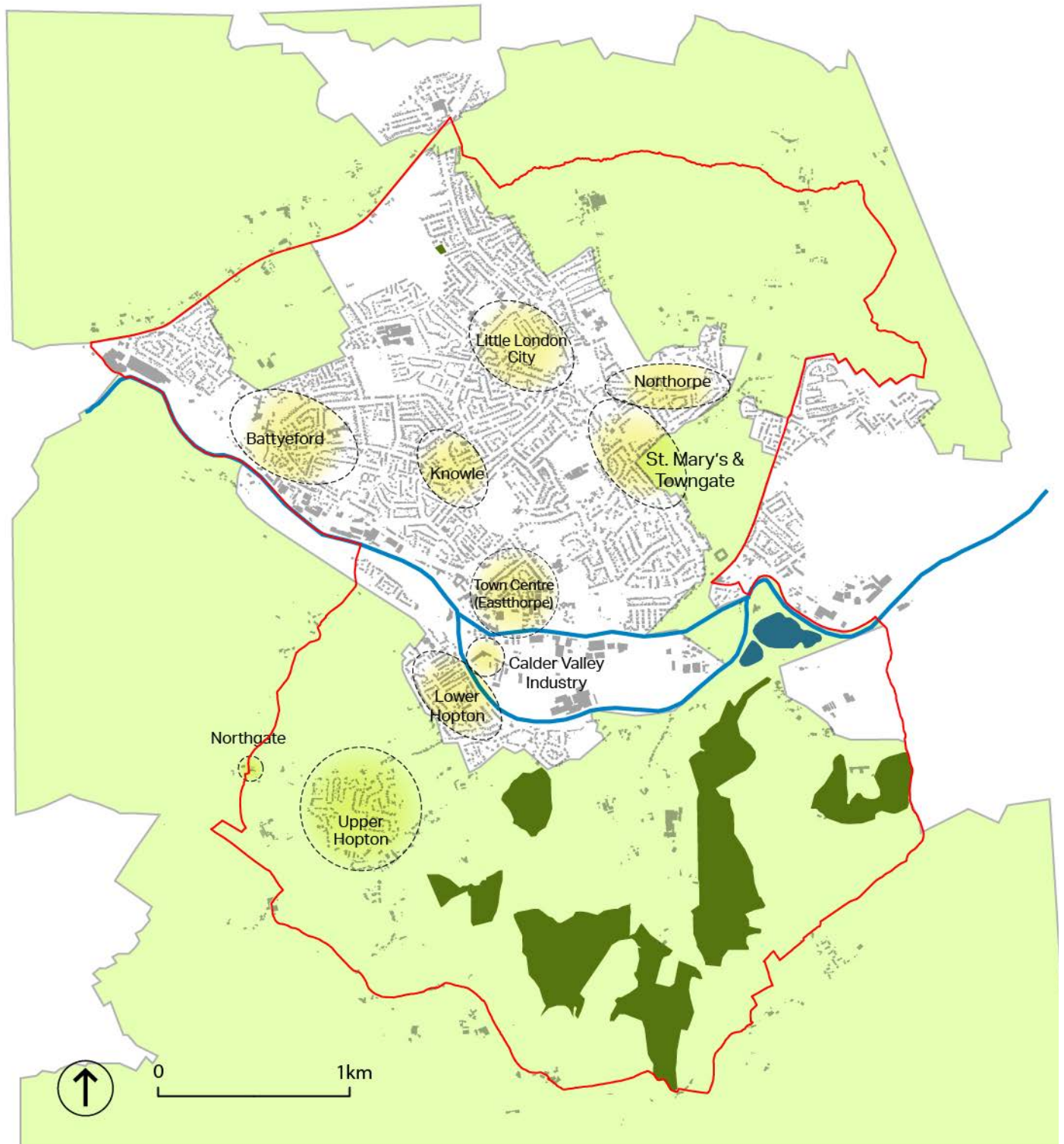


Figure 8: Historic Focus Areas map

### 2.3.2 Character areas to inform future development proposals

The Historic Focus Areas have informed the design guidelines relating to the local vernacular set out within this section.

They are also acknowledged in the character areas and design guidelines in Section 3. However, there is awareness that there is a great deal of change that has happened and the codes are not intended to stifle innovation.

The character areas are highlighted below and listed in the table opposite.

**See also larger map in Section 3.**

#### Guidance

- New development must have regard to local character and make a positive contribution to local built and landscape character and identity.
- New development should respect the scale, mass and form of the existing character buildings in the area.
- Development proposals must set out a response to the characteristics of the area (see example table over page).
- **See Section 3 for Character Area Design Guidelines.**

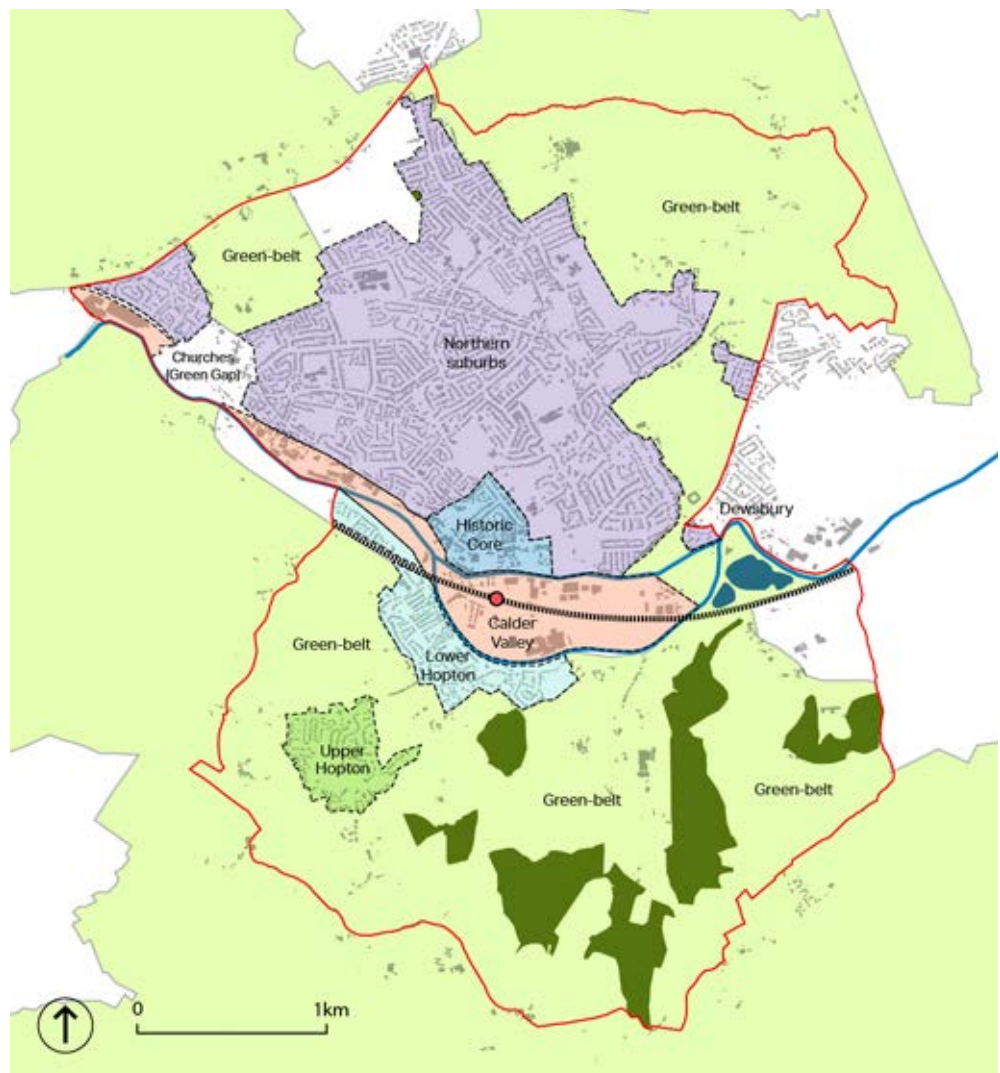








Figure 9: Character Areas map

Figure 10: Character areas issues and opportunities table

CHARACTER AREAS ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES TABLE					
		Identity / rootedness	Design issues	Typical opportunities	Sample image
LOCATION / CHARACTER TYPE	1. Upper Hopton (rural village with Conservation Area)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-rural hillside village;</li> <li>Origins - farming &amp; industry (wool textiles, agriculture &amp; malting);</li> <li>Church &amp; community centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lanes; Walls, boundaries, mature trees / hedgerows and footways;</li> <li>Loss of historic floorscape</li> <li>Increased space/ support for walking &amp; cycling;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional infill plot;</li> <li>Conversion or extension of agricultural building;</li> <li>Affordable housing;</li> <li>Innovative design (e.g. eco-barn)</li> </ul>	
	2. Historic Core (including town centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linear urban centre (Fairtrade Town / Mirfield Show; Mirfield food &amp; craft Fayre);</li> <li>Valley bottom/ riverside;</li> <li>Origins - River / canal (boatyards) industry (wool textiles &amp; maltings)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High Street, Community uses, public realm areas;</li> <li>Frontage; Car parking;</li> <li>Townscape; shopfronts</li> <li>Public realm links;</li> <li>Slowing traffic and supporting strategic pedestrian &amp; cycling;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Mixed-use frontage; Brownfield Land; Surface parking; Conversion of historic asset; Heritage led / Canalside sites</li> <li>Affordable housing;</li> <li>✗ - Box re tail; low density development</li> </ul>	
	3. Northern Suburbs (including local centres)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South-facing hillside communities;</li> <li>Including Suburban streets, historic villages; local centres; schools, open spaces &amp; institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing historic focus areas;</li> <li>Maintaining green corridors / views;</li> <li>Character of historic thoroughfares ; Connected walls &amp; consistent plot boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infill sites;</li> <li>Backlands development;</li> <li>Urban extensions;</li> <li>Variety and capacity for change but underpinned by core vernacular townscape and materials on main streets/ focus areas</li> </ul>	
	4. Lower Hopton (urban riverside location)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former industrial urban housing;</li> <li>Community beside the River Calder, opposite Ledgard Mill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverside frontage &amp; connectivity;</li> <li>Urban street enclosure</li> <li>Additional on-street parking and landscaping required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riverside frontage (mixed-use);</li> <li>Urban infill (terrace);</li> <li>Conversion (works);</li> </ul>	
	5. Calder Valley Industry (Industrial, valley bottom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valley bottom; flood plain;</li> <li>Gateways;</li> <li>Green infrastructure &amp; farmland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe streets and spaces connecting the station;</li> <li>Green &amp; blue infrastructure connectivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regeneration of brownfield land;</li> <li>Flood plain sites</li> <li>Converted industrial;</li> <li>Transport orientated development;</li> <li>Employment uses; green infrastructure</li> </ul>	
	6. Green belt (rural hamlets & farmsteads)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open and wooded hillsides;</li> <li>Isolated farmsteads and hamlets; countryside access &amp; unspoilt views</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting green belt and small scale sustainable / affordable housing development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green-belt / green field;</li> <li>Innovative isolated plot;</li> <li>Conversion or extension of agricultural building;</li> <li>Affordable housing;</li> </ul>	

## 2.4 Landscape & topography

### Topography, flood risk and views

The town is sited within the Calder Valley on the eastern slopes of the Pennine foothills. Open spaces (e.g. church yards, recreation fields, school pitches), riversides, tow-paths and streets allow views across the town and out or along the Calder Valley and to countryside. It was once said that you can see a field from every street in Mirfield... no longer the case but gaps between buildings allow many glimpsed views out to the countryside and hills which provide an important link between the town and its rural hinterland.

The topography and hydrology of the Calder River valley is integral to the settlement pattern of Mirfield's settlement and indeed it's origins and growth in terms of water powered mills and industry. The valley bottom is naturally at risk of flooding but this area is fairly limited in Mirfield due to the steepness of the valley sides and is predominantly kept free of residential development but allowed for industrial uses. Flood defences are also in place.

The moderately sloping hillsides north of the river influence the pattern of routes, streets and spaces and require the alignment of homes and buildings to take significant slopes into account in places. South of the river the slopes are steeper and likely part of the reason this side is less developed. Solar orientation also favours the sun facing northern side of the valley.

- **Woodland:** Some woodland cover remains on the hillsides south of the river, which was a previously largely wooded area, some are classified as Ancient Woodland. Predominantly in the south / south-east are Covey Clough Wood (predominantly deciduous trees); Briery Bank, (deciduous trees and scrub), Gregory Spring Wood, Whitley Wood, Jordan Wood and Oliver Wood.
- **Watercourses:** The River Calder rises on Heald Moor in Lancashire and then flows east into West Yorkshire through green countryside, former woollen-mill village and large and small towns (including Mirfield) before joining the River Aire near Castleford. The Calder and Hebble Navigation is a broad inland waterway, with locks and bridgeholes that are suitable for 14-foot-wide (4.3m) boats. The Navigation starts in Wakefield, where there is an end-on junction with the Aire and Calder Navigation and runs upstream through Mirfield, after which there is a junction with the Huddersfield Broad Canal, to arrive at Sowerby Bridge, where it meets the Rochdale Canal.



Figure 11: Upper Hopton Recreation ground



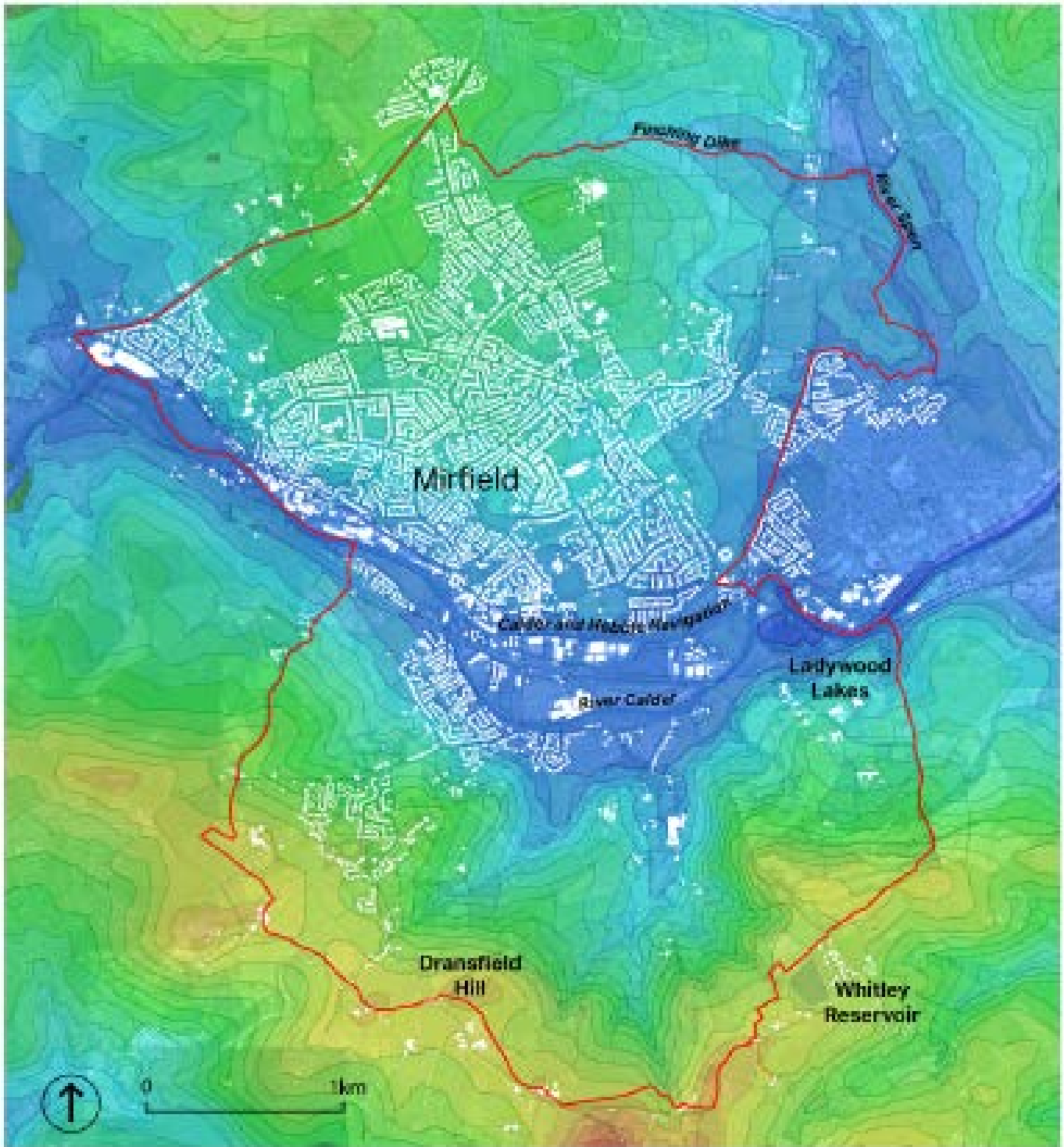


Figure 12: Topography and building pattern

## Guidance

### Layout, Topography & flood risk

The relationship of Mirfield's buildings to its valley form is key to the sense of place and settlement character, but its location comes with risk, relating to flooding. This particularly affects the valley bottom but all development can help to address this throughout the area.

- **Avoid siting homes in high risk flood areas and ensure development does not contribute to increasing flood risk either for itself or other sites due to its form and location.**
- **Mitigate risk of flooding from storms and heavy rainfall with sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), including swales, ponds and rain gardens.**



- **Collect water for reuse, for example in a water butt or a rainwater harvesting system. This reduces pressure on valuable water sources.**
- **Development must maintain the connection to the landscape by relating streets, buildings and spaces to the sloping topography.**
- **Relate built form to any sloping landform and topography by stepping or extending storeys down or up slope to minimise the need for extensive cut and fill.**
- **Consider how the orientation of streets, blocks, terraces, building façades and roofscapes help to read or reinforce the sense of topography and respond to traditional building patterns that align to, or run counter to the valley's contours.**

See table over page for further considerations and examples of development layout and topography in mirfield

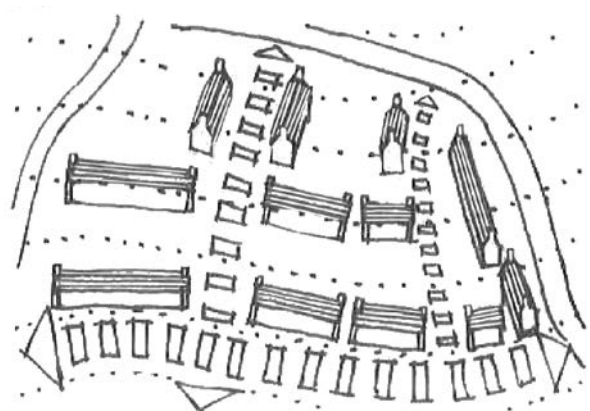


Figure 13: Building and street alignment to topography

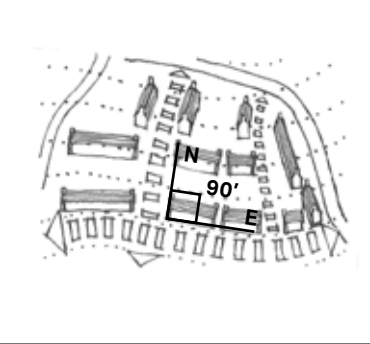


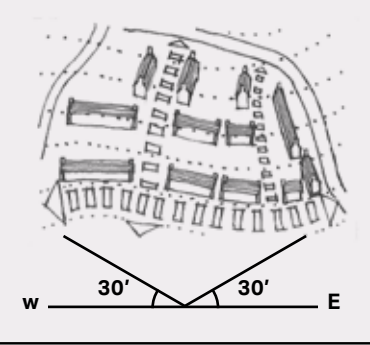
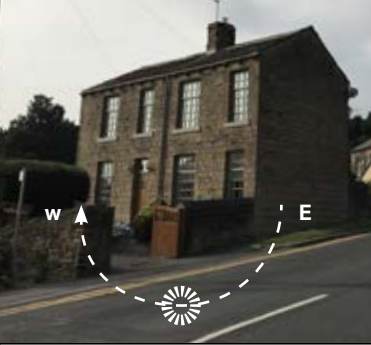

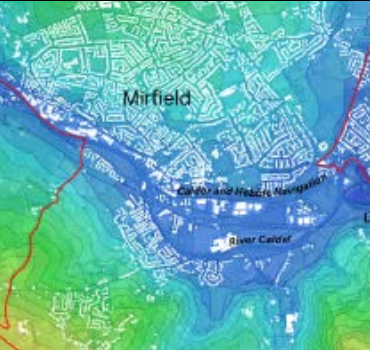


		Considerations	Street / Block	Main façade (main entrance and openings)	Roof alignment (if independent)
LAYOUT & TOPOGRAPHY	Angle to the street:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Maintaining order between streets and building blocks will allow a coherent, legible grid.</li> <li>✓ - Adapt with topography / existing routes, some may require shallower gradients.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Parallel or 90° with lane/path access (typical of area)</li> <li>✗ - Avoid a 'sawtooth' alignment unless responding to site levels or for solar orientation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Parallel or 90° to match or oppose façade/street;</li> <li>☉ - Custom angles may create a less harmonious roofscape;</li> </ul>
		 			
	Angle for solar orientation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Longest streets to run within 0-30° of east-west, subject to levels to optimise building orientation for daylighting &amp; solar gain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - 0-30° of east west (optimises daylighting)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - 0-30° of east-west (optimises solar panel production potential)</li> <li>✗ - North-facing mono-pitches (low capacity);</li> <li>☉ - North facing rooflights provide even daylighting</li> </ul>	
			 		
	Alignment to / topography (east-west valley):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Retain minimum cross-fall on streets for drainage</li> <li>✗ - Do not exceed maximum gradient on streets (1-12) for pedestrian comfort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Longest side to run within 0-30° of east-west</li> <li>✗ - Longest side to run counter to topography (unless stepped)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Longest side to run within 0-30° of valley topography (efficiencies / responding to reinforcing the urban-landscape character)</li> </ul>	
			 		

Figure 14: Table of layout and topography considerations and examples from Mirfield, and further afield.

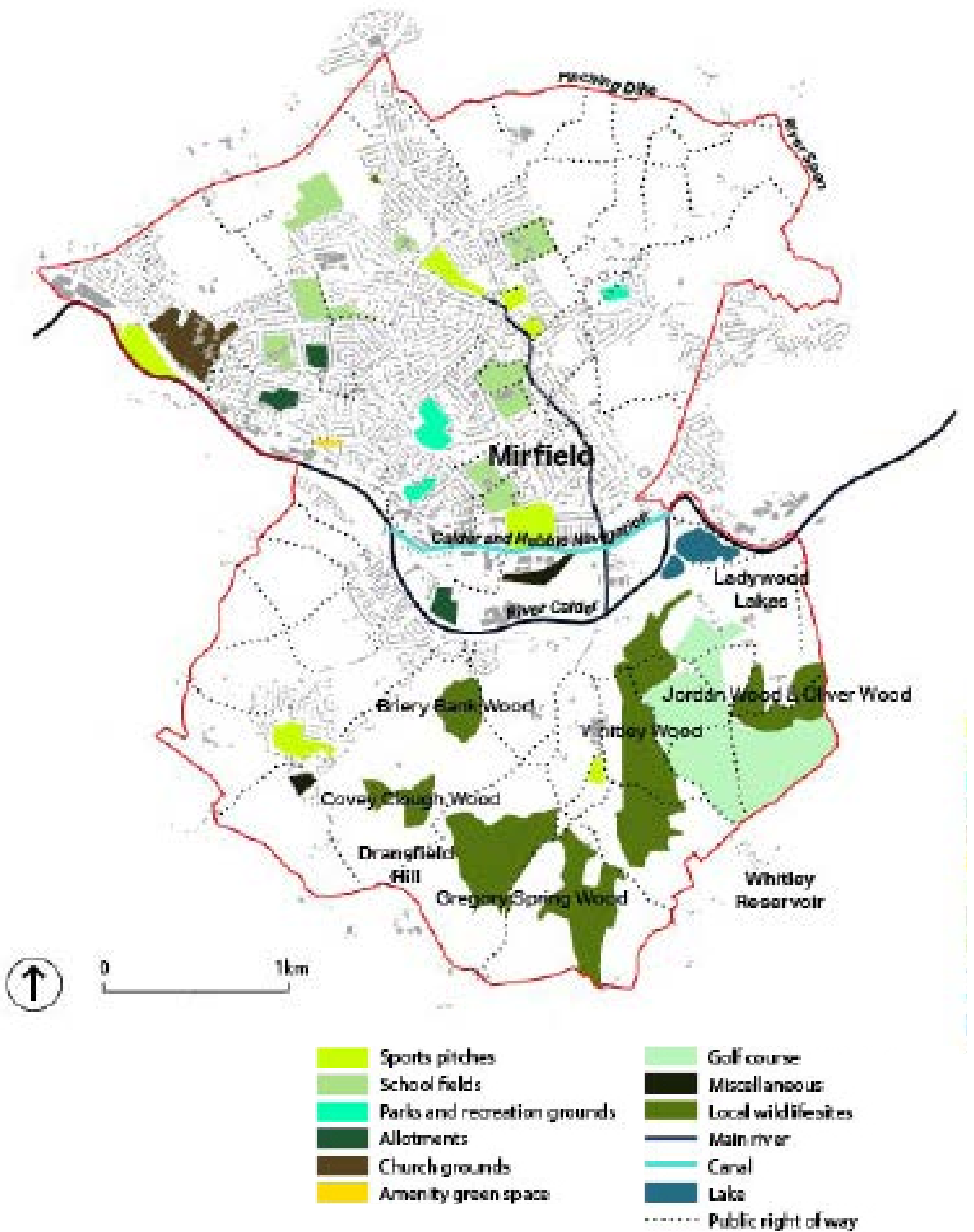


Figure 15: Open Spaces & Public Rights of Way

## Open spaces and Public Rights of Way

There are a variety of types of open spaces distributed across the Neighbourhood Plan area including; sports pitches, school fields, parks and recreation grounds, allotments, church grounds and smaller amenity green spaces (see map over page). Linear spaces such as the riverside and canal towpath are also valuable connecting 'green and blue' spaces running along the valley bottom. Dewsbury District golf course is on the hillside towards the south-east of the area and incorporates several public rights of way.

There are many more public rights of way traversing the valley slopes and (in combination) following the valley bottom, including the Calder and Hebble Navigation towpath. Upper Hopton is connected to Lower Hopton and there are sections of footpath throughout the northern body of the town which connect between neighbourhoods and historic open spaces, alongside the extensive street footpath network. There is excellent coverage of footpaths around the woodland to the south-east of the Neighbourhood Area and throughout Green belt areas, giving good access to the countryside from the urban areas.



Figure 16: Mirfield memorial recreation ground



## Guidance

To ensure that development fits within its context it is important to understand the landscape character of the location. Development that is responsive to both this character and the finer grain green infrastructure of a site then it will maintain Mirfield's green character and distinctive sense of place within the Calder Valley. This will help to support biodiversity by connecting and enhancing habitat and ecology networks.

- **Existing views to the countryside and notable landmarks must be retained and enhanced. Take steps to ensure that buildings nestle within the landscape setting and do not detract from views, either by 'skylining' or otherwise standing out in the valley.**
- **The open spaces identified in the Neighbourhood Plan are protected from development. New open spaces in development must be accessible, safe, overlooked and located within the site for accessibility and to integrate with the wider green infrastructure network.**
- **Public rights of way provide routes across the area. Development must retain their setting and provide clear gateways to extend the network.**

## 2.5 Movement & streets

The plan on the next page shows the key movement routes across the neighbourhood area, the main connecting streets and the pattern of centres in the settlement. The footpaths that are part of and extend this important network are highlighted on the previous plan also.

### Footpaths and Bridleways

Mirfield has some 80 footpaths, with a total length of 7km (see figure 6 Open Spaces and Public Rights of Way).

### Cycle Routes

A strategic cycle route the 'Calder Valley Greenway' passes through Mirfield. The route runs from the Colne Bridge as National Route 66, taking you all the way to Dewsbury via Mirfield. The current route passes through the town centre and a new route is being consulted on that will use quieter paths or streets, avoiding the Huddersfield Road within the town centre.

### Public Transport

Mirfield has a train station, which consists of several platforms; benefiting from direct trains to Leeds, Huddersfield, Manchester and London.

Longstaff's, a private company operates the 205 between Mirfield & Dewsbury via Northorpe & Ravensthorpe (similar to the 202). The 261 goes from Mirfield to Cleckheaton via Roberttown, Liversedge & Heckmondwike. The 262 from Huddersfield to Mirfield goes via Kirkheaton and Upper Hopton. The National Express to London calls twice daily and stops at major cities en route. Road links to Wakefield & Halifax are covered by National Express.

### Bridges and gateways

The railway, river and canal provide links (for boats, wildlife and people) but act as barriers within the area. As such Mirfield has numerous bridges including Cooper Bridge (Leeds Road); Wood Lane Bridge (to Hopton Lane); railway bridge; Ledgard Bridge; Hopton New Road; and Steanard Lane.



*Battayford Island nature reserve*



*Battyford Toll Bridge (Halfpenny Bridge)*



*Ings Grove Park bus shelter, Huddersfield Road*

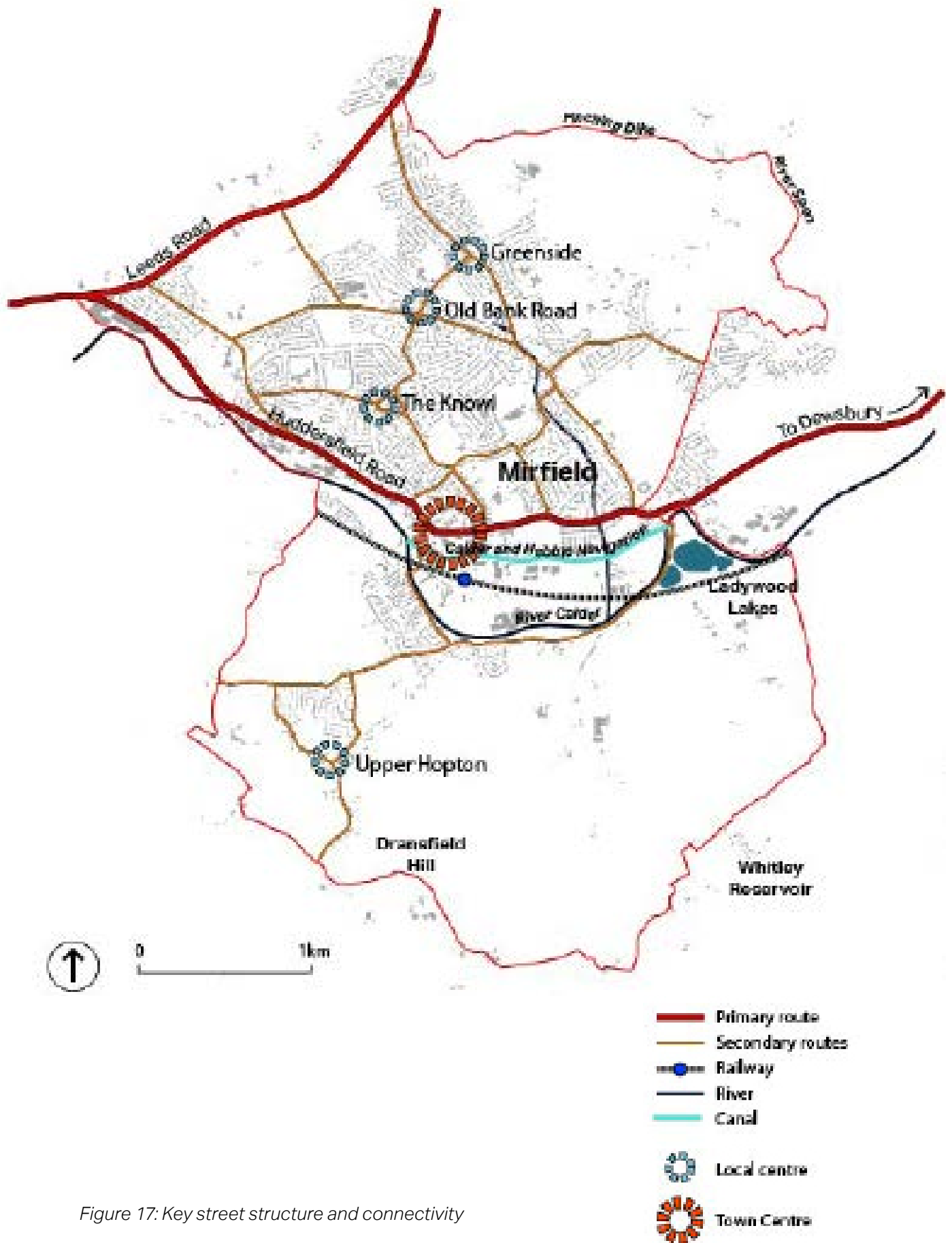


Figure 17: Key street structure and connectivity

## 2.5.1 Street hierarchy

It is important to understand the street pattern of the settlement as it is today. This network forms an essential movement structure for both people and vehicles - as such it has a place and a movement function that effects the use and perception of safety, comfort, ease of movement and attractiveness for all modes of movement.

### Primary streets

The A62, which connects Huddersfield with Leeds forms the north-west boundary of the neighbourhood area.

The busy Huddersfield Road (A644) passes between the Leeds Road (A62) to the east, through Mirfield, to Dewsbury to the west (following the former Turnpike Road). This route passes directly through the town centre of Mirfield as a high street. Here the *highway function* sometimes competes with the *place function*, creating a degree of conflict for local pedestrian and cyclist movement and through traffic

### Secondary streets

The secondary street pattern of connecting neighbourhood streets north of the River Calder criss-crosses the hillside, often following historic field / estate boundaries and lanes and that previously connected the historic settlements, estates and

farmsteads. Church Lane forms a boundary to the east and also connects west across the Hillside via Dunbottle Lane, Green Lane and Kitson Hill Road.

To the south of the river, Calder Road follows the River from Newgate (crossing to the town centre) until it meets Hopton Lane which connects Upper and Lower Hopton. Granny Lane/Steuard Lane connects the outlying properties and estates further east along the River Calder.

### Tertiary streets

The other streets in the neighbourhood area generally fall under the category of tertiary streets. These consist of intimate scale residential access streets and lanes.

Residential access streets give frontage access to private plots and are designed to carry traffic at slower speeds to and from homes and provide

Lanes are informal streets that relate to both the urban area (for example providing access at the backs of properties where it cannot be provided at the front) or rural areas where they may not have footpaths and be constrained by hedgerows.



Figure 18: Example: of poorly connected street pattern with cul-de-sacs with a limited hierarchy



Figure 19: Example of well connected hierarchy of streets with a variety of levels linking well



## Street character

The primary and secondary streets of Mirfield form 'the face' of the town and as such it is particularly important to reinforce their historic character and retain qualities that add to an attractive street-scene. Like a good building, a good street has an effect on those that use it and encourages walking and cycling alongside providing a feeling of joy or at the very least just safety, will encourage modal shift for local journey.



Figure 20: Example of typical street frontages in Mirfield with low boundary walls on busier streets



Figure 21: Northorpe Lane lacks boundary walls but has a green verge with footpath beside front doors

## Guidance

Primary and secondary streets form the strategic street network for all modes and are the focus of this guidance.

**Primary Streets:** Primary routes will benefit from care for their historic aspects including dry-stone walls and traditional building frontages. Rebalancing and increasing space for footpaths, cycle-paths and incorporation of planting helps regulate the environment. Avenue tree-planting on approaches to the settlements would help create more attractive gateways.

**Where passing through the town centre carriageways and junctions should be restricted in size, use high-quality surface materials (e.g. block paving), and include safe crossing points on key desire lines, to regulate traffic flow and aid pedestrians.**

**Secondary streets:** Short development setbacks for terraces and masonry front boundary walls to define plots helps to create the 'joined-up' built form that characterises traditional street-scenes. Hedgerow boundaries and planted verges maintain an attractive streetscene and a good degree of enclosure to signal to passing traffic that it should drive courteously within populated areas.

**Minimise highways infrastructure, Improve cycle and pedestrian paths where space allows to benefit non-vehicle modes and calm traffic. Provide space for planting to soften the environment and increase comfort for pedestrians and cyclists.**

**Tertiary streets:** Typical residential access streets require more intimate design measures to reduce scale and favour pedestrians and cyclists first. Allowances for service vehicles should comply with regulation but be dealt with sensibly to avoid gaping junction mouths and minimise excessive infrastructure provision in order to retain a sense of place commensurate with a historic settlement and place for people.

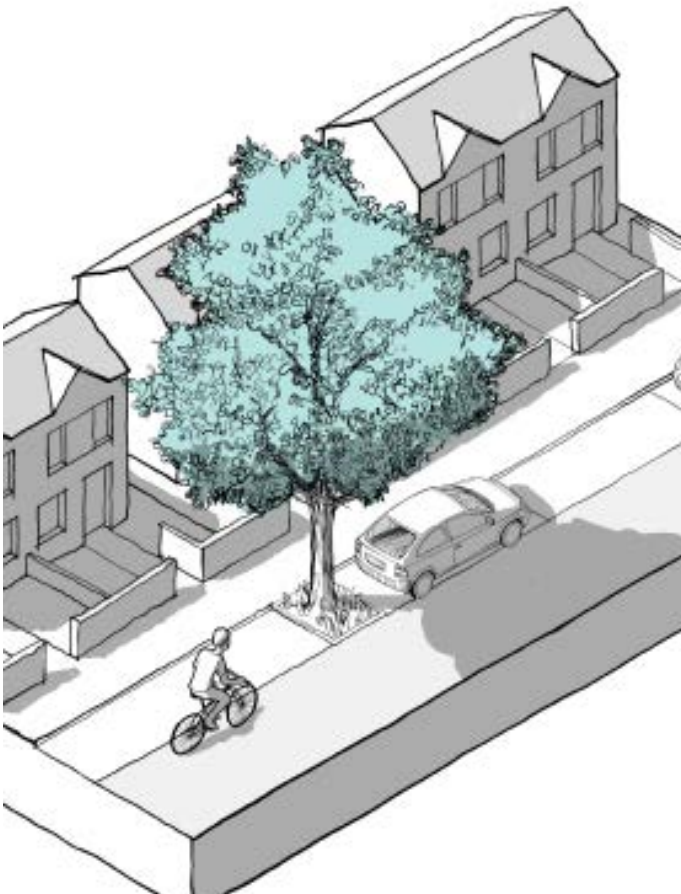
**Rural Lanes:** should retain all dry stone walls, hedgerows and planted verges to keep a transition to the landscape. Strict compliance with double sided footpaths cannot be expected but creative measures to increase cyclist and pedestrian safety, that do not erode character (e.g. natural material build-outs or planted verges rather than gaudy signage) must be considered if possible.



*Stone walls & mature trees on Church Lane give pleasant green character, contrasts with denser areas*



*No footpaths create an informal, flexible shared street space which slows traffic speed naturally.*



## Planting

The NPPF states that new streets should include tree planting. This should include;

- Street trees;
  - On-plot planting; and
  - Hedges, shrubs and verge planting.
- Retention of good quality trees and planting of new trees and other landscaping will be necessary to soften the streetscene, screen parking and unwelcome views and provide shading and cooling benefits to help moderate the impacts of climate change.
  - Including and protecting native species for biodiversity is paramount. Non-native or species with low biodiversity value should be avoided.

**New development**

Larger development should have a clear hierarchy of streets that; are designed for people first and vehicles second, integrate landscape and planting and are defined by buildings foremost rather than the carriageway layout and design itself. These will typically be within the tertiary streets category but may include streets that add connections within the town. Likewise connections to the countryside should consider the previous lane typology.



**1.** Min. 2m Footway    1.2 - 10m Landscaped verge    Max 6 - 6.75m Carriageway excluding partially inset bus stops    1.2 - 10m Landscaped verge    Foot/ Cycleway (min. 3m)



**2.** 2m Foot-way    1.2 - 2m Verge including parking to one side of street    4.8m Carriageway    2m Foot-way



**3.** 4.1 - 4.8m Carriageway/ foot-way    2.2m Parking/ landscape strip (Off-street)    0.5 - 1.5m Privacy strip

Figure 23: Illustrative street hierarchy in new development (1 - 3)

## 2.6 Neighbourhood Pattern

The neighbourhood area is characterised by two broad areas, the north of the neighbourhood is urbanised with an urban core (the town centre and riverside) and several small local centres distributed throughout the suburban housing that has *spread like gravy over a tablecloth* (to borrow a phrase from George Orwell) north of the Huddersfield Road.

The south of the neighbourhood area is largely rural with some small villages, one of which, Upper Hopton has a village centre with a small number of community facilities and services. Lower Hopton is more traditional and urban residential in nature (attached buildings) and fronts the river.

The northern and southern sides of the settlements are divided by several channels, barriers and strategic movement routes (as outlined in the previous section) following the valley-bottom, including; the Calder and Hebble Navigation, Leeds-Manchester railway line and the River Calder itself

Outlying farmsteads and hamlets are also situated within the Green Belt in more isolated locations, enjoying a more rural character and being associated with the valley's farmlands.

### 2.6.1 Land Uses

The predominant urban land use across the area is residential, mostly suburban in nature with a smattering of historic centres, schools, community facilities and churches in amongst. The two principle residential areas are north of the Huddersfield Road (suburban) and south of the River Calder including Lower Hopton (urban) and Upper Hopton (semi-rural). The northern residential area spreads north from the linear, mixed-use Town Centre that is formed along the Huddersfield Road.

The main employment areas are strung-out along the valley bottom (flood plain) and sandwiched between the River Calder and either the Calder and Hebble Navigation (canal) or the Huddersfield Road. Some residential redevelopment occupies former industrial sites, quarries and former mill buildings along this corridor now.

### 2.6.2 Walkable neighbourhoods

The 'walkability' of the town is important and can contribute to active and healthy lifestyles based on the town's topography. This must be in line with other modes of accessibility such as wheelchair use and cycling which become challenging on steeper slopes, to the north and south.

#### Guidance:

The neighbourhood plan group support the aspiration for:

- Everyone to live within five minutes walk of a significant green space or park, and never more than 10 minutes.
- Everyone to live within five minutes walk of a basic range of local facilities, including shops, and never more than 10 minutes.
- Homes, facilities, and green spaces to be linked by walkable, and green routes with high-quality walking and cycling infrastructure and, wherever possible, low levels of traffic.

This is in part a response to the issues highlighted during the pandemic, particularly, dissatisfaction with newer neighbourhoods that don't provide these daily needs (for detailed evidence see the 'Home Comforts' report by Place Alliance, 2020).

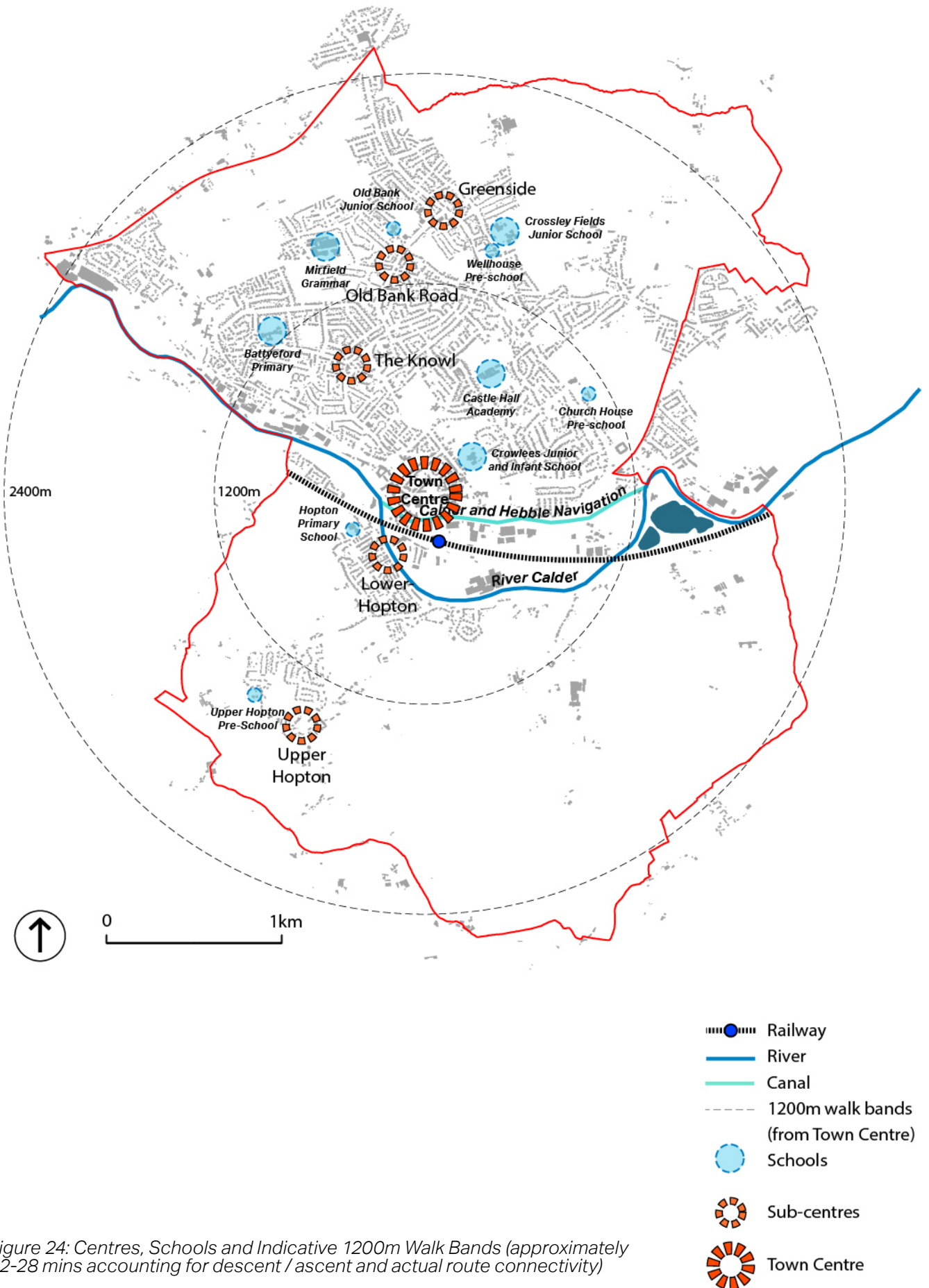


Figure 24: Centres, Schools and Indicative 1200m Walk Bands (approximately 22-28 mins accounting for descent / ascent and actual route connectivity)

## 2.7 Townscape & legibility

[See focus box for above title definitions]

The townscape, that special structure and form of the town is most important in the town centre but has also been eroded in places so that it no longer reads as coherently as it could. Important buildings such as the fire station may be fit for purpose but the scale and modern style pays no regard to the richness and 'rules of assembly' that have been used before and so it forms a poor end view to a key vista from Knowl Road. Where the buildings in Mirfield depart from the past completely is often where the town 'falls apart' somewhat and this is because buildings should not be designed in isolation from one another, or in isolation from the past layout which often responds to the very landscape and layers of history below it.

### Centres & identity

The town of Mirfield has grown up around several small settlements, some which were once villages in their own right. There are therefore several other smaller 'centres' clustering around the nucleus of the Town-centre at Eastthorpe.

The town centre exhibits much high quality building that has endured from its historic periods of growth with important, grander buildings forming a high street that signifies the historic identity and enduring commercial focus of the settlement.

Historic buildings add to the special sense of place today and indicate the importance of Mirfield historically. It is vital that new buildings continue to contribute to these qualities because they have endured, with many timeless qualities and robustly built.

The simple endurance of it is a testament to sustainable building form that is also built to

last and can be adapted, and has been, over time. Townhouses in the centre have provided homes, offices and shopfronts that have changed but mostly been fit for purpose to this day still.

[See Figure 13 for centres locations]

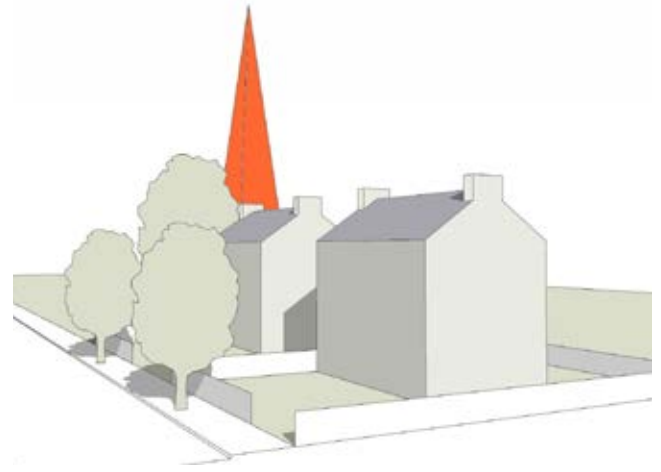
Definitions:

### 1. Townscape

*The term 'Townscape' refers to the overall character and composition of a town, including the buildings streets, spaces and details. Gordon Cullen, who pioneered the concept proposed it as, 'the art of giving visual coherence and organization to the jumble of buildings, streets and space that make up the urban environment'. As such, we are able to undertake an urban visual analysis to assess the degree to which these aspects are present, providing stimulation and a setting to urban exchange and interactions – an urban social life.*

### 2. Legibility

*The term 'Legibility' refers to the physical and spatial characteristics of the environment, including both visual and non-visual sensations of colour, scene, motion, smell, touch and sound. All are all cues for orientation within the urban environment that reinforce legibility.*



### Guidance

Paths, green and blue infrastructure features, public spaces, background architecture (e.g. street terraces) and focal buildings / landmarks (see above photos) all contribute to memorable places. A distinctive and 'legible' place that attracts people, via comfortable safe routes, will generate footfall and help to create community interaction, increase activity and serve local shops and businesses.

### Variety & richness

We must use the lessons of the past, a strong connection to the landscape and topography in town building to create meaningful and legible environments that delight and inform the user about use, location and importance. Beyond the more functional and aesthetic aspects there should also be some scope for variance and unusual delight from areas that can be discovered more deeply over time. Mirfield has these layers of history and pieces of the past to build around but cannot afford to lose any more of this character and future buildings must add to and repair the townscape, continuing the story. Of vital importance is that landscape character must also be recovered and knitted into this structure, not simply built over.

- **A comfortable, stimulating and legible townscape are qualities that all new development should must promote.**
- **Mirfield has a legible sense of place defined by its built form character of streets and spaces, as well as buildings. The vernacular principles of urban design and townscape include; a connected pattern of streets and spaces, defined by connected buildings and boundary walls, softened by hedgerows, planting and views to the landscape.**

## 2.8 Built form & heritage

### 2.8.1 Built form

The built form within the neighbourhood area varies according to age and character area. For example, villas are characteristic in Upper Hopton and simple worker cottages are characteristic in Lower Hopton. A strong understanding of existing characteristic buildings, which contribute to the local character within the landscape character type where the new development is located, is essential to ensure that the style of new development is appropriate. For example, a new building inspired by the villa types in Upper Hopton would be less appropriate in the Industrial valley bottom character area. See table over page for further examples.

#### Typical building types

The traditional buildings are a mixture of stone-built houses, halls, barns, terraces and cottages sometimes with secondary outbuildings, stables or garages. Buildings are typically up to two-storeys. The great majority of buildings are residential with some civic / community uses amongst them. The town centre is much more diverse in its uses with a range of shops, services and facilities as well as residential streets knitted close around it (St. Paul's Road and Knowl Road). In the outlying historic focus areas wide fronted stone terraces are mixed in amongst modern infill development but often hold key vistas as they were aligned to changes in direction of the lanes/field pattern. Narrower terraces sometimes at 90° to the street with gable end capping the view. Terraces and detached buildings (former halls or farms) are sometimes hidden within wider 'estate' blocks with narrow lanes serving them, adding interest.



Figure 25: Sample of a houses and industrial buildings in Mirfield

#### Traditional Building types:

- **Industrial** – mills and workshops, former work-houses
- **Institutional** - Churches, Chapels
- **Commercial** - shops & offices (townhouses)
- **Community** – Village halls, schools, libraries, pubs, sports pavilions
- **Halls** – former estates, many now developed (built over) as modern housing estates
- **Grander detached houses (town centre)** – 2 – 2.5 storey homes but grander in scale, e.g. in proximity to a park entrance as on Knowl Road
- **Terrace housing** - Stone terraces (industrial era) - wide fronted terraces on key frontages and narrower terraces stepping up hills
- **Farmhouses / barns** – stone houses in more isolated positions, often on hill-tops, often converted to private homes



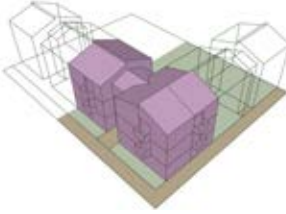
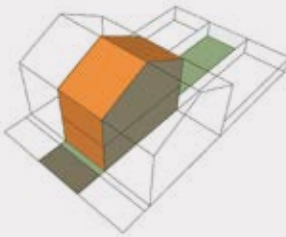
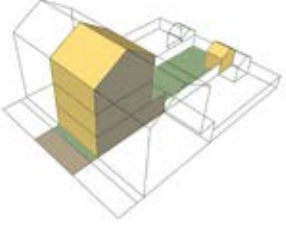
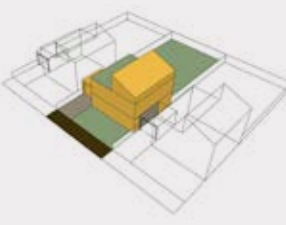
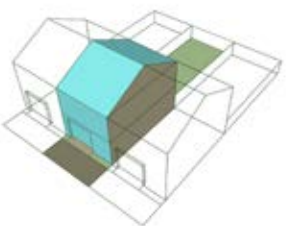
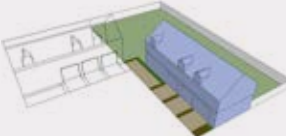
	Building Typology	Height	Max. width		Depth	Model	Application
		Up to	Single	Combi.	Up to		
APARTMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Mill / other conversion; Courtyard; Block; Linked-blocks; Terraced (vertical separation) &amp; Mixed-use.</li> <li>✗ - Not tower or podium</li> </ul>	4 st.	10m	30m	21m		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban centre;</li> <li>• Urban riverside;</li> <li>• Valley bottom;</li> <li>• Main Streets</li> </ul>
TERRACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Wide- front or narrow-front terrace</li> <li>✗ - Not more than 6 in a row</li> </ul>	2 st.	6m	30m	11m		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban centre;</li> <li>• Urban riverside;</li> <li>• Valley bottom;</li> <li>• Main streets;</li> <li>• Suburban;</li> <li>• Villages</li> </ul>
TOWNHOUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Wide-front or narrow-front Townhouse;</li> <li>✗ - Not integral garage</li> </ul>	3 st.	6.5m	26m	15m		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban centre;</li> <li>• Urban riverside;</li> <li>• Valley bottom;</li> <li>• Main streets;</li> <li>• Villages</li> </ul>
VILLA (DETACHED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Detached; cottage; manor house;</li> </ul>	2.5	10m	n/a	11m		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suburban;</li> <li>• Villages;</li> <li>• Semi-rural,</li> <li>• Main Streets;</li> <li>• (farm/hill-top)</li> </ul>
MEWS-HOUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Mews; cottage</li> </ul>	2.5	5m	20m	9m		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban riverside;</li> <li>• (Minor Streets);</li> <li>• Villages;</li> <li>• Semi-rural</li> </ul>
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ - Carriagehouse; Flats Over Garages (F.O.G's); Bungalow; Barn-style; Out-house; Self-Build</li> </ul>	1.5	5m	15m	9m		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suburban;</li> <li>• Villages;</li> <li>• (Lanes)</li> <li>• Semi-rural;</li> <li>• (Courtyards)</li> </ul>

Figure 26: Table of typical residential building types, dimensions and suitable locations

### Form, scale & massing

Scale, mass and form are generally interlinked. The scale of a building refers to its height, length and width. The mass is its overall shape and size, considering the building scale and volume. The form is more than the 3D envelope of the building (describing the general parameters but not the detailed form) and includes the floor plan and extrusions such as porches or roof form.

- Developing larger buildings will be most appropriate in areas where such buildings are characteristic, for example in the former industrial lower valley bottom where mills, workhouses and workshops were common.
- Where larger scale buildings do exist, new development should be informed by an understanding of their historic form. This can range from symmetrical and formal to informal compositions with varied projections and rooflines.
- New development should respect the scale and simplicity of smaller scale buildings where these are common, avoiding elements such as projections and bay windows which may diverge from this local character.
- All major design elements should be considered together (porches, entries, eaves, façades and chimneys).



Figure 27: New build houses on Hopton Lane incorporate traditional forms and features in a contemporary way












FORMS AND FEATURES				
	Characteristic features	Positive / Negative features	Traditional examples	Modern Examples
<b>APARTMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dual aspect apartments;</li> <li>Part of perimeter block;</li> <li>Set close to back of pavement</li> <li>Mixed-use ground-floor;</li> <li>Fronting street/open space;</li> </ul>	<p>✓ - Well proportioned openings (giving daylight to floorplans); Balconies break up big façades</p> <p>✗ - Monotonous façades; mean openings; not giving street enclosure</p>		
<b>TERRACE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of perimeter block;</li> <li>Set close to back of pavement;</li> <li>Fronting street/open space;</li> <li>Balconies break up big façades;</li> <li>On street parking (or small walled courts/lanes to the side)</li> </ul>	<p>✓ - Well proportioned openings; Ginnel access; rear access paths for bins</p> <p>✗ - Long rows; monotonous façades; mean openings; parking to front of plot</p>		
<b>TOWNHOUSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexible ground floor use;</li> <li>Rear parking access/lane;</li> <li>Attached form;</li> <li>Paired;</li> <li>Larger individual</li> </ul>	<p>✓ - Increased height proportionate to set back on plot (for enclosure); bay windows; recessed porches</p> <p>✗ - Integral garages (not on Main Streets); garage dominated frontage;</p>		
<b>VILLA / BUNGALOW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of perimeter block;</li> <li>Set-back on plot; larger plot sizes proportionate to size of dwelling;</li> </ul>	<p>✓ - Porches; symmetry of façade; bay windows; strong form (sufficient width) / overhanging eaves; dormers.</p> <p>✗ - Integral garages on Main Streets); garage dominated frontage; (roof pitch min. 35' to for accommodation in roof space if 1 st.)</p>		
<b>MEWS-HOUSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of perimeter block; (facing Minor Streets),</li> <li>Interior courtyards &amp; back lanes;</li> <li>Commonly attached or individual;</li> </ul>	<p>✓ - Integral garage; accommodation above in 1st floor and roofspace</p> <p>✗ - Carriage arches to rear court; narrow street space; over-basic design;</p>		
<b>CARRIAGEHOUSE / BARN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A: Carriagehouse: - detached or part of courtyard or linear block</li> <li>B: Barn: - Part of complex; courtyard or detached</li> </ul>	<p>A Carriagehouse</p> <p>✓ -</p> <p>✗ - lack of plot definition / enclosure</p> <p>B: Barn</p> <p>✓ - velux windows; low-level / overhanging eaves; connected walls;</p> <p>✗ - limited/narrow openings; carriage-arches to rear parking;</p>		

Figure 28: Table of building types and characteristics

### Building heights and roofscape

The height of a building and its overall mass are important factors in determining the impact a building will have on its surroundings. This includes; perception of the street scene; by neighbours, and how it fits into the character of the neighbourhood.

- The building should allow sunshine to private outdoor spaces and minimise overshadowing and overlooking of adjacent properties. This is a particular issue for developments on back land.
- Consider two storey developments on regular plots to create more usable outdoor space.
- Consider single storey developments on rear sites to minimise overlooking.

- On sloping sites, consider stepping the sections of the house up or down the slope to minimise earthworks and reinforce the natural topography.
- Where it is necessary for a new building to be taller than the surrounding buildings, the building should be designed sensitively to minimise its impact. This might be through the use of set back and projecting sections where appropriately characteristic, or by taking advantage of height changes in topography.
- Mirfield rises up the valley on both sides and roofs are often highly visible. The roof design is important for integrating the buildings into the neighbourhood or landscape. Think carefully about how to achieve this and create a roof design that is sympathetic to the context, street and neighbourhood.



Figure 29: New build houses on Hopton Lane incorporate traditional forms and features in a contemporary way



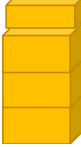

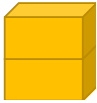

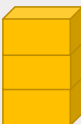

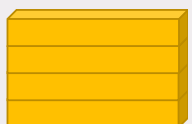



	Building heights	Max. difference to neighbour (storey)	Roofscape features (e.g. chimney/spire)	Images
<b>LOCATION &amp; BUILDING HEIGHTS</b>	<b>1. Upper Hopton (semi-rural hillside)</b> 	1.5 - 2.5 storeys up to plus 0.5 storey	✓ - Chimneys, eyebrow dormers ✗ - No boxed dormers facing the street	
	<b>2. Historic Core (Town Centre)</b> 	2 - 3.5 st plus 1 storey	Plus 1 storey elements: Spires; towers; dormer turrets; projections & chimneys *May break roofline for special buildings	
	<b>3. Northern Suburbs (hillside)</b> 	1.5 - 2.5 storeys up to plus 0.5 storey *up to plus 1 storey around local centres	✓ - Chimneys; dormer windows; solar panels *Additional features allowed at local centres, (e.g. spires; towers; dormer turrets; projections)	
	<b>3. Lower Hopton (Riverside)</b> 	2 - 3 storeys up to plus 2 storey	Plus 0.5 storey elements:- mansard roofs; towers, dormer turrets, projections & chimneys *May break roofline for special buildings	
	<b>5. Calder Valley (valley bottom industry)</b> 	2 - 4 storeys up to plus 1 storey	Plus 1 storey elements: Spires; towers; dormer turrets; projections & tall chimneys & mansard roofs *May break roofline for special buildings	
	<b>6. Greenbelt - rural hamlets</b> 	1.5 - 2 storeys up to plus 0.5 storey	✓ - Chimneys, eyebrow dormers	

Figure 30: Indicative analysis of building heights and roofscape features by character area

## Materials & details

High-quality materials and details are important for all buildings. They must be robust and delightful to encourage people to maintain buildings for a long-life. A good building has an impact on everyone who passes it.

- Mirfield has a strong core materials palette (see adjacent) and this should be considered as a default starting point across most code areas
- Natural building materials (not man-made) that are prevalent locally must be used wherever possible. This is paramount if the building is either listed or in a Conservation Area.
- Innovative building materials are allowed with a good reason, for example low embodied energy materials.
- Locally sourced materials for development, particularly reuse and recycling on site help to minimise resource usage and keep supply chains local, saving energy.

**Glass**

**Slate**

**Stone /  
brick**

**Render**



Figure 31: Typical material palette in Mirfield

### Preserve and respect local character features and details

Development must be in keeping with and respectful to locally distinctive features, including; traditional building materials & colour palettes, stone and brick boundary walls, and original architectural details such as; quoins, corbels, dentils, fenestration and porches.

- Existing local character features should be protected and where appropriate incorporated in new developments where it is a feature of the existing character area (see also section 5).
- It is preferred that designers not mimic historic styles in the form of pastiche, particularly with inauthentic bolt-on detailing.
- Recreating authentic details and features on historic buildings is encouraged if it respects the craftsmanship of the original features.
- Reinterpreting local vernacular architecture in an up to date way, using up to date building technology / materials is encouraged but requires a considered design approach in order to enhance the character of the historic townscape and help meet sustainability objectives of the code.



## 2.8.2 Boundaries & enclosure

Mirfield has a well enclosed streets and spaces defined by connected buildings and boundary walls between them. This is softened and supplemented with hedgerows, planting and views to the landscape around.

### Guidance

The historic built-form is perceived as attached due to either terraces of buildings joined directly or connecting boundary walls which link the building line. In addition, where buildings are not set close to the back of pavement low boundary walls help to form a clear plot boundary to create a contained street scene that makes clear public and private space.

### Boundary defining features

- Limestone and dry stone boundary walls with stone coping are seen across the neighbourhood area and are appropriate for future development.
- A combination of low-wall and metal railings may be suitable depending on neighbouring buildings.
- Native hedgerows and trees should be incorporated at every opportunity to soften built boundaries..
- Boundaries to car parks that are open to the street should include landscape buffers with planting to reduce the visual impact of cars.



Figure 33: Hedgerows provide privacy to this cottage



Figure 32: Front parking erodes boundary treatments, negatively affecting the character of the street the more often it occurs. There must be a discussion with the planning authority to ascertain permission. Retaining walls, gates, gateposts and other features helps limit the impact.



Figure 34: Cottage set at right-angles to the street with wall, gate, courtyard planting and retained tree



### 2.8.3 Heritage assets

The provisions of local and national policy apply to all heritage assets (and associated development) within the neighbourhood area. Policy LP35 of the Kirklees Local Plan is an important policy reference in this respect.

Heritage that is of national significance is important but so is heritage that is locally significant and this ties back to the 'cultural landscape' mentioned and the embodied memories that significant places build up for many people over time. This mental image of the town that every resident will have is their own heritage and important to understand for different groups.

#### Conservation Area

Upper Hopton was originally designated as a conservation area in 1978 in recognition of its 'special architectural or historic interest. The character of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance,' now and for future generations.

The conservation area contains public open space, ecclesiastical buildings and grounds, as well as residential and some former agricultural properties.

#### Listed buildings

Mirfield has 47 listed buildings, 5 of which are in Upper Hopton. Most surround the River Calder valley bottom or are scattered on the northern valley slopes with an isolated one at the extreme south of the area.

Any application for listed building consent for the alteration, extension or change of use of a listed building, and any application for planning permission which would affect its setting should pay special attention to the desirability of preserving the listed building

or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

Demolition of listed buildings will not normally be considered acceptable unless it can be demonstrated that the building has no beneficial use and no potential viable use and the structure of the building cannot be made sound.

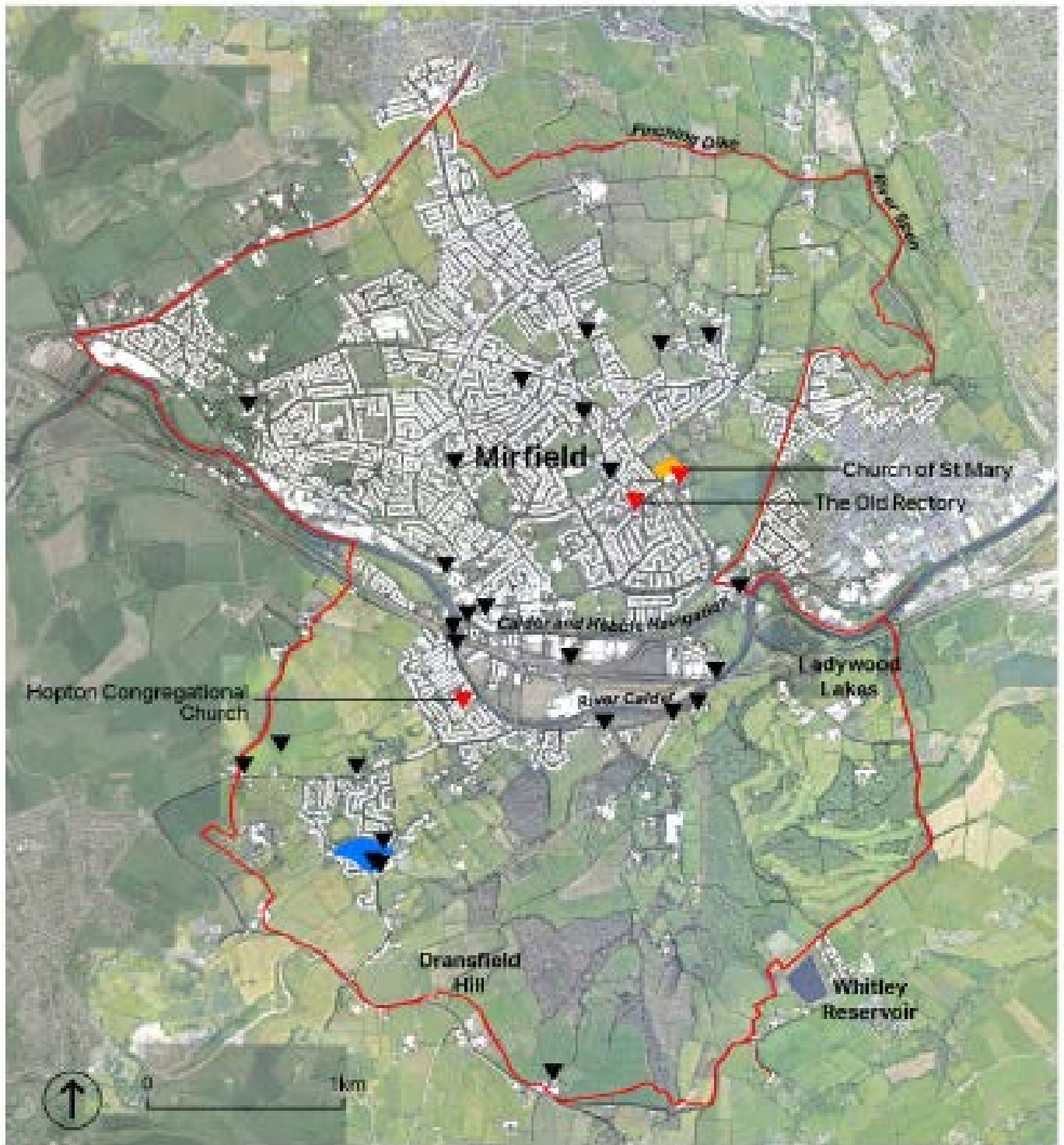
#### Scheduled monuments

Castle Hall Hill motte and bailey castle is situated adjacent to the nineteenth century parish church of St. Mary in Mirfield. The bailey is occupied by the church and its graveyard, both of which are in current ecclesiastical use, and this area is not at present included in the scheduling.

#### Buildings of local significance

Within the District there are buildings which, although not of sufficient architectural or historic interest to be included on the statutory list, are of local significance and need to be identified as such. Consideration could therefore be given to the inclusion of the best unlisted buildings on a 'local list', using the following criteria as a guide;

1. Examples of work by local architects or builders of esteem.
2. Buildings which are of local community interest.
3. Buildings, or groups of buildings, which contribute to the character or identity of a townscape or rural area, or enhance a landscape. Protecting historic assets and heritage as a catalyst for regeneration.



- Castle Hill Hill motte and bailey castle
- Grade II listed buildings
- Grade II\* listed buildings
- Upper Hopton Conservation Area

Figure 35: Heritage assets and building pattern

## Conversions & alterations

A good conversion should result in the minimum alteration to the external appearance of the building. Note issues of maintaining boundary walls, impact of parking, access requirements (new doors can unbalance the design of a facade and provision of outdoor space for homes).

In areas where decorative details are common, when these are to be replaced or where new openings are added, the decorative details should copy those on the original building or reflect them in some way. This will ensure continuity between openings and maintain the unity of the building. Avoid creating new detailing or decoration on simple buildings where it would traditionally not have existed.



Conversions in conservation areas should be of a standard and type of design compatible with the character of the area. Conversion may require extension but these should not overwhelm the original building.

*Figure 36: It may be most appropriate for extensions on significant or notable buildings to be clearly different from the original building. This can allow the merits of the original building to stand out. However such a decision should always be based on an understanding of the building's character.*



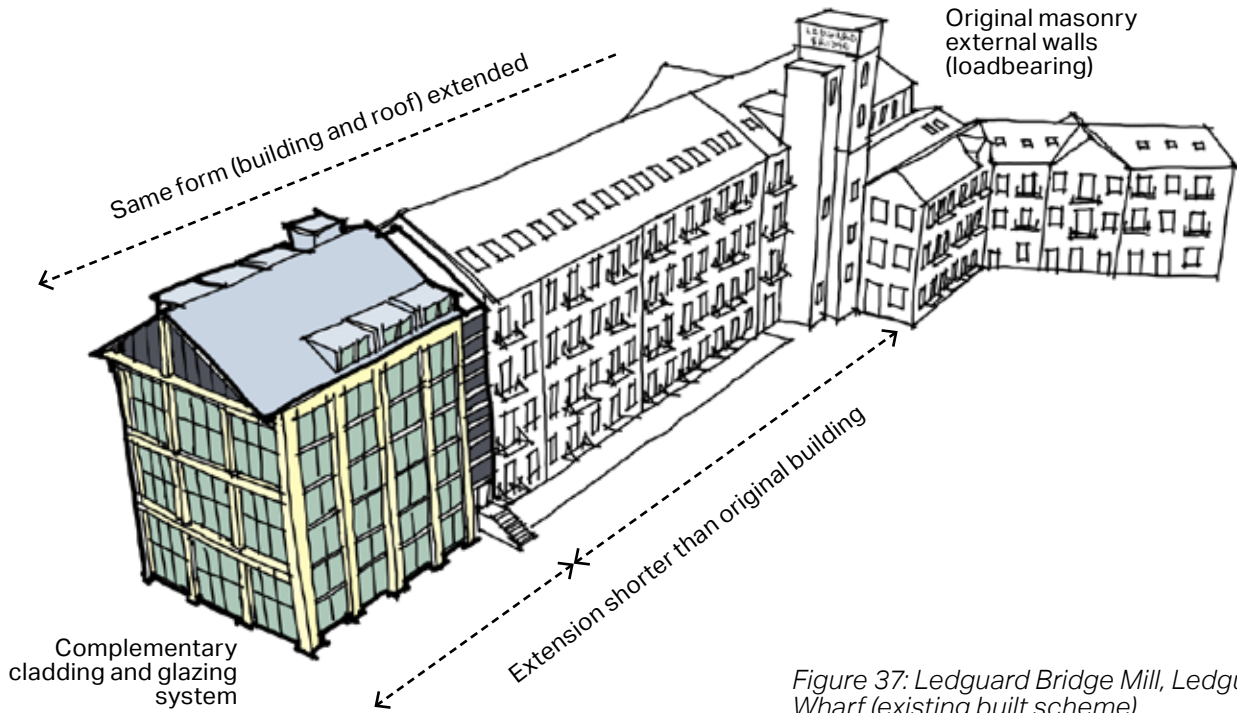


Figure 37: Ledguard Bridge Mill, Ledguard Wharf (existing built scheme)

### Extensions and conservatories

Well-designed extensions can revitalise older buildings and contribute positively to local character. If done badly, extensions detract from the original building and can impact on the wider local landscape.

- It is essential to ensure that an extension has strong unity and a relationship to the original building, strengthening character rather than weakening it.
- This does not mean that extensions should copy existing development: sensitive and good modern design can complement the original building and respect local character.
- The general size, height and width of the extension should normally be less than the original building, ensuring that it remains similar or subordinate to the original building in scale and form.

- Consider the appropriate building methods, colours and architectural styles for the extension. These can be traditional or contemporary as long as they complement the original building and local character.
- On a two storey building the conservatory should normally be no higher than the underside of first floor sills of the original building. It is usually preferable to locate conservatories on the rear of the house.



Figure 38: Sketch of conservatory set below upper story window sills

## Guidance

The approach to heritage should be one of protecting historic assets, both designated and undesignated, but understanding that the urban fabric is complex and interwoven. As such we cannot simply put a boundary around heritage assets and say 'hands off' and indeed the urban areas of Mirfield today are testament to the fact that we can develop and grow with our heritage as part of our everyday neighbourhoods.

Many historic estates have been built upon, however, some less successfully than others. Also, built heritage is perhaps a common focus but the landscape has a heritage as well, as does the cultural landscape and it is important to relate back to these too. Furthermore, archaeological finds remain unknown until found and so is important to look out for these on sites.

Another aim is to enhance the heritage that we have with new development, particularly improving on the poor developments of the past which through redevelopment can significantly improve the setting of heritage assets that have been tarnished by insensitive, poorly designed schemes. Heritage may also be a linchpin for new development, giving it meaning and helping ensure that it is of its place. Finding new uses for historic buildings such as has happened at Ledgard Wharf can connect the Mirfield of today with the Mirfield of old, continuing the story of this historic asset and making use of the existing fabric.

- **It is important to find design precedents that embody the unique character and identity of Mirfield and to emulate the best of the 'historic fabric'.**
- **This unique built-form resource must guide new development and the growth of the town to help continue the strong 'sense of a place' that is rooted in its most successful growth periods - including local vernacular and Victorian when a wealth of high-quality building and place-making was undertaken.**
- **Understanding what remains and is of value and then preserving it, particularly the highest value areas such as statutory designations, listed buildings and conservation areas is a key aim.**
- **The town centre is one of the most active and adaptable, changing spaces but also has a high concentration of Mirfield's heritage buildings and this shows us that heritage is dynamic and integral to attracting visitors, commerce and also fundamental to the identity of this Yorkshire mill town and its residents.**



Figure 39: 'High-quality homes' can still fail to respond to local character and be well-integrated with the place

## 2.9 Responsive design

This section contains design guidelines that apply to all types of development across the whole neighbourhood area.

### 2.9.1 Design approaches

Development should respond to the built-character of each character area with one (or more) of the following 3 general approaches set out on the following pages, depending on the uniformity or mixed-nature of built-form in the character area or street where development is sited:

**1. Reflect**

**2. Complement**

**3. Innovate**

**1. Reflect** – Development must clearly respond to and take on existing characteristics found within the character area, street or site across most design aspects including; Scale, Form, setback and materials in order to fit in and reflect the existing character.

**2. Complement** - If the local context exhibits existing variety in a positive fashion then development may also do some things slightly differently (e.g. introducing complementary colours and materials), that still fit within the overall street or character area palette. Reflecting key design aspects of form, setback and scale would still be required to maintain harmony.

**3. Innovate** – doing something that is markedly different in character requires exceptional design quality or exemplar sustainability credentials. Still, it must not detract from the existing character of the area and must fit locally to create a coherent street-scape and add to the quality of the townscape or rural area.

## 1. Reflect Character

Where the existing character area or street is highly uniform in building character, then following the existing materials palette, building type, building height, plot series and boundary treatment is the default sympathetic design response.

This is likely to apply in more urban areas or terraced streets which may have small scale infill opportunities that can 'complete the street' (see below example).

This is because where buildings are prominent on plot, with short setbacks and small gaps between buildings (or attached building types) then differences in style form, material and position are likely to be more apparent.

Even the insensitive choice of masonry paint colours can easily change the character of buildings making them too dominant in the streetscape.

Areas with a recognised historic character to preserve and enhance, including the conservation areas will benefit from infill development that seeks to harmonise and not to undermine the character, particularly with more modest building types and uses that should aim to be 'backdrop architecture'. High quality schemes may stand out more if they have a special use (e.g. community use).

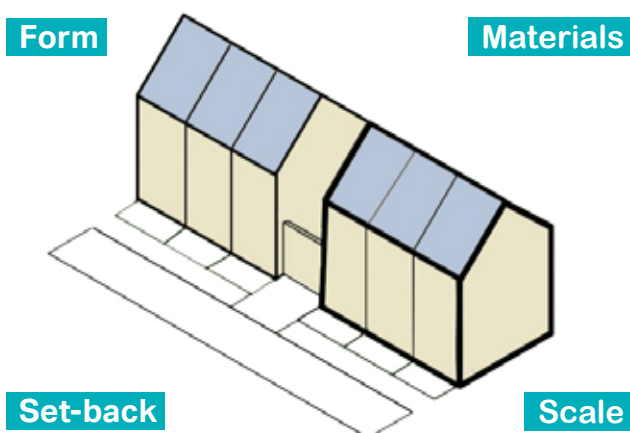


Figure 40: Sketch of new terrace extending from and harmonising with existing terraced form on a street

### When to use

When there is a strong, consistent, good character in the area or street that works well and it would be preferable to reflect the character in new building due to the response to townscape and landscape.

Conservation Areas will require strong adherence to the existing character as a starting point, without stifling innovation.

**Example:** In an area such as Lower Hopton a new terrace provided on a street of terraced houses that matches the scale & massing (both the plot and building) will complete the existing layout and character of the street. If combined with local materials and details (although these could be modern) then the building will reinforce the local context.

This is not to say that in key locations a detached house might hold a view or provide relief, according urban layout principles of townscape which the Victorians employed.



Figure 41: Terraced housing type photograph

## 2. Complement Character

Where existing residential streets are less defined by building facades (ie. they have larger plots/ setbacks and more planting) or are already mixed in terms of building types, forms and materials, development that adds to the overall character and design quality in a way that is fitting (in scale and position on plot) may include variations in form, styles, and details that are nonetheless complementary to the overall character.

This response may be appropriate in less dense or more eclectic housing areas (see example below). Infill housing within institutional grounds, campus' or historic estates that have non-residential buildings of a different type and scale may require a new character to be introduced but this should still be subservient, or thematically linked, to the original building type, use or site heritage.



Figure 42: New houses on Towngate (Mirfield) and Covey Clough Court (Upper Hopton) introduce a varied but attractive and complementary palette of materials and detailing. In the former case this is strictly contemporary, whereas around the conservation area motifs and detailing may

### When to use:

When there is a mixed character in the street or area, no predominant style or largely unexceptional character. Here it would be apt to maintain the character of the street and plot series but there may be more scope to vary the buildings appearance by choosing materials and details that complement those existing or introduce new high quality design aspects

**Example:** A new semi-detached house on a street of semi-detached houses that broadly matches the overall scale and setback of dwellings on a suburban street but utilises high-quality materials and detailing that are contemporary in style and add something positive to the character area. Traditional boundary details such as a low masonry wall becomes instrumental in linking the architecture into the streetscene in a joined up fashion despite its differences. It should be noted that many existing buildings change (e.g. render applied, contemporary window replacements so there is often a degree of variety existing in modern suburban homes).

This positively contribute to the overall appearance of the street scene. The materials used are unable to match all the different buildings on the street but their good quality is evident and creates a positive addition to the existing mix.



### 3. Innovate Character

Doing something of high design quality that may be different in some aspects of style, form and appearance to the area, but adds positively to the streetscene in urban design terms in built areas (or landscape design in rural areas), and demonstrates an exemplar approach to sustainability is the type of innovation that Mirfield welcomes.

For example: Passivehouse design principals, on site generations or low embodied energy materials should be favoured and given significant weight regardless of the area in which it is proposed. This approach should also be combined with Approach A or B so that there is a clear connection between the building and its context.



*Figure 43: Example detached houses (or villas) have larger plots to call their own and more space for landscaping to soften different styles of architecture. More conformity is still likely to be required in conservation areas, whereas a more privately situated house has more scope for contrast and innovation as shown by this architect designed 1960's style bungalow in Mirfield. Still, in Mirfield it is rare for*

#### When to use:

When there is an eclectic building character presented to the street or buildings are set further back on plot and much less visible due to boundary walls or landscaping so they co-exist easily. Bespoke designed buildings that excel on design process, style and sustainability it must still be recognised that there is often a gap between what the general public find acceptable and what design professionals do. Engaging with the community early often helps.

**Example:** A detached house on a street of large plots houses that matches the layout (position on plot and set-back behind boundary wall) but **contrasts** in appearance by using a thoroughly modern palette of materials and details (e.g. render and large glazed areas). The house may forego the traditional chimney and instead exhibit a heat exchange flu that still is a nod to the vernacular (also justified for exemplar sustainability), the form may be a 'villa' (detached single dwelling) type like others on the street but there is more scope to vary the detailed form, e.g., footprint, height and roof-form due to plot size, landscaping and distance to other buildings. Individuality and self expression are what many people seek in a house and it is a balancing act to not deny this, whilst seeking to preserve townscape and traditional settlement characteristics that contribute to the overall attractiveness of the town. Innovation with purpose, high-quality design and designing with meaning are all reasons to depart from tradition. If these justifications are not there then this approach could lead to the degradation of local character.

## 2.10 Sustainability

The overall approach to sustainability should be not to treat it as a separate subject to design but to integrate it into the design process at all stages from location; use; layout, details and access to facilities.

### Sustainable design objectives

The primary objectives for new development are simple and common to all, whether water or energy:

- Make best use of and sustain local resources (e.g. using brownfield land);
- Reduce demand or build local capacity (e.g. Transport);
- Maximise efficiency (e.g. Waste);
- Reduce dependence on external resources (e.g. Energy);
- Increase multi-functionality, reuse and recycling of outputs (e.g. Water)

### Assessing Renewable Energy sources

Key considerations in the assessment of renewable energy sources for development to be net zero for power generation may include (but are not limited to):

- Optimising solar orientation of streets and buildings. Aim to increase the number of buildings on site that are oriented within 30° of south (both main fenestration and roof plane) for solar gain, solar energy harvesting and natural daylighting.
- Ground conditions to accommodate loops for ground source heat and space for air source heat pump units.
- Links to local estates for sustainable coppicing, harvesting or recycling of biomass fuels.
- Local wind speed and direction for micro-generation wind turbines.



Figure 44: Asymmetrical roofs with photo-voltaics aligned for solar orientation in these 'solar terraces'



Figure 45: Cladding and roof angle varied to provide visual interest and aligned to north - south orientation

## Optimising other resources / solutions

Further aspects for new development to consider include;

- Land - Landuse land density of development
- Type & scale - ability to deliver solutions at scale, e.g. district heating for a new neighbourhood
- Water - surface water drainage, flood risk, supply to new homes
- Environment - Air quality and noise
- Biodiversity and landscape - habitat and
- Health - Amenity, recreation and public space open space
- Access - to facilities, daily needs and services
- Construction - sustainable material sources and construction waste
- Waste (reuse/repurposing/recycling)

The scale of proposals will vastly affect what can be achieved and so for some resources 'district' or neighbourhood solutions may give better overall results than 'micro' solutions. Most proposals will likely be at the level of a single building or small infill development. These will have a limited scope to address wide ranging approaches such as district heating, however, a major application of mixed uses including large space heating should investigate these.

Most individual buildings will look at small scale building-level solutions, e.g. thermally efficient building materials to reduce energy demand balanced with natural daylighting and solar-panels on roofs and water butts to maximise collection and use of sunlight and rain respectively.

Collaborating with highway authorities, utility/telecoms companies and other stakeholders when designing and delivering projects to minimise energy usage and disruption during the construction stage and reinforcement of the electricity grid for additional electric vehicles and renewables.

LEDGARD  
BRIDGE

LEDGARD  
BRIDGE

Character area  
design guidance

03

## 3. Character area design guidance

### 3.1 Introduction

Mirfield is a valley bottom settlement in the Calder Valley, spanning the River Calder and expanding to the north side of the river up the shallower (but still well-inclined) slopes of the valley. The town has preserved many of its heritage buildings whilst continuing to expand and infill greatly over time. Several smaller settlements have combined to form the overall urban area of Mirfield today, including Towngate, Little London City, Green Side, Lee Green, Battyeford, Northorpe and Eastthorpe Lane (now Huddersfield Road) to the north of the River Calder and Hopton Fold to the south. The latter half of C20 saw the growth of modern housing estates, infilling the land between historic settlement.

The neighbourhood area has one designated Conservation Area (the village of Upper Hopton) which sits within the Green Belt. However, within the main body of the town north of the Calder there is some good and historic character to preserve and 42 listed buildings and key historic sites that contribute to the overall distinctiveness, principally focussed on the historic settlements.

### 3.2 Character areas

A primary purpose of this Design Guide is to help generate authentic and locally distinctive design responses to the existing settlement context and range of urban - rural situations across the neighbourhood area and its range of topographies and landscape features within the setting of the Calder River Valley, setting the tone for regeneration and future development.

As such we have defined code areas that respond to the character types found across the neighbourhood area, for which design guidance is set out later in the section. These are based on assessment of both urban and landscape character attributes.

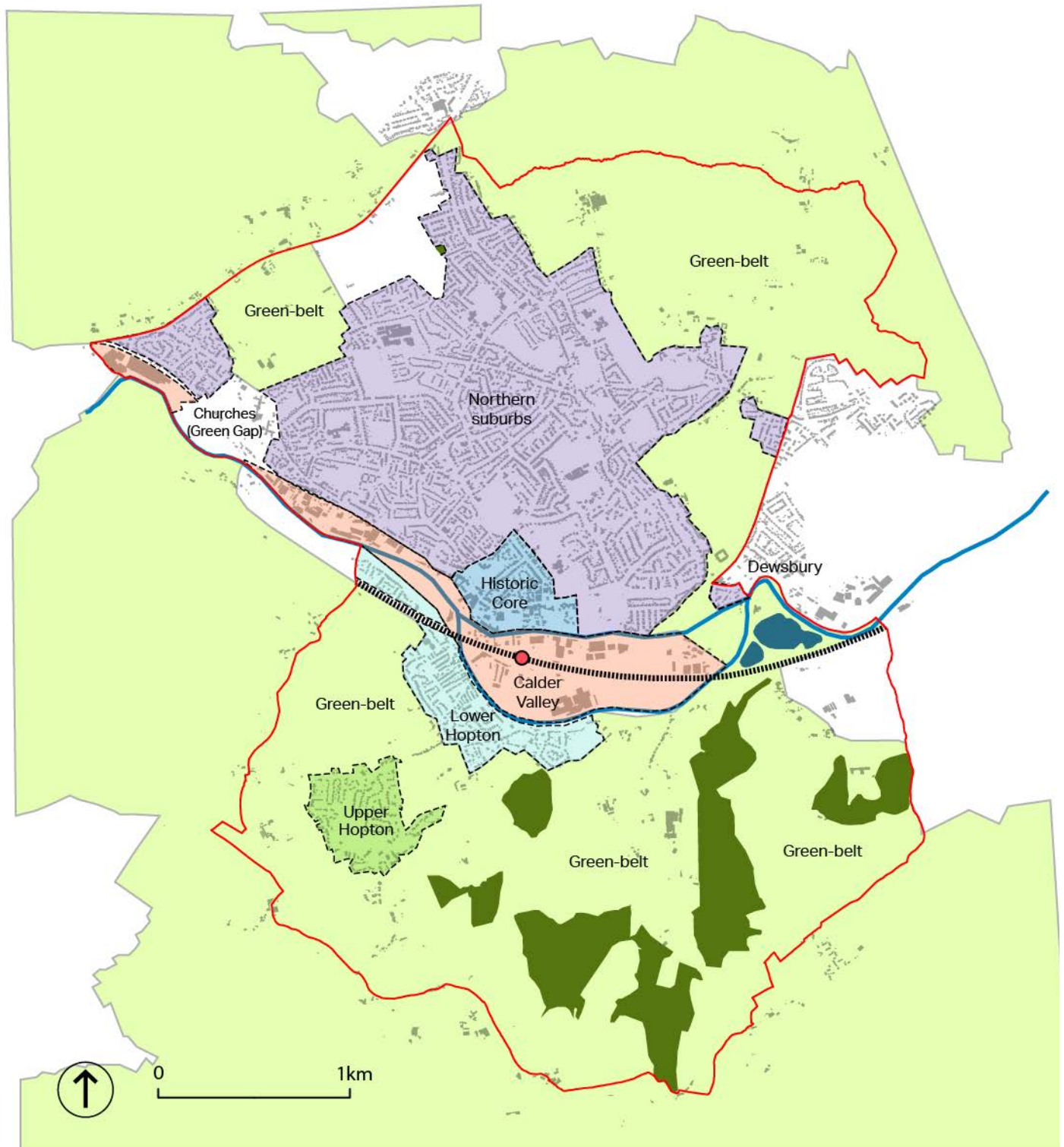
The character study that follows identifies the areas with common morphological and functional characteristics including building period, landscape features, topography, predominant use-type and density.

Having analysed the built and spatial form of the settlement in Section 2, including the Historic focus areas we are able to define broad character area types, which align with the National Model Design Code area types.

The simple break down is; town centre; industrial; urban; suburban; semi-rural village and Green Belt.

The following character areas are defined for purposes of applying area specific design guidelines:

- 1. Upper Hopton** - rural village
- 2. Historic Core** - mixed-use town centre
- 3. Northern Suburbs** - suburban / local centres
- 4. Lower Hopton** - riverside urban village
- 5. Calder Valley** - flood plain / industry
- 6. Greenbelt** - rural farmsteads & hamlets



- Green Belt
- Upper Hopton
- Lower Hopton
- Valley bottom
- Historic core
- Northern suburbs
- Woodland

Figure 46: Character areas plan

## 3.3 Character Area 1: Upper Hopton

### 3.3.1 Settlement character overview

Upper Hopton is a semi-rural hillside village overlooking the Calder Valley, overlooking Lower Hopton. The village has preserved much of its historic character as well as continuing to evolve and grow over time. It remains distinctly separated from the main settlement area of Mirfield.

A portion of the village around the church is a designated Conservation Area. Therefore, the primary purpose of this Design Guide is to protect and enhance this character within and around the setting of the Conservation Area.

Throughout the village area there are many good quality buildings and a scattering of listed buildings (5). Alongside this there are protected trees and wall lined historic lanes.



Figure 48: OS map extract of Upper Hopton (1850-51)

### 3.3.2 Local context and settlement origins

Located within a former coal mining area and various other industries including wool textiles, agriculture and malting (processing malt for food and drink) played a part in its history. Likely a small agricultural settlement originally, the village expanded with the provision of a church by a former Malter, During and after the industrial revolution the village expanded and changed with the addition of housing developments and infrastructure to cope with the increased activity.

For further information also see Upper Hopton Conservation Area Appraisal.



Figure 49: The Travellers Rest public house

### 3.3.3 Landscape, views and open space



Figure 50: Topography, landscape and views

The village is sited within the Calder Valley on the eastern slopes of the Pennine foothills. Open spaces (e.g. church yard and recreation field) allow views across the village and out across the Calder Valley towards Mirfield / countryside. In places, the outward facing form of development (edge lanes) allow stretches of views outward (e.g. Hopton Hall Lane). Gaps between buildings allow many glimpsed views out to the countryside and hills which provide an important link between the village and its surrounding landscape. Mirfield Parish Church can be picked out as a landmark within the main urban area of Mirfield on the south face of the valley.



Figure 51: Topography, landscape and views



## Woodland and planting

Mature trees throughout the village provide a varied setting seasonally and are key to character. Some woodlands on the nearby hillsides remain of what was a previously largely wooded area, some of are classified as Ancient Woodland. Covey Clough Wood is located to the South East (predominantly deciduous trees) and Briery Bank East of the village (deciduous trees and scrub).

## Open space

There is a large amount of open space in and surrounding the Upper Hopton Conservation Area. This open space is an integral part of the character of the Conservation Area and should be preserved in order to maintain an important attribute of the village.

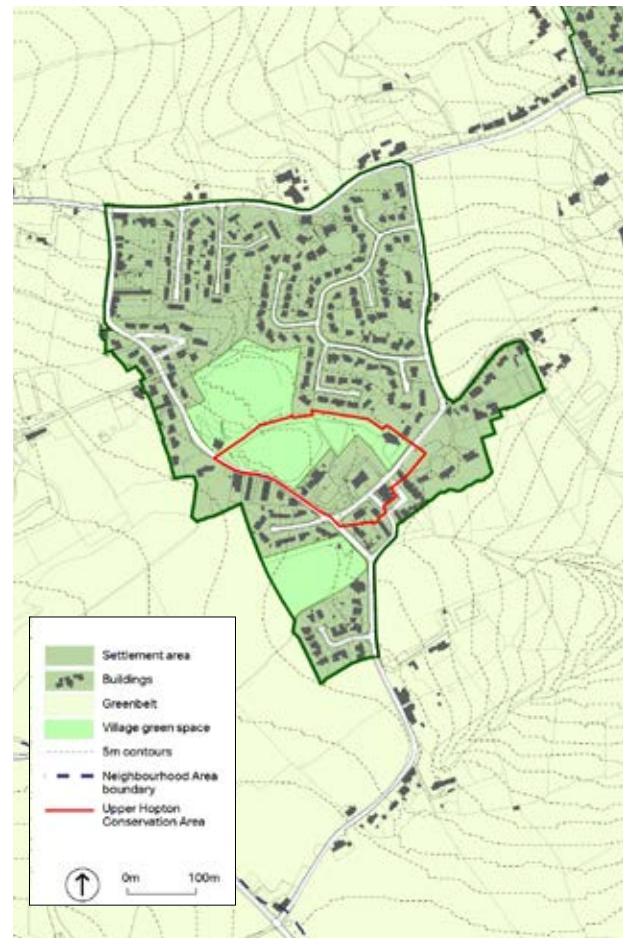


Figure 52: Plan showing Upper Hopton open space



Figure 53: The western most extent of the Conservation Area nestled within mature trees and landscape



Figure 56: Church of Saint John



Figure 57: Plan showing Upper Hopton 'legibility'

### 3.3.4 General layout & features

The settlement is a linear village, composed around the three connecting lanes of Hopton Lane, Hopton Hall Lane and Jackroyd Lane to form a core ring (ranging from semi-open to well enclosed). This 'face' of the village is bounded by a combination of boundary walls with set back private buildings or close set buildings at the back of pavement. Breaks with hedgerows and mature trees or glimpsed views complete the streetscenes. Later additions to the village have infilled (e.g. Cheviot Way and Hopton Avenue) and some other more rural clusters have extended out from key junctions. Within this ring are the main open spaces and also community buildings off Jackroyd Lane with a key space around St. John's church, Sutcliffe Memorial grounds and also the recreation ground.



Figure 55: Hopton Heritage sign in Upper Hopton

### 3.3.5 Buildings

#### Building orientation

Buildings tend to face the streets but are sometimes aligned perpendicular to them with the short end facing the street, creating a secondary frontage. As such, buildings also tend to run with the contours of the hill (parallel) or against them. Often the longer side of the building / terrace will be aligned with the contour but there are also instances of terraces / buildings stepping up the hill as streets are necessarily aligned against (close to 90 degrees) to the slope to reach higher ground.

#### Building types

The buildings are a mixture of stone-built houses, halls, barns, terraces and cottages sometimes with secondary outbuildings, stables or garages. Buildings are typically up to two-storeys. The great majority of buildings are residential with some civic / community uses (e.g. Saint John's Church, Croft House and the Pavilion building at the Cricket Grounds and the Club house). Outside of the conservation area houses are mainly detached or semi-detached 21C homes - The Travellers Rest Pub is an exception.



Figure 58: Hopton Hall Lane

#### Boundary / street enclosure

The historic built form is perceived as attached due to connecting boundary walls which either join buildings directly or form a clear plot boundary at the back of pavement to create a contained street scene, often with minimal footpath widths and verges.

The high walls on Hopton Hall Lane illustrate the visual and physical seclusion of the detached dwellings behind them and give definition to the street layout. They provide a clear distinction between the large private spaces behind the walls and the narrow public spaces of the road.

### Hopton Hall

Hopton Hall is a medieval moated site with the Hall situated within this feature. The Hall is a late Jacobean manor house which is surrounded by a setting of mature trees. The moat may be remains of an even earlier building. The remaining building is located on Hopton Hall Lane and is a Grade II Listed building. The structure is of a two storey house with half-timbered gable and plaster infilling. The timber framed H plan Hall was mostly constructed in the late 16th Century. The building has evolved from C15 to C19 with additional wings and materials.



Figure 59: Hopton Hall

### Listed buildings

Upper Hopton has 5 Grade II listed buildings:

- Main barn to Hall Farm
- Church of St. John
- Hopton Hall
- Numbers 124,126 and adjoining barn
- Northgate terraces (22-34)



Figure 60: Main barn to Hall Farm



Figure 62: Street hierarchy diagram

### 3.3.6 Street pattern

The primary street pattern is formed of the three key lanes of Hopton Lane, Hopton Hall Lane and Jackroyd Lane. These also form three key spaces, now T-junctions around the periphery of the village. A further key T junction is found at Northgate where a formal arrangement of terraces stood around Hollin Hall. At Hopton Fold (location of St. John's Church and Hopton Hall) there is a key junction space.

From off of these main organic lanes come various secondary lanes and streets of more formal terraces. Some very small scale mews streets/ courts and private drives make up the overall pattern of a street hierarchy.

The Post-War trend to create suburban cul-de-sacs of semi-detached or terraced properties which was based on a poor interpretation of the garden city movement has resulted in inward facing 'pods' of development. These limit connectivity although sometimes this is not choice.



Figure 61: Hopton Hall Lane

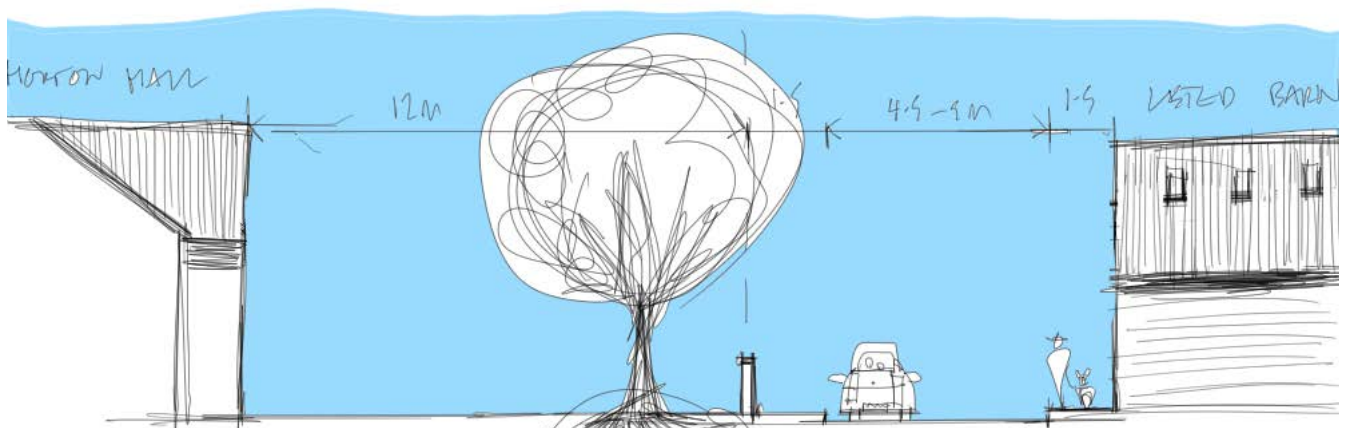


Figure 64: Hopton Hall Lane illustrative street section

### 3.3.7 Village Facilities

Activity and facilities in the village are focussed around the higher, south-west edge and includes a variety of community facilities and institutions including; St. John’s Church; Croft House Community Centre; Upper Hopton Social Club and Upper Hopton Cricket Club. These also occupy and surround key green spaces and open spaces including St. John’s Churchyard and Sutcliffe Memorial Ground (recreation ground). The Travellers Rest pub sits to the north-west, overlooking the Calder valley to the North East.

### 3.3.8 Grain and Density

Historically a very low-density settlement with clusters of key buildings of short runs of terraces that create streaks of density within a semi-rural setting – the village has now changed and much of the new core is at a density typical of more modern hillside suburban housing (circa 25 DpH).



- Sports clubs
- Churches
- Pubs and social clubs
- Community centre
- Open space
- Parish boundary

Figure 63: Village facilities with 400m walk bands

### Dwelling density:

- Indicative lower density houses: 15 DpH
- Indicative terraces density (small sample areas only): 35 DpH
- Indicative infill density: 25 DpH
- Average settlement density: 20 DpH



Figure 65: Figure ground sample

### Plot size, privacy and definition

Many of the older and larger homes are set back from the street behind substantial walls and this creates some very large private gardens that have been cultivated over time. In this way the public and private realm are very well defined. The overlooking of the public realm in this sense is somewhat less than other settlements but the nature of the boundary walls give presence and nature of ownership that make clear you are in someone's village and a wealthy one at that.



### Summary character features:

- Buff coloured stone / brick is the predominant building material across the village;
- Large detached properties set back behind walled gardens, also terraces
- Open spaces with long distance views over the Calder valley;
- Stone walls and hedgerows lining property boundaries;
- Triangle of historic lanes forming 'the face' of the village;
- Infill development within the core of the village (on former quarry site);
- Mature landscape setting and large trees lining streets;
- Halls, barns, farmsteads, villas, terraces and cottages provide variety; and
- Open spaces on higher ground to the south.

## Upper Hopton Character Area Design Guidelines

### The Conservation Area

The purpose of a Conservation Area designation is to preserve the character, appearance and special interest of the Conservation Area. The purpose of these design guidelines is to promote high quality design whilst maintaining the objectives of the designation.

The Conservation Area Appraisal and Management plan and should be read in conjunction with this document. The guidelines aim to reinforce the conclusions and suggestions of the Management plan by suggesting methods to; preserve the character, appearance and what is valuable in the conservation area; assist in managing change and allow the sympathetic evolution and enhancement of the conservation area.

Also of note is that minor alterations which may be permitted development outside of the conservation area may be restricted within it. This includes various types of cladding, the insertion of dormer windows, raising the ridge or expanding the size of a roof and the erection of satellite dishes on the walls, roofs and chimneys which front a highway. As such it always best to confirm with the local planning authority whether permission may be required for a development.

Likewise, in a conservation area, the size of extensions that may be erected without planning permission is more restricted. If

the extension and any previous extension exceeds in total 50 cubic metres or 10% of the house volume it will require planning permission.

### Retain and reinstate character features

Reinstatement of character features is very important for the village. Some buildings within the settlement have lost their original doors, windows, boundary walls, roof materials and other features. As a result, their character is being eroded, therefore when proposals for alterations and extensions are submitted there will be an opportunity to encourage the reinstatement of lost features to reflect their original pattern, style and material.

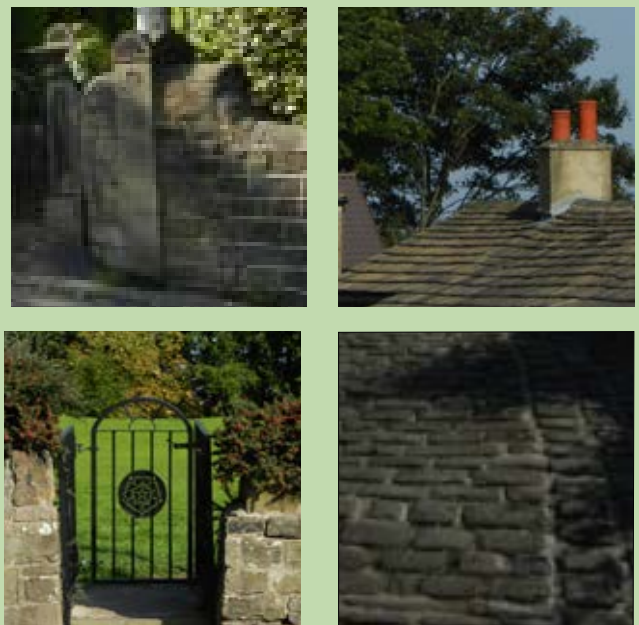


Figure 66: Example character features: stone posts and walls, chimneys, iron gates and stone sets



### Example character features:

- Quoin detail on grander buildings
- Coursed stone walls (1-2m in height)
- Boundary walls – lower dry stone
- Stone mullioned casement windows
- Stone jambs sills and lintels
- Semi circular stone surround windows
- Stone Mullions (Hopton Hall)

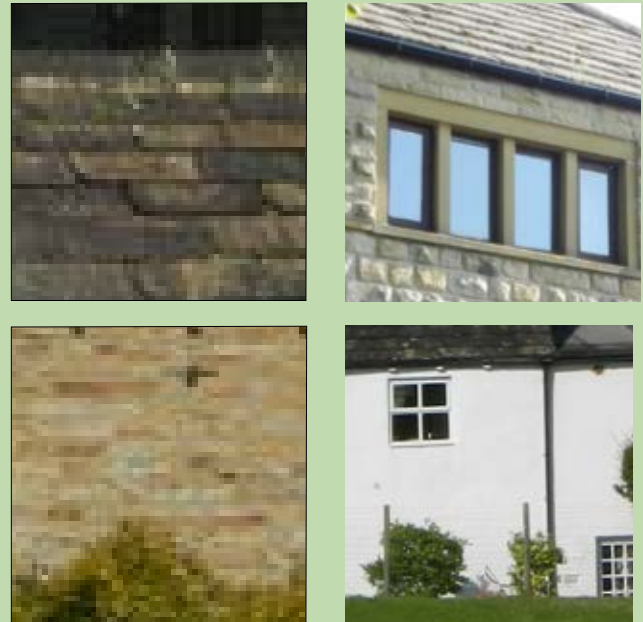
### Materials and details

It is preferable to use locally characteristic materials as they provide a link with the local landscape and existing settlement. The primary use of traditional materials can still involve complimentary materials like timber, glass, steel and aluminium as can innovative materials that are required for modern methods of construction.

- Brick / stone construction
- Off-white Render
- Stone slate roofs

### Open spaces & coalescence

The open space in the settlement area consists of the recreation ground and the Sutcliffe Memorial Ground (cricket ground), and a number of fields which surround the village. Further infilling of open space for development in Upper Hopton will have a serious effect on the character of the settlement area due to the elevated location



*Figure 67: Typical material palette: stone, buff colour brick or rendered on walls, stone window casements, slate roofs and metal guttering*

of the village. Urban sprawl, as has happened to the north of Mirfield would result in further coalescence of settlements which would harm Upper Hopton's sense of rurality and potentially the setting of the conservation area.

### Trees and hedgerows

Trees make an important contribution to the character and appearance of the village and its setting. There are some tree preservation orders on individual trees and groups of trees in the Upper Hopton Conservation Area. There is a strong case for maintaining existing trees and hedgerows of reasonable quality but where loss is unavoidable then replacement of mature trees on a two to one basis is required. Likewise replanting of hedgerows with native species if removed.

## 3.4 Character Area 2: Historic Core/ Town Centre



Figure 68: Huddersfield Road building detail

Mirfield's attractive town centre is based around the Huddersfield Road (formerly Eastthorpe Lane) which effectively forms the High Street, linking into Knowl Road (more residential in nature), Station Road and Newgate both linking back to industrial areas across the Calder and Hebble Navigation. This relationship with industry (along the canal, rail and river) cemented Eastthorpe as the centre of Mirfield despite being pre-dated by Towngate.

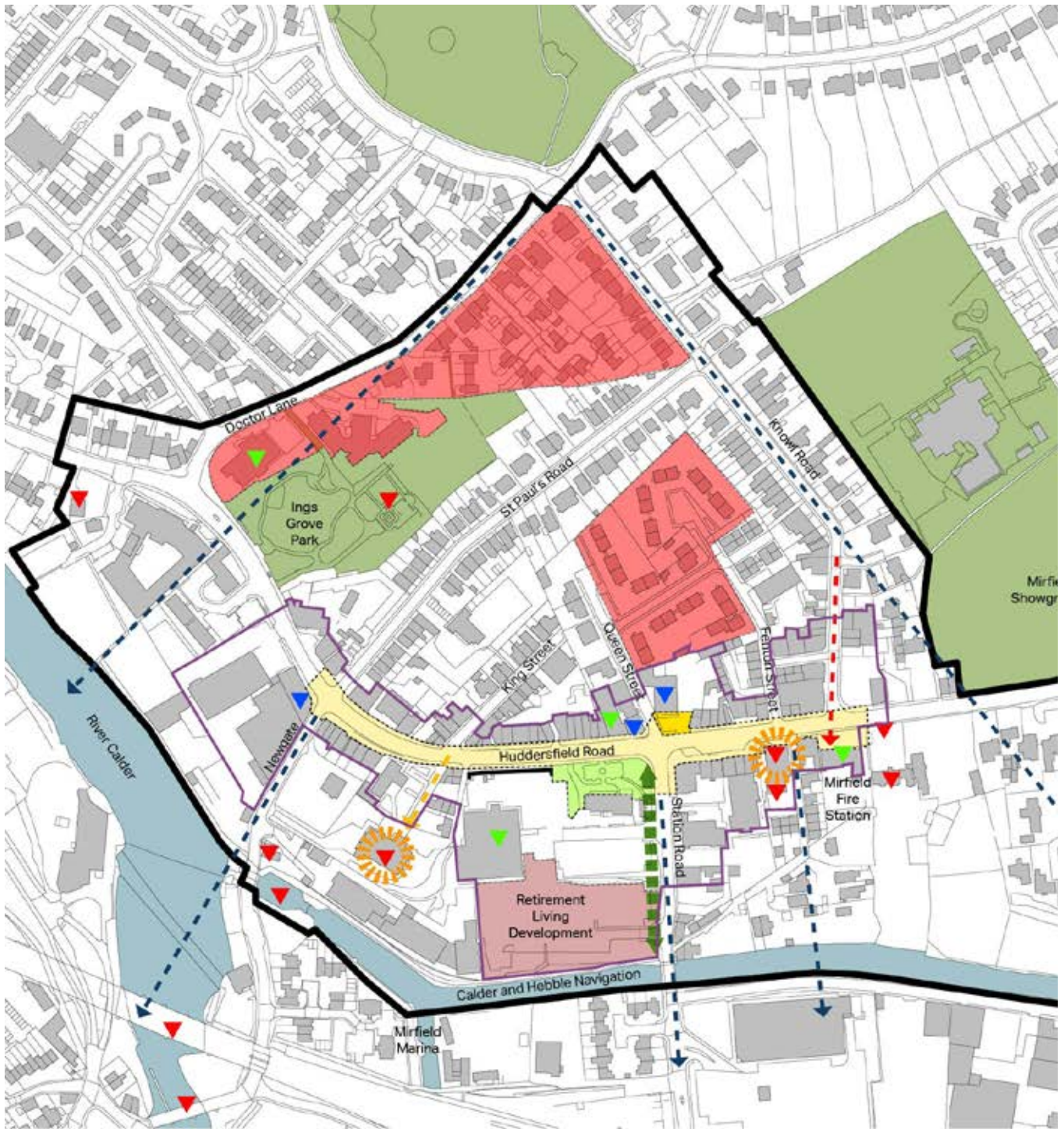
Although not the oldest of Mirfield's original villages there is much historic richness and value on display here, and it functions as the main commercial and service centre.

Mirfield's wealth and prosperity from its heyday is exhibited in a variety of buildings along its 'high street' which have been well preserved and are often richly detailed (particularly moving further east) including; corbelling, decorative

window surrounds, keystone arches, quoins and date stones. The rough finish sandstone brick and slate roofs define this Yorkshire mill town aesthetic.

The main town centre area is surrounded by streets containing Victorian terraced properties with imposing gables and sash windows. The ironwork, which has been retained on some boundary walls, matches the gates that add to the character of the area. Queen Street, Knowl Road and St. Paul's Road have some excellent examples, though there are more modern buildings interspersed amongst them. These include many of the detached properties. Knowl Road is an impressive street particularly.

To the east of the town centre are major open spaces of Mirfield Showground and the significant sports grounds that straddle the A644 and reach down to the canalside.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Mirfield historic core                       | Public green space                       |
| Mirfield Town Centre boundary                | Waterfront retirement living development |
| Listed buildings                             | Potential green link to canal            |
| Landmarks                                    | Key views to landscape                   |
| Buildings that contribute to local character | Key views to landmarks                   |
| Buildings that detract from local character  | Poorly terminated views                  |
| Public square opportunity area               | Later suburban development               |
| Public realm opportunity area                | Potential to develop frontage            |

Figure 69: Historic core indicative analysis area and town centre

### Characteristic features:

- Sandy brick and stone predominant;
- Town houses, terraces, mixed-use shops and offices;
- Grand town houses/club on Knowl Road;
- Low stone walls, stone piers and metal railings;
- Vistas and views to the countryside (southerly);
- Retaining walls and additional storeys taking up level changes (south of high street);
- Precedent developments: Mixed-use Apartment conversion (Speights Lighting), St. Paul's Lock, Beech Grove (suburban);

### Negative factors:

Modern developments between Eastthorpe Lane and the Canal have somewhat fragmented the town centre, notably the Co-op supermarket and its open surface car park create a large gap in the urban form that is not in keeping with the scale and enclosure of streets and spaces in the town centre. The fire station is another example of an unfitting architectural response capturing the view at the end of Knowl Road.

- Gaudy / oversized business signage; uncharacteristic infill development or extensions; street clutter and road signage; erosion of the public realm character, highways and carriageway dominance (guard rails); UPVC windows and doors/ modern shopfronts.



*Boarded-up buildings detract from the environment and require bringing back into use, white painted railings and painted lines on the streetscape detract further overall*



*This well built and solid bus stop is pleasantly fitting with the town centre aesthetic*



*Glimpsed view down a side street over the Calder valley to hills*



**Huddersfield Road:** This mixed-use street is a key link to a neighbouring settlements and its slight elevation from the valley bottom and views out creates an interesting urban high street with visual connections to the landscape. The plot sizes are generally narrow but include larger individual dwellings on the periphery. It is book-ended by a park (west) and show ground (east).

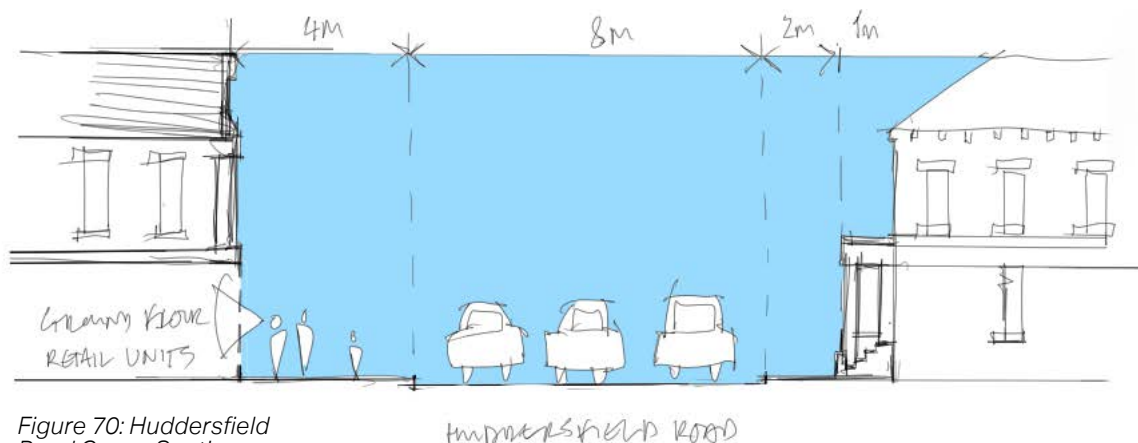


Figure 70: Huddersfield Road Cross-Section



Huddersfield Road shopfront

#### Architectural features:

- Regular coursed ashlar / rustication brick
- Quoins; corbels, Stone jambs, sills and lintels
- Stone slate roofs; Chimneys, Close cornices
- Coursed stone walls (1-2m in height)
- Stone casement windows; Mullions
- Key- stone window & doorway arches



Grand wide-fronted pair of buildings on Queen Street



Ings Grove Park provides relief and an important green recreation space within the urban town centre



Trinity Church terminates the view at the end of Fenton Street

**Listed Buildings:**

- Calder and Hebble Navigation Flood Lock at Newgate Bridge Grade II
- Former Lock-Keepers Cottage Grade II
- Church of St Paul Grade II
- Trinity Methodist Church Grade II
- Water Hall Grade II
- Front Wall, Railings and Gatepiers to Trinity Methodist Church Grade II
- Gatepiers and Gates to Water Hall Grade II
- Mirfield war memorial Grade II
- Detached House Approximately 50 Yards South East Of Number 115 Grade II



Figure 71: Figure Ground sample



...The same cannot be said for the fire station at the end of Knowl Road, a necessary facility no doubt but not helping the townscape or attractiveness of a fine town centre

## Historic character area design guidelines

**These design guidelines suggest principles to preserve the character, appearance of what is valuable in the area (or reinstate what has been lost), assist in managing change and the sympathetic evolution of the town centre.**

### Reinstate character features and traditional shopfronts:

Reinstatement of features is very important for the town centre area. Some buildings within the area have lost their original doors, windows, boundary walls, roof materials and other features. As a result, their character is being eroded, therefore when proposals for alterations to shopfronts and frontages or residential applications are submitted there will be an opportunity to encourage the reinstate traditional features and shopfronts to reflect their original pattern, style and material.



### Materials and details

The use of traditional materials, replacement of original styles of windows, doors and shopfronts are encouraged in submissions for planning permission.

The oldest parts of Mirfield, pre 1850s, are characterised by the use of locally quarried stone and include the classic York Stone Flag roof (see also figure 79 Table of Materials). Avoid use of UPVC shopfronts, window and door frames. This is a high embodied energy material that is not sustainably produced but the recycling of existing UPVC is important.

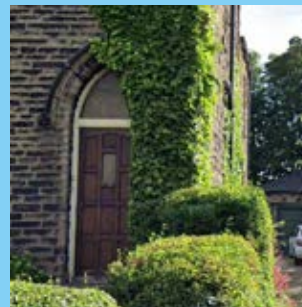


Figure 72: Example character features: arched doorway, chimneys, bay windows, stone mullions

### Minor Alterations

Small alterations including extensions to dwelling houses, the erection of buildings, enclosures or pools required for a purpose incidental to the enjoyment of a dwelling house, the provision of hard surfaces, and the erection of and alterations to boundaries can have a big impact on the character of the area. Replacing timber windows and doors with the plastic alternative and knocking down walls to form parking areas will have a detrimental effect on character and appearance of an area.

## Open spaces

The principal open spaces on the periphery of the town centre area consists of the Mirfield Showground, Mirfield Memorial recreation ground and Ings Grove Park as well as private gardens. Too much infill development and extensive housing developments in will have a serious effect on the character of the town centre area due to the need for green infrastructure in the heart of the settlement that offsets the higher density of development that is occurring here. Further encroachment here will deprive Mirfield of it's 'green lungs' which help to offset the pollution of through traffic and soften views from up on the hill-sides.

## Street trees and planting

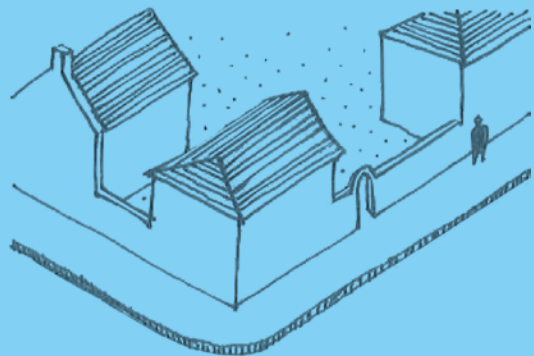
Trees make an important contribution to the character and appearance of the town centre and its setting. There are already some tree preservation orders on individual trees and groups of trees in the Town Centre vicinity. When considering development sites where trees are existing retention of large trees must be the first option. New development can incorporate old trees, giving instant maturity and added value that younger trees take many years to achieve. New street trees are vital for addressing future climate change.



## Plot boundaries & security

Loss of boundary walls and/ or planting may be harmful to the character and be detrimental to the town centre area. For example, knocking down walls to form parking areas will have a clear detrimental effect on the character and appearance of the street-scene and sense of enclosure.

New development must consider walls to connect the built form and distinguish public from private space where this is not done by the building itself. Open forecourts with landscaping for public buildings, such as at the library, greatly complement this approach by recognising importance.



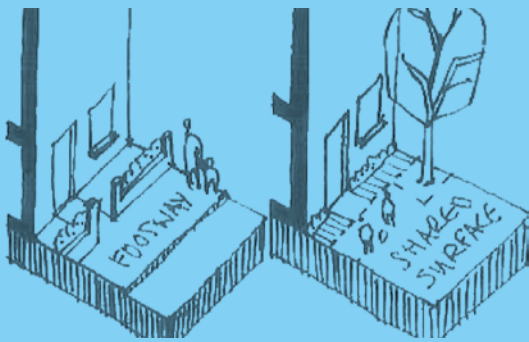
## Building height and scale

Typically 2.5 - 3 storey residential and 3-3.5 storey mixed-use buildings are suitable. Some four storey buildings may or elements may be appropriate in key locations to hold key views and allow a varied roofscape. However, consideration of actual storey and building heights must be considered as different periods of buildings will have varying floor to ceiling heights so new additions must be sympathetic to this subtlety.



## Public Realm & character

A vast amount of historic floorscape has been lost over the years in Mirfield town centre and around. It is important that when any road works occur that stone flags, setts or kerbs are retained and replaced instead of replacing with modern materials such as tarmac, concrete flags and kerbs. Speed control measures should also respect the historic character of the urban core and attempt to blend in with the materials used in the town centre and riverside public realm.



## Civilised streets

Streets are for both a place and movement function. Mirfield High Street has over time squeezed space for pedestrians and cyclists whilst wider junction radii have imposed the dominance of through traffic. More balanced and inclusive streets can aid commerce and reflect community identity. Vehicle traffic that passes through can be good for business but it must pass in a slow and orderly way that does not compromise pedestrian use and comfort. Crossing between shopfronts must not involve risking your life to the traffic.

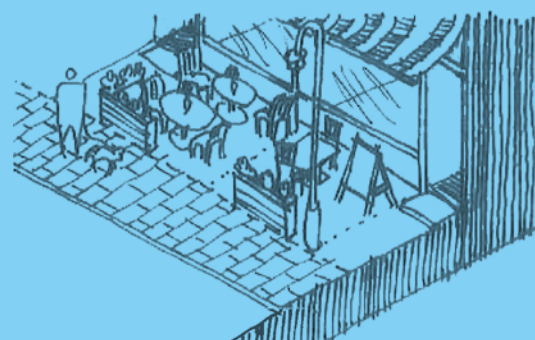
Any further street improvement schemes in the town centre / riverside should respect the historic nature of the centres and should enhance the conservation area both visually as well as functionally for all users putting pedestrians, wheelchairs and cyclists first.



## Signage and street furniture

The long term ambition should be that the character of Mirfield's streets and spaces does not require a host of signs, guardrails and physical controls for speed because drivers know they are entering a people first environment that they must pass through with an awareness of others.

Street signage should be minimal so that it does not detract from the character of the area. Street furniture ranging from street-lamps to bollards, bins, and benches should be carefully placed so that they do not clutter the streets and harm the appearance of the area. A standard selection of furniture, possibly from a general palette for wider application and a special palette for key locations will help to generate and tie in public realm. This must be integrated or replaced with landscaping that softens character and brings a sense of place.



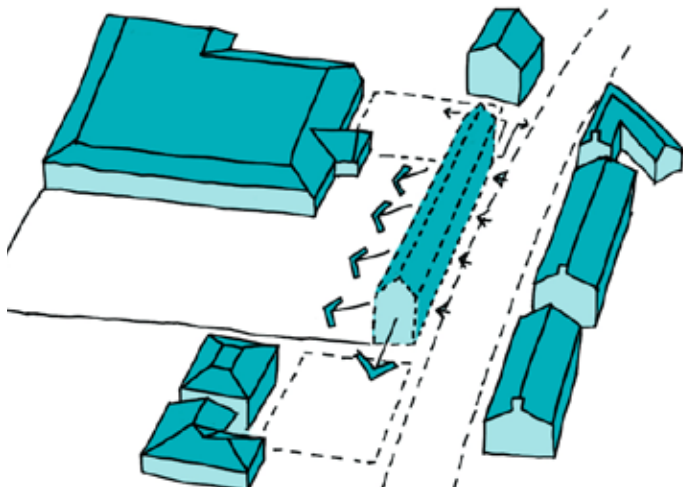


Figure 76: Birds-eye aerial view



Figure 75: Indicative sketch of how a small-scale development opportunity can create frontages to key streets, small retail units for local businesses and improve overall attractiveness of the town centre by screening parking, associated with 'big box' retail.

## Historic Core Design Opportunities:

1. **Green link to Station** - There must be a clearer strategy to make a green and pleasant route to the station. New tree planting within this street corridor could create legibility and make a much more attractive route from the station to the town centre. The street is broad and so even without a clear approach to development frontage there is a landscaping opportunity to seize.
2. **Public square opportunity area (Tesco)** – the setting to this important 'header building' (terminating the vista from Station Road) is eroded due to the piecemeal and irregular hard-landscape design, particularly clutter including signage; lighting bollards and bins which could be consolidated. The disabled parking bays could be reprovided discreetly on a higher quality hard-landscape surface (with flush block paving rather than tarmac and white lines which degrade the setting and highlight car dominance).
3. **Co-op frontage, Huddersfield Road (see diagram above)**
4. The lack of building along this edge and views over an expansive car park lets down the quality of the townscape with some poor views over surface car parking and the single-storey Co-op building (despite the lovely valley backdrop). Glimpsed views to the valley and car park could be retained to maintain legibility but the overall frontage on this outlook would help to improve the high street if it could be redeveloped in a more considered fashion. The Co-Op is an example of the type of box-retail building and expansive car-parking that does not suit historic town centres.
5. **Public realm opportunity area (Huddersfield Road)** – there is potential to improve the hard landscape and introduce planting and traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds and create a more comfortable pedestrian environment (and allow traffic to flow). E.g. consider wider pavements; planting between on street parking; higher quality finishes at key junctions to enable level-crossing for pedestrians and wheelchairs.

## Character Area 3: Northern Suburbs



*Suburban detached homes in Mirfield*

The Northern Suburbs of Mirfield are based on the original hillside villages that have merged together. A patchwork of historic buildings, streets and spaces are merged and infilled with a variety of modern suburban estates - this gives the northern neighbourhoods its mixed character and clear sub-areas (which are not outlined in this report).

However, there is a structure underpinning the suburban settlement pattern including; historic centres / service clusters), connecting streets and community institutions (schools and open spaces) that serve the various residential communities.

Five historic focus areas highlighted in section 2 provide the basis for examining the local characteristics within this wider area of mixed periods and styles that should form the true basis to contextually responsive design proposals. These are

- St. Mary's and Towngate
- Little London City (inc. Lee Green & Green Side)
- The Knowle
- Northorpe
- Battyeford



*Figure 77: Figure Ground sample*



*Figure 78: Birds-eye aerial view* ▶

## Focus Area: St. Mary's and Towngate

St. Mary's Church at Towngate is the oldest known church in the township of Mirfield and likely the most historic of the whole settlement.

Towngate in the middle of the 19th century was a linear development running for around 1/3 of a km on the northwest-southeast route of Towngate lane. Cottages were located on both sides. The Old Rectory is from C16 (former rectory from 1300).

There are four listed buildings in the Towngate locality including the church and rectory (Grade II\*). There are two other Grade II Listed - Ivy Lodge at the northern end of the village on Crowlees Road (with some 17th century stonework) and Over Hall (1721) to the north of the village. Much of the remainder of the Towngate has been overrun with suburban development.



*St Mary's Church*



*Precedent developments: Church Lane, Vicarage Meadows, Wellhouse Lane Mews Court*



## Focus Area: Little London City, Lee Green & Green Side

Remnant buildings of these three part-detached hamlets of GreenSide, Little London City and Lee Green, principally along Lee Green and Greenside Road, are interspersed with later infill development from Greenside Road to Old Bank Road. Settlement in this area appears to have been early Industrial Period with short rows of cottages, houses and at least one chapel. Wellhouse Farm is a timber framed house dating to 1576. The land in the triangle between these lanes is now Greenside Estate recreation ground.

The modern focus of Greenside is the local centre with several local shops and takeaways. There is a greater instance of red brick buildings in Greenside (further north and east), and Old Bank Road as far down as Water Royd Lane. Old Bank Road at the end of Lee Green is also a local centre.

### Characteristic features:

- Stone walls at front property boundaries and surrounding larger plots/ open spaces;
- Sandstone terraces, houses line lanes and set close to the pavement, or at 90°
- Open spaces to the east giving a semi-rural feel along Greenside Road;
- Historic unsurfaced lanes behind Lee Green such as Savile Place/Court;
- Infill developments and courts in the backlands of the main lanes; and
- Modern suburban red brick development towards the northern tip of the neighbourhood.



Historic mapping extract



Single storey extension to building on Lee Green is subservient to the house and the detailing at the roof junction/eaves is good



Development at Greenside Close has sympathetic materials, well proportioned windows and is of a comparable scale



Converted three-storey building on Lee Green, cleaned and restored



Figure 79: Figure Ground sample

◀ Figure 80: Birds-eye aerial view



Sandstone terraces / buildings are predominant along Greenside Road, and together with the stone walls



Single storey stone cottage conversion at junction with the Reynards



*Stone terraces with end gable*

## Focus Area: The Knowle

A concentration of worker housing and associated settlement including grander villas at Knowle from the later half of C19 remains around the triangular arrangement of Knowl Road, The Knowl and Back Knowl Road. There appears to have been at least one chapel and it is thought that a green could have formed the triangle at the centre of these lanes originally. This is interspersed with later infill development of a suburban nature. A local centre remains here with a series of local shops and also a nursery in the former school building.

### Characteristic features:

- Sandstone narrow terraces and larger sandstone villas;
- Back of pavement, small front gardens, or larger front gardens for villas
- Sandstone walls defining plot boundaries and the public realm, giving it a strong public and private definition with a good sense of enclosure;
- Institutional / civic buildings, e.g.. chapel/ school adapted for modern use (e.g. nursery)
- Adaptable terraces/ townhouses that allow shopfronts to replace ground level;
- Traditional buildings that 'turn the corner' at junctions;
- Mature hedgerows and planting on Knowl Road; and
- Typically 1 – 2.5 storey buildings.



Knowl Road



*St. Peter's Close - This inward facing development for the elderly, with it's front doors on this cul-de-sacs has an unclear relationship of building to street (sawtooth) and lacks definition in public and private space. It would benefit from the simple introduction of low boundary walls to better define public and private space and link into the street in more ways than it does. This would give a greater security to residents also.*



Figure 81: Figure Ground sample

◀ Figure 82: Birds-eye aerial view



Stone boundary walls, Knowl Road



Larger detached properties, Knowl Road





Figure 83: Shillbank Lane terraces

## Focus Area: Northorpe

The coming together of Northorpe Lane, Crossley Lane and Shillbank Lane forms the modern hub for this area based around the Plough Pub and Shillbank Stores.

This small village (formerly Hamlet) is approximately 800m northeast of Towngate. Northorpe was also a linear development, with the lane widening in the centre to form a small irregular green by the hall which corresponds with Northorpe Lane today. Three buildings in the village are Listed. These comprise Northorpe Hall of 17th century date, the hall's aisled barn also of 17th century date and a house dated to 1701.

Sandstone terraces are found along Shillbank Lane and on Crossley Lane where the terrace is at 90° to the street, aligned with the contours of Crossley Hill rather than stepping up it which is a typical arrangement found in Mirfield.

### Characteristic features:

- Views across the Calder Valley on southern aligned streets
- Victorian era light sandstone brick terraces (worker housing for mills etc.)
- Narrow fronted sandstone terraces with pitches roofs, chimneys and simple, well-proportioned windows. Occasional wide fronted terraces on Shillbank Lane also;
- Low boundary walls and short setbacks to properties on main streets (e.g. Shillbank Lane) and hedgerows for privacy in front gardens or sometimes railings atop low walls;
- Terraces set to back of pavement on steeper streets, sometimes with a verge separating the pavement from the street, or lane access for terraces aligned with the contours;
- Open spaces, estates and semi-rural lanes are defined by stone / drystone walls;
- More introduction of red-brick from Edwardian period properties and later;



Figure 85: Norththorpe Hall boundary wall



Figure 86: Shillbank Lane

The infill areas of Norththorpe are mostly consumed with unremarkable suburban development with red brick estates more common in this area that contrast with the predominant character of the sandstone terraces on the main streets of the area.

Removal of front boundary walls for parking on traditional terraces properties is understandable from a liveability perspective but erodes traditional character overall (see above).



Figure 88: Birds-eye aerial view



Figure 87: Shillbank Lane



Figure 84: Figure Ground sample



Figure 89: Figure Ground sample

Figure 90: Former Three Nuns pub at the former Kiklees Priory

## Focus Area: Battyeford

Stocksbank Road and Nab Lane form the spine of Battyeford which is a neighbourhood with its own local shops, schools, pubs and churches, somewhat dispersed throughout.

Much of the historic urban fabric lies between Huddersfield Road and Stocksbank Road.

The land rises to the north and there are views down north-south oriented streets to and over the Calder Valley.

The area is a mix of older stone terraces and houses on key streets (often the connected streets such as Stocksbank Bank Road, Bank Street, Coppin Hall Lane) and on narrow lanes such as Bracken Hill. Modern suburban cul-de-sac or loop developments sit in-between. There is a complex of institutional buildings associated with the church (Christ the King, Mirfield Monastery and Community of the Resurrection) which form a break in the urban form to the west and a care home to the north which occupies the site of a former estate with its stone boundary walls and parkland (sitting within the Green belt),

**Listed buildings:**

- Church Of The College Of The Resurrection Grade II
- Over Hall Grade II



Figure 91: Huddersfield Road

◁ Figure 92: Birds-eye aerial view



Figure 93: Clockwise from top left - Church of the Resurrection; Copin Hall Lane; Kitson hill Road and Half Penny Bridge (Battyeford Toll Bridge)

## Northern Suburbs character area design guidelines

**Patches of historic townscape and swathes of modern suburban infill give the northern suburbs a mixed character. However there is still a historic structure with an overarching suburban settlement pattern including; centres (small mixed-use clusters), main streets; minor streets; infill developments (on former estates) and neighbourhood infrastructure (schools and open spaces).**

**Historic Focus Areas:** once many small settlements, neighbourhoods such as Battyeford is now incorporated within the Township of Mirfield. Like Upper Hopton, the area maintains it's own identity. The character that this area is distinctive and residents are keen to maintain it as such.

**Edges conditions:** Sites along the edges closely relate to rural Green Belt character also and must respond to Area 6 also;

**Mixed-character:** Future developments should be for the next century but should blend with what has gone before. Housing developers should look to the wealth of historical architecture in Mirfield first but innovation - with purpose - is welcome;

**Bungalow estates:** The trend for single storey buildings has left a lasting imprint on Mirfield's hillsides and whilst these have proved popular these types are unsuitable for main streets and centres next to Historic Focus areas, or alongside traditional forms.

**Development Pressures:** Residential infill and development of protected open spaces; edge of town sites in adjoining green belt (see Figure 1 also);

**Plot boundaries:** Rear boundaries should be masonry; Front boundaries should be low masonry wall with piers; and/or railings and hedgerows;

**Built-form:** Varies from attached terraces on main streets to semi-detached and detached suburban homes on modern estates; boundary walls connect up buildings on main streets / in centres;

**Building heights/ storeys:** Varies in scale from two storey terraces, semi-detached and detached suburban homes to 2.5 storey mixed-use townhouses in local centres;

**Gardens and plot sizes:** Varying with building type and size but generally larger detached houses should be set on a larger/wider plot; whereas terraces must have deeper gardens to compensate;

**Development pattern:** Due to the hillside topography an irregular grid criss-crosses according to desire lines across the area between historic settlements;

**Street hierarchy:** A legible hierarchy of characterful streets of different scales connecting directly to local centres and community infrastructure need to be maintained and replanted with trees;

**Building line formality:** This area has potential to have a variety of character with formal streets close to the station, town centre or Lower Hopton and more informal areas feathering out eastward;

**Building materials:** A mix of stone, slate, brick as well as more innovative use of metal and glass should be explored in harmony with the landscape character - potential for innovation, within context.

## 3.6 Character Area 4: Lower Hopton

Lower Hopton sits on the lower slopes up from the southern bank of the River Calder. Calder Road / Granny Lane follow the river, forming the main frontage. Together with Hopton Lane, which leads up the slope to Upper Hopton, they form the main streets. The Flowerpot Inn, Hopton New Chapel and Ledgard Bridge create a series of landmarks along Calder Road. Lower Hopton as a place name arrived with the provision of a series light sandstone brick terraces, one along the River Calder by the Flowerpot Inn (Philip Royd Terrace) and the remainder perpendicular to the Calder between the Chapel and Ledgard bridge. Much of this street structure and the terraces survive and the ends of these terrace blocks facing the Calder are established as local shops, pubs and services, forming a local centre to the area.

Initial extensions to the terrace streets (e.g. Marshall Street/Johnson Street) have some semi-detached bungalows which are an unsympathetic scale and poorly detailed in comparison.

Later developments (e.g. Spinners Way) have more of a nod to the heritage of the area although our patterns of living have obviously changed with sinuous streets to calm cars (instead of direct walking routes) and somewhat contrived organic layouts to add interest and respond to the levels of the site.

Gregory Springs Road, despite a pleasant tree lined entrance, feels out of character due to the predominant use of red brick that contrasts with most of the area's sandstone brick. The C20 loop layout and lack of consistent boundary treatment and front-garden parking leads to a lack of well-defined urban structure,



*Typical sandstone terraces stepping up the slope*



*View to Ledgard Wharf from Calder Street (across river)*

enclosure and connectivity with some odd angles and ill-defined views (e.g. garages/ parking terminating the view of the entrance to development).

Hopton Bottom is an example of terrace set at 90' to the street which caps the view on Granny Lane based on its orientation.



*Later homes in Lower Hopton of a different scale, with different proportion windows and openings to the traditional terraces*



*Contemporary designed homes on Hopton Lane use sandstone and decent sized windows for natural light*

### Characteristic features:

- Views to the River Calder, its bridges (Ledgard Bridge / Hopton New Road)
- Ledgard Wharf (redeveloped) is a local landmark, across the River Calder
- The Chapel, set back from Calder road, is a grander institutional building and landmark
- Stone wall with crenelations atop running the length of the River Calder
- Victorian era light sandstone brick terraces (worker housing for mills)
- A highly connected built-form – terraces stepping up the hill
- Terraces 'turn the corner', having dual frontage on corners and set to back of pavement or small front yards
- Small back yards, alleys for rear access and limited parking
- Pitched roofs parallel to street & chimneys

### Listed Buildings:

- Hopton Congregational Church Grade II\*



*Birds-eye aerial view*

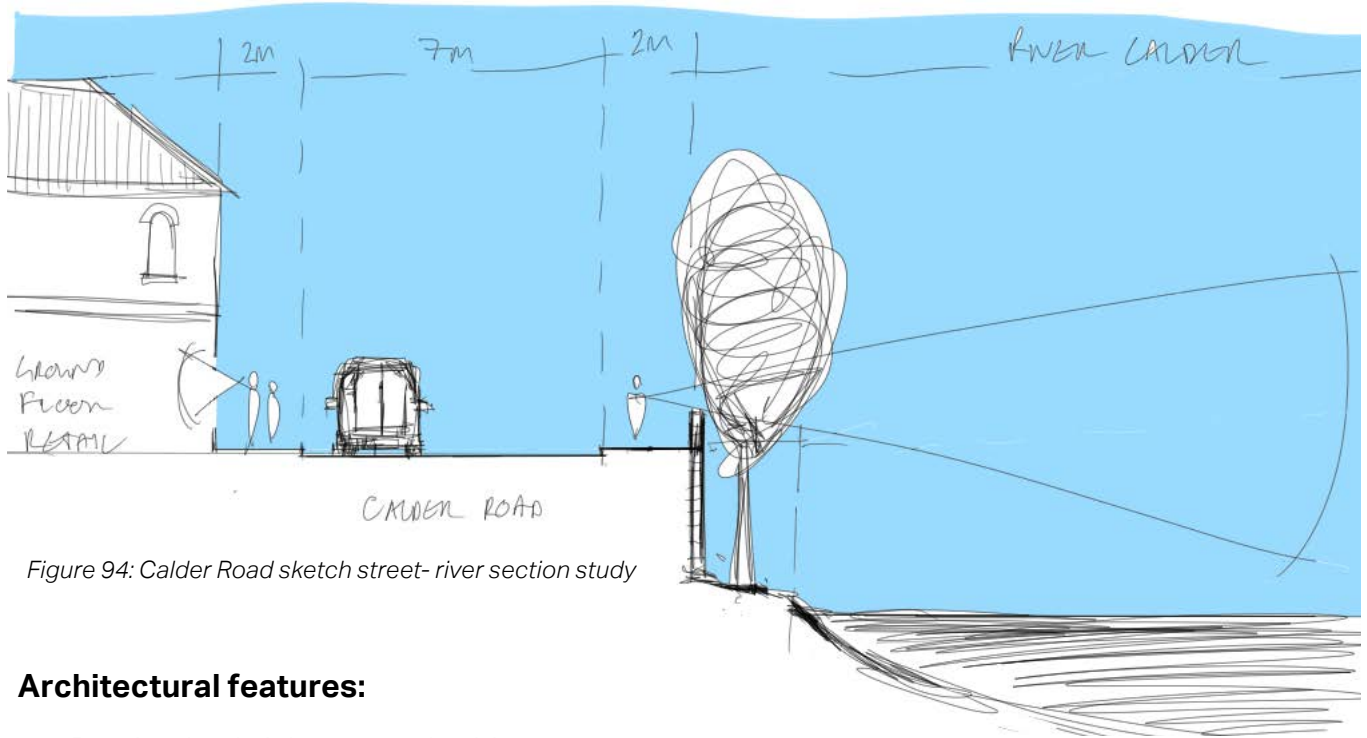


Figure 94: Calder Road sketch street- river section study

**Architectural features:**

- Rustication brick, coursed ashlar stone
- Quoins; corbels, Stone sills and lintels
- Stone slate roofs; Chimneys, Close cornices
- Coursed stone walls (1-2m in height)
- Vertical proportioned windows for good natural lighting
- None or recessed canopies / porches
- Doorsteps / stepped buildings
- Traditional shopfronts



Calder Road shops



Figure 95: Figure Ground sample



Hopton New Chapel



## Lower Hopton character area design guidelines

**A Victorian grid of streets and terraces (with some C21 suburban extensions) gives this riverside neighbourhood its distinctive character. There is a strong structure of urban-grid streets laid out perpendicular to the riverside frontage which is also the area's local centre and main thoroughfare (Calder Road), a key face of the neighbourhood (and town) which should be valued greatly for its outward looking terraces and shops.**

**Residential and Industrial Focus:** This neighbourhood expanded significantly to provide housing for the valley bottom textile and other industries; the Victorian streets are aligned to the nearby Mill at Ledgard Bridge. There is a strong character to respond to;

**Edges condition:** The boundary with the River Calder is particularly important with the street/ footpath running alongside enabling views and landscape character to permeate the neighbourhood giving a very pleasant outlook. Development must address this;

**Mixed-use flexibility:** Developments should prove flexible and adaptable like the existing terraces facing the River Calder have - their ground floor allows for shops and cafés which should be supported by an improved public realm and space for pavement culture;

**Building heights/ storeys:** Varies in scale from two storey terraces, to 3 storey mixed-use townhouses on Calder Road. Bungalows (or which there are some already) should not be placed facing this main street as they are unsupportive of this important character frontage and streets hierarchy;

**Development opportunities:** Residential infill and redevelopment of some terraced streets have been poorly realised with squat semi-detached homes that do not match the scale of the Victorian terraces. These undermine the character on key corners such as Johnson Street/ Calder Street;

**Plot boundaries:** Development may be set close to back of pavement with small privacy strips/planting or low masonry wall with or without hedgerows/railings; Boundaries visible from the street must be masonry (not wooden board fencing);

**Built-form:** Mostly attached terraces on main streets with semi-detached and detached suburban homes on modern infill estates; boundary walls connect buildings/plots on main/minor streets;

**Gardens and plot sizes:** It varies with building type and size but generally small gardens or yards for terraces, some with back alleys to give access for bikes/bins;

**Development pattern:** Due to the sloping topography streets are set perpendicular to the slope with terraces stepping up to give an interesting roofline;

**Street hierarchy:** A legible hierarchy of well-enclosed grid streets aligned back to the river would benefit from more green space for street tree planting;

**Building line formality:** This area has a strong building line formality which creates a good degree of street scale;

**Building materials:** A mix of rusticated brick and stone (sometimes blackened by smoke), slate, and occasional original wooden frame fenestration/ shopfronts.

## Character Area 5: Calder Valley



Figure 96: Figure Ground sample

◁ Figure 97: Bridge

Mirfield grew up as an industrial development based around textiles, but later this industrial emphasis shifted towards coal and malting. There have been as many as thirteen malt houses in Mirfield. Industry has changed to include more modern, highly polluting industry adjacent to the river corridor which is a sensitive environmental receptor so cleanliness must continue.



Public art under the railway bridge- graffiti wall welcoming visitors to Mirfield helps orientate visitors and brightens up the industrial setting around the station

### Listed buildings:

- Sheep Ings Farmhouse and Attached Barn Grade II
- Boat House Grade II
- Broad Oakes Grade II
- Cottage to Rear of Broad Oaks Grade II
- Walls to East and South of Broad Oaks Grade II
- Railway viaduct MVN2/196, Wheatley's Bridge Grade II
- Railway underbridge MVN2/194, Hirst Lane
- Ledgard Bridge (over River Calder) Grade II
- Railway Bridge over River Calder (Mirfield Cooper Bridge Line) Grade II
- Calder And Hebble Navigation Cottage At Shepley Bridge Locks Grade II
- Calder And Hebble Navigation Double Lock At Shepley Bridge Grade II



Figure 98: Public art

Figure 99: Birds-eye aerial view



Figure 100: Clockwise from top-left - Canal bridge; new canalside homes; South Brook Gardens; and Ledgard Bridge

The scale and massing of buildings in this area, stemming from the Victorian industrial era, is generally greater and the location on the floodplain means that they are often visible along the valley from a wide variety of locations by river and canalside.

The Calder Valley acts as a “green corridor”, due to its many linear features and extensive tracts of water. The presence of a navigable waterway and a history of boat building in Mirfield is an important asset to the landscape, although unfortunately, much of this is hidden from view.

Orientation and legibility are key issues upon arrival at Mirfield station and choosing which direction to head in. The general environment is lower quality and with much industrial use visible. Great efforts have been made to improve the street-tunnel under the railway with lighting and murals that animate and brighten it.



*The scale and massing of buildings in this area, stemming from the Victorian industrial era, is generally greater and the location on the floodplain means that they are often*

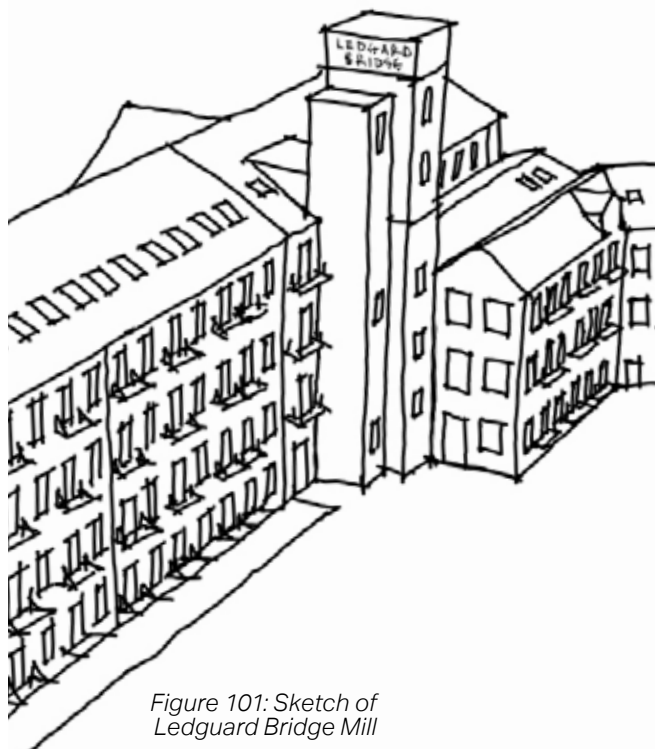


Figure 101: Sketch of Ledgard Bridge Mill



*This combination front parking, bins and low quality boundary creates an unwelcoming and unattractive street scene that is unfitting for what is otherwise a well considered townhouse development on Back Station Road next to Ledgard Wharf*



*The extension to Ledgard Wharf is fittingly designed to relate to the proportions and materials of the original building but yet clearly expresses that it is a later addition through the glazed core that divides new and old.*

## 5. Calder Valley Industry Design Guidelines

**The Calder Valley acts as a “green & blue corridor”, due to its many linear features and extensive tracts of water. The presence of a navigable waterway and a history of boat building in Mirfield is an important asset to the landscape, although much of this is hidden from view. Reinforcing this green infrastructure corridor, prioritising sustainable travel methods and minimising flood risk impact through development should be prioritised within this area. A range of industrial uses are located here but a long term vision for change away polluting businesses and move towards sustainable, productive uses (like existing allotments) that are compatible with flood risk would help.**

**Regeneration Opportunity:** Regeneration of brownfield land for productive uses; Green & blue infrastructure links; Employment uses; Flood plain compatible uses and defences; Industrial building conversion; Transport orientated development (railway station); a masterplan vision could prevent piecemeal development of this long term opportunity;

**Precedent schemes:** Ledgard Wharf; Back Station Row; Mirfield Station underpass;

**Plot boundaries:** Rear boundaries masonry; Front: Low masonry with piers or drystone;

**Built-form:** Varies from large-scale industrial complexes to recently converted mills and townhouses closer to the railway station;

**Building heights/ storeys:** The industrial scale and massing sets a precedent in one off locations but the proximity to the train

station and town centre views requires a 3 storey limit to allow a reasonably high density on suitable brownfield sites;

**Gardens and plot sizes:** Regardless of the development opportunity small gardens or private outdoor space (balconies/ roof terraces) should be provided to ensure amenity access;

**Development pattern:** Due to the flat nature of the area a grid based on linking desire lines across the area can be set out as needed to accommodate uses;

**Street alignment:** A legible grid of connected routes for pedestrians and cyclists must be maintained and linked to bridge crossings and the canal towpath;

**Building line formality:** This area has potential to have a variety of character with formal streets close to the station, town centre or Lower Hopton and more informal areas feathering out eastward;

**Corner sites:** Legibility and orientation are key on this floodplain area of limited development, so where routes intersect placemaking features - be they planting, buildings, public art or signage are key;

**Building scale and character:** Scale should respond to neighbouring areas and key infrastructure / corridors; e.g. town centre, canalside and riverside;

**Building materials:** Stone, slate, brick metal and glass will suffice and some types of industrial/agricultural cladding may be explored but mostly materials harmony in with the local landscape;

**Typical details and features:** Simple industrial / waterfront details and stone construction or expressed framework.

## 3.8 Character Area 6: Greenbelt

### Rural hamlets & farmsteads

The settlement of the Mirfield Township in the mid-C19 century consisted of scattered farms, folds and hamlets, broken linear development, a zone of industrial development along the Calder Valley and two of three settlements which may have had origins as small villages in the medieval period. As suburban development has moved up the hillside north of the Calder the hilltops are still sites of small-scale farm and more dispersed hamlets which enjoy great views remain in the periphery of the parish in the more exposed and sensitive locations higher up. These enclaves and edges with strong relationships to the surrounding fields and woodland give us an idea of what early settlements in Mirfield would have felt like in comparison to the urban situation today.

#### Characteristic features:

- Stone cottages and farm buildings interspersed with modern working farm buildings;
- Narrow hedge-lined lanes or with stone walls;
- Enclosed fields and views to / across the valley
- Stands of trees and planting break up and help settle buildings into the landscape;



*Typical country lanes with stone walls and fencing that have a practical roll to prevent livestock escaping and define property boundaries*



*A typical complex of farmhouse and related buildings that form courtyards and sit within a variety of planting including a stand of trees which can help to settle visually and reduce exposure to strong winds*

#### Listed buildings

Liley Hall Grade II (Southern tip of Parish)



Figure 102: Northgate/ Hollin Hall hamlet is a cluster of dwellings that forms a key gateway



Figure 103: Precedent image: eco-barn incorporates passive design measures within a rural typology



Figure 104: Traditional rural dwelling (bottom) sits well within its context

## Green Belt Character area design guidelines

It is usually a given that within and in close proximity to the Greenbelt, the local planning authority will expect the quality of built form to be of high quality. Residential development would be of low-density; buildings would be sensitively designed, likely using traditional building techniques and materials reflecting the local vernacular and key characteristics. It is also assumed that there would be a strong, locally-appropriate and effective landscape framework, with siting, access, layout, scale, design and engineering work being landscape-led. This will help to ensure that the development achieves a good fit in the landscape.

**Typical building types:** Rural vernacular farm houses and cottages, period or manor houses; agricultural buildings and barns;

**Building setback:** Varies greatly between building set back on plot with screening or boundary walls and close set to back of lanes (possibly oriented at 90' or with some defensible space to the front;

**Plot boundaries:** Rear boundaries stock fence or drystone adjacent to lanes; Front: Drystone or low masonry wall with piers;

**Built-form:** Varies from attached rural cottages to lone farmhouses, walled courtyard or simple form additions to buildings (e.g. L-plan or extensions at 90');

**Building heights/ storeys:** 2 - 2.5 storeys typically with some single storey dwellings or extensions; storey heights vary by period;

**Degree of enclosure:** Isolated buildings with boundary walls (and planting) help to define focal points within the open agricultural landscape;

**Gardens and plot sizes:** Varied plot sizes; Gardens often walled or fenced;

**Development pattern:** Linear lanes and farm courtyard/ agricultural complex arrangements and forms means no regular 'urban blocks';

**Street alignment:** Historic lanes aligned to local or historic features and topography. Lanes and rural roads with deflections based on former and existing field patterns that help slow driver speed;

**Building line formality:** Irregular / informal, some buildings oriented at 90' to the street. Stepping in and out but united by boundary treatments;

**Corner buildings/ details:** Small windows / simple working / decorative elements on secondary façades;

**Street scale and character:** Narrow and intimate scale streets and spaces are common; Single-sided or no footpaths on rural roads; and drystone walls help to maintain enclosure and boundaries which prevent livestock access.

**Public realm:** Informal lanes with widening and narrowing points , important to keep historic lanes unsurfaced for character purposes;

**Building materials:** Stone, slate, render; some variety in use of metal, wood and glass but mostly materials harmony in with the local landscape;

**Typical details and features:** Simple vernacular detailing in stone with stone sills and lintels and well-scaled porches.

**See also:** Adapting Traditional Farm Buildings Best Practice Guidelines for Adaptive Reuse (Historic England, 2017)



A photograph of a stone staircase with a circular green overlay. The overlay contains the text 'Next Steps' and the number '04'. The background shows a stone wall with a small window and some plants at the base of the stairs.

Next Steps

04

## 4. Next Steps

### Conservation area designation

An area has to be identified by the local authority as having a definite architectural quality or historic interest to merit designation (NPPF paragraph 127).

Conservation areas are normally designated by the local planning authority. The Secretary of State can also designate a conservation area anywhere in England in exceptional circumstances – usually where the area is of more than local interest.

The designation of further areas within the Mirfield as such cannot be enacted by the neighbourhood group but this document is an evidence base that can contribute towards the process should it be desired, e.g. around the town centre and historic urban core of Mirfield.

### Article 4 Directions in conservation areas

Local Planning Authorities may remove “permitted development” rights by way of an Article 4 Direction. An Article 4(2) Direction is designed to prevent the special character of the area being spoilt by an accumulation of relatively minor but potentially inappropriate alterations to buildings and their immediate surroundings. Such alterations would usually constitute “permitted development” and would not require express planning permission.

The aim of the controls is to protect the dwelling houses from development likely to detract from the appearance of the conservation area in which homes lie.

There is scope in Upper Hopton Conservation Area for the creation of Article 4 Directions, however there have been a large number of alterations to buildings throughout the village such as changing wooden windows and doors

to UPVC equivalents. The removal of “permitted development” rights may include controls on changing windows and doors from wood to UPVC, changing the roof materials from natural traditional materials to artificial alternatives, alterations to boundary walls, gate piers, fences and gates, cladding or painting the exterior of the property.

However, the proposal of Article 4 Directions in Upper Hopton will require a further public consultation. It must be recognised that this can be costly and inconvenient to residents undertaking routine maintenance and repair.

### Calder valley regeneration masterplan

It is suggested that a masterplan for the Calder Valley floodplain / industrial area could be useful to create a vision and manage change across this area. This could help the area transition from more polluting industries to the more sustainable forms of green industries and linked infrastructures that serve the town.

### Town centre public realm scheme

There are small but significant opportunities within the town centre to improve the space for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users. These will not disrupt traffic flow, but balance it to create more space, landscaping and comfort for non-vehicle users in their own town centre.

### Shopfront and signage design guide

One of the key ways to improve the attractiveness and competitiveness of the town centre is through simple rules to improve shopfronts. This may be best applied to a wider range of centres than just Mirfield, possibly addressed at the district level.

A photograph of a residential street with a road sign and a utility pole, overlaid with a teal circle containing the text 'Appendix A1'. The street is paved and has a white dashed line on the right side. There are several cars parked along the street. The houses are made of brick and stone. The sky is clear and blue.

Appendix

# A1

# A1. Appendix

## MIRFIELD BUILDING RECOMMENDATIONS

### (Mirfield Design Statement 2002)

*Developments should maintain and strengthen visual cohesion and help to renew the specific architectural traditions of the area. Current and future developments should meet the following guidelines: -*

- 1. Refer to local settlement patterns in layout.*
- 2. Ideally avoid substantial repetition of one house type.*
- 3. Respect good historic local characteristics and context of the particular site.*
- 4. Respond to typical setting and garden forms, having regard to surroundings and local vernacular.*
- 5. Refer to local buildings and proportion. (There will be a variety of proportions throughout the area and developments must reflect those which are adjacent)*
- 6. Refer to local distinctive details and materials and accurately match these to the chosen building form and adjacent buildings.*
- 7. Encourage reuse of appropriate building materials.*
- 8. Encourage energy efficiency.*
- 9. Any new or currently unimplemented planning applications should be discussed in detail with the Town Council, if they are of an unusual nature or give cause for concern.*
- 10. Whenever possible, new development should incorporate boundary walls and hedges, and not be laid out in an open plan style, so as to provide a unifying element to the village, in keeping with the style of surrounding properties.*
- 11. Existing buildings and features of architectural or historical importance should be retained whenever possible.*
- 12. Provision should be made in any new development to renovate existing buildings that contribute to maintaining the character of the area and by working with the original style where possible.*
- 13. Buildings should be maintained and extended using original materials and details (or new materials in keeping with the original ones), and in a style and proportion in keeping with the original property.*
- 14. Any retail building should have lighting and signage of a subdued and discreet nature. They should be non-reflective and not in very bright colours.*
- 15. Any housing development should aim to include either garaging or off-street parking. New garages should not obscure houses from the road whenever possible.*
- 16. Plans of how developments would fit in to their surroundings may be helpful. Developers should be encouraged to do this, providing the maximum amount of information and detail. Also, developers of infill sites, those closely neighboured by existing houses, should be prepared to provide additional material such as perspective drawings, to show how their development would appear in relation to their surroundings.*
- 17. Future developments should have an engineering survey undertaken.*
- 18. New developments must protect and enhance the external view of the town.*
- 19. Lateral extensions to buildings should not impede existing views of the local landmarks and should retain gaps between buildings.*
- 20. The insensitive choice of masonry paint colours can easily change the character of buildings making them too dominant in the streetscape.*
- 21. Resist new advertisement hordings and seek removal of existing hoardings and fly posting.*

Figure 106: Mirfield Building Recommendations (MDS, 2002)

## Mirfield Design Statement 2002

### *Summary*

*A variety of historic building types gives Mirfield its essence and character. Each area mentioned is a little settlement in itself.*

*Mixed developments of different types would be desirable. Future developments should be for the next century and should blend with what has gone before. A move away from too many four bedroom detached properties in one area would be desirable.*

*Builders of single story developments should look to our wealth of historical architecture before they build. The trend and demand seems to be for low lying buildings, easily maintainable and cost effective to both residents and builders, with concern to layout and maintenance of gardens.*

*The use of current buildings for conversion should be addressed and given due consideration.*

*Development should reflect the enclosure of space by walls and hedges of historic spaces.*

*Whilst Upper Hopton and Battyeford are now incorporated into the Township of Mirfield, each district has continued to maintain its own identity. The characteristics of each are distinctive and the residents are ever anxious to maintain the individuality of these areas as separate villages.*

Figure 107: Concluding thoughts (MDS, 2002)



**AECOM**