

**Corridor Name – Wharfe**

**Corridor Level – Regional**

**Corridor ID – R17**

The regionally significant Wharfe corridor starts in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and runs to the north of Leeds joining the Ouse corridor to the south of York. The upper part of the corridor is at the heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The whole of the corridor is rich in terms of cultural heritage, wildlife and recreational assets. It includes a number of settlements that are the focus for tourist activity, notably Burnsall, Grassington, Kettlewell and Ilkley in addition to other key sites such as Bolton Abbey and Kilnsey Crag. The corridor demonstrates much agricultural use – developing from low intensity grazing in the north of the corridor to more intensive arable to the south. It continues eastwards to Cawood where it meets the Ouse. The valley provides a landscape setting for the towns and villages along its length including Grassington, Ilkley, Otley and Tadcaster.

<b>Function</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Openspace	Bolton Abbey. Riverside Gardens, Ilkley. Middleton Woods. Wharfe Meadows Park. Chevin Forest Park. Grimston Parkland. Patefield Wood and Carr Wood, Scarthingwell. The Park, Nun Appleton. Riparian footpaths intermittently along the river banks.
Biodiversity	Upper Wharfedale SSSI. North Pennine Moors SAC. Grass Wood Nature Reserve. Strid Wood SSSI. South Pennine Moors SAC. Chevin Forest Park LNR. Great Dib Wood SSSI. Otley Gravel Pits. East Keswick Fitts SSSI. Linton Common SSSI. Tadcaster Mere SSSI. Kirkby Wharfe SSSI. Bolton Percy Ings SSSI. Nesfield Woods. Middleton Woods SEGI. River Wharfe SEGI. Middleton Hospital SINC. West Park/Stubbs Wood SINC. Denton Park. Weston Park. Farnley Park SINC. Bradford Wildlife Areas (third tier sites) at Low Mill, Lumb Gill Wood, Hollin Hall, Briery Woods/Hebers Ghyll, Panorama Wood, Owler Park, Terrace Gill, Crabtree Gill, Ilkley Cemetery, Sun Lane Burley and Burley Disused railway. Cow and Calf Rocks RIGS. Multiple BAP habitats including Rivers, Deciduous Woodland, Lowland Meadow, Upland Hay Meadow, Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Reedbed, Lowland Calcareous Grassland and Fen. Large areas of ancient woodland. Various UKBAP species such as otter, brown trout, salmon and european eel. These all require installation of fish passes or removal of weirs to enhance the watercourse. Leeds City Council is encouraging fish passes on weirs for this purpose.
Landscape	The corridor passes through the Yorkshire Dales National Park and includes part of the Nidderdale AONB. Both these areas are designated for their valuable landscapes. The Wharfe corridor is characterised by floodplain pasture, mixed upland pasture and wooded incline with medium sensitivity to change. Views across and along the river valley. Bolton Abbey.
Products from the land	Agricultural land throughout the corridor.

Flood risk	Many areas along the corridor prone to flooding – especially Ilkley, Otley, Wetherby and Tadcaster. By controlling run off in catchment, the severity of flooding could be reduced. Potential for wetland creation/restoration to retain flood water and reduce flooding down the catchment.
Climate Change	Several areas of woodland which could be managed for fuel and/or carbon sequestration in several locations along the corridor. Some areas where peat restoration could provide carbon sequestration. Potential for landfill gas from Skibeden Landfill, Skipton (generator installed at end 2009). Opportunities to link green and grey infrastructure with potential hydro power on weirs along the corridor.
Accessibility	National Cycle Network Route 66. Yorkshire Dales Cycleway. Dales Way. Ebor Way. West Yorkshire Cycle Route. Wetherby to Thorp Arch Railway Path. Network of other footpaths and bridleways.
Recreation	Bracken Ghyll Golf Course. Ilkley Golf Course. Ben Rhydding Golf Club. Otley Golf Club. Wetherby Golf Course. Playing fields at Kettlewell, Grassington, Threshfield, Ilkley, Burley in Wharfedale, Otley, Wetherby and Ulleskelf. Cricket Grounds at Embsay, Addingham, Burley in Wharfedale, Otley, Pool in Wharfedale, Arthington, Church Fenton. Promoted access routes. Fishing along the river banks.
Education	National Park Centre at Grassington. Hesketh Farm Park. Bolton Abbey. Nell Bank Outdoor Education Centre, Ilkley. Chevin Forest Park LNR. Education facilities for Leeds schools at Carlshead Farm, Sicklinghall.
Cultural	Yockenthwaite Stone Circle SM. Settlements in Grass Wood SM. Burnsall Churchyard Cross SM. Barden Tower SM. Bolton Priory SM. St Peters Churchyard Cross SM. Medieval Settlement and Field System SM. Site of Roman Fort – Ilkley SM. Ilkley Old Bridge SM. Denton Parkland. Otley Bridge SM. Rougemont Ring & Bailey SM. Wetherby Bridge SM. Kyme Castle SM. Tadcaster Motte & Bailey Castle SM. Mote Hill SM. Nun Appleton Hall and Parkland. Conservation Area at Hubberholme, Buckden, Starbotton, Kettlewell, Grassington, Linton, Burnsall and Embsay.
Tourism	Yorkshire Dales National Park. Kettlewell. Kilnsey. Grassington. Bolton Abbey. Embsay Steam Railway. Nidderdale AONB. Ilkley. Ilkley Moor. Cow and Calf Rocks. Otley Chevin. Otley – The Gateway to the Dales. Tadcaster Breweries.
Poor Quality Environments	Sand and gravel extraction currently underway within the corridor will offer future opportunities to

	reuse sites to create new sites which could be used for wildlife, recreation or flood management.
Economic Growth	Proximity to markets of Leeds and principal town of Wetherby offers opportunities for farm diversification e.g. conversion of farm buildings to domestic and business premises and energy crops.