

11. Lythe

11.1 Location, Landscape Context and Setting

Lythe is located approximately 1 mile from the coast, to the west of Sandsend. The A174 passes east-west through the village. Lythe is within the Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Type (LCT 4) and its setting is typical of LCT 4, comprising a patchwork of largely arable fields to the north, and a steep wooded valley (the Sandsend Beck valley) to the south.

However, the village and its setting are also strongly influenced by the presence of the nearby Mulgrave Estate. The designed parkland and woodlands of the estate lie immediately to the south of the village, and a driveway to Mulgrave castle – with gate lodges – starts at the southern edge of the village. The estate influences the style and decoration of buildings within Lythe village, with many houses having doors painted a matching dark green colour.

Lythe's name derives from Old Norse and means 'hill or slope', presumably referring to the steep coastal slope of Lythe Bank, just to the east of the village. It could also refer to the slopes of the Sandsend Beck valley which falls away to the south of the village.

11.2 Settlement form and character

The village is nucleated in form, and is sited around the junction between the A174 and a minor lane ('Low Lane') which crosses the Sandsend Beck valley. A main entrance to the Mulgrave Estate is located off Low Lane at the southern edge of the village. Lythe village includes farms, houses and village facilities including pub, school and sports ground. The south-eastern part contains several larger isolated houses within large plots, including Lythe Hall, which dates from 1660.

St Oswald's church is located just outside the village to the east, on the main road at the top of Lythe Bank. It has a distinctive spire which can be seen over a considerable distance and acts as a daymark for shipping. There has been a church on this site since Viking times (evidence has been found of 10th Century burials) but the appearance of the church today largely dates from its restoration in 1910.

The village plan appears largely unchanged from the 1857 Ordnance Survey map. The village is notable for its strongly nucleated form and lack of ribbon development, even along main roads. Modern additions (including fire station, sports ground, farm buildings, campsite, and some houses) have been carefully designed, sited and (where necessary) screened so that they have minimal impact on village form and character.

11.3 Key views, approaches and gateways

The church forms a prominent feature in views from the north and east, and can also be seen from the sea. The village itself is less obvious in wider views, being well screened by vegetation. However a large, light-coloured agricultural shed on the edge of the village is highly visible from the north, and when approaching the village from the west.

The combination of landform and vegetation mean that there is not a strong visual relationship between Lythe and its setting. From the south, the village and church are screened in views by the

woodland of the Mulgrave estate. From the north there are glimpsed views of the village, but only the church is a prominent feature.

From within the village there is very little sense of its surroundings other than glimpses of woodland to the south.

The lack of outlying properties or ribbon development along approach roads means that there is a strong sense of arrival at the village.

When approaching from the west along the A174, the village is obscured by a bend and tree planting. On rounding the bend, the entrance to the sports ground marks the start of the village.

The approach from the east along the A174 is up Lythe Bank. On reaching the top, St Oswald's church comes into view. There is then a short gap before arriving at the core of the village.

The approach from the south up Low Lane is dominated by the woodland and parkland of the Mulgrave Estate. The school, cottages and farm buildings within the village can be seen to the north across fields. This approach village passes the gate lodges of the Mulgrave Estate, village cottages, and large properties set in grounds with mature trees, before meeting the A174.

11.4 Settlement edges

Settlement edges are generally strong and well vegetated. Woodland on the Mulgrave Estate forms a very strong southern edge to the village, and hedges, garden vegetation and tree belts all contribute to robust but not prominent edges, particularly in the east and west. Further tree planting has recently taken place to the west of the sports ground.

The irregular outline of plots and property boundaries create irregular edges to the village which also help its assimilation into the wider landscape.

11.5 Heritage and nature conservation sites

The entire historic core of the village is designated a Conservation Area. The fire station, campsite, sports grounds and some of the larger farm buildings are excluded from the designation.

Within the Conservation Area there is a concentration of Listed Buildings, including Lythe Hall, and various cottages and houses. St Oswald's Church is Grade I Listed.

The northern part of the village (to the north of the A174) is within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast.

The Mulgrave estate contains a number of designations. The two medieval castles are Scheduled Monuments, and the later 18th Century country house is a Listed Building Grade II*. The surrounding parkland and woodland planting (which extends to the coast at Sandsend) was designed by Humphrey Repton and is a Registered Historic Park and Garden.

11.6 Summary of key elements and features which may be sensitive to development

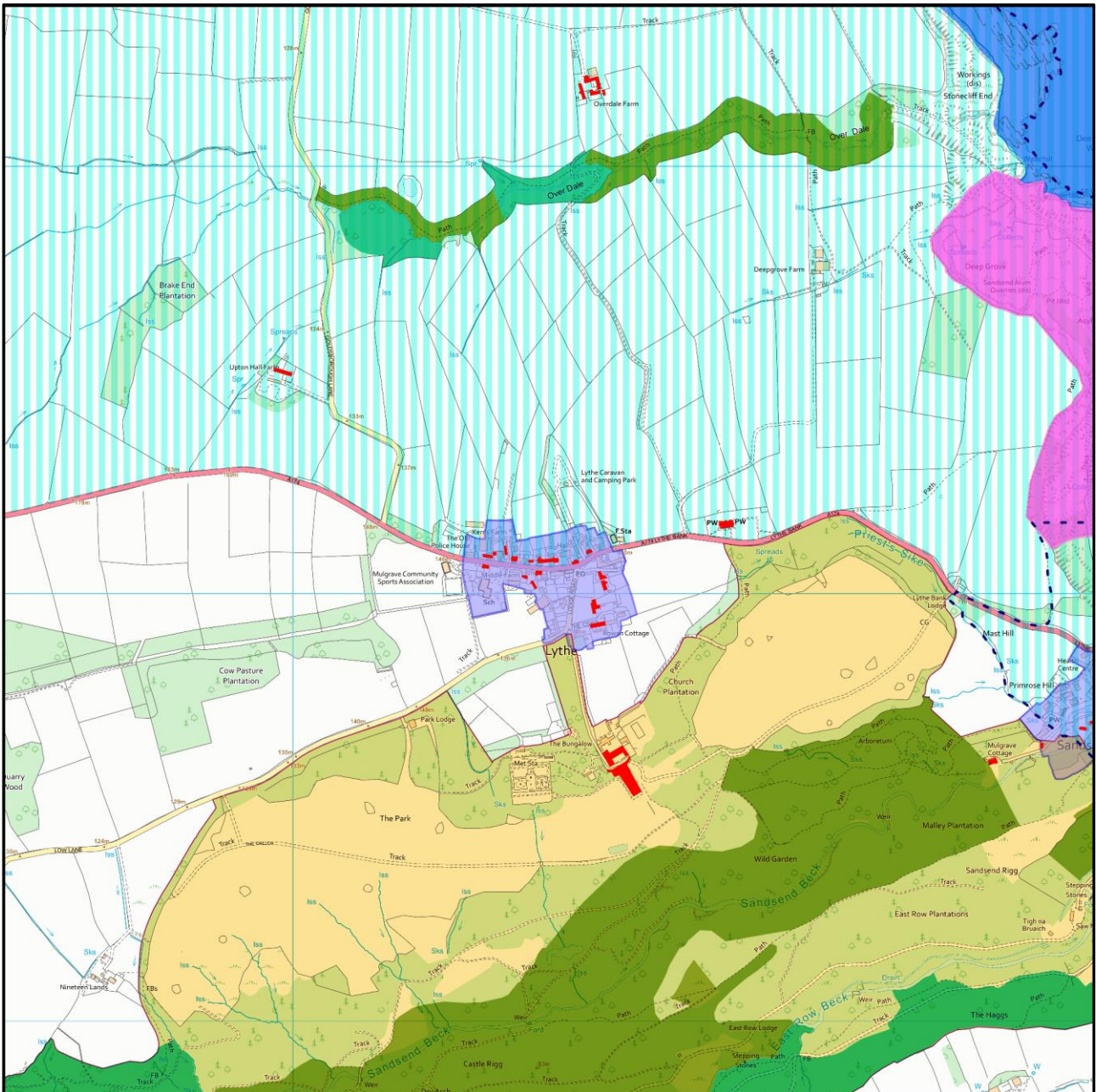
- The strongly nucleated form of the village, and lack of outlying development along the main road.
- The Estate character of the village.
- The strong vegetated edges, including mature garden vegetation.
- Conservation Area, Listed Building, Registered Historic Park and Garden and their settings, and land designated Heritage Coast



Lythe as seen from the north, within its Coastal Hinterland setting. The church tower is on the left of the picture. Red-roofed cottages can be seen within the village, but a large agricultural building is much more prominent. Woodland of the Mulgrave Estate forms the horizon.



View looking east along the A174 within Lythe village.



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**North York Moors Landscape
 Character Assessment Update 2021**
 Settlement Sensitivity Study
 Lythe



- - National Park Boundary
- ||| Heritage Coasts
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Parks And Gardens
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
- Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
- Marine Conservation Zones

Map showing designated sites in Lythe and its environs