

4. Easington

4.1 Location, Landscape Context and Setting

Easington is located on the A174, about a mile inland from the coast. It is close to the National Park boundary, and is within the Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Type (LCT 4). To the north of the village the land gently rises towards the coast to form the dramatic cliffs of Boulby Head. This rising land is typical of the surrounding landscape, which comprises a gently undulating landform covered by a patchwork of mostly arable fields and occasional large farms. The steep wooded valley of the Easington Beck lies about half a mile to the east of the village. Boulby mine is located on the valley side, but is not visible from within Easington village due to the intervening landform. Although Easington is close to the coast, the rising landform means that there are no views of the sea.

4.2 Settlement form and character

Easington has a long history of settlement. There has been a church here since Saxon times, and although the present church building is largely Victorian, it incorporates a Norman arch from an earlier structure. Further evidence of past settlement at Easington are the earthworks of a moated manor and medieval settlement to the north of the church. A further medieval site – Handale Abbey Cistercian Priory – is located approximately 2 miles south-west of the village. The village is shown on the 1857 OS map as a cluster of buildings around the T-junction by the church, and along the main road. A ‘hall’ is also labelled on the 1857 map.

The 20th Century saw considerable expansion of the village, with large housing estates built on the north-west and south sides. More recent housing development has been tucked in to the north of the A174. Large modern farm buildings are located on the east side of the village, both north and south of the A174.

4.3 Key views, approaches and gateways

The topography means that there are few publicly accessible places within the wider landscape which have views of Easington. There are occasional distant glimpses of parts of Easington from the north, from the coastal lane known as Boulby Bank. However, these views are mostly screened by the landform or roadside vegetation, and only show parts of the village. There are also occasional views from the south, for example when approaching along Grinkle Lane, when the village can be seen its landscape context.

Views are also limited from within the village, particularly where the land slopes upwards. There are some views out towards the south from the village edges and between buildings. The church tower, with its distinctive pointed top, is a focal point in views from within the village.

Easington can be approached from the east and west along the A174 or from Grinkle Lane from the south.

The lighting columns along the A174 approaching from Loftus (from the west) give this stretch of road a more urban feel. Hedgerows and topography hide views of buildings in Easington until the

village gateway is reached at the Tiger pub and Townend Farm opposite. The road passes new housing on both sides of the road, and occasional older properties, until it rises between hedgerows to reach the historic core of the village, near the church.

The approach from the east along the A174 is relatively soft as mature trees line the road for some distance on the approach to the village. Before Easington comes into view there are long views south over Boulby mine and the Coastal Hinterland landscape, with the distant moors forming the southern horizon. Trees on the village edge screen most buildings, and the historic core is reached almost immediately.

Approaching from the south along Grinkle Lane, there are glimpsed views of Easington in the distance. It is seen sitting in a slight dip, with Boulby Head rising up beyond, and the Boulby mast on the skyline. The mid-20th Century development on the southern side of the village is most visible, with the church tower and farm silos beyond.

4.4 Settlement edges

Vegetation along the Far Foul Syke forms a reasonably strong edge along the north-west boundary of the village. Elsewhere, the settlement edges mostly comprise garden boundaries – a mixture of straight hedges and fences, some of which are former field boundaries.

Mature trees along the A174, and around the church and cemetery, enhance the setting of the church, soften the appearance of the village, and also screen some of the larger farm buildings.

4.5 Heritage and nature conservation sites

The earthworks of a moated manor and medieval settlement form a large Scheduled Monument in the centre of the village. The setting of the Scheduled Monument has been severely compromised by the large farm complex to the east. A pylon has been sited within the Scheduled Monument. A field of rough ground separates the Scheduled Monument from the recreation ground and housing to the north and north-west.

The village contains a few Listed Buildings, including the church, rectory and cottages. The trees to the south of the church, and along Grinkle Lane, are covered by Tree Protection Orders.

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

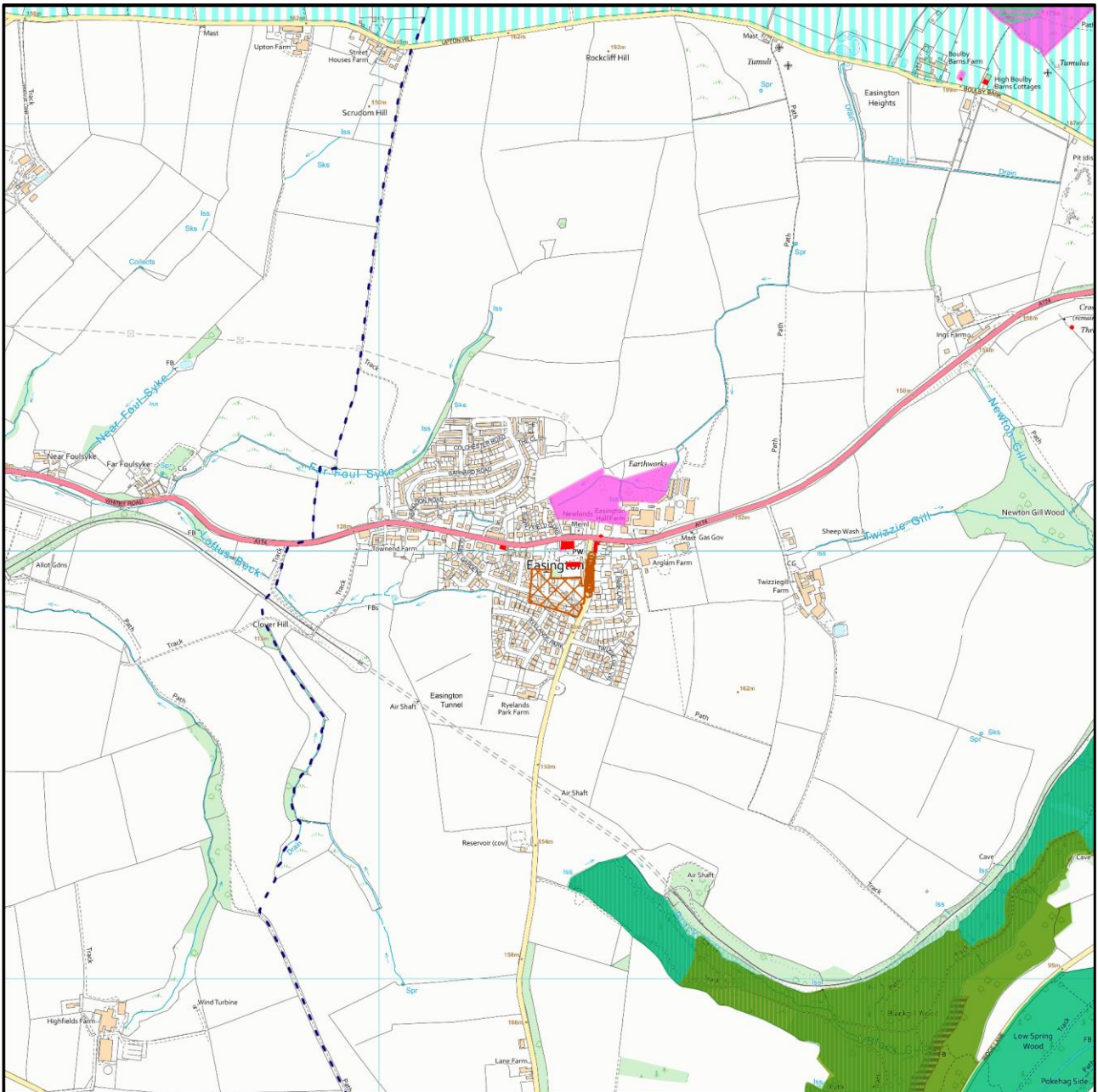
- The Scheduled Monument and its remaining setting.
- The sloping hillsides which currently visually contain the village. Expansion up these slopes, particularly to the north, would make the village much more visible in the landscape.
- Mature vegetation, such as that along the Far Foul Syke, around the church, and along the A174, which provide visual screening and enclosure.
- Views of the church tower from within the village.
- Protected trees; Listed Buildings and their settings.



Easington in its landscape setting, as seen from the south near Grinkle Lane. The 20th Century housing on the south side of the village can be seen, backed by mature trees around the church and along the A174. Land rises towards the coast to the north of the village, and Boulby mast is on the horizon.



View south from the recreation ground, showing the distant Coastal Hinterland landform visible over rooftops. The church tower forms a distinctive feature on the horizon.



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



- - National Park Boundary
- ▨ Heritage Coasts
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- ▨ Local Geological Sites
- ▨ Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- ▨ Local Wildlife Sites
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
- Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
- Tree Preservation Orders
- ▨ Tree Preservation Orders (Parcels)

Map showing designated sites in Easington and its environs