

## 6. Egton

### 6.1 Location, Landscape Context and Setting

Egton is located on the northern side of Esk Dale, within the Central Valley Landscape Character Type (LCT 8). The main street (known as Egton Cliff/High Street) climbs up from the Esk Dale valley floor, running steeply up a spur of land on the valley side. At the top end of Egton the road splits into a Y shape, with both branches connecting with the A171 along the ridge top. The upper part of Egton is one of the higher settlements within the National Park. It has an open and exposed feel, with long views. Although the land surrounding the village is relatively high, it is still enclosed farmland rather than moorland.

### 6.2 Settlement form and character

Egton has a strong linear form and is likely to have been laid out as a planned village after the Norman Conquest. It was granted a market in 1269. It is shown on the 1857 map as two parallel lines of houses set back from a broad street in the northern part of the present village. This street pattern is largely unchanged, with grassy linear greens/gardens between houses and the road. It creates a distinctive and attractive streetscape which is enhanced by the vernacular buildings and traditional signposts. The 1857 map also shows a racecourse on the site of the present-day recreation ground to the north of the village, and a hall at the centre of the village, near the junction with the road from Grosmont. The church is marked on its old site, about half a mile west of the village, and isolated buildings are shown along the main street which are likely to accord with the farms visible today.

The present church and the school were constructed at the southern end of the village in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, along with additional properties along the main street. Council houses were built on both sides of the lane to Grosmont, close to the village centre, in the Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century. More recently, a terrace of houses has been added at the northern end of the village. These most recent houses have been sited and designed with great care, and blend very well into the existing village layout.

### 6.3 Key views, approaches and gateways

Egton's elevated location means that the higher part of the village can be seen from a wide area. However, mature trees and hedgerows, its irregular edges, and the use of local stone in buildings help the village to integrate into the landscape. This is particularly true of the lower (southern) part, which contains the church and school.

From within Egton there are long views between buildings and across open land to Esk Dale and the moors above. From the higher parts of the village the moorland forms strong horizons above the rooftops of the houses. These views emphasise the sense of elevation felt within the village.

Mature vegetation contributes to the gentle approaches to the village. The approach to Egton from the south is very gradual, and there is not a clearly defined village gateway. The road leaves Egton Bridge up a steep hill through woodland. It is lined with mature trees, and trees surround the church at the southern end of Egton. Long gaps between buildings provide panoramic views along

Esk Dale. Continuing up the hill, the buildings lining Egton Cliff/ High Street gradually become denser and there are fewer gaps between them. Front gardens become wider until the distinctive streetscape is reached (see below).

The approaches from the twin roads from the A171 from the north are very similar. Both pass the recreation ground at the northern end of the village, with mature trees screening most of the buildings from view. There is a sense of arrival on reaching the war memorial and green at the north end of the village.

The approach from the west (along Egton Lane) is very short, as there are few buildings along this road. The approach from the east is slightly more gradual, passing isolated houses and some council houses before arriving at Egton Cliff/Main Street.

## 6.4 Settlement edges

The village edges are strikingly irregular, reflecting centuries of gradual change in building forms and plot boundaries. There are still traces of some of the original plots (known as 'tofts') stretching back from the main road. Edges are a mixture of hedges, walls and garden vegetation, but contain very few strong lines. The irregularity of the edges, and the vegetation associated with hedges and gardens, helps to make the village relatively unobtrusive.

The southern end of Egton is exceptionally well-treed, screening buildings in views from the surrounding area.

## 6.5 Heritage and nature conservation sites

The entire village along Egton Cliff/High Street is a Conservation Area, excepting the newest housing, the council houses, and some of the larger farm buildings. Within the Conservation Area is a concentration of Listed Buildings, including houses, church, pubs and farm buildings.

Tree Protection Orders cover a single tree in the centre of the village and a cluster of trees in the grounds of Cedar Lodge on Egton Lane.

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

- The distinctive historic layout and streetscape of the northern part of the village, with properties set back from the road behind grassy gardens/ greens.
- The irregular settlement edges, and the mature vegetation along roads and in gardens.
- The special qualities of the Conservation Area, including its sense of openness, distinctive layout, proportion and scale of buildings.
- Views out from the village centre and approaches over the surrounding landscape.
- The highest land around the village, as it is generally the most visible in views from the surrounding area.
- The subdued colours of the local building stone. Light or reflective materials used in new buildings or extensions would be much more visible.

- Protected trees; Listed Buildings, Conservation Area and their settings.



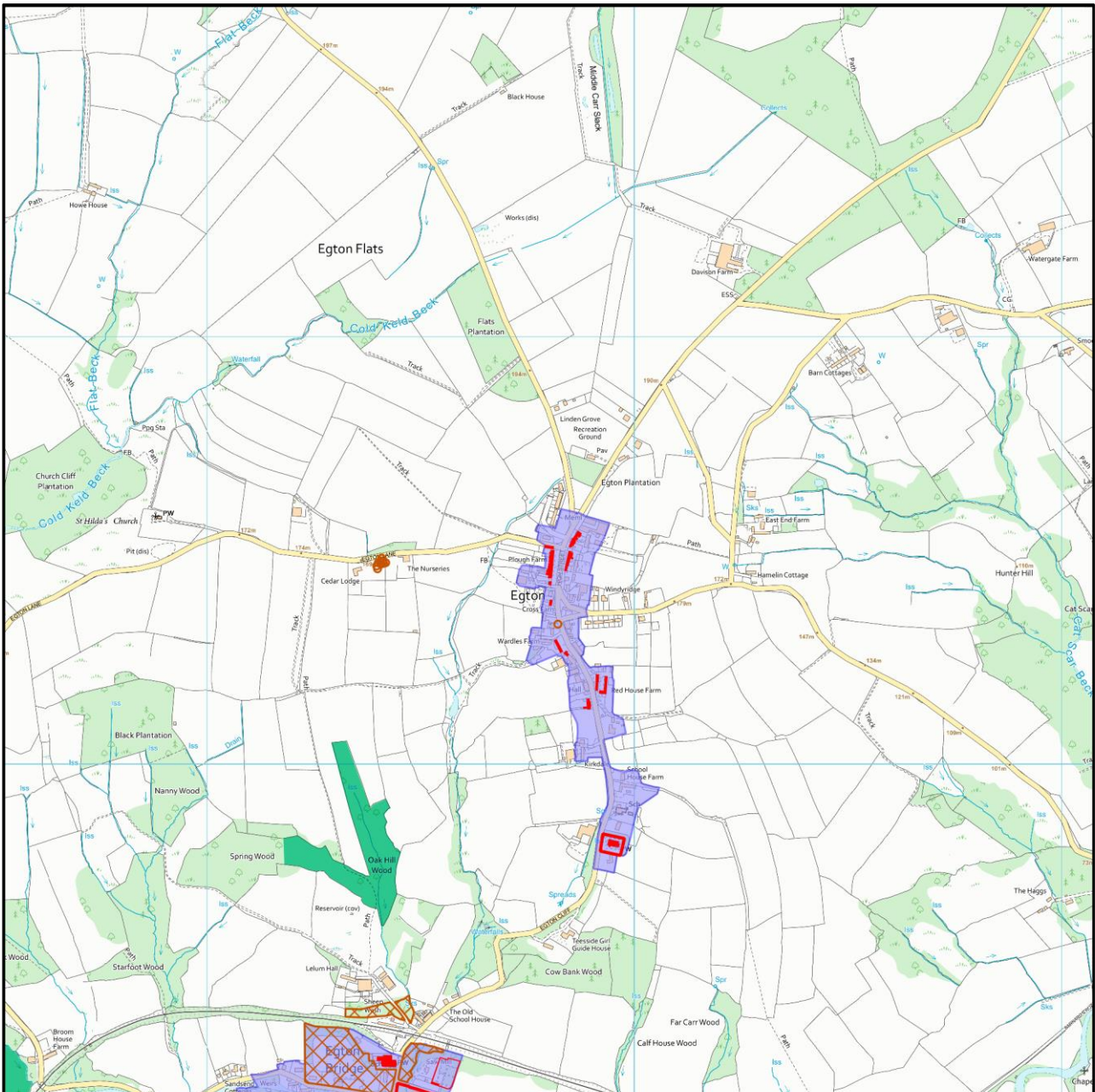
Egton village seen from the south across Esk Dale. The lower buildings are hidden by trees. The upper buildings are high on the valley side.



Northern part of Egton looking north, showing distinctive village layout and traditional signpost



Northern part of Egton looking south, showing moorland horizons on the south side of Esk Dale.



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## North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment Update 2021

### Settlement Sensitivity Study Egton



- Listed Buildings
- Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
- Tree Preservation Orders (Parcels)
- Conservation Areas
- Tree Preservation Orders

Map showing designated sites in Egton and its environs