

## 7. Fylingthorpe

### 7.1 Location, Landscape Context and Setting

Fylingthorpe is located close to the coast, overlooking Robin Hood's Bay, and inland from Robin Hood's Bay village. Land rises steeply to the north and west of the village, but falls away towards the coast on the east side (King's Beck valley).

Fylingthorpe is within the Coastal Hinterland Landscape Character Type (LCT 4), but LCT 4 is relatively narrow at this point, being sandwiched between the Coast (LCT 10) to the east and a finger of Moorland (LCT 1) - Fylingdales Moor – which extends towards the sea to the west of the village. Consequently the setting of Fylingthorpe is dominated by the Coastal Hinterland, but with influences from the nearby Coast and Moorland LCTs.

Land surrounding the village is in agricultural use (a mixture of pasture and arable). The fields are relatively small and irregular in shape compared with much of the Coastal Hinterland, suggesting the survival of earlier field systems. Most are bounded by hedges, often with mature hedgerow trees, or tree-lined watercourses. These trees and hedges give the village a soft, well-vegetated setting. This is enhanced by parkland between the village and the Cinder Track, which passes to the east.

### 7.2 Settlement form and character

Fylingthorpe developed around an historic crossroads, with a fresh water source at Thorpe Beck. The village is centred around a green (now a recreation ground), which is unusual in that most houses back onto it rather than face it. The 1857 Ordnance Survey map shows a cluster of buildings around the green. The map also shows Thorpe Hall, an Elizabethan manor house set in parkland to the south-east of the green.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fylingthorpe expanded eastwards along Thorpe Lane, with a series of substantial villas sited to maximise the sea views. These houses have their backs along Thorpe Lane, enabling the gardens and principal rooms to face south towards the coast and Robin Hood's Bay. The villas add a distinctive character to the village and can be seen across parkland and pastures from the Cinder Track. Fylingthorpe has also expanded along its other approach roads. The most substantial extensions are the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century housing estates on the south side of the village. There are also two caravan sites at the southern end.

### 7.3 Key views, approaches and gateways

Fylingthorpe's location in relation to the surrounding landform means that the village is visible over a fairly wide area, from roads and paths including the Coast Path and Cinder Track. It can be seen from surrounding high points to the north and west (for example the roads descending from Fylingdales Moor and from Raw Pastures). It can also be seen in views from the south (for example from Ravenscar and Brow Moor). In all these views Fylingthorpe appears in its agricultural setting between the higher moorland and the sea. Trees and hedgerows partially screen buildings in views from the surrounding area, and help to blend the village into its landscape setting.

Views from the outskirts of the village have long views of the coast and sea when looking to the south and east. These views have influenced the form of the village (see above). From within the historic core of the village, views tend to be internal, sometimes with the rising land to the north and west forming the backdrop. Views from the central green are largely contained by the surrounding buildings.

Fylingthorpe is located on a crossroads, and can therefore be approached by road from four directions, as well as along the popular Cinder Track walking and cycle route.

When approaching from the west along Sled Gates, trees lining the road help to soften the edge of the village. Isolated properties on the right give way to 20<sup>th</sup> Century linear development on the left, with occasional views south towards Ravenscar headland. The density of development increases until the historic core is reached at the junction with Thorpe Green Bank. The old school building on the corner is a distinctive feature and marks arrival at the historic core.

The approach from the north (along Church Lane) has long views across the village to the coast and moorland. Again, the density of houses increases until the historic core is reached by the shop and Methodist church.

The southern approach crosses the cinder track. From here there are views of the sports field and caravan sites at the southern edge of the village. Newer parts of the village can be seen beyond, with woodland and moorland forming the horizon. The road continues past Middlewood Farm and Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century estates. There are views over pastures and parkland towards Thorpe Hall. The approach to the historic core is gradual, with buildings becoming older until the historic core is reached.

The eastern approach is from the adjacent village of Robin Hood's Bay. The gap between the settlements is very short, but the sense of separation is aided by a series of sharp bends in the road and the tree belt which follows Lingers Beck. Around the final bend, the substantial Victorian villas along Thorpe Lane come into view. Land on the right hand side is open, with views over farmland to the north. The fire station and school are passed on the right before arriving at the historic core.

The Cinder Track path is lined by trees. As it passes the village there are views across parkland and fields to the Victorian villas, historic core and 20<sup>th</sup> Century estates. At the western end there are views of substantial farm buildings and a caravan park.

The gradual approaches to the village mean that it does not have very clear gateways, although there is a sense of arrival at the historic core. However, there are several distinctive buildings within the historic core which act as features within the village and in views along roads.

## 7.4 Settlement edges

Linear belts of mature trees along streams, hedges, the Cinder Track, and roads, create soft edges to the village, which are enhanced by the parkland trees around Thorpe Hall and in gardens. The edges of older parts of the village are often irregular and well-treed, whereas newer parts

(particularly the estates on the south side) are straighter and often follow former field boundaries (mostly hedges). Caravan parks are generally well screened by substantial hedges.

## 7.5 Heritage and nature conservation sites

The historic core of the village, focussed around the green and Thorpe Hall, is a Conservation Area. It contains several Listed Buildings, including houses, a shop, a former school and Thorpe Hall (Grade II\*).

The eastern half of the village is within the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Heritage Coast.

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

- The undeveloped hillsides rising above the village.
- The views from within the settlement towards the hills and coast.
- Views towards the village from the Cinder Track.
- The gap between Fylingthorpe and Robin Hood's Bay.
- The Green.
- The distinctive Victorian villas along Thorpe Road.
- The parkland and mature trees around Thorpe Hall.
- Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, and their settings, and land designated Heritage Coast.



Fylingthorpe from the north, seen its coastal setting



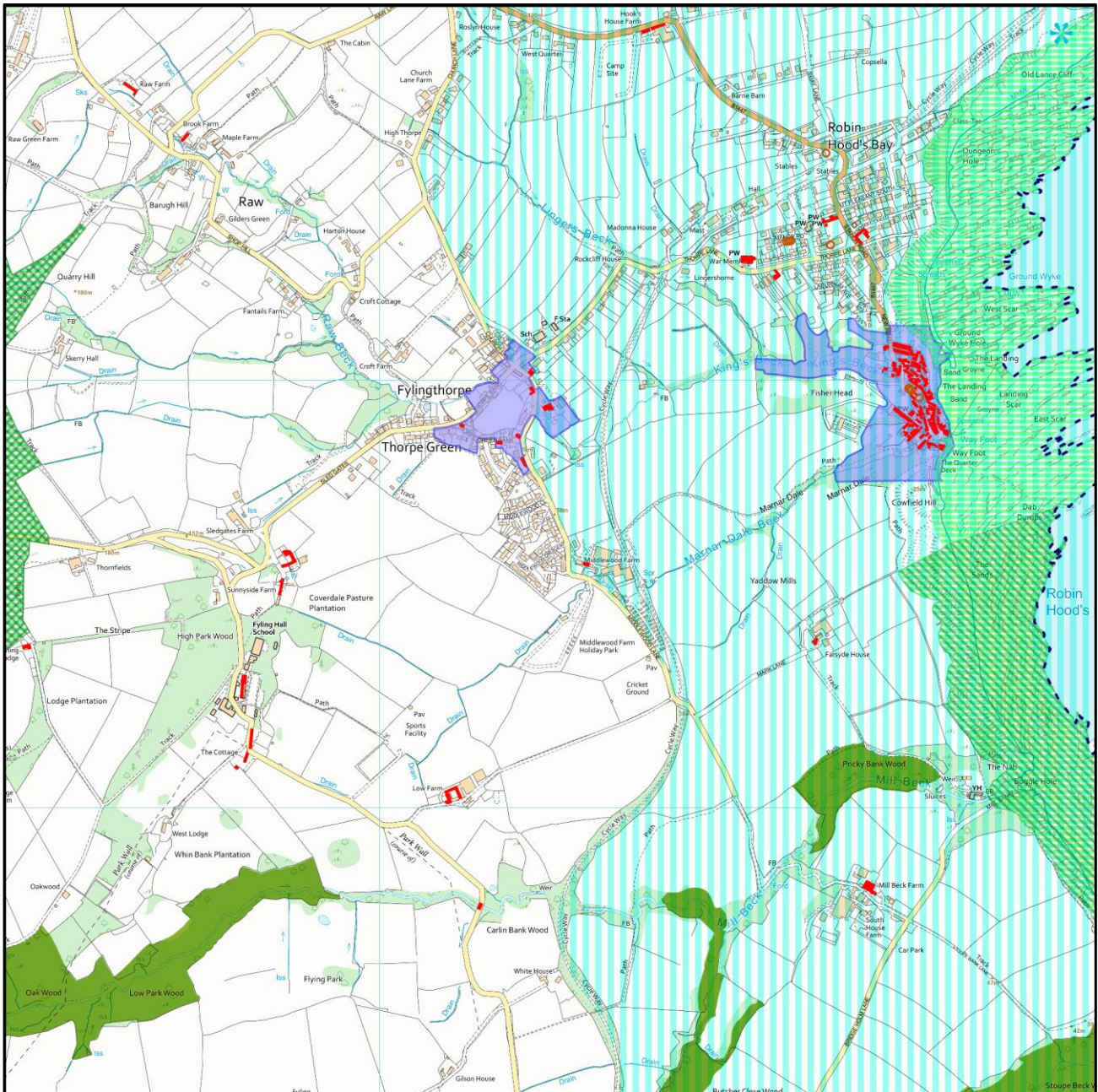


View from the Green, looking north. The stone houses are within the historic core and Conservation Area



Victorian villas along Thorpe Road, seen from the Cinder Track. Rising land is visible behind the villas





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### North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment Update 2021

Settlement Sensitivity Study  
 Fylingthorpe



- - National Park Boundary
- ▨ Heritage Coasts
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- ▨ Special Areas of Conservation
- ▨ Special Protection Areas
- ▨ Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Ancient Semi-natural Woodlands
- ✱ Ordnance Survey Viewpoints
- Tree Preservation Orders

Map showing designated sites in Fylingthorpe and its environs