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Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Search for potential housing sites: Review of landscape sensitivity assessment

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Annex 3

Landscape sensitivity study:
Settlement analysis for Embsay and Eastby

August 2024
Reference no. 497/3/01.3
Revision 3.0

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

9 Embsay/Eastby

Landscape setting

The village of Embsay and the smaller linear hamlet of Eastby are sited on the slopes of Barden Moor, overlooking the valley of Haw Beck. The valley is dominated by the broken ridge of Skipton Rock Quarry to the south, which has chopped the landform of the ridge to the south; the broken, remnant of the ridge, cloaked in broadleaf woodland, forms the skyline in views to the south.

To the north of both settlements, the dramatic dark gritstone crags of Embsay Crag and Eastby Crag are local landmarks, which form the skyline on the moorland slopes.

In 1120 Embsay was the site of an Augustinian Priory (now the site of Embsay Kirk) which moved to Bolton Priory in 1155, leaving only a small religious cell at Embsay. The village subsequently developed as a centre for the textile industry during the Industrial Revolution, with a cluster of mills, including a spinning mill at Whitfield Syke Mill (which was demolished to make way for the construction of Embsay Reservoir) Primrose Mill and Millholme Shed. The mill ponds and chimney alongside Pasture Road are remnants of Primrose Mill and Millholme Shed is being developed as a centre for business and recreation.

The village has an semi-industrial character, with rows of terraced houses. Mill buildings remain in the centre of the village and the former mill race and pond off Embsay Beck is a local landscape feature, along with the lane that leads up to Embsay Reservoir, Embsay Crag and the open access land on Barden Moor. The band of mature woodlands alongside Embsay Beck is also an important local landscape feature which defines the historic setting of the mills and the remnant mill chimney in the industrial centre of the village. The beckside woodlands and wetlands are a nature reserve

The Embsay to Bolton Abbey steam railway line and station on the southern fringes of the village also contributes an active, industrial character.

The village of Eastby has a linear form, with groups of buildings strung out along the Barden Road. The historic village centre has densely packed and terraced lines of roadside stone cottages and farm buildings, which are grouped so that a ‘village



Sweeping scale of the Haw Beck Valley from the slopes of Eastby Crag



Lower slopes of Hill Top and the north west edge of Embsay, from Brackenley Lane



BOX 9

Valued landscape features and elements within Embsay and Eastby are:

- The moorland slopes to the north of the village, which sweep up to the dramatic dark gritstone crags of Embsay Crag and Eastby Crag
- Views across the open countryside to the south and east of Embsay and Eastby, which provide opportunities to appreciate the landscape of Haw Beck Valley
- The open fields either side of Kirk Lane, which allow views northwards to the crags and eastwards across the valley and which also form the landscape setting for the Church of St Mary the Virgin and provide a clear separation between the villages of Embsay and Eastby
- The slopes of the drumlin landforms on the southern and eastern edges of the village, which frame views across the valley to the distinctive notched profile of the Skipton Rock Quarry from East Lane and Shires Lane
- The steep wooded valley of Embsay Beck, which provides the setting for the remnant historic features associated with the former Primrose Mill and is managed as a nature reserve
- The gateway view looking south west towards Embsay and Eastby from Kirk Lane, which reveals the settlements within their landscape context

street' zone, with buildings on both sides of the road, alternates with zones where the buildings are confined to one side of the road only, allowing views upslope northwards to Eastby Crag and downslope southwards to the valley of Haw Beck.

A network of public rights of way connects both settlements to the surrounding landscape - alongside the wooded becks that lead upslope to the moors and downslope to Haw Beck, and across the fields to the north of Embsay to connect residential neighbourhoods to the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, which is surrounded by farmland and overlooks the valley on the north west side of the village.

Analysis

The landscape setting of both Embsay and Eastby is illustrated on Figure 9.1. Views from and to the settlements are contained by the steep wooded ridgelines of the Haw Park Quarry to the south and Barden Moor to the north. A rounded hill or drumlin on the valley slopes to the south east of Embsay also contains local views to the Haw Beck valley. There are longer valley views across open farmland to the west.

Box 9 sets out the most important (and sensitive) landscape features and elements which contribute to the distinctive landscape character and settings of Embsay and Eastby.



Eastby Crag

Figure 9.1 provides a more detailed analysis of these landscape settings, taking account of views into and out from the settlements and their principal gateway approaches. It shows the possible development sites which were included in the landscape sensitivity assessment. With reference to these sites in both settlements, there are opportunities to integrate carefully designed residential development in the following areas:

- Land at Holly Farm (EMB1) in the historic centre of Embsay, where there is an opportunity for a relatively dense, traditional development which enhances this brownfield site.
- The lower, southern slopes of Hill Top (EMB2), where there is sufficient space to integrate new development adjacent to the existing north west edges of Embsay without obscuring the sweeping views to the high fells and Embsay Crag.
- Land to the to the south of the western (Brackenley Lane) gateway to Embsay (EMB3) which is visually contained and where development would fit well with the existing settlement form.
- A small part of the farmland to the north of Barden Road within the modern part of Eastby, where there would be an opportunity to continue the small-scale linear settlement form whilst conserving the landmark views to the crags and the distinctive setting of this historic village.

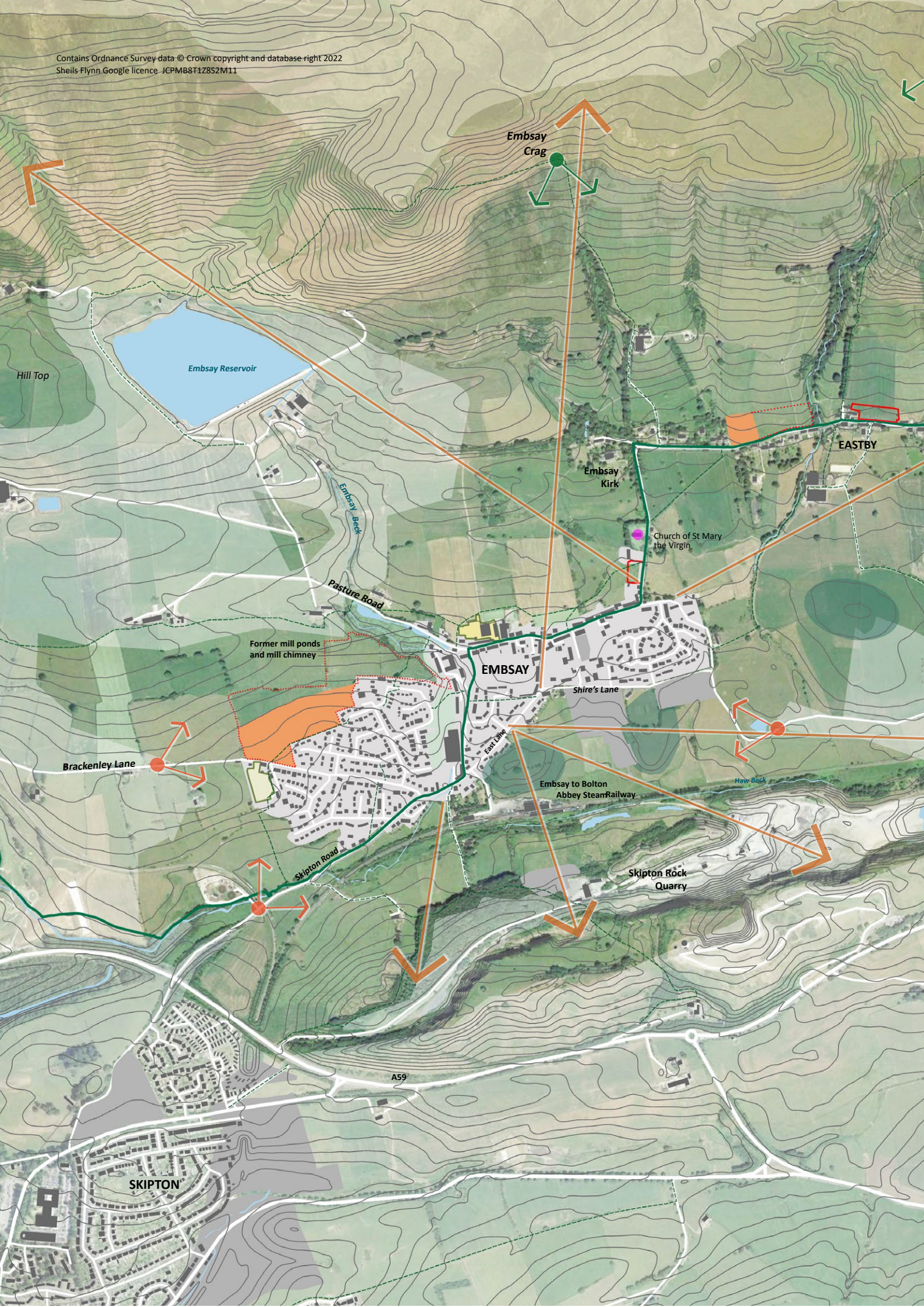
The key landscape sensitivity constraints for residential development in Embsay and Eastby are:

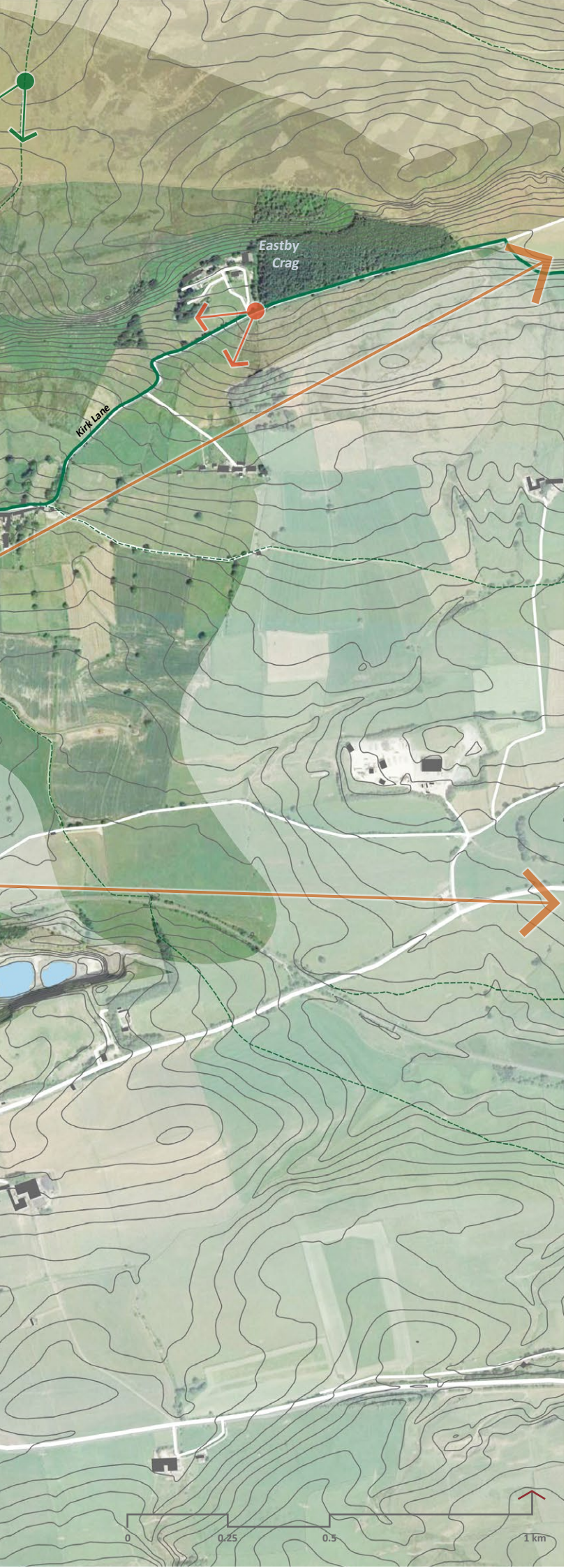
- The sweeping slopes to the south of the two gritstone crags, which are important in the landmark views to the two crags; the transition from walled pastures to exposed moorland, carved by narrow wooded gills, and rocky crags is a distinctive and striking local feature.
- The intimate pattern of woodland and pasture alongside Embsay Beck, Pasture Road and the historic mill ponds and mill chimney in north west Embsay.
- The open fields on either side of Kirk Lane, between the two sharp bends in the road, which provide opportunities for distinctive views northwards to the crags and eastwards across the valley of Haw Beck. They also contribute to the landscape setting of the Church of St Mary the Virgin and provide clear separation between Embsay and Eastby, preventing coalescence.
- The small-scale and traditional 'walled' character of historic Eastby, where the landscape setting is defined by the pattern of walled fields that extends right to the road and alternates with the buildings, framing views to the upper dale slopes and forging a strong perceived connection between rural hamlet and moorland edge landscape.

Framed view to Embsay Crag from Main Street, Embsay



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Land within broad landscape setting of Embsay/ Eastby

Valley farmland (outside landscape setting)

Settlement

Contour lines (5m interval)

Water courses

Structuring drumlin landform which contributes to the character and quality of the landscape setting of Embsay and Eastby

Church tower (upstanding landmarks)

Key views which describe the overall landscape setting of Embsay and Eastby

Promoted long distance routes

Public rights of way

Yorkshire Dales National Park Boundary

Principal vehicular route gateway

Principal recreational route gateway

Important open spaces (YDNP)& Local Green Spaces (Craven)

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2015-2030, Adopted 2016 and Craven Local Plan 2012-2031, Adopted November 2019

Potential residential development - landscape sensitivity scores

Search for potential housing sites: landscape sensitivity assessment, Sheils Flynn/YDNPA, March 2022

Sites scored as moderate-high* sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate sensitivity

Sites scored as moderate-low sensitivity

Sites scored as low sensitivity

Sites scored as high or moderate-high sensitivity which have subsequently been excluded from the search for potential housing sites

Former extent of those housing sites scored as moderate-high* in the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment which have been reduced to reflect their partial suitability for development

Sites which have planning approval for development or where development has recently been implemented

Figure 9.1

Embsay/Eastby - Settlement analysis

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