



APPENDIX 5 LOCALLY IMPORTANT VIEWS

Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan
2021 - 2036

Edenfield Community
Neighbourhood Forum
January 2024



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 One of the distinctive features of the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum Area is the visual connectivity with the surrounding countryside from the village and public footpaths.
- 1.2 Recent consultation events have highlighted that residents' value highly the visual connection across the settlement and into the surrounding countryside.
- 1.3 Edenfield is located in a valley that has key views to the prominent natural landscape beyond the settlement.
- 1.4 It is recognised that there are a significant number of views from Edenfield and across the countryside. It is impossible to list them all. Rather, it is important to protect and enhance the character and natural beauty of the countryside more generally whilst protecting the footpaths which allow access to it. Thus, the focus of the Key Views Assessment is on those views of and from the Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum Area which contribute to local character and amenity.

2. Background

- 2.1 Natural England has profiled England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs), areas with distinct landscape characteristics. Rossendale lies within NCA 36 Southern Pennines (Natural England, 2004).
- 2.2 Lancashire County Council (LCC) analysed the local landscape character in more detail in *A Landscape Strategy for Lancashire*, 2000 and considered, mapped and described the different character types within the overall profile. This analysis placed the Edenfield Neighbourhood Area in the landscape character type Settled Valleys, of which there is one landscape character area: 8a Irwell (Lancashire County Council, 2000).
- 2.3 In *Lives and Landscapes for Rossendale Borough Council*, (Penny Bennett Landscape Architects, 2015) it was considered that the single definition of Settled Valleys as 8a Irwell, while entirely appropriate for the northern part of the Borough and Whitworth, was not an accurate description of the landscape of the southern section of the Irwell Valley between Rawtenstall and Edenfield, which is much more rural in nature and importantly has little or no development in the valley bottom. That study (possibly confusing landscape character types with landscape character areas) therefore purported to create a new Settled Valleys character area: 8b Irwell Valley south whose features it summarised as follows:
- The valley opens out and the profile of the lower valley sides becomes less steep;
 - The density of housing and industry becomes much less, with extensive areas of open pasture and woodland within the valley bottom;
 - Some ribbon development continues along the main roads, but it is not continuous;
 - There are views across the valley which are predominantly rural in character with a lesser proportion of the view being made up of built development; in some places long views to the surrounding hills and moorland reinforce the South Pennine character;
 - South of Rawtenstall, the Irwell Valley becomes a major transport corridor, with the East Lancashire Railway and the A56 dual carriageway making north-south communications much easier;
 - Farmland is more intensively used than in the 8a type;
 - The characteristic textile mills are less conspicuous than in the 8a type.

- 2.4 The higher land on the east and west sides of the Irwell Valley near Edenfield is classified by LCC, *op. cit.*, as landscape character type Moorland Fringe, being parts of landscape character area 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe. There are nine other areas of Moorland Fringe in the county.
- 2.5 The more distant higher ground seen to the north-west from Edenfield is classified by LCC, *op. cit.*, as landscape character type Moorland Hills, being part of landscape character area 2a West Pennine Moors. It is still within NCA 36 Southern Pennines. There are six other areas of Moorland Hills in the county.

3. Methodology

Method Stage 1: Selecting and recording viewpoints

- 3.1 The first stage of this assessment involves identifying important viewpoints across the Edenfield Neighbourhood Forum Area. Reasons for selection can include:
- The viewpoint has been listed of importance in another technical document (for example, *Lives and Landscapes Assessment for Rossendale Borough Council*);
 - It is noted in literature;
 - There are walkways/footpaths to the view of interest;
 - There are facilities to attract tourists to the viewpoint;
 - It is an OS-marked viewpoint; and
 - It has a positive relationship with the historic environment.
- 3.2 The Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum has also run a public survey which invited public input on the list of viewpoints (see appendix 3 for information about the survey). All viewpoints are recorded in Table 1.
- 3.3 Each viewpoint has been given a reference number (Map Ref.) which corresponds with viewpoint markers shown on the Map of Key Views (appendix 1). It is important to note that viewpoints that overlook essentially similar views have been grouped together and are shown via one viewpoint marker, so that there are not any duplicated assessments of essentially the same view. This is particularly appropriate for views which are experienced along transport corridors.
- 3.4 Table 1 provides the location of viewpoints along with any designations at that point. Height estimates of the viewpoints have also been recorded.
- 3.5 Table 1 records the type of viewpoint, including:
- Established viewpoint (e.g. beacon)
 - Historic heritage
 - Designated viewpoint (e.g. in historic parkland/garden)
 - Cultural heritage
 - Movement corridor (e.g. road, footpath, cycle trail)
 - Tourist destination
 - Recreational

- 3.6 It should be noted that roads provide varying experiences and views as they traverse different landscape types. Where views from roads coincide with natural stopping and viewing points these have been included in Table 1 with a map reference. Views from all routes through Edenfield Neighbourhood Area are important and will need to be considered when planning any change but are not the focus of the viewpoint selection or mapping of Key Views in this study.

Method Stage 1: Grading the importance of viewpoints

- 3.7 The grading of the viewpoint follows a similar grading system as set out in Method 3. Reasoning for each grade is set out below:
- Exceptional viewpoints include sites within nationally designated landscapes such as historically significant sites (Grade I/II* listed buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens); sites with a strong association with national cultural importance; and sites where viewers have unique and unfolding views from established transport corridors and recreational routes.
 - Special viewpoints include historic sites of national importance; sites with a strong association with local cultural importance; and sites where viewers have opportunities to appreciate views from approach roads, bridleways and footpaths.
 - Representative viewpoints include typical local landscapes; unregistered heritage assets (e.g. locally listed buildings); sites which have deteriorated by urban infrastructure; and sites which only provide fleeting views due to being on movement corridors.
- 3.8 In grading the viewpoints, it has also been considered whether people may experience the viewpoint regularly.

Method Stage 2: Selecting and describing views

- 3.9 Views have been evaluated visually on the ground from the identified viewpoints from Method Stage 1. Information about each view has been recorded in Table 1 along with the information about each viewpoint.
- 3.10 Table 1 includes a description of each view, which records characteristics such as:
- whether the view is panoramic, elevated, glimpsed, open or expansive;
 - whether there are dominant elements in the foreground, middle distance or on the skyline;
 - whether it is framed by built development, vegetation or landform;

- whether it is essentially rural or urban; and
 - whether it is likely to be significantly altered by seasonal change (i.e. views opening up as a result of trees losing leaves in winter).
- 3.11 Table 1 records the key physical attributes of each view, including:
- features that positively contribute to the importance, distinctiveness and attractiveness of a view (e.g. the extensive Moorland along the skyline);
 - iconic features (e.g. historic towers);
 - the degree of containment;
 - the rural setting; and
 - detractors in view (e.g. busy transport corridors, overhead powerlines, large-scale / extensive development).
- 3.12 Table 1 records threats to the view from development, including:
- affect of iconic habitats;
 - disrupt or alter the scale of field pattern; and
 - change the distinctive settlement pattern of historic villages.

Method Stage 3: Grading the importance of views

- 3.13 Views are graded as 'exceptional', 'special' or 'representative'.
- 3.14 Exceptional views might include highly valued, panoramic views or long distance views across intact countryside; they might capture the quintessential character of an area; they might allow for an appreciation and understanding of the wider surroundings; they might contribute to the enjoyment of important heritage or cultural locations; or they might be unique in their own way.
- 3.15 Special views might include panoramic or long distance views, dramatic scenery and skyline features; they might allow an appreciation of the more intimate setting of local villages within local landscapes; they might help to reveal landscape character types; or they might be comparable to other special views.
- 3.16 Representative views might include narrow or glimpsed views; they might be tarnished by the presence of negative features which detract from the quality of the experience; or they might be typical views which are replicated elsewhere.

Key views identified

- 3.17 A vast number of key views were identified through this process which have not been included within this report. The key views which have been in this report, are those which have been shortlisted due to their positive contribution to local character and amenity. Appendix 2 contains images of the selected key views.

4. Key Views Assessment

Table 1: Key Views Assessment

Map ref.	Location of viewpoint	Designation/landscape character of viewpoint	Height of viewpoint (AOD)	Type of viewpoint	Direction of view	Description of view	Key physical attributes of view	Importance		
								View points	View	Overall
KV1	Market Street, adjacent to its junction with Footpath 14-3 FP 126	NCA36. 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe and, beyond, to 2a West Pennine Moors.	207m	Movement corridor - main road (B6527) through the village used by local pedestrians, ramblers and cyclists and seen by passengers in motor vehicles including buses and coaches.	North-west	Hope View - Open, attractive, well cared for and well used grassland used for grazing sheep. Occasional foxes and deer spotted. Overlooks sensitive and significant landscape as shown in the Lives and Landscape Assessment, 2015 (see Appendices 1 and 4), and has an outlook into the open countryside that keeps a rural perception of the settlement.	Open grassland with continuous views following the contours along the valley sides with the moorland of Holcombe, Helmshore and Musbury Tor, and of Oswaldtwistle Moor beyond.	E	E	E

KV2	Market Street, adjacent to no 117 Market Street	NCA36. 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe.	207m	Movement corridor - main road (B6527) through the village used by local pedestrians, ramblers and cyclists and seen by passengers in motor vehicles including buses and coaches.	South-west	Hope View - Open, attractive, well cared for and well used grassland used for grazing sheep. Occasional foxes and deer spotted. Overlooks sensitive and significant landscape as shown in the Lives and Landscape Assessment, 2015 (see Appendices 1 and 4), and has a view into the open countryside that maintains a rural perception of the settlement.	Open grassland with continuous views following the contours along the valley sides with the moorland of Holcombe and Helmshore beyond. Peel Monument (Grade II Listed Building) is a prominent element on the skyline.	E	E	E
KV3	Lane leading west off Market Street by Mushroom House (Footpath 14-3 FP 126)	NCA36 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe.	204m	Movement corridor - Footpath and access road used for dog walking areas and agricultural use.	South West	Open, attractive and well cared for and well used grassland. The path around is a favourite well used walk for local people, walkers and dog walkers, and has a pleasant open feel.	Open grassland with continuous views following the contours along the valley sides with the moorland of Holcombe and Helmshore beyond. Peel Monument (Grade II Listed Building) is a prominent element on the skyline.	S	E	S

KV4	Lane leading west off Market Street by Mushroom House (Footpath 14-3 FP 126)	NCA36 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe and, beyond, to 2a West Pennine Moors.	200m	Movement corridor – public footpath used by walkers, includes a private access road	North West	Open, attractive and well cared for and well used grassland. The path around is a favourite well used walk for local people, walkers and dog walkers, and has a pleasant open feel.	Open grassland with continuous views following the contours along the valley sides with the moorland of Helmshore and Musbury Tor, and of Oswaldtwistle Moor beyond.	S	S	S
KV5	Gin Croft Lane adjacent to Gin Croft Farm 14-3 BOAT 275	NCA36 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe and, beyond, to 2a West Pennine Moors.	242m	Recreational / footpath / movement corridor - access point to public footpath 136 from Gin Croft Lane.	North west	Open, attractive and well-care for and well-used grassland leading down to historic and picturesque stone-built cottages, with moorland visible in the distance. A significant view that features historic dwellings and extensive moorland which exudes Edenfield's character, and appreciates the local townscape at a lower elevation.	Open, attractive and well cared for and well used grassland with continuous views following the contours along the valley sides with the moorland of Holcombe and Helmshore, and of Oswaldtwistle Moor beyond.	R	E	S
KV6	Footpath leading south from Hey	NCA36 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b	242m	Movement corridor – well used informal paths.	West	Elevated, Panoramic predominantly rural view over Holcombe Moor towards Peel	Extensive moorland of Holcombe and Helmshore along the skyline. Emphasises	R	S	R/S

	Meadow Farmhouse 14-3 FP136	Rossendale Moorland Fringe		Historic heritage: Hey Meadow Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building		Monument (Grade II Listed Building) and Musbury Tor.	the variation in topography and reflects local character.			
KV7	Footpath leading south from Hey Meadow Farmhouse 14-3 FP136	NCA36 8b Irwell Valley South. Distant views to 4b Rossendale Moorland Fringe	242m	Movement corridor – well used informal paths. Historic heritage: Hey Meadow Farmhouse is a Grade II listed building	South west	Elevated, panoramic predominantly rural view shows clearly Edenfield in a valley with Peel Monument (Grade II Listed Building) as an iconic feature.	Peel Monument (Grade II Listed Building) is a prominent element on the skyline.	R	E	S
KV8	Church Lane and the Graveyard	NCA36 8b Irwell Valley South	190m	Historic Heritage / Movement corridor.	South / South West	Open, attractive, well cared for and well used grassland.	Open grassland with continuous views following the contours along the valley sides with the moorland of Holcombe and Helmshore beyond. Peel Monument (Grade II Listed Building) is a dominant element on the skyline in the distance.	E	S	S

Key to table 1

Designation/landscape character abbreviations

NCA: National Character Area

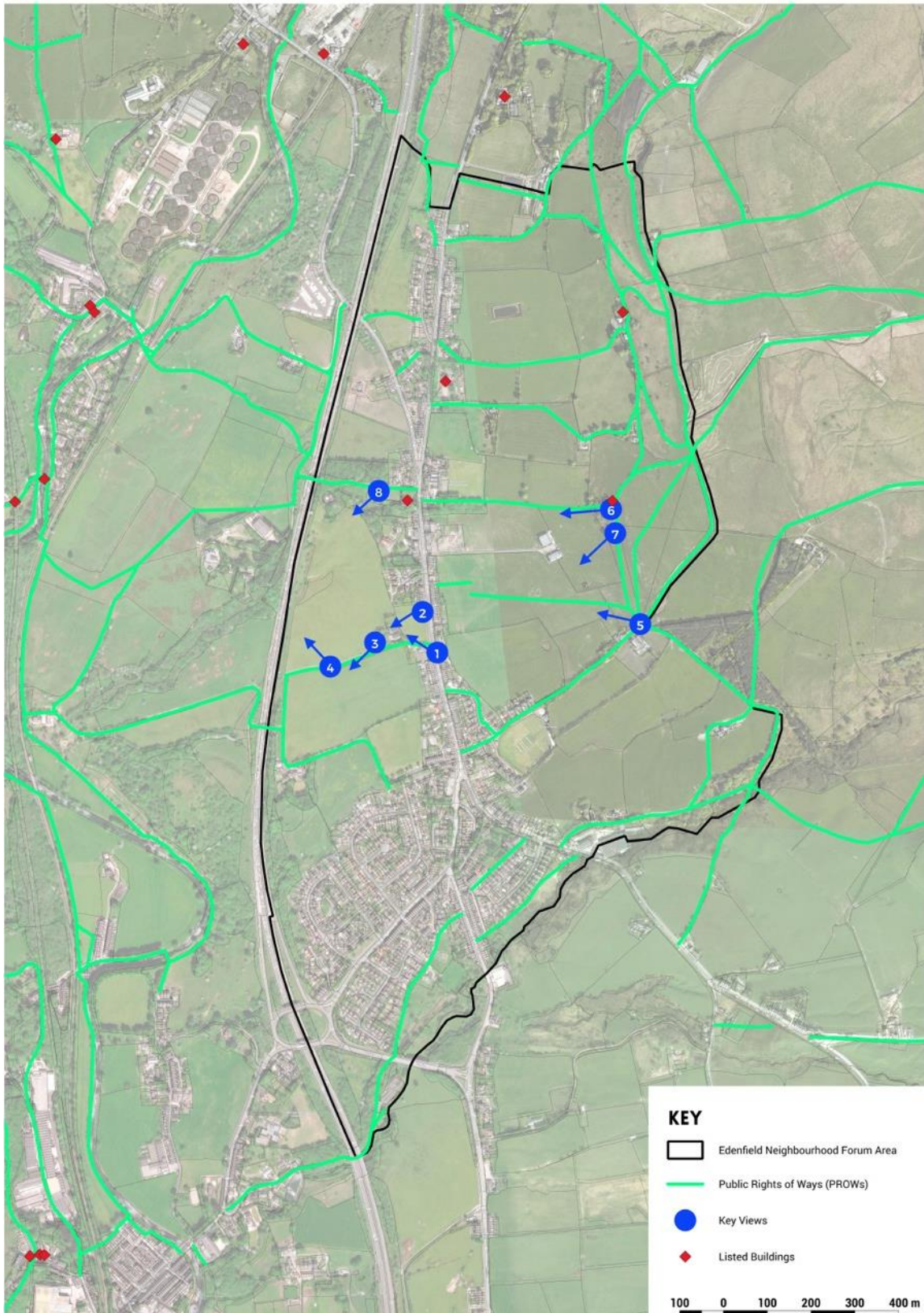
Importance of view

E: Exceptional

S: Special

R: Representative

Appendix 1: Key Views Map



Appendix 1. Map of the Key Views in Edenfield

Appendix 2: Images of Key Views

KV1: From Market Street to north-west



Appendix 2a. Photograph from Market Street to north-west



Appendix 2b. Photograph from Market Street to north-west

KV2: From Market Street to south-west



Appendix 2c. Photograph from Market Street to south-west



Appendix 2d. Photograph from Market Street to south-west

KV3: From Footpath 126 to south-west



Appendix 2e. Photograph from Footpath 126 to south-west



Appendix 2f. Photograph from footpath 126 to south-west

KV4: From Footpath 126 to north-west



Appendix 2g. Photograph from Footpath 126 to west



Appendix 2h. Photograph from Footpath 126 to north-west

KV5: From Gin Croft Farm to north-west



Appendix 2i. Photograph from Gin Croft Farm to north-west



Appendix 2j. Photograph from Gin Croft Farm to north-west

KV6: From Footpath 136 south of Hey Meadow Farmhouse to west



Appendix 2k. Photograph from Footpath 136 south of Hey Meadow Farmhouse to north-west

KV7: From Footpath 136 south of Hey Meadow Farmhouse to south-west



Appendix 2l. Photograph from Footpath 136 south of Hey Meadow Farmhouse to south-west

KV8: From Church Lane across churchyard to south-west

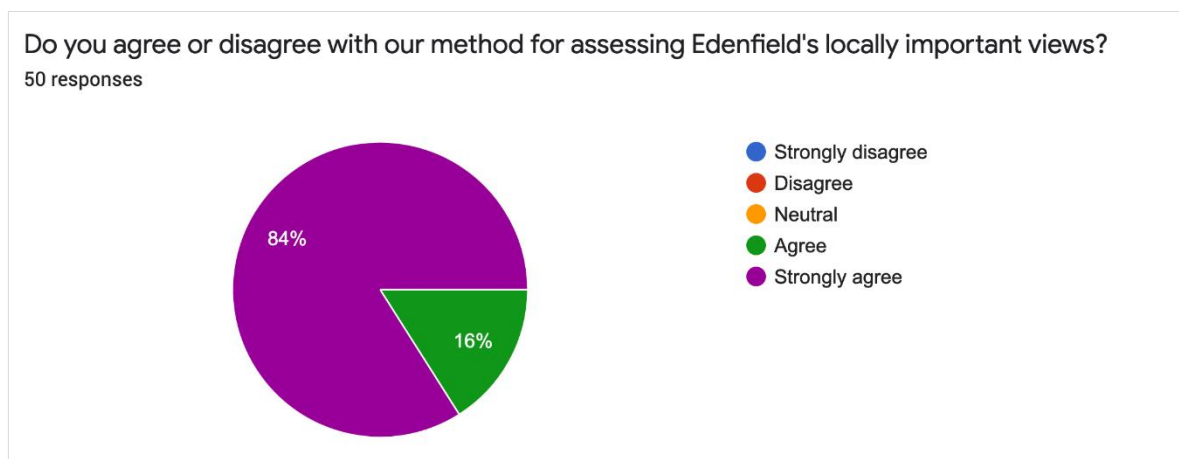


Appendix 2m. Photograph from Church Lane across churchyard to south-west

Appendix 3: Key Views Public Input Survey

The Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum held a community consultation event on 29 February 2020 from 10am to 2pm in the Edenfield Community Centre. The event received 96 visitors and was used in part to gather public opinion on the list of key views through a digital survey. The survey was answered by 53 respondents in total and asked questions on whether the community agreed or disagreed with the method for assessing the local green space selection, and whether there were any other views that should be considered by the ECNF for inclusion.

As can be seen from appendix 3a, below, all residents either agreed or strongly agreed with the method used to assess Edenfield's locally important views, with no-one registering disagreement with the method.

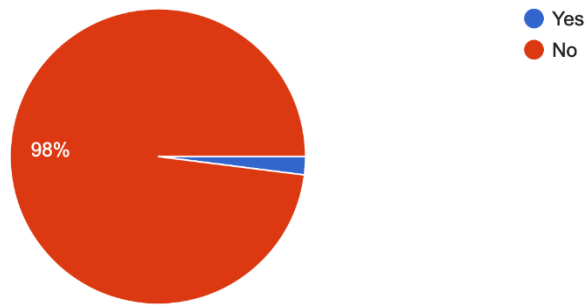


Appendix 3a. Agreement Vs. Disagreement on Assessment of Key Views

Appendix 3b, below, shows that 98% of respondents were happy with the selection of key views. One resident indicated another key view should have been assessed but did not indicate where this view was on the map, therefore not allowing for further consideration within ENCF's assessment.

Are there any key views that are missing from this map that we did not assess? If so, could you please draw them on the physical map in this room!

50 responses



Appendix 3b. Missing Key Views

Edenfield Community Neighbourhood Forum
Edenfield Neighbourhood Plan (ENP), 2021- 2036
Appendix 5: Locally Important Views Report – January 2024



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