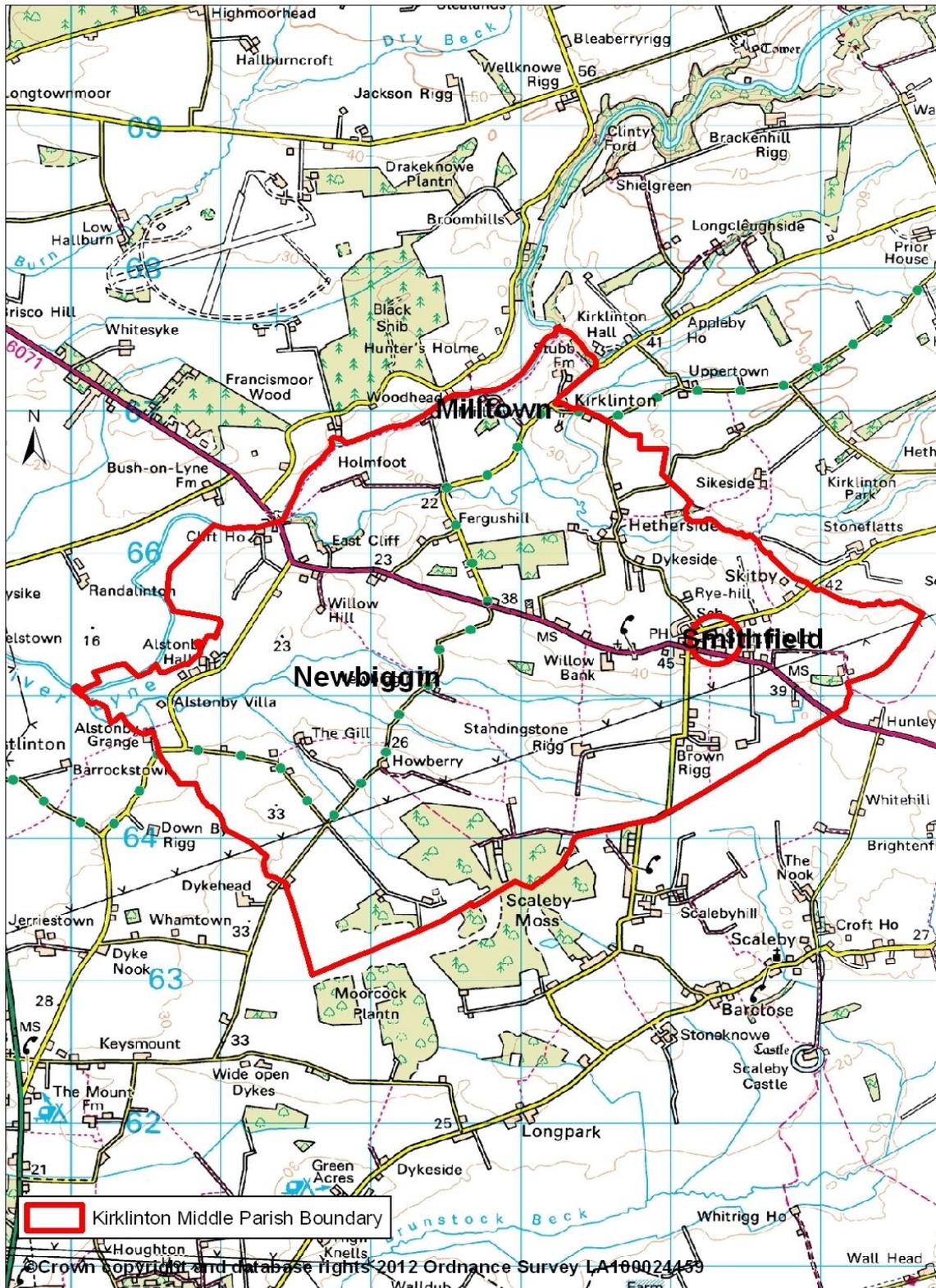


SMITHFIELD

Figure 1: Location of Smithfield



**Settlement profile:****Strategic position**

Smithfield is a small village approximately 8 miles north of Carlisle. The main road passing through the village is the A6071, which leads to the nearby market towns of Longtown (4 miles west), and Brampton (6 miles east). A minor road forms a cross roads with the A6071 and the older elements of the settlement are located here in the vicinity of the road intersection. There is an inn near the cross roads, which may have been part of the reason for the location of the settlement.

The settlement plays no strategic role. The existence of a primary school, which has a wide catchment area because it is set in a sparsely populated agricultural area, gives some focus to Smithfield.

**General description of settlement**

Smithfield is a small village, which has grown incrementally from an even smaller settlement clustered round a crossroads and extending along the main road. There are currently in the order of 70 properties in total. Small pockets of expansion have been developed in the south west, along Skitby Road, where the primary school is located and the largest expansion is the Ryehill Park estate to the north west of the cross roads. It is not an obvious location for commuting to Carlisle, but neither is there any employment nearby.

The older houses are a mix of render and brick and more recent additions use similar materials. Most of the properties are of a similar size, many of the more recent additions include semi-detached and detached two-storey houses.

There is no public open space and the pavements are narrow, apart from outside the Robin Hood Inn, where outdoor tables are provided to the pub. The primary school is set in grounds with a playing field and is located on the eastern edge of the settlement on the minor road.

There are a number of north-south footpath linkages in the vicinity of the village. One runs along the eastern boundary of the primary school site.

**Topographical and landscape context**

The land is very gently rolling and the settlement sits on the crest of a small rise. The original part of the settlement is just below the crest with the land rising very slightly to the north. The northernmost expansion has been located on the higher ground.

The location is on the watershed between the Hether Burn to the north and the Alstonby Beck to the south. The land drops to the south to a small valley, through which the Alstonby Beck flows. Topography to the north is a complicated series of tributary valleys to the River Lyne. To the south, the land slopes south westerly to the large peat moss of Scaleby Moss.

There is no woodland in the immediate environs of the settlement, with a plantation a mile north west and Scaleby Moss with its birch woodland vegetation to the south west and a small area of woodland to the south east at Hunley Moss.

Generally, the landscape is open, and there are longer views to the east to the hills beyond. Hedges are well-maintained and low and the fields are large.

Views from the west are broken by mature trees in the older part of the settlement, on the approaches including the triangle to the rear of the pub. The newer development is less well provided for with large trees.

**Biodiversity**

There is little diversity in the immediate surroundings of the village. Roadside verges and hedgerows provide some diversity and routes as corridors, but there are no water courses in close proximity to the village and the main land is improved pasture. The triangular area behind the pub provides scrub and tree vegetation adding to habitats within the village.

Streams, woodland areas and mosses to the north and south will provide areas where diversity is greater. Fragmentation between pockets of increased biodiversity will occur as there are few un-managed corridor connections.

**Tourist features/context**

There are no obvious tourist features or facilities in or close to the settlement.

**Settlement dependencies**

Smithfield has a number of settlements close by including Kirklington (1.5 miles), Scaleby (2.2 miles), Laversdale (3.7 miles), Westlinton (4.4.miles),

Smithfield has a pub, a garage and a primary school. A mobile post office calls for half an hour once per week. There is infrequent public transport to Carlisle so most journeys would be made by car. School buses between Longtown and Brampton pass through the village.

The absence of a shop and many other services means people living in this settlement are dependent on other market towns of Brampton (6.4 miles) or Longtown (4.5 miles) and Carlisle (10.4 miles) for basic services.

**CABE' Pre-consultation Comments on Scope for new development**

There are a number of areas where development could be accommodated, depending on the quantum required. The settlement is some considerable way from employment areas, so the purpose of any expansion of the settlement, which might just provide more homes for commuters, needs assessment and debate. For example there may be a local case for homes for essential rural workers.

Assuming further growth is desirable, none of the possible sites are particularly sensitive from a landscape perspective. However, it would make sense for settlement expansion to focus on making the school more central in the layout of the village.

Development could be accommodated on the land immediately to the east of the primary school, with access from the minor road. The settlement could be widened eastwards to line up with back of the easternmost property on the main road. Development could also be accommodated on the pasture land opposite the school, extending up the minor road to the north as far as the northernmost property in Ryehill Park (or further). Development to the

north of Ryehill could also be accommodated, although sequentially it would be logical to develop closer to the school first with this area coming on stream later if there is reasonable demand for more capacity.

Settlement growth near the primary school with access off the minor roads is more appropriate than access off the main road, developing south of the A6071. Landscape considerations would not preclude development along the main road, opposite existing properties to the east of the cross roads; although this would not be very desirable if it presented views of building rears to the viewpoints across the shallow valley to the south.

All the above would be subject to landowner aspirations and further assessment. Softening with planting infrastructure would benefit the character of any new areas and enhance biodiversity in the village.

<sup>1</sup> Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

### **Community Consultation**

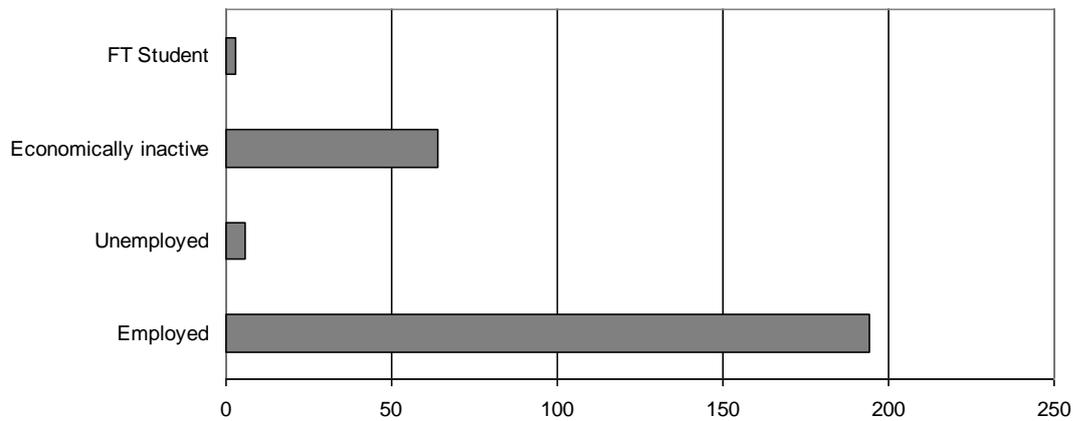
A focus group was held with members of Kirklington Parish Council on 19/3/12.

Kirklington Parish Council has identified two sites, as shown on the Settlement Map that historically, have been identified as areas for potential development. The Parish Council considered that at this time wider consultation was not required to verify this, preferring to consult when and if development was imminent.

**Socio-economic picture for Kirklington Parish Council<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Population</b>	<b>369</b>
<b>All dwellings</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Households with residents</b>	<b>137</b>
Second residence/holiday accommodation	3
Average household size	2.69
Average number of rooms per household	6.31
Owner occupied tenure	119
Rented from Council or housing association	5
Rented from private landlord	13
<b>Average distance travelled to fixed place of work</b>	<b>16.37 miles</b>

**Figure 2: Economic activity aged 16-74<sup>2</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Sourced from 2001 census data, Office for National Statistics 2010

<sup>2</sup> Economically inactive includes retired, student, looking after home/family, permanently sick/disabled and other

**Photographs**



1. Robin Hood Inn at the intersection in the village, where the minor road crosses the A6071. Road edge properties form nucleus of original settlement on long, straight main road.



2. Approach to Smithfield from east. Straight alignment of road, with properties only on right (north) side of road until cross roads is reached. Development on field to left would balance other side, but would emphasise linearity and would not help shift settlement emphasis towards school.



3. Approach to Smithfield from west. Road sweeps to right to reach cross roads in village. Edge of more recent additions to settlement visible on left and right. Mature trees and hedges soften the edge.



4. Fir Ends Primary School. Located at the edge of the village on the minor road that goes out to the north east.



5. View from minor road, adjacent to primary school, looking south east over land next to school to rear view of properties on A6071. Footpath on right follows school boundary. Expansion in this area would "fatten" the settlement with school in a more central position.



6. View north west along minor road across field to edge of settlement housing in Ryehill Park, north of the minor road. Potential to accommodate expansion opposite school, up to (or beyond) edge of existing settlement on minor road towards Ryehill.



7. Looking south from Ryehill on minor road north to backs of properties in Ryehill Park. Depending on quantum of growth, potential to accommodate expansion in this area, but extends north, rather than round school.



8. Looking north along minor road from south to cross roads in village and backs of properties along A6071. Expansion into area to south of A6071 could be accommodated visually into landscape, but visually more prominent and not as close to school. (Also Photo 2.)

**Services and facilities: Detailed Information**

Information provided by representatives of the Parish Council.

**Convenience store**

None. The nearest convenience store is Longtown, Brampton and Houghton. All some 5 miles away.

**Post office**

None. The nearest Post Offices are in Longtown, Brampton and Houghton.

**Village hall**

None. The village halls at Hethersgill and Scaleby are available. The village school hall is also used from time to time. The Recreation Room in Smithfield is used exclusively by the Indoor Bowling Club.

**Church**

Kirklington Parish Church

**Pub**

The Robin Hood Inn in Smithfield.

**Primary school**

Fir Ends Primary School  
Age range 3-11yrs  
Capacity - 90  
Number on Role Jan 2012 - 92

DfE No: 5218 Name of School: Fir Ends Primary School, Smithfield, Kirklington

Projections	Reception	Planned Admission Numbers	Total Number on Role	School Net Capacity
Jan-13	15	15	95	90
Jan-14	9	15	90	90
Jan-15	8	15	81	90
Jan-16	7	15	72	90
Jan-17	10	15	71	90

Projections use January 2012 pupil census and August 2011 General Practitioner Records

**Secondary school**

Most children from Fir Ends School move on to William Howard in Brampton. Others move onto a secondary school in Carlisle.

**Public transport – quality and frequency of services**

Twice a week service into Carlisle (Wed & Fri)

**GP**

Practices in Brampton and Longtown.

**Dentist**

Dental surgeries in Brampton and Carlisle.

**Tourist accommodation/ facilities**

A range of B&B accommodation throughout the Parish. A restaurant in Skitby, just outside Smithfield.

**Cultural activities**

WI and Young Farmers Club. The Church holds a variety of classes and clubs. Leek Clubs.

**Mobile services**

Post Office van calls once a week and a weekly mobile Library Service.