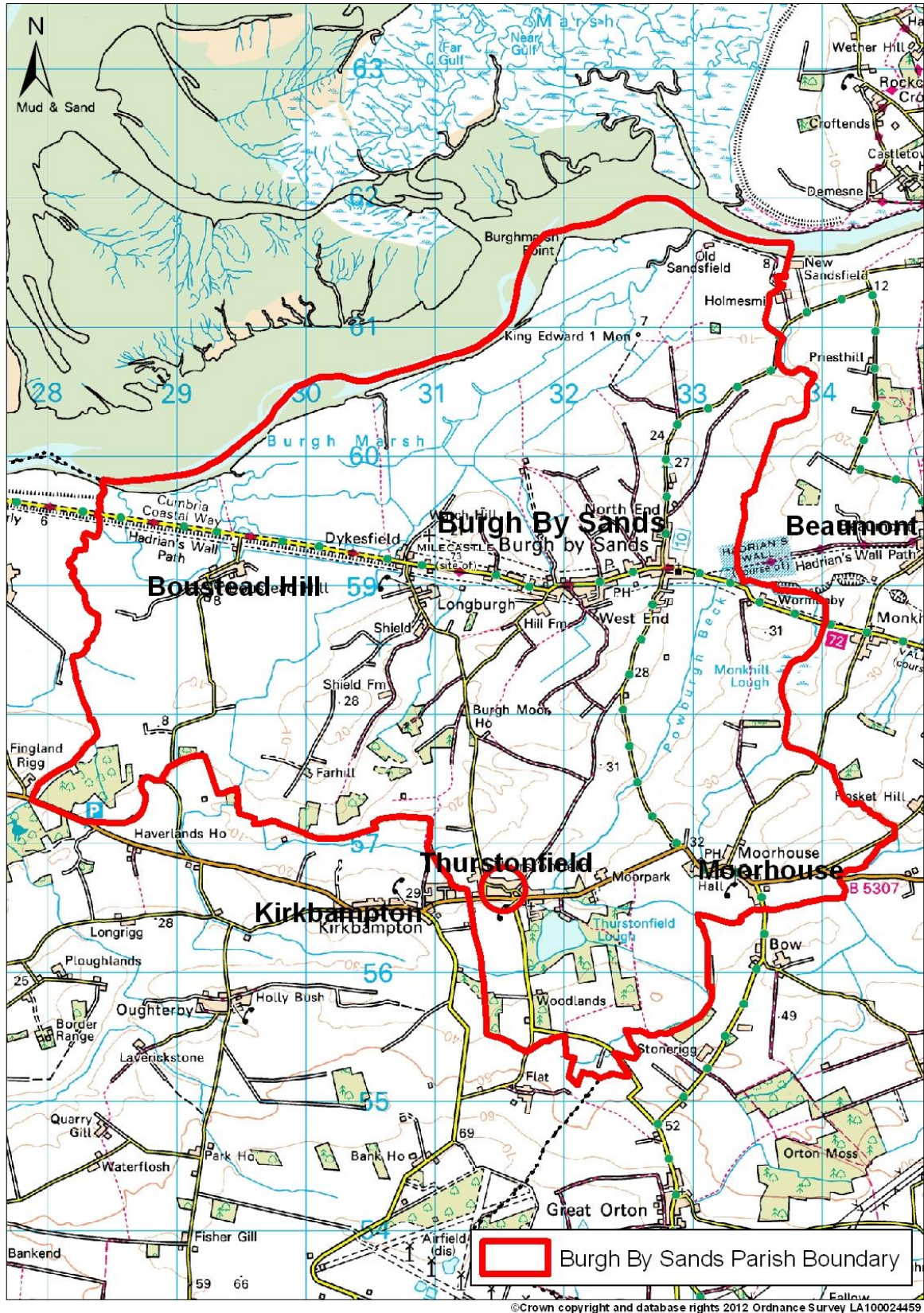


THURSTONFIELD

Figure 1: Location of Thurstonfield



Settlement Profile:**Strategic position**

Thurstonfield is at the western extremity of Carlisle district. The district boundary with Allerdale falls on the western approach to the village. It is 6 miles due west of Carlisle on the B5307, which heads to the Solway Firth and south to Wigton. The settlement of Kirkbampton (in Allerdale) is within a very short distance of the edge of Thurstonfield.

The village has little strategic role, although it is conveniently located for some of the historic and landscape and ecological areas of interest in Cumbria.

General description of settlement

The settlement extends for about ¼ a mile along the northern edge of the B5307, and is also clustered along a loop road that runs more or less parallel to the B road and extends a little way out along the road to the north to Burgh by Sands. South of the B5307 and east of the road from Great Orton, older properties border the B road and more recent development extends to the boundary with the Thurstonfield Lough Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Methodist Chapel dates back to 1861 and there is 19th and 20th century housing in the village. The built environment is a mix of older farm houses and conversions of agricultural buildings, with infill of 2 storey houses and bungalows. Materials are varied; stone, brick and render. There is a recent infill site adjacent to the Methodist Chapel, which has strong local character built with materials and style that complement the local vernacular.

The only amenity space is a relatively small triangle of grass with seat, litter bin and notice board at the head of the main access into the village. The settlement lacks open space facilities for play or general community use.

Traffic tends to speed through the village (despite a 30pmh limit) as the road is straight and there is little to signal the village's presence to motorists.

Topographical and landscape context

Thurstonfield sits in a low point with land rising gently to the south and north east. The higher ground to the north east forms a watershed between becks flowing west to the Solway Firth and becks which flow from the east. The becks that flow from the east close to the village run into Thurstonfield Lough, a natural feature although the water levels are controlled by sluice. The Lough was used as the header tank for the water courses which run towards the Solway. These streams powered corn mills, with different mills working on different days of the week to maintain the flow of water. This water management allowed each settlement down stream to run its own mill.

Well maintained, relatively high hedges border the approaches from north and south. The settlement is visible only from gaps in those hedges from the south and from the north most of the settlement is concealed by the brow of the higher ground.

The surrounding landscape is mainly pastoral with quite large fields and some mature hedgerow trees. The woodland of the Thurstonfield Lough forms a visual backdrop for views towards the south east.

Biodiversity

Thurstonfield Lough is the largest area of open water in the north and east Cumbrian lowlands, covering 20 acres. It is a species-rich SSSI with examples of a range of habitats, and species including waterfowl. The water-body is surrounded by woodland, which extends further south.

The confluence of Powburgh Beck and Bramble Beck is just east of Thurstonfield and flows through woodland in the SSSI. The becks that flow from the lake west to the Solway Firth are also edged with woodland blocks to the south.

The prevalence of becks and ditches provides habitat diversity and wildlife corridors. Hedges, woodland and small clumps of trees also contribute to diversity and connections.

Tourist features/context

Thurstonfield Lough presents an eco-tourism opportunity with the Tranquil Otter converted mill houses and waterside lodges offering 5* self-catering accommodation. Fishing, wetland walks, bird hides are all available in the vicinity of the 20 acre former mill header-pond for use by residents. The Lough is accessible to residents of Thurstonfield if they sign in, as it has no public right of way. Further west is Finlandrigg Woods nature reserve which is close by.

There is nearby access to Hadrian's Wall, other scheduled ancient monuments and nature reserves, the Cumbria Coastal Way and the Solway Firth itself a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

There is a good network of footpaths round and near Thurstonfield Lough and other off-road routes to the north, where it is possible to walk to Burgh by Sands, Hadrian's Wall and connect to the Cumbrian Coastal Way.

Settlement dependencies

Thurstonfield village is situated close to Kirkbampton (0.4 miles), Longburgh (1.5 miles), Oughterby (1.7 miles), Burgh by Sands (2 miles) and Great Orton (2 miles).

There are no shops, pubs, school or other services in the Thurstonfield village apart from the Methodist Chapel. Kirkbampton, very close by (in the district of Allerdale), hosts a primary school and village hall. Kirkbampton CE Primary School is located on the Thurstonfield side of the village.

For a larger choice of services, Thurstonfield residents have options in Carlisle (5.9 miles) or Wigton (7.6 miles).

CABE¹ Pre-consultation Comments on Scope for new development

The close proximity of Kirkbampton (in Allerdale District) needs to be considered in decisions on new development for Thurstonfield. The debate about whether it would be appropriate to fill between the two settlements to create one larger settlement would need to be undertaken with Allerdale Council.

From a physical and landscape point of view there is scope for new development to be incorporated into the Thurstonfield in at least two areas outside the village footprint. There is also scope to develop the Hill Farm site within the settlement boundary.

¹ Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)

Community Consultation

A focus group was held with members of Burgh by Sands Parish Council on 28/2/12. The consensus of opinion was that with the lack of services and scope to develop within the current footprint of the village, that the need to identify areas specific areas for development in adjacent land was not required at present.

New housing south of the B5307 would have a detrimental impact to the existing housing to the north of the road as the land rises southward from the road, this would be overpowering. There is also a problem of speeding cars in this area of the village.

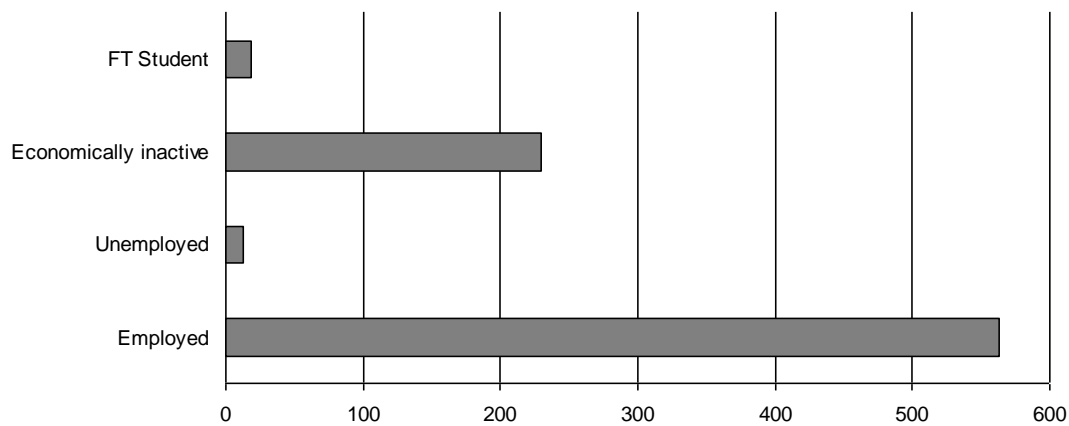
There is also a need for an improved waste removal system and plant for the village particularly if the number of households was to grow.

Socio-economic picture for Burgh by Sands Parish Council¹

Population	1143
All dwellings	437
Households with residents	429
Second residence/holiday accommodation	3
Average household size	2.66
Average number of rooms per household	6.64
Owner occupied tenure	366
Rented from Council or housing association	24
Rented from private landlord	39

Average distance travelled to fixed place of work 17.03 miles

Figure 2: Economic activity aged 16-74²



¹ Sourced from 2001 census data, Office for National Statistics 2010

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

Photographs



1. The village green looking north east towards the track. The only area of communal public realm in the village. A mix of ages of housing.



2. View towards the village green from the south at the B5307 junction. Strong access towards village green with character-giving large trees.



3. View eastwards along B5307 showing narrow footpaths and buildings abutting the long, straight road.



4. Thurstonfield Methodist Chapel, dating back to 1861, with single and 2-storey infill housing behind reflecting materials and character of older parts of the village. Mature trees of SSSI behind.



5. View south over junction with B5307 along road to Great Orton. Land rises to the south, restricting long distance views. Well maintained hedges and some mature trees.



6. View north on road from Great Orton. Edge of settlement visible through gap in hedge in distance with large trees of Thurstonfield Lough SSSI to right.



7. View south from the road to Burgh by Sands. Active farmland right of road (see Photo 8.). Land to left, north of settlement boundary slopes towards settlement.



8. View southwest to Kirkbampton in the distance. Active farmland sloping towards Burghmoor Beck



9. Straight approach to village from east along B5307. Lower ground is in floodplain



10. Village approach along B5307 from west, near Kirkbampton. Enclosure provided from hedges. Tempting to speed, straight road and little that signals “community” and sense of place.

Services and facilities: Detailed Information

Information provided by representatives of the Parish Council.

Convenience store

None

Post office

Nearest Post Office is a mobile service at Thurstonfield. Service is available at 12.10 to 12.40 on Thursdays. Full Post Office services available at Carlisle (5.9 miles) and Wigton (7.6 miles).

Village hall

Kirkbampton Village Hall at 0.4 miles away closest.
Regular users of the hall include: Kirkbride Flu Surgeries; Kirkbampton Church lunches; WI Quiz Nights; Young Farmers; Parent & Toddlers Group; Youth Club; various sports and arts sessions.

Church

Thurstonfield Methodist Chapel

Pub

Royal Oak Inn, Moorhouse (1.2 miles)

Primary school

Kirkbampton CE Primary School (0.4 miles)
Age Range 4-11 yrs
Number on Role (Sept 2011) 91
School Net Capacity 98

DfE No: 3018 Name of School: Kirkbampton CE School

Projections	Reception	PAN	Total NOR	School Net Capacity
Jan-13	11	15	91	98
Jan-14	8	15	85	98
Jan-15	13	15	85	98
Jan-16	8	15	75	98
Jan-17	10	15	71	98

Projections use January 2012 pupil census and August 2011 GPR

Secondary school

In 2011, 17 children transferred to secondary school:
9 pupils – Caldew School, Dalston (8 miles)
7 pupils – Nelson Thomlinson, Wigton (7.6 miles)
1 pupil - Austin Friars St Monica’s School, Carlisle (5.9 miles)

Public transport – quality and frequency of services

Stagecoach route 71 Silloth/Anthorn/Carlisle: Stops 3 times per day with 2 extra on Friday and Saturday evening. There is a college service during term time.

GP

Nearest surgeries at Kirkbride (5.8 miles), Carlisle (5.9 miles) and Dalston (8 miles)

Dentist

Nearest surgeries at Carlisle (5.9 miles) and Wigton (7.6 miles), Dalston (8 miles)

Tourist accommodation/ facilities

Tranquil Otter – Holiday Lodges
The Granary – Self catering holiday let
Bramblebeck Cottage B&B
Bramblebeck Park – caravan park

Cultural activities

Most activities Carlisle (5.9 miles) and also at Kirkbampton Village Hall (0.4 miles) including Short mat Bowling and Christmas Fayre.

Mobile services

Mobile Library,
Mobile Post Office,
Jim's Mobile Store (Moorhouse)
Butchers at Great Orton (2 miles)
Milk delivery