

# Whittington: Conservation Area Summary

## Why is Whittington Conservation Area special?

Whittington is a historic township and parish, situated on the west side of the River Lune and on the principal road from Arkholme to Kirkby Lonsdale. The village has medieval origins and was once the important centre for the lordship of Earl Tostig, but this significance did not survive the Conquest. Within the grounds of St Michael's Church are the remains of a motte and bailey; a medieval fortification introduced by the Normans. This was used as part of a strategic group along the Lune Valley to control movement and impose order in the post-Conquest era. The area was badly affected by Scottish raids in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

The Conservation Area boundary encompasses the three principal roads, which buildings predominantly face onto, Whittington Hall to the north west and the open pasture and mature trees to the west of Main Street. Many of the buildings date from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century and are a mixture of traditionally constructed farmhouses and cottages and also larger houses and a country house to the north west.

## General

- Strategic importance of the village during the post-Conquest era
- Sinuous linear arrangement of buildings along three principal roads, creating a fine grain as many buildings face immediately onto the highway
- Some farmhouses and barns run perpendicular to the main road
- Buildings are mostly constructed in sandstone, with some limestone, for walling and slate roofs
- Rural setting of the village in the Lune valley, the wider setting provided by open fields and mature trees
- Prominence of the tower of St Michael's Church and Whittington Hall, with views attainable for several areas of the village
- Influence of local notable architects on several buildings during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including George Webster and Paley and Austin
- Mixture of vernacular and formal architectural styles

## Important buildings and features

- Whittington Hall (Grade II\*) - a large country house designed by George Webster c.1831-36 on the site of an earlier house and possibly incorporating some elements of a 16<sup>th</sup> century house. The house is a grand example of Jacobethan style with a battlemented tower and corner turret
- School and School House (Grade II) - an impressive c.1875 Arts and Crafts style former school with landmark position on the main road
- St Michael's Church (Grade II\*) - a 16<sup>th</sup> century church which was extensively restored by local architects Paley and Austin c.1875
- Motte and Bailey (Scheduled Monument) - nationally important remains of a Norman fortification introduced to control movement along the Lune Valley
- Malt Kiln house (Grade II) - a late-17<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and 18<sup>th</sup> century barn with dated lintel of '1687' above the doorway

- Manor House (Grade II) - an attractive example of a mid-17<sup>th</sup> century house which has retained its mullioned windows
- Low stone boundary walls to many properties
- Remains of cobbles to the forecourts of some cottages
- Dated lintels above front doorways to some cottages and smaller houses

Conservation Area Name

Area (ha)

Designation Date

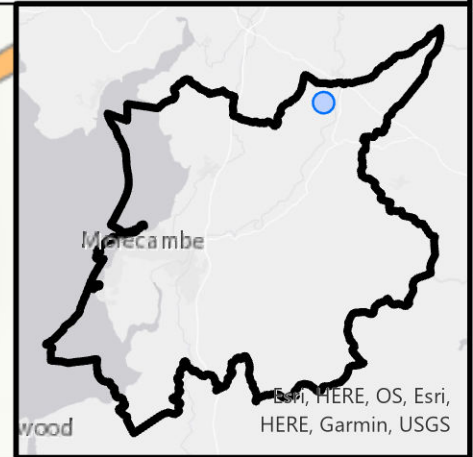
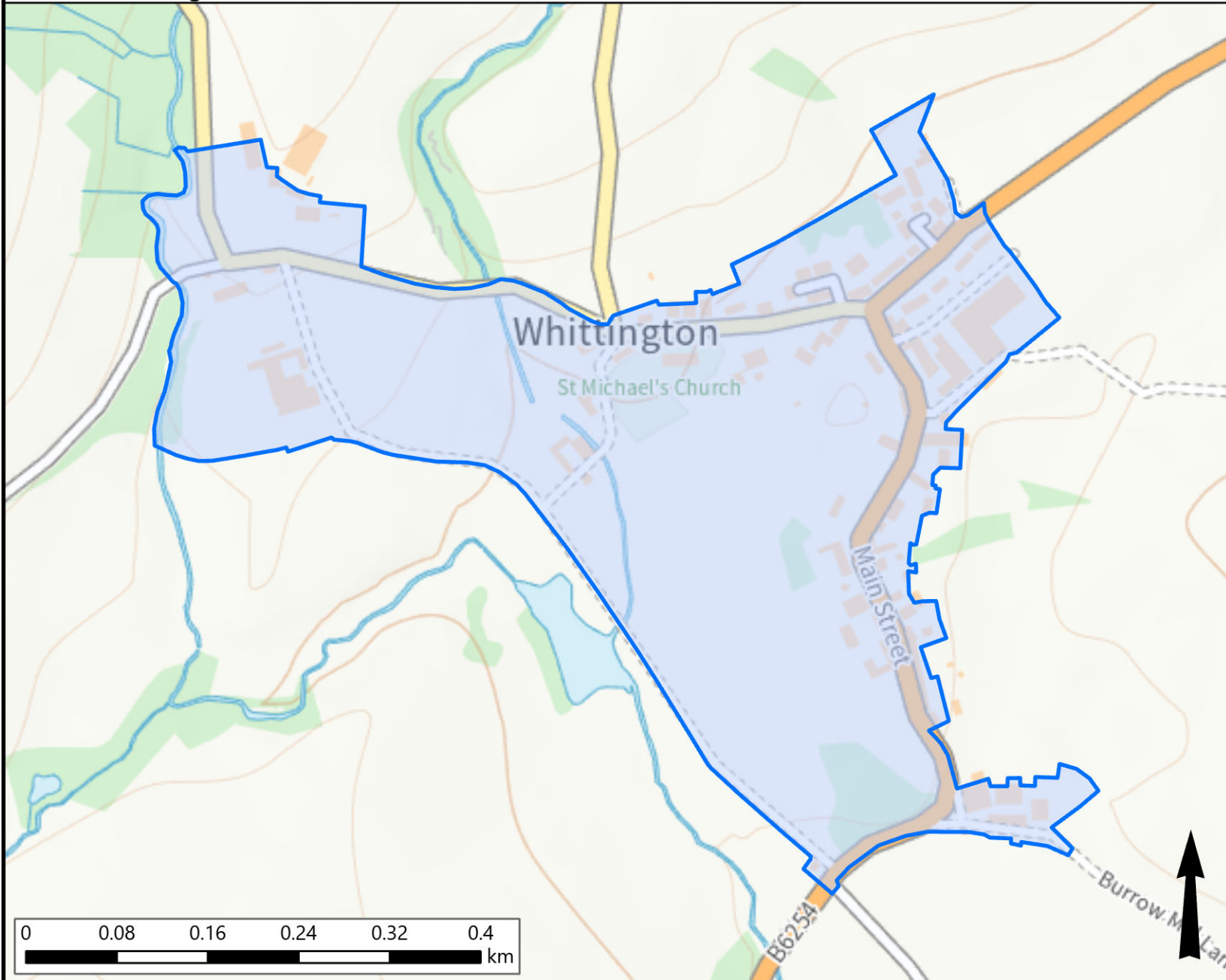
LANCASTER  
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

Whittington

23.97

1981



### Legend

-  Conservation Areas
-  Lancaster District Boundary

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