

Tunstall: Conservation Area Assessment

Why is Tunstall Conservation Area special?

Tunstall is a small hamlet in the very north east of Lancashire; situated east of the River Lune along a road running from Lancaster in the south to Kirkby Lonsdale in the north. The boundary covers buildings clustered along the main road and a lane leading west to a former ford in the river. The boundary excludes the prominent Thurland Castle (Grade II*) to the south and Church of St John (Grade I) to the north-east.

Thurland was a medieval lordship owned by the Tunstall family. Thurland Castle, to the south of the hamlet, has 14th century origins and in 1402 Sir Thomas Tunstall, a knight, obtained the King's licence to crenellate the manor house. The castle passed to the Girlington family in the early 17th century and, due to the Royalist association of the family, the castle was besieged in 1643 and left ruinous until its restoration in the 19th century.

The hamlet of Tunstall probably originated as a settlement serving the large estate of the castle, however predominantly buildings in the Conservation Area date from the 18th and 19th century. Buildings are characteristically 2-storey, constructed in sandstone rubble with slate pitched roofs. There are a mixture of building types, including; terraced cottages, detached houses, farmhouses, barns, a former school and a pub. Overall, the area has a subtle traditional quality.

General

- Rural setting of the hamlet in a lowland area of the Lune Valley; surrounded by flat open agricultural fields
- Historic association with Thurland Castle
- Retention of Coneygarth Lane which led to a ford over the River Lune across to Whittington, which is no longer used
- Traditional character of many buildings; constructed in sandstone rubble walling and pitched slate roofs
- Low stone boundary walls around larger houses and farmhouses
- Retention of 19th century street furniture, including a boundary marker and a milestone

Important buildings and features

- Old Vicarage (Grade II) - an early-18th century house, formerly a vicarage associated with the outlying church of St John to the east
- School House (Grade II) - a mid-18th century house, formerly used as a schoolroom and schoolhouse from 1870 to 1963. The building was later converted back to a single dwelling in the 1990s. The house has a very traditional character but has retained a large inscription above the central doorway referring to endowers of the school
- Gabriel Cottage (Grade II) - an impressive 18th century farmhouse with mullioned windows

- Lunesdale Arms – formerly known as the Fenwick Arms, which might be a reference to the Fenwick family of Burrow Hall further north. The building is an 18th century public house most likely rebuilt in the late-19th century.
- Tunstall House - a late-19th century asymmetrical house with mullioned and transomed windows, a projecting gabled frontage and Tudor-revival style doorway

Conservation Area Name

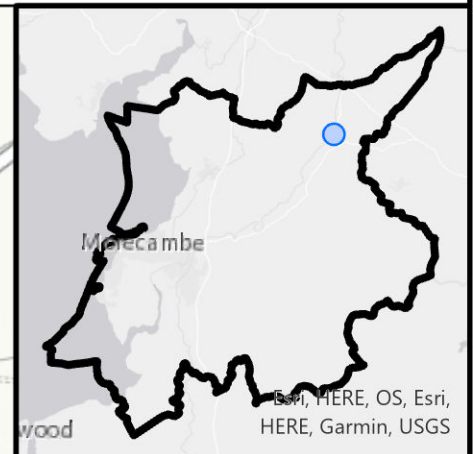
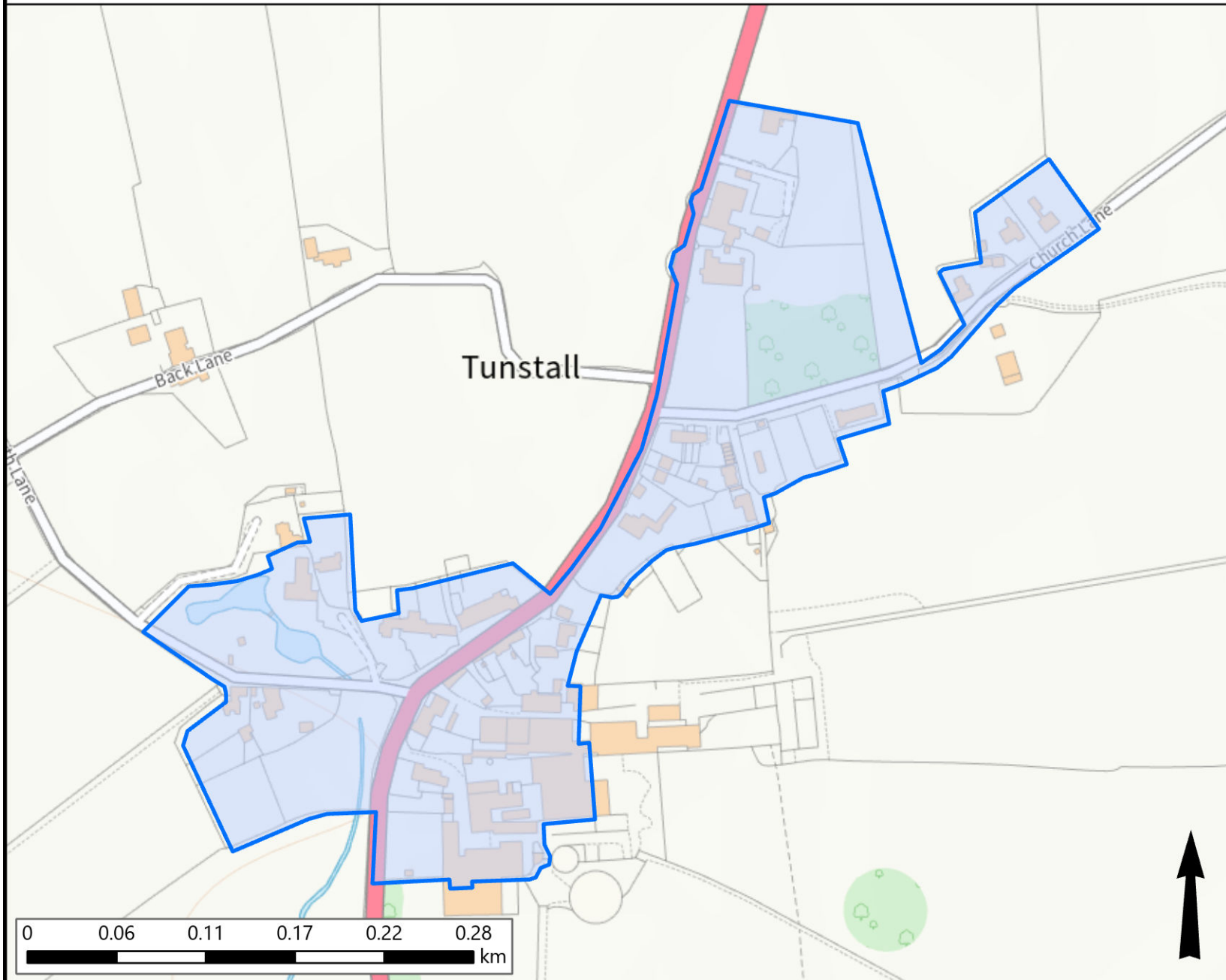
Area (ha)

Designation Date

Tunstall

8.01

1981



Legend

-  Conservation Areas
-  Lancaster District Boundary

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