

Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham **Parish PROFILE for Publication**

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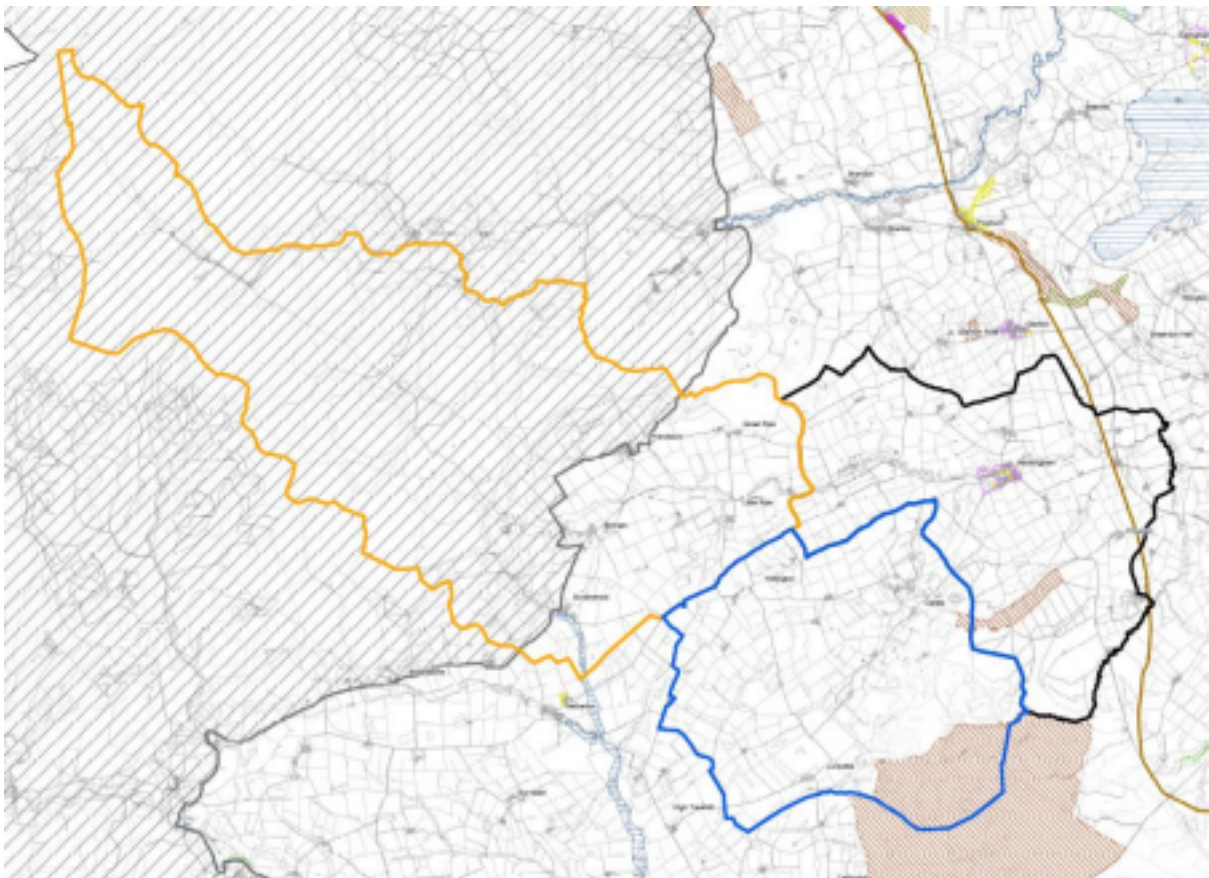
1. Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish

Introduction

1.1 Whittingham, Callaly & Alnham Parish ('WC&A') is a rural parish in Northumberland covering the former 3 separate parishes of Alnham, Callaly and Whittingham (figure 1). The largest settlement is the village of Whittingham, and the Parish also includes the settlements of Alnham, Callaly, Great Ryle, Little Ryle, Lorbottle, Prendwick, Thrunton and Yetlington. The greater portion of Alnham Parish

lies in the Northumberland National Park.

Figure 1: WC&A Parish



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Population

1.2 Census data for the Parish is problematic because the 2021 Census data has not yet been published. Data from the 2011 Census is only available for the following geographies: 'Whittingham & Alnham' and 'Callaly and Cartington'.

1.3 However, ONS mid-year population estimates (2019) are available for Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham, and these are shown in table 1 alongside figures for Northumberland as a whole.¹

Table 1: Population Data (mid-year estimates, 2019)

Age group	Whittingham	Callaly	Alnham	WC&A	Northumberland
0-15	82 (15.8%)	16 (6.6%)	59 (21.9%)	157 (15.3%)	52,443 (16.3%)
16-24	36 (7.0%)	14 (5.8%)	21 (7.8%)	71 (6.9%)	26,921 (8.4%)
25-64	256 (49.5%)	134 (55.6%)	141 (52.2%)	531 (51.7%)	163,287 (50.6%)

65-74	89 (17.2%)	54 (22.4%)	37 (13.7%)	180 (17.5%)	44,831 (13.9%)
75-89	42 (8.1%)	22 (9.1%)	12 (4.4%)	76 (7.4%)	31,428 (9.8%)
90+	12 (2.3%)	1 (0.4%)	0	13 (1.3%)	3,524 (1.1%)
TOTAL	517	241	270	1,028	322,434

Housing

1.4 There have been 5 net additional homes completed in WC&A Parish since 2016 (table 2).

Table 2a: Housing completions in WC&A Parish since 2016 (as at 31 March 2022)

Parish	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
Alnham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Callaly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whittingham	0	1	1	2	1	0	5

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/adhocs/12324parishpopulationestimatesformid2001tomid2019basedonbestfittingofoutputareastoparishes>

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Table 2b: Detail of Housing completions in WC&A Parish since 2016 (as at 31 March 2022)

COMPLETIONS since 2016				
Year	REF	Address	Description	Units
2016 - 17	16/00704/FU	The Coach House, The Grange Glanton	Conversion of outbuilding to form new one bedroom dwelling	1
2018 - 19	16/00947/FUL	Treetops East Whittingham	Proposed construction of 3no. detached 3-bedroom properties	1
2019 - 20	11/00726/FUL	The Station and Engine Shed at Station House Whittingham	Renovation of Railway Station to form single dwelling and development of engine shed to form single dwelling.	1

	15/03242/FUL	Land West of Dancing Hall Cottages C178 Thropton to Whittingham	Siting of a modular dwelling and detached joiner's workshop	1
2020 - 21	11/00726/FUL	The Station and Engine Shed at Station House Whittingham	Renovation of Railway Station to form single dwelling and development of engine shed to form single dwelling.	1
	17/01799/FUL	Land West of Treetops, Callaly Road, Whittingham	Development of 12no. Twin Unit Residential Lodges/ Bungalows	1
	20/00854/FUL	Thrunton Lowfield Cottage Road Passing Thrunton Lowfield Farm U4002 Thrunton	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling	-1

1.5 There are outstanding commitments for another 30 dwellings (Table 3). **Table 3: Sites with Planning Permission in WC&A Parish (as at 31 March 2022)**

Planning Reference	Address	Proposal			Notes
Callaly Parish					
A/2002/058 1	Yetlington East, Prospect Terrace,	Conversion of agricultural buildings to 2 one-storey dwellings.	2	2	Site commenced in 2008

Planning Reference	Address	Proposal			Notes
	Yetlington Farm, Callaly				
21/01523/FUL	Buildings East Of 6 Callaly High Houses Whittingham	Conversion of agricultural building to one dwelling.	1	1	
Whittingham Parish					
17/01799/FUL	Land West of Treetops, Callaly Road, Whittingham	Development of 12no. Twin Unit Residential Lodges/ Bungalows.	12	11	
21/00904/FUL	Swarland Brick Co Ltd, Brick Works, Thrunton	Redevelopment of former Brickworks, including 14no. dwellings, 3no. tourism units, car parking and amenity space.	14	14	
16/00947/FUL	Treetops East, Whittingham	Proposed construction of 3no. detached 3-bedroom properties.	3	2	
19/01089/FUL	Coeburn Caravan Park Thrunton, Whittingham	Change of use of existing bungalow (C3 Residential) to holiday let.	-1	-1	
20/00854/FUL	Thrunton Lowfield Cottage Road Passing Thrunton Lowfield Farm Thrunton	Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling.	1	1	Under construction

2. What is Neighbourhood Planning?

2.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act in 2011. This provides the legal framework for a range of discretionary powers including those that enable parish councils to prepare Neighbourhood Development Plans, often referred to as ‘neighbourhood plans’ (NPs) and Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs).

Neighbourhood Plans

2.2 The purpose of neighbourhood plans is to create locally distinctive planning policies to manage and guide development within a defined neighbourhood area. They are important documents in the planning system because decisions on planning applications must be made in accordance with planning policies, including those in a neighbourhood plan.

2.3 Figure 2 explains generally what neighbourhood plans can and cannot be used to achieve.

Figure 2: What a Neighbourhood Plan can and cannot Do

<i>What NPs can do</i>	<i>What NPs cannot do</i>
<p><i>They can create planning policies to cover any land-use matter which is important to the local community. This could include planning policies on:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Employment (e.g. allocating sites for employment development)</i> <i>• Housing (e.g. allocating sites for residential development and</i> 	<p><i>Neighbourhood Plans cannot:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Plan for less development than that promoted in a Local Plan</i> <i>• Be in conflict with strategic policies in a Local Plan</i> <i>• Deal with major infrastructure projects such as main roads</i> <i>• Deal with minerals or waste issues</i>

<p><i>identifying the types of housing required)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Transport (e.g. extensions to cycle routes or footpaths)</i> • <i>Natural environment (e.g. protecting wildlife corridors)</i> • <i>Design (e.g. local guidance)</i> 	<p><i>which can only be dealt with by the County Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promote development which is not sustainable</i>
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Neighbourhood Development Orders

2.4 These are prepared in a similar way to neighbourhood plans. They grant permission for development without the need for further planning applications. They can grant planning permission for an individual development or for types of development across a whole neighbourhood area. These could include:

- major development schemes
- new houses
- a new shop or pub
- permitted extensions of a certain size or type

2.5 A community right to build order is a special kind of NDO, granting planning permission for small, community development schemes, such as housing or new community facilities.

Neighbourhood Planning Process

2.6 The process for preparing a neighbourhood plan or order is set out in legislation and national guidance. A number of steps are involved, which are described briefly in Table 4.

Table 4: Neighbourhood Planning Steps

Step	Actions
1. Area designation	<i>The parish council applies for the parish to be designated as a neighbourhood area for the purposes of neighbourhood planning. The local planning authority (Northumberland County Council) determines the application and, if successful, designates</i>

	<i>the parish as a neighbourhood area.</i>
2. Preparing and publicising the draft NP / NDO	<p><i>The process is similar for NPs and NDOs. It typically begins with the Parish Council gathering information about the neighbourhood area and engaging with the community to identify local aspirations and priorities.</i></p> <p><i>For a NP, this early engagement would inform the development of a vision and objectives for the plan. Planning policies would be drafted to achieve these objectives. Additional evidence is likely to be required to justify introducing the policies.</i></p> <p><i>For an NDO, evidence must be gathered to show there is a need for the order and the kinds of development it should permit.</i></p>

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Step	Actions
	<i>Once prepared, the draft plan or order must be publicised for a period of at least 6 weeks, inviting comments from people who live, work and carry out business in the area.</i>
3. Submit the draft NP / NDO	<i>Once the parish council is satisfied with the plan / order and has taken account of comments made by the local community and other stakeholders, it submits the plan / order to the local planning authority.</i>
4. Independent examination	<i>The local planning authority appoints an independent examiner to examine the plan / order. They decide if the plan / order meets the 'basic conditions' and if it should go to a local referendum.</i>
5. Referendum	<i>If successful at examination, the plan / order is then subject to a vote in a local referendum. If more than 50% of electors vote in favour, the planning authority must adopt the plan / order as new planning policy.</i>

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3. Current Planning Position

Planning Policy

3.1 The planning system shapes new development and the use of land in England with the aim of achieving outcomes that are positive for people, the economy and the environment. Figure 3 shows where neighbourhood plans sit in the English planning system.

Figure 3: Components of the Planning System

English planning law and regulations

National Planning Policy Framework

3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. National planning policy sets the broad framework within which Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans must be prepared. The NPPF confirms the purpose of planning is to help achieve 'sustainable development'. This is normally defined as follows:

'Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'²

The Development Plan

3.3 The law requires that planning decisions are made in line with the development plan, unless there are good reasons why this should not be done. These reasons are called 'material considerations'. The development plan is therefore at the heart of a plan-led planning system. The key components of the development plan are:

- Local Plans, which must be prepared by all local planning authorities for their area;
- Neighbourhood Plans, which are voluntary, and are prepared by local communities through parish councils where they exist.

3.4 Northumberland County Council (NCC) and Northumberland National Park Authority (NNPA) are the Local Planning Authorities. The current local plans for WC&A Parish are the [Northumberland Local Plan](#) (adopted March 2022) and the [Northumberland National Park Local Plan](#) (adopted July 2020).

3.5 Should WC&A Parish create a neighbourhood plan, this will form part of the development plan and would be used alongside other relevant Local Plan policies to make decisions on planning applications in the Parish.

3.6 The following planning policies in the Northumberland Local Plan are relevant to WC&A Parish. A neighbourhood plan should not seek to replicate what is already in the Northumberland Local Plan.

²The Report of the Brundtland Commission, Our Common Future, 1987

Policy STP1 Spatial strategy (Strategic Policy)

The settlements of Whittingham and Alnham are classed as ‘small villages’. In order to support the social and economic vitality of rural areas and recognising that development in one village can support services and facilities in other nearby villages, small villages will support a proportionate level of development.

Development in other settlements not identified as Main Towns, Service Centres, Service Villages or Small Villages (i.e., Callaly) will be limited to that within the built form of the settlement, and the conversion, extension or redevelopment of existing buildings unless it supports the sustainable growth of an existing business or the formation of a new business or provides for new or enhanced community facilities.

The Policy supports ‘Sustainable development ... within settlement boundaries defined on the Local Plan policies map.’ Whittingham Village, which had a settlement boundary in the earlier Alnwick District Wide Local Plan, does not have a boundary proposed in the Local Plan.

Policy HOU 6 Affordable housing provision (Strategic Policy)

Major development proposals of 10-or-more units or 0.5 hectares or more, will be expected to provide on-site affordable housing (or where robustly justified make an equivalent financial contribution in lieu to support off-site provision, in accordance with the housing viability value areas shown on the [Policies Map](#). Under this policy, the Parish is identified as a ‘medium’ value area where 15% affordable provision would be expected, except on developments of less than 30 dwellings, which are exempt.

Policy ENV2 Biodiversity and geodiversity

Development proposals affecting biodiversity and geodiversity, including designated sites, protected species, and habitats and species of principal importance in England (also called priority habitats and species), will:

a. Minimise their impact, avoiding significant harm through location and/ or design. Where significant harm cannot be avoided, applicants will be required to demonstrate that adverse impacts will be adequately mitigated or, as a last resort compensated for;

b. Secure a net gain for biodiversity as calculated, to reflect latest Government policy and advice, through planning conditions or planning obligations

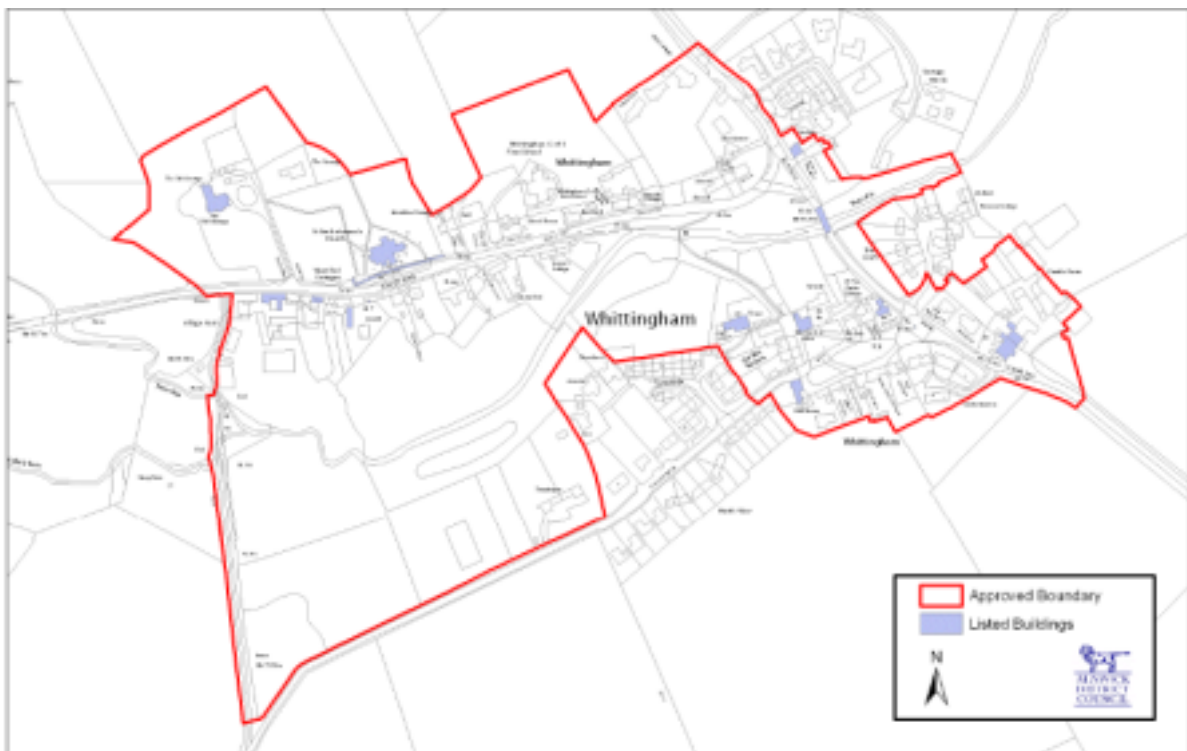
Within the Parish, there are:

- *Two Local Wildlife and Geological Sites - Callaly and Thrunton Crags and Swallow Knowe*
- *A Site of Special Scientific Interest – River Coquet and Coquet Valley Woodlands*
- *An Ancient Woodland – Whittingham Wood*

Policy ENV9 Conservation Areas sets out how development will be managed in such areas, including in Whittingham (figure 4).

The Conservation Area [Appraisal](#) sets out what makes Whittingham an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Figure 4: Whittingham Conservation Area



REN 2 Onshore Wind Energy Development

The Parish is identified as an area potentially suitable for wind energy

development (turbines up to 25 metres in height to the tip of the blade).

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The eastern portions of Whittingham and Callaly parishes are identified as areas potentially suitable for wind energy development (turbines 26 to 40 metres in height to the tip of the blade).

Policy INF5 Open space and facilities for sport and recreation identifies a number of sites within the village of Whittingham as protected open space (figure 5):

- Whittingham NSN
- Whittingham Nature Area NSN
- Whittingham AGS 2
- The Croft AGS
- Whittingham AGS

Figure 5: Protected Open Spaces in Whittingham



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