

UNDERSTANDING THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES OF THE NORTH WEST

**LOCAL AUTHORITY
DISTRICT SUMMARY:**

SOUTH LAKELAND

JUNE 2009



South Lakeland contains five of the 47 communities considered within the regional study of coastal communities across the North West¹. This summary offers a high level extract of analysis into those communities.

- **Arnside** is a small resort and local centre. It is situated on the southern shore of Morecambe Bay in the very southern tip of Cumbria. In recent years, Arnside has attracted inward migrants, both of working and retirement age². The town benefits from access to the coastal railway line which provides connections into Cumbria and with mainline services at Lancaster.
- **Flookburgh** is one of a number of smaller settlements which face the northern shore of Morecambe Bay. It retains a small shrimping and shell-fishing sector and also hosts retirees and second home owners as well as people economically active in South Lakeland.
- **Grange-over-Sands** is a former resort and remains a vibrant local service centre supporting a largely elderly population and visitors / residents of the southern part of the Lake District National Park. Grange benefits from access to the coastal railway line which provides connections to Lancaster and the Cumbrian coast. Grange retains a clear connection to Morecambe Bay; its coastal position makes it distinctive and should play a core role in its economic future.
- **Ulverston** is an important rural service centre. It is the fourth biggest rural centre (after Kendal, Penrith and Windermere) and plays an important role as an employment and retail centre in south west quadrant of Cumbria. Ulverston's link to the coast and sea is mainly historic; it is situated a little distance inland from the foreshore of Morecambe Bay and the link formerly provided by a short canal has long since been severed.
- **Kirkby-in-Furness** is a small settlement situated on the south bank of the Duddon Estuary. It is connected to other settlements on the Furness peninsula by the coastal railway and operates mainly as a residential and local centre within a network dominated by Barrow-in-Furness. This strong link to Barrow and the other settlements around the Duddon estuary should influence any policy relating to Kirkby-in-Furness.

Data relating to the socio-economic and environmental characteristics of each settlement can be found in the [Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West . Data Workbook](#). This data can be brought together to provide a detailed picture for the

¹ Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West; Rural Innovation; June 2009

² See Understanding the Coastal Communities of the North West . Data Workbook; 2001 Migration In

coastal communities within South Lakeland. The table below records the relative performance of each settlement against a set of summary indicators. It defines the performance of each community with reference to the sub-regional average for each indicator³.

Community	Population	Aged Pop.	Pop Growth	Low Income	Car Ownership	Deprivation	Unemployment	Retail & Hospitality	Access to Services	Employment Centre	House Ownership	Private Rented Housing
Arnside	2,286	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Flookburgh	1,221	+	=	-	+	-	-	-	=	-	-	+
Grange-over-Sands	4,838	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	=	-
Kirkby-in-Furness	908	=	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	=
Ulverston	11,255	=	-	-	=	-	-	-	+	-	=	=

= about average, + more than average, - less than average
gaps indicate where Lower Super Output Area analysis was not possible for some settlements

Typology

Within the main report four typologies of coastal communities have been identified; large urban areas, working towns by the sea, maritime towns and settlements of choice⁴.

Ulverston has been categorised as a Working Town by the Sea. These are places which cannot be described as seaside resorts or retirement communities. They no longer have a dominant economic link with the coast and lack the type of infrastructure which typifies coastal settlements - harbours, promenades and beaches. These communities share socio-economic characteristics with inland settlements, yet proximity to the sea still makes up an important element of their character. Future policy affecting Working Towns by the Sea should seek to ensure that the benefits offered by their particular types of coastal location are not overlooked, but

³ A sub-regional rather than regional average has been used because of the significant impact of communities within Merseyside on the overall regional data. See main report, Geographic Analysis (page 6)

⁴ See main report, Functional Typology of Coastal Settlements (page 82)

will not place their coastal location centrally in their futures.

Arnside, Flookburgh and Grange-over-Sands have been categorised as Settlements of Choice. These are popular communities made even more attractive by the high quality environment of their coastal location. They have a strong link to the sea and have often developed around their role as a harbour or haven. The coastal location of these settlements is a very real asset yet it risks prejudicing their future as sustainable communities . both in terms of low carbon living and the balance and vibrancy of their population and business stock. These communities tend not to have structural social economic problems requiring bold intervention. Instead they need gentle but positive management to ensure they remain relatively balanced communities able to meet the obligations of sustainable living.

Kirkby-in-Furness has been categorised (as part of a network dominated by Barrow-in-Furness) as a Maritime Town. These are the places where the coastal influence is most powerful. This descriptor covers a much broader range of places than the national focus on 'Seaside Towns' has so far allowed. Maritime Towns have at some point been defined by a functional / economic relationship with the sea. Their future will be heavily influenced by the coastal features which have and continue to attract people and businesses to them. They can be resorts or ports, and are frequently both. Policy relating to Maritime Towns should regard their coastal location as a core issue, and understand the challenges and opportunities that it provides.

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