

Arnside & Silverdale ANOB DPD

Warton is in an area designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and any development should be done, if necessary, sympathetically and be of low density.

Warton is an historic village of linear pattern with some houses dating from the 17th century. This linear plan has been extended with 20th century building at each end of the village and with some building extending to the sides in the form of short cul-de-sacs.

Warton Crag like Arnside Knott and the Lakeland fells should not have housing built on their lower slopes. The fields on the southern slopes of Warton Crag are part of the beauty of the landscape of the Crag. Springs emerge at the foot of Warton Crag, being limestone.

The land from the south east to the south west of the village between Main Street and the A6 and between Borwick Lane and Mill Lane at the Warton end is flooded for much of the year despite drainage. Recent drainage work has not affected the extent of the flooding but has makes it recede a little quicker. The suggestion that the area should be considered for housing is beyond belief.

The flooding of fields affects sites W84, 85, 86 and 90.

Long term residents know that the flooding problem has increased over past decades both in area and duration. The water table appears to be higher than in the past, (we have lived in Warton for the past 37 and 56 years). The A6 now has flooding in this area too. There has been more development to the west of the A6, the Claas site, the Recycling Centre and farm buildings on Borwick Lane.

Warton Grange farm and its fields are flooded for many months of the year. The cows stand in water in the buildings at times and the farm receives subsidies for this. There are natural springs in these fields. After heavy rain at Town End where Main Street joins Sand Lane, water runs along the road and this has worsened since building at Town End Fold. Nos. 6 & 8 Main Street have permanent flood barriers outside their front doors as the grid in the road overflows. Outside No 10 Mill Lane a natural spring appears and lifts the

tarmac in the road, flooding the road. The frequency of this flooding has increased.

At the Westover end of the village there is a spring at Senset Well. There is flooding in the fields behind Westover Road from the south east to south east after rain. At the south west end of site W90 part of the stone wall has collapsed in recent years as this end of the field is waterlogged and the field between it and the Thoroughfare floods badly. This field separates Westover Road from the flooded fields and we do not want the soakaway effect to be destroyed by building. There is also minor flooding to the fields to the south east of W90.

The land from that field to Warton Grange Farm should be considered a flood plain. Having this land as a wetland would be a better plan if it wasn't for nearby housing. If these houses could be protected maybe some organisation such as the RSPB would be interested. We have resident swans of numbers up to twenty in these fields as well as many other species including various ducks, gulls, herons and other water birds. Regular visitors to our bird table at 2 Westover Road are Reed Buntings which have not travelled from Leighton Moss but are local.

Traffic and parking is a major problem in the centre of Warton between Churchill Avenue and the Borwick Lane junction, this section of Main Street is lined with parked cars on one side. Most of the houses on Main Street have no off road parking and many have two cars per house, the residents therefore park where they can, including Back Lane where the school is situated.

Back Lane and Westover Avenue become congested with parked cars and school traffic. The lack of parking at the church, the church hall and the village hall (sited on Back Lane) add to this problem. Overflow parking from the Methodist chapel also spreads onto Back Lane. At school drop off and pick up times Back Lane and the Westovers are chaotic.

Any development plan should consider the infrastructure of the village and the topography. Restrictions to building in Warton include narrow winding roads, (Main Street and Borwick Lane), the presence of limestone pavement, natural springs and flooding.









