2.0 **Ormskirk with Aughton**

**Wards:** Derby, Knowsley, Scott (Ormskirk) and; Aughton Park, Aughton and Downholland (Aughton)

2.0.1 **Introduction**

This ‘spatial evidence paper’ provides an overview at a local level – in this case, Ormskirk with Aughton – summarising much of the evidence available to date on a variety of topics. Borough-wide data on individual topics can be found in the relevant ‘thematic spatial evidence papers’.

Ormskirk is located centrally in the Borough, with Aughton to its south. Both settlements are well served by road (A59, A570, M58) and rail (Preston-Ormskirk and Ormskirk-Liverpool) with rail stations in Ormskirk, Aughton Park and Town Green. Ormskirk is a historic market town and the administrative hub of the Borough. Key employers include Ormskirk Hospital, Edge Hill University and West Lancashire Borough Council. Ormskirk has a large student population, owing to Edge Hill University, which creates some housing issues within the town. Aughton is parished and, whilst it has some localised retail and service provision, looks to Ormskirk for provision of major services.

![Chart 2.1 Location of Ormskirk and Aughton and their wards](source: WLBC 2016)
2.1.0 Current baseline

2.1.1 Demographics

Ormskirk is the second largest and most populated settlement within West Lancashire (after Skelmersdale). Along with Aughton, it is also the second most populated of the Borough’s spatial areas (again, after Skelmersdale).

Table 2.1 Population and number of households of Ormskirk and Aughton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of West Lancs. population</th>
<th>Area / hectares</th>
<th>Density (no. of persons per hectare)</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
<th>% of West Lancs. households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skelmersdale &amp; South Eastern Wards</td>
<td>42,698</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>6197</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>17,606</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ormskirk</td>
<td>17,960</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>1607</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>7,070</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aughton</td>
<td>9,194</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>4657</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>37,17</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burscough &amp; Rufford</td>
<td>11,231</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>1,216</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>4,551</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Wards</td>
<td>13,839</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>7,180</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>5828</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Wards</td>
<td>9,841</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>5768</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>4,096</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wards</td>
<td>5,922</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>6791</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lancashire</td>
<td>110,685</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,679</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>45,381</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

Aughton and Downholland Ward has one of the lowest population densities (people per hectare) of all wards in the Borough owing to the size of the ward and its rural nature, meaning there are fewer residents spread across greater areas. Conversely, Ormskirk wards such as Knowsley and Scott have high densities due to the higher concentrations of people across smaller areas. (Density is highest in the Skelmersdale wards.)

Table 2.2 Population and households by ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of West Lancs. population</th>
<th>Area / hectares</th>
<th>Density (persons per hectare)</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
<th>% of West Lancs. households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aughton Park</td>
<td>3723</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>710.36</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>1503</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aughton &amp; Downholland</td>
<td>5471</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>3947.02</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2214</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>6720</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>932.42</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>2318</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowsley</td>
<td>5517</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>289.66</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>2392</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>5723</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>384.6</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>2360</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lancashire</td>
<td>110,685</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34,679</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>45,381</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011 Census, ONS
24% of the Borough’s population live in Ormskirk and Aughton. Ormskirk has a broader population structure than other areas of the Borough; for example Skelmersdale has a greater population of young people and the Western Wards a larger older population. At a ward level, Derby Ward has one of the highest proportions of young adults and this can be attributed to the number of students living in the town to attend Edge Hill University. Aughton and Downholland has one of the highest proportions of people over 65; most likely due to fact the ward is an affluent, rural area and appeals to those of retirement age.
Health

There is a polarisation in life expectancies between the most and least deprived areas of the Borough. Men in the most deprived areas have life expectancies almost 10 years shorter than those in the least deprived areas. For males, life expectancy ranges from 83 years in Derby Ward to 73.6 years in Tanhouse – a difference of 9.4 years.1

Over 80% of residents in Ormskirk and Aughton wards rate their health as very good or good, with the exception of Scott which falls just below the 80%.

Chart 2.4 West Lancashire residents’ description of health

Education and skills

26% of West Lancashire’s workforce has a degree (or equivalent) or higher (Level 4). This compares to a regional figure of 24% and a national figure of 27%, placing it roughly on par with its counterparts. The highest proportion of people with Level 4 qualifications (degree level) or higher are found at Aughton (38%), Parbold (45%), Newburgh (38%) and Wrightington (37%) – these are dormer settlements used predominately by commuters to other areas.

1 The seven wards: a focus on Skelmersdale, S Collins, Lancashire County Council, March 2015
Chart 2.5 Educational Achievement by spatial area

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

Guide to the levels:
Level 1: Includes 1-4 O-Levels/GCSEs, NVQ level 1, Foundation GNVQ
Level 2: Includes 5+ O-levels/GCSEs, 1 A-Level, Intermediate/Higher Diploma, NVQ Level 2,
Level 3: Includes 2+ A-Levels, Advanced Diploma, NVQ Level 3, Advanced GNVQ, ONC, ONS,
Level 4: Degree, Higher Degree, NVQ Level 4-5, HNC, HND, BTEC Higher, Higher diploma, Foundation

Chart 2.6 Education Achievement by ward

Source: 2011 Census, ONS
Ormskirk and Aughton have a significant proportion of residents employed in higher managerial and professional occupations (grade AB). 39% of residents in Aughton Park Ward are in grade AB, compared to 5% in Digmoor. Conversely just 9% of Aughton Park residents are in grade DE, compared to 55% in Digmoor.

Chart 2.7 Approximated social grade

Source: 2011 Census, ONS

Approximated grade AB – Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative, professional occupations
Approximated grade C1 – Supervisory, clerical and junior managerial, admin, professional occupations
Approximated grade C2 – Skilled manual occupations
Approximated social grade DE – Semi-skilled & unskilled manual occupations, unemployed and lowest grade occupations
Deprivation

Overall, in the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), West Lancashire was ranked 164th out of 326 local authorities in England. This places it right in the middle nationally. However, varying levels of deprivation can be found within the Borough.

Skelmersdale is the most deprived area in West Lancashire with 14 of its 23 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) (60%) featuring in the top 20% most deprived LSOAs nationally. Conversely, the Borough also has some of the lowest levels of deprivation found across England. 21 of the Borough’s 73 LSOAs (29%) fall within the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods nationally, including LSOAS within Aughton and Downholland. There is therefore a polarisation within the Borough between those areas in the highest and lowest two deciles (20%) of deprivation.

Chart 2.8 illustrates each of the LSOAs within West Lancashire, with the most deprived LSOAs in the darkest colour and the least deprived LSOAs in the lightest colour. It can clearly be seen that Skelmersdale contains some of the most deprived areas in the Borough, with other pockets of deprivation in the rural areas to the north and south-west as well as the urban wards of Scott (Ormskirk) and Burscough East. The least deprived areas can be found in the urban areas of Ormskirk and Burscough, the urban settlement area of Tarleton and Hesketh Bank and the Eastern Wards, close to the M6 commuter belt.

Chart 2.8 Overall rank of LSOAs across West Lancashire

Source: WLBC 2016 (IMD 2015, CLG)
The indices measure deprivation across a number of domains, and deprivation can vary across rural and urban areas. Whilst deprivation is stereotypically expected to be greatest in urban and inner-city areas, rural areas can also experience high levels of deprivation. For example, rural residents often find it harder to access services, and, as those areas often attract more people of a retirement age, they may have a greater proportion of an aged population in less good health finding it difficult to access health care.

**Income**

The income deprivation domain measures the proportion of people in an area who are living on low incomes, including both those that are out of work and those that are in work but who have low earnings. This is done by looking at people who are on means-tested benefits such as Income Support and Working Families Tax Credit.

Income deprivation is at its worst in Skelmersdale where jobs are less skilled, wages lower and a greater proportion of residents claim benefits and job seekers allowance. After Skelmersdale, the levels of deprivation are high in North Meols, predominately an agricultural/horticultural business area, in Ormskirk (Scott ward), and in Burscough.

**Employment**

The employment deprivation domain measures the involuntary exclusion of the working age population to employment by looking at people who claim benefits. It includes those people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities. Families experiencing employment deprivation are very likely to also experience income deprivation, and so patterns between employment and income deprivation often broadly mirror each other.

In the 2015 IMD data, employment deprivation levels are highest in Skelmersdale. These are followed by pockets of employment deprivation in Ormskirk (Scott Ward), Burscough, and North Meols. The least deprived areas are seen in the Eastern Wards and elsewhere in Aughton / Ormskirk – most likely as a result of stronger transport links to employment, and their geographic location to commuter corridors, such as the Preston-Liverpool rail lines and the M58 and M6.

**Health**

The health deprivation domain looks at the population for high rates of premature death, or whose quality of life is impaired by poor physical or mental health. Health deprivation levels are worst in Skelmersdale, followed by pockets in the urban areas in Ormskirk and Burscough and in the rural areas, particularly in the north and south.

The Borough has an increasing, ageing population and this is likely to play a key contributing factor in the Borough’s comparative health rankings, as a greater number of elderly people spend longer periods in ill health. In addition, rural areas typically have more difficulty accessing health care due to their remote nature.
**Education**

The education deprivation domain measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population and has two sub-domains it uses to capture deprivation. The first looks at education deprivation for children and young people in the area, and the second looks at lack of skills and qualifications among working-age adults.

Education deprivation levels are worst in Skelmersdale, followed by pockets in the urban areas in Ormskirk and Burscough and in the rural areas in the north within Tarleton, Hesketh Bank, North Meols and Aughton and Downholland.

**Crime**

The crime deprivation domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at a local level, using Police Force data including indicators on burglary, theft, criminal damage and violence. In 2015, Birch Green and Digmoor in Skelmersdale have the worst crime deprivation ranking, followed by Aughton and Downholland. Areas of Newburgh, Parbold and Wrightington have some of the least deprived areas. The indices do not allow us to identify the causes of change and crime can be influenced by a number of economic, social and environmental factors.

**Housing & Services**

The housing and services deprivation domain looks at barriers that local people have in obtaining suitable housing, and in accessing local services in terms of distance. It measures the physical and financial accessibility, using two sub-domains: ‘geographical barriers’ which relate to the physical proximity of local services, and ‘wider barriers’ which includes issues relating to access to housing such as affordability and homelessness.

In 2015, the most deprived areas of the Borough in relation to this domain are found in the rural areas of Bickerstaffe, Aughton and Downholland, Scarisbrick and Tarleton. Some of the worst performing areas are in the rural areas of the Borough, where housing availability and affordability is poor and services are more difficult to access due to the isolated nature of the rural areas. The lowest levels of deprivation are found in LSOAs within Parbold, Tarleton, Hesketh Bank, Ormskirk and Burscough.

The data shows that even within a single settlement area (Ormskirk or Aughton) there can be significant differences in deprivation levels across the lower output areas.
2.1.2 Housing

Household numbers

Table 2.3 Number of households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Total number of households</th>
<th>% of housing in West Lancashire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Lancs</td>
<td>45,381</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skelmersdale and SE Wards</td>
<td>17,606</td>
<td>38.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ormskirk &amp; Aughton</td>
<td>10,787</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burscough &amp; Rufford</td>
<td>4,551</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N Wards (North Meols, Tarleton, Hesketh-with-Becconsall)</td>
<td>5,828</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Wards (Halsall, Scarisbrick)</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Wards (Parbold, Newburgh, Wrightington)</td>
<td>4,096</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2011 Census, ONS (Figures may not sum due to rounding)

Ormskirk / Aughton contains the second greatest proportion of the Borough’s housing stock (23.8%). Between the 2001 Census and 2011 Census, a total of 1,800 net additional dwellings have been built in West Lancashire. A total of 1,266 new dwellings have been built since 2011 (WLBC AMR 2016) and the majority of these have been in the main settlement areas of Ormskirk / Aughton (559 units) and Skelmersdale and the SE Wards (264 units).

Housing Tenure

Chart 2.9 Housing Tenure in Ormskirk / Aughton by Ward

Source: 2011 Census, ONS
There is considerable variation in housing between different parts of the Borough and areas are often characterised by the tenure that predominates. The highest proportions of privately owned housing are in Aughton, Ormskirk and the rural wards. Aughton Park has one of the highest proportions of owner-occupied properties, and one of the lowest proportions of socially rented properties.

The highest proportions of privately rented housing are found in Derby Ward (Ormskirk) which is largely due to the resident university student population. The majority of students live in either purpose built student accommodation or in HMOs (houses of multiple occupation). HMOs have had an impact on the Ormskirk housing market, as ‘market homes’ have been lost through conversions to HMOs. In December 2011, the Council introduced, through an Article 4 direction, restrictions to control the changes of use from dwellings to HMOs in Ormskirk, parts of Aughton and Westhead and require planning permission to be sought for such conversion. The Article 4 direction works alongside Local Plan Policy RS3: Provision of student accommodation to limit the proportion of HMOs in the different streets within the Article 4 area (usually to 5%).

Across the Borough, less than 1% of the housing stock comprises shared ownership properties and most of these properties are located in the affluent urban areas to assist with affordability. By contrast, Skelmersdale has very low numbers of shared ownership properties which is likely reflective of the relatively low house prices already within the area.

**Distribution of housing stock by Council tax band**

**Chart 2.10  Housing stock by Council tax band in West Lancashire**

![Distribution of housing stock by Council Tax band](source: WLBC 2016 (Stock of properties, VOA, 2015))
Table 2.4 Council tax banding at Ormskirk and Aughton ward level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aughton Park</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aughton &amp; Downholland</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowsley</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lancashire</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WLBC 2016 (Stock of properties, VOA, 2015)

Council Tax banding information is a useful way of highlighting areas of the Borough where particular bands of housing are concentrated, thus implying a less mixed and balanced community. Similarly it also shows those areas of the area where there is a more mixed range of council tax bands. Aughton has amongst the lowest proportions of Band A housing and a high proportion of Band D-H when compared to the rest of the Borough. Ormskirk has a relatively even distribution of housing across the council tax bands although there are some slight variations across wards. 34% of Scott Ward is in Band B, compared to 4% in Aughton Park which further indicates differences within the spatial area.

Housing affordability

The average house price in 2012 in West Lancashire stood at £180,985. This is higher than the county and regional average prices but lower than that of England (which will be skewed by London prices). The average house price in West Lancashire in 2012 has increased by 92% on the 2001 average house price, although prices have fluctuated over recent years, following the banking crisis, credit crunch and recession.

Average house prices were highest in West Lancashire in 2010 (£194,899, and a peak of a 106% increase on the 2001 average). Using a 2001 base, house prices in West Lancashire have grown quicker than those of England.

The most readily available data on house prices by ward level dates back to 2010. Prices vary dependent on the location and the house type. The highest house prices (shown by the darkest colours on Chart 2.11) are found in the rural areas of Rufford, Aughton, Newburgh and Parbold and reflect the desirability and location of the areas. The cheapest houses (lighter areas) are located in Skelmersdale.
Chart 2.11  Housing affordability across West Lancashire

Source: WLBC 2010 (Hometrack)
2.1.3 Employment and Economy

Economic Activity

At the 2011 Census:

- 55,680 people in West Lancashire were economically active (68%)
  - 11,504 people were economically active and employed part time (14%)
  - 29,658 people were economically active and employed full time (36%)
  - 7,807 people were economically active and self-employed (9.6%)
  - 3,180 people were economically active and unemployed (4%)
  - 3,531 people were economically active and in full time study (4%)

- 25,921 people in West Lancashire were economically inactive (32%)
  - 13,888 people were economically inactive and retired (17%)
  - 4,688 people were economically active and in full time study (5.7%)
  - 3,515 people were economically active and sick or disabled (4%)
  - 2,673 people were economically active and looking after home or family (3%)

Economic activity varies across the Borough, but levels can be attributed to different reasons. For example, economic activity is shown in Chart 2.12 as low (dark colour) in Ormskirk due to the high proportion of students registered in the town as economically inactive: full time students. Economic activity is also low in those areas that have a high proportion of the local population registered as economically inactive: retired. Chart 2.14 shows that Aughton wards have a relatively high proportion of retired, economically inactive persons.

Unemployment is highest in Skelmersdale wards, but Scott Ward and many of the rural areas, including Aughton and Downholland, also show moderate levels of unemployment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chart 2.12</th>
<th>Rates of economic activity (2011 census)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(The darker the area, the lower the economic activity)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chart 2.13</th>
<th>Rates of unemployment in West Lancashire (2011 census)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(The darker the area, the higher the unemployment levels)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Occupational Structure

The occupational structure of residents of West Lancashire is provided in Table 2.5. This includes data on the occupations of those residents commuting outside of the Borough for job opportunities. Those accessing these jobs are not spread evenly across the Borough; significantly higher proportions of residents in the rural wards, Burscough, Ormskirk and Aughton residents are employed within higher level occupations. In contrast, more residents of Skelmersdale and Up Holland are employed in lower skilled occupations; more than double that of other areas. This is a cause and reflection of the levels of skills, employment and income deprivation concentrated in this area.

Table 2.5 Occupational structure by areas of West Lancashire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Higher managerial, administrative and professional</th>
<th>Lower, managerial</th>
<th>Intermediate occupation</th>
<th>Small employers and own account</th>
<th>Lower supervisory and technical</th>
<th>Semi-routine occupations</th>
<th>Routine occupations</th>
<th>Never worked and long-term</th>
<th>Full time students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skelmersdale and SE Wards</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ormskirk with Aughton</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burscough &amp; Rufford</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Wards</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Wards</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Wards</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Lancashire</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2.6 Occupational structure by ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>29%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Aughton and Downholland</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WLBC 2016 (2011 Census (Ns-Sec), ONS)

Chart 2.16 Occupational structure by area

Source: WLBC 2016 (2011 Census, ONS)
Industry groups

In 2011, the largest proportion of West Lancashire residents were employed in wholesale and retail, education, human health and social work activities and manufacturing. Patterns for each West Lancashire ward follow a broadly similar pattern, although greater proportions of Skelmersdale residents are employed in the manufacturing, transport and storage industries than elsewhere in the Borough. The greatest proportion of Ormskirk and Aughton residents are employed within manufacturing, wholesale and retail, education and human health and social work.

It is worth noting that three of the largest employers in Ormskirk are the Hospital (human health), Edge Hill University (education) and the town centre (retail). 17% of Knowsley Ward residents are employed in education, which is greater than the 11% average for the Borough and again may be attributable to the university and central proximity to Borough schools.

Chart 2.17 Proportion of residents employed in each industry

Source: WLBC 2016 (2011 Census, ONS)
2.1.4 Transport

Infrastructure

Ormskirk has good access to the M58 and strong links via the A59 and A570 to neighbouring towns of Southport, Preston, St Helens, Wigan and Liverpool as well as in-lying areas of the Borough. Aughton shares those accesses, and additionally may be served by Maghull in the adjacent authority area. Both Ormskirk and Aughton have rail stations with regular (15 minute) daily services between Ormskirk and Liverpool.

Bus services are relatively strong in Ormskirk and Aughton, but access is more limited in the rural areas. Bus service frequency often reduces at evenings and weekends.

Vehicle ownership

In West Lancashire, 41% of households own 1 car / van, followed by 30% with two vehicles and 9% with three or more vehicles. (Ownership of 4 or more vehicles is highest in Newburgh.)

Table 2.7 Vehicle ownership by ward

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>No cars or vans</th>
<th>1 car or van</th>
<th>2 cars or vans</th>
<th>3 cars of vans</th>
<th>4 cars or vans</th>
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</thead>
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<td>8%</td>
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<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aughton and Downholland</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>Derby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowsley</td>
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<td>Scott</td>
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<td>41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Lancashire</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: WLBC 2016 (Census 2011, ONS)
Journey to work by usual mode of travel

Of those in employment, the most popular method of travelling to work is by car or van, and this is highest in Aughton which is both affluent and semi-rural / rural. Derby Ward has a lower proportion of car users, and can likely be explained by the high student population walking to Edge Hill and the accessibility of sustainable transport modes and employment. Cycling and walking are used most by residents of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Burscough, where a range of employment opportunities exist locally, thereby reducing the need to commute long distances.

Distance travelled to work

The largest proportion of workers commuting less than 2 miles to work are located around the main employment hubs in the settlement areas of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk, Burscough and Tarleton. Commutes are therefore generally localised.

The commuting patterns in relation to distance travelled to work also often mirror occupation types of West Lancashire.

- Elementary occupations are highest in Skelmersdale, which has the highest proportion of people travelling less than 2 miles to work.
- Ormskirk and Aughton have high proportions of residents employed in education and human health, and the greatest proportions of residents travel 10-20km to work.
- Scott Ward has it highest proportion of residents (24%) travelling less than 2km to work, and a relatively high proportion of people employed in manufacturing – likely at the Burscough employment area.
Chart 2.19  Residents travelling less than 2km to work
(The darker the area, the higher the proportion)

Chart 2.20  Residents travelling 10-20km to work
(The darker the area, the higher the proportion)

Chart 2.21  Residents travelling less than 30-40km to work
(The darker the area, the higher the proportion)

Chart 2.22  Residents working from home with no travel
(The darker the area, the higher the proportion)

Source: WLBC 2016 (2011 Census, ONS)
Cycle paths and footpaths

Clusters are found around the urban areas, with reduced pathways moving from the central to eastern parts of the Borough. A cycle path does not exist between Ormskirk and Burscough to connect the two areas, although it is hoped to deliver a linear park between the allocated development sites at Yew Tree Farm, Burscough and Grove Farm, Ormskirk. This would include a cyclepath / footpath. A number of cycle path provision and improvement schemes are included in the Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Schedule and draft Green Infrastructure and Cycling Strategy.

2.1.5 Land resources

Like most of the settlements in West Lancashire, large parts of Ormskirk and Aughton are surrounded by Green Belt and prime agricultural land (Grade 1 and Grade 2). There are a small number of derelict and vacant brownfield sites. Regeneration of these sites would provide development opportunities and improve the local area.

2.1.6 Cultural heritage

Listed buildings and conservation areas

West Lancashire has around 600 buildings on the statutory lists of buildings or architectural or historic interest in West Lancashire, as well as conservation areas. A number of the conservation areas and listed buildings are located in Ormskirk and Aughton, including Ormskirk town centre and Granville Park, Aughton. Ormskirk is an historic market town.

2.1.7 Climate change, energy and flooding

The main settlements of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and Burscough do not directly lie in areas of significant flood risk although properties located adjacent Sandy Brook in Ormskirk may be at some localised risk. There is also a small risk of surface water flooding.

It is expected that in the future, as a result of climate change, there will be a higher risk of flooding due to heavier rainfall and increased sea levels. Within urban areas, the frequency and severity of flooding is expected to increase due to limitations of existing surface water drainage systems.

2.1.8 Water Quality and Resources

Within West Lancashire there are several water systems including Hurlston Brook in Ormskirk. The quality of the Borough’s watercourses should be protected and their benefits (e.g. recreation, biodiversity, water source) recognised.

Within West Lancashire, there are a number of areas where sources of groundwater are protected through ‘Groundwater Source Protection Zones’ (GSPZs). These zones help to monitor the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause
pollution in the area. Inner zones and outer zones of the GSPZs are found in Ormskirk, Burscough, with the total catchment area extending to include the western part of Skelmersdale.

The Borough contains a mix of Principal, Secondary A and Secondary B Bedrock Deposits (Aquifers), including in and around Ormskirk and Aughton, which need to be protected from contamination or damage.

### 2.1.9 Air Quality

Local authorities have statutory duties for local air quality management under the Environment Act 1995. Each local authority is required to carry out a review and assessment of air quality in their area, by measuring air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in forthcoming years. Where a local authority finds areas where the air quality objectives are unlikely to be met, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and take action to reduce the air pollution in that area.

There is one AQMA area within West Lancashire, as shown on the map below, affecting the area around Moor St in Ormskirk. This area suffers from congestion and bottle necks from traffic travelling through Ormskirk town centre.

Chart 2.23: AQMA in Ormskirk

Source: WLBC 2016
2.1.10 Biodiversity

There are no protected areas of biodiversity importance in Ormskirk or Aughton, other than small Local Nature Conservation Sites. However, there are sites of geological importance (RIGS) at Aughton Park Station, Aughton and Scarth Hill Quarry and The Ruff, Ormskirk.

2.1.11 Local Services and Sustainability

Ormskirk acts as the administrative centre for the Borough and has many of the services and functions provided by a main town, including the Borough Council, Edge Hill University and Ormskirk Hospital. With Skelmersdale designated as the only Regional Town in the Borough, Ormskirk’s role is that of a market town and large Key Service Centre. It provides a good range of facilities and services to support residents of Ormskirk and surrounding areas. Housing, employment and retail are readily available in the town as well as excellent public transport links to outlying areas. Ormskirk has a very high level of sustainability although there are limitations on some infrastructure at present.

Aughton provides a number of limited services and facilities for its residents although it does have good public transport services. Employment opportunities need to be sought from neighbouring areas as there is very little within the settlement itself, other than from the agricultural businesses within the area. It is a local service centre and looks to Ormskirk (or even Maghull) to provide the main services. As such, Aughton is grouped with Ormskirk as a key service centre and a sustainable settlement.

2.1.12 Open Space and Recreation facilities

The majority of residents in West Lancashire have access to either a park or amenity green space. Almost all residents have access to natural or semi-natural open space within the recommended 15 minute walk time. The Open Space Study (2009) recommended that across the Borough, the quality of existing services should be improved and new facilities introduced in some areas. In particular, in Ormskirk, it recommended that provision of play areas for children and young people are needed as well as additional playing pitches.

Two of the Borough’s parks have been awarded Green Flag Status including Coronation Park in Ormskirk.
2.2.0 Future baseline

If current trends were to continue in Ormskirk and Aughton:

- The population will continue to increase, in line with Borough increase;
- There will be a significant increase in proportion of population who are aged;
- Housing prices will continue to increase, continuing to price many people out of the market;
- A number of market houses will continue to be lost through conversions to Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs);
- Deprivation within Ormskirk will continue to be clustered in small pockets within Scott Ward;
- Ormskirk will continue to serve an important retail and administrative role;
- Retail will continue to be lost from the town to other areas;
- Traffic congestion in Ormskirk town centre will not improve, impacting on the Air Quality Management Area;
- Rail services to Burscough and Preston will remain infrequent.

2.3.0 Key issues for Ormskirk and Aughton

- There is an increasing and ageing population and a resultant need to ensure services, transport and housing are available;
- Much housing is unaffordable, making home ownership, including for first time buyers, increasingly difficult;
- There are disparities in deprivation (e.g. Aughton v Scott Ward);
- Edge Hill University plays an important role, and brings both benefits and matters of concern, including balancing student accommodation needs with those of the wider residents, and retaining graduates;
- There is a need to increase job opportunities and skill levels through training, and to provide a greater variety of employment;
- Traffic congestion exists in and around Ormskirk Town Centre, including from local traffic, through traffic, and traffic associated with students commuting to / from the University;
- There are issues associated with air quality in Ormskirk Town Centre, not just at the AQMA (Moor Street);
- Rail links to Preston are infrequent and could do with improving;
- There is a leakage of retail expenditure to other authority areas;
- There is a continued need to protect heritage and cultural sites and buildings;

2.4.0 Data Limitations

The more localised the data, the easier it is to pinpoint key issues for an area. Where available, localised data has been used. Some data may be unavailable at local level, i.e. towns or wards. Where localised data is unavailable, Borough-wide, regional or national trends have sometimes needed to be applied. Some data is still emerging through the Local Plan Review evidence base, as studies and reports are still in progress.

This spatial paper should be read in conjunction with the topic-based thematic papers, which provide insight into those issues affecting the Borough as a whole, as well as the individual component areas of West Lancashire.