

Celebrating the Historic Counties: Westmorland and Furness Council

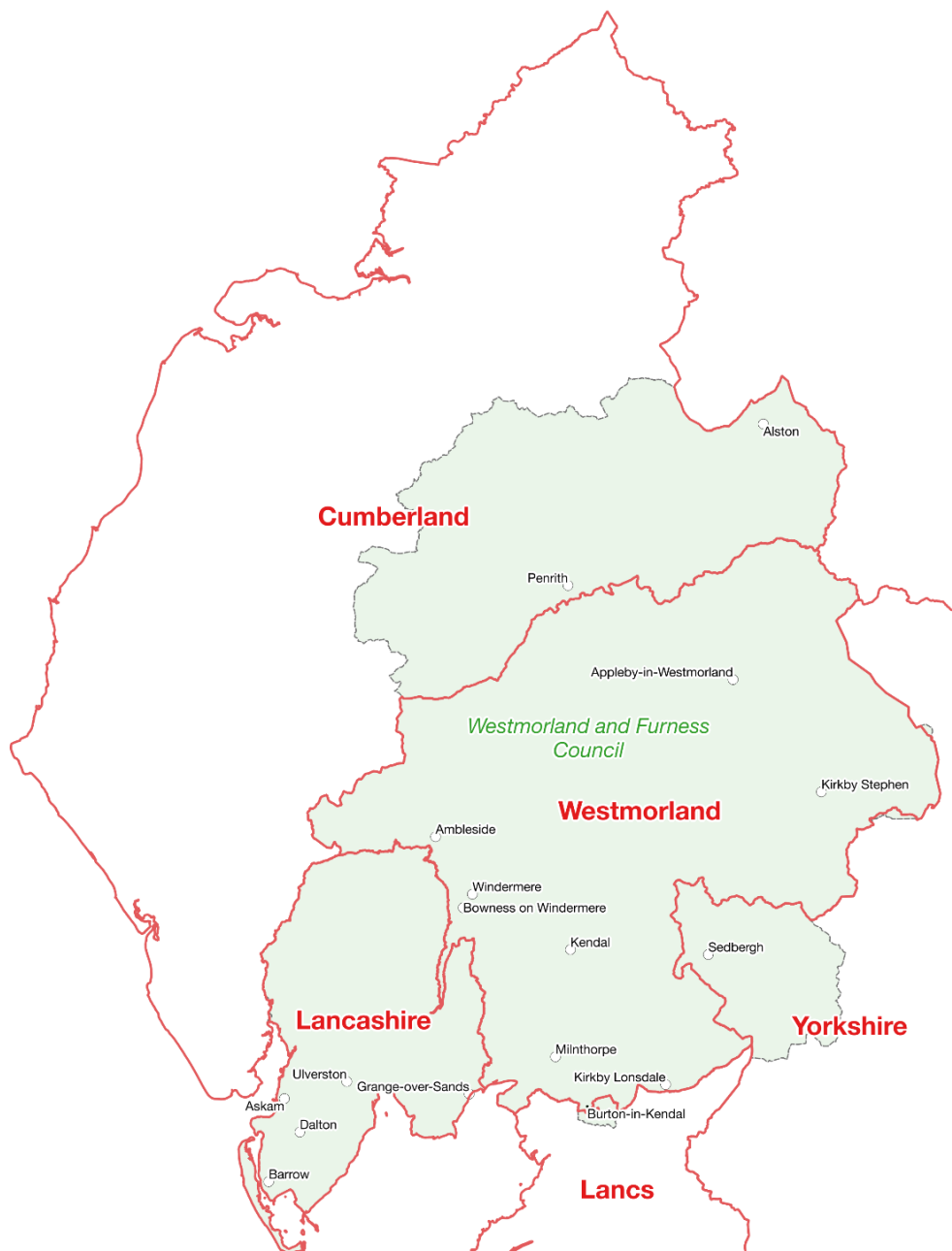


1. Introduction

In this document we propose ways in which Westmorland and Furness Council can celebrate the historic counties in its area in line with the UK Government guidance [Celebrating the Historic Counties of England](#). This guidance recommends that councils celebrate the importance of the historic counties by supporting county days, flying county flags and marking historic county borders with appropriate signage. The importance of the historic counties is well expressed by the guidance:

“The historic counties are an important element of English traditions which support the identity and cultures of many of our local communities, giving people a sense of belonging, pride and community spirit. They continue to play an important part in the country’s sporting and cultural life as well as providing a reference point for local tourism and heritage. We should seek to strengthen the role that they can play.”

The map below shows the area of Westmorland and Furness Council compared to the historic counties.



Westmorland and Furness Council has an area which includes parts of 4 historic counties:

- the whole of the historic county of Westmorland;
- the entire Furness region of historic Lancashire (aka Lancashire North of the Sands);
- a sizeable part of historic Cumberland including Penrith and Alston;
- the Sedbergh area of Yorkshire.

The use of both 'Westmorland' and 'Furness' within the council's name is an appropriate reflection of the fact that the whole of these areas lie within the council area. However, 28% of the council area lies in historic Cumberland and 6% lies in Yorkshire. This need not be a problem so long as the council embraces the historic county identities of all four of the counties within its area. In the following sections we discuss how it can do this in relation to county days, county flags and boundary signage.

2. County Days

Each of the four historic counties which lie, wholly or partially, within the Westmorland and Furness Council area has a specific 'county day', a day on which the history, heritage and culture of that county is celebrated. County Day celebrations grow in popularity year on year. Lancashire Day and Yorkshire Day have become huge celebrations with national exposure.

Cumberland Day (24th September) - Date of baptism of John Peel.

Lancashire Day (27th November) - Day in 1295 when Lancashire first sent representatives to Parliament, to attend the Model Parliament of King Edward I.

Westmorland Day (29th September) - Date when the title "Earl of Westmorland" was created.

Yorkshire Day (1st August) - Slavery Abolition Act 1833 passed (William Wilberforce, Yorkshire MP).

Westmorland and Furness Council should endorse these county days and join in the celebrations. County day activities the council could get involved in include:

- Flying the county flag from public buildings;
- Posting support for the day and its events on social media;
- Hosting a civic reception in celebration;
- Encouraging council staff to celebrate the day.

Westmorland and Furness Council could also encourage the parish councils within its area to join in the relevant county day celebration and to celebrate their historic county more generally. Appendix A lists the historic county of each parish in the council area.



The Lancashire Day declaration being proclaimed in Ulverston

3. County Flags

The [Flag Registry](#) of the [Flag Institute](#) contains details of the registered flags for the historic counties of Cumberland, Lancashire, Westmorland and Yorkshire. The council should fly the relevant county flag from public buildings within its area. Brief details of each flag are presented below.



[Cumberland Flag](#) - reworked from the banner of arms of the former Cumberland County Council. The blue and white wavy lines represent the county's coast, mountains, fells and lakes. The green upper half with grass-of-Parnassus flowers recalls its marshy uplands and fertile plains.



[Lancashire Flag](#) - the red rose is the traditional symbol of Lancashire and the yellow background was chosen as it, along with red, are the livery colours of the county.



[Westmorland Flag](#) - the Flag consists of a golden heraldic apple tree (for Appleby) on white and red bars (for Kendal). The design is based on the shield from the coat of arms of the former Westmorland County Council.



[Yorkshire Flag](#) - the white rose is the traditional symbol of Yorkshire and, placed on a blue background, has been the flag of Yorkshire for over forty years.



Westmorland flag in Kirkby Stephen



Cumberland flag at Beacon Edge near Penrith

4. Boundary Signs

The [Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016](#) make provision for the erection of road signs marking historic county boundaries on motorways (Schedule 11, Part II, Item 79) and on primary or non-primary routes (Schedule 11, Part II, Item 80). Westmorland and Furness Council should mark the borders of the historic counties within its area with appropriate road signage. This will not only give appropriate recognition to the historic counties but also be important to the tourism sector. Such signage has been erected by many local authorities and can include appropriate reference to both the county and the council. There are 3 scenarios which would need to be treated in slightly different ways.

4.1 Historic county boundary coincident with the council area boundary

For about 2/3 of its length the boundary of the council area is coincident with an historic county boundary. Appendix B lists points where a highway enters both the council area and an historic county. At such points both the council area and the historic county should be marked by signs similar to those of Powys Council - these feature the council name and logo with the historic county underneath.



4.2 Historic county boundaries within the council area

There are many points within the council area where a highway crosses a historic county boundary. Appendix C lists these. These should be marked by signs similar to those erected by Highland Council to show the historic counties in its area. On such signs the historic county name should have precedence, though the council can be referred to as well.



4.3 Council area boundaries not coincident with historic county boundaries

A lengthy stretch of the north-western boundary of the council area lies entirely within historic Cumberland. A stretch of the south-eastern boundary lies within historic Yorkshire. The council signs where highways cross the council boundary in these locations need not contain an historic county name.

5. Concluding remarks

There need be no conflict of interest between local government and the historic counties. Local authorities can ensure this by not seeking to take on a county identity and by embracing the historic counties of their area. The simple methods proposed here would cost little but have a big impact on public understanding and appreciation of the historic counties. This would be to the benefit of both the historic counties and local government.

Appendix A. Civil parishes within Westmorland and Furness Council area related to historic county

The historic county of each civil parish is listed below. All but one civil parish within Westmorland and Furness Council area lies entirely in one historic county.

Civil Parish	Historic County	Civil Parish	Historic County
Ainstable	Cumberland	Kaber	Westmorland
Aldingham	Lancashire	Kendal	Westmorland
Alston Moor	Cumberland	Killington	Westmorland
Angerton	Lancashire	King's Meaburn	Westmorland
Appleby-in-Westmorland	Westmorland	Kirkby Ireleth	Lancashire
Arnside	Westmorland	Kirkby Lonsdale	Westmorland
Asby	Westmorland	Kirkby Stephen	Westmorland
Askam and Ireleth	Lancashire	Kirkby Thore	Westmorland
Askham	Westmorland	Kirkoswald	Cumberland
Bampton	Westmorland	Lakes	Westmorland
Barbon	Westmorland	Lambrigg	Westmorland
Barton	Westmorland	Langwathby	Cumberland
Beetham	Westmorland	Lazonby	Cumberland
Blawith and Subberthwaite	Lancashire	Levens	Westmorland
Bolton	Westmorland	Lindal and Marton	Lancashire
Brough Sowerby	Westmorland	Little Strickland	Westmorland
Brough	Westmorland	Long Marton	Westmorland
Brougham	Westmorland	Longsleddale	Westmorland
Broughton East	Lancashire	Lower Allithwaite	Lancashire
Broughton West	Lancashire	Lower Holker	Lancashire
Burton-in-Kendal*	Westmorland / Lancashire	Lowick	Lancashire
Cartmel Fell	Lancashire	Lowther	Westmorland
Casterton	Westmorland	Lupton	Westmorland
Castle Sowerby	Cumberland	Mallerstang	Westmorland
Catterlen	Cumberland	Mansergh	Westmorland
Claife	Lancashire	Mansriggs	Lancashire
Cliburn	Westmorland	Martindale	Westmorland
Clifton	Westmorland	Matterdale	Cumberland
Colby	Westmorland	Middleton	Westmorland
Colton	Lancashire	Milburn	Westmorland
Coniston	Lancashire	Milnthorpe	Westmorland
Crackenthorpe	Westmorland	Morland	Westmorland
Crook	Westmorland	Mungrisdale	Cumberland
Crosby Garrett	Westmorland	Murton	Westmorland
Crosby Ravensworth	Westmorland	Musgrave	Westmorland
Crosthwaite and Lyth	Westmorland	Nateby	Westmorland
Culgaith	Cumberland	Natland	Westmorland
Dacre	Cumberland	Nether Staveley	Westmorland
Dalton Town with Newton	Lancashire	New Hutton	Westmorland
Dent	Yorkshire	Newbiggin	Westmorland
Docker	Westmorland	Newby	Westmorland
Dufton	Westmorland	Old Hutton and Holmescales	Westmorland
Dunnerdale-with-Seathwaite	Lancashire	Ormside	Westmorland
Egton with Newland	Lancashire	Orton	Westmorland
Fawcett Forest	Westmorland	Osmotherley	Lancashire
Firbank	Westmorland	Ousby	Cumberland
Garsdale	Yorkshire	Over Staveley	Westmorland
Glassonby	Cumberland	Patterdale	Westmorland

Grange-over-Sands	Lancashire	Pennington	Lancashire
Grayrigg	Westmorland	Ravenstonedale	Westmorland
Great Salkeld	Cumberland	Shap Rural	Westmorland
Great Strickland	Westmorland	Shap	Westmorland
Greystoke	Cumberland	Skelton	Cumberland
Hartley	Westmorland	Sleagill	Westmorland
Haverthwaite	Lancashire	Sockbridge and Tirril	Westmorland
Hawkshead	Lancashire	Soulby	Westmorland
Helbeck	Westmorland	Stainmore	Westmorland
Helsington	Westmorland	Tebay	Westmorland
Hesket	Cumberland	Temple Sowerby	Westmorland
Heversham	Westmorland	Threlkeld	Cumberland
Hincaster	Westmorland	Thrimby	Westmorland
Hoff	Westmorland	Waitby	Westmorland
Holme	Westmorland	Warcop	Westmorland
Hunsonby	Cumberland	Wharton	Westmorland
Hutton Roof	Westmorland	Winton	Westmorland
Hutton	Cumberland	Yanwath and Eamont Bridge	Westmorland

*The parish of Burton-in-Kendal lies partly in Westmorland and partly in Lancashire. The former township of Dalton lies in Lancashire, whilst the rest of parish (including the town of Burton-in-Kendal) lies in Westmorland.

Appendix B. Highway crosses into the council area where the council boundary is coincident with an historic county boundary

Coordinates	Location Description	Historic County
54.829521, -2.465167	A689 southbound - Gilderdale Burn	Cumberland
54.853282, -2.405330	A686 westbound - ditch near Willyshaw Rigg	Cumberland
54.794389, -2.321345	The Rake westbound - ditch	Cumberland
54.783522, -2.313551	A689 westbound - ditch at Killhope Cross	Cumberland
54.716699, -2.341283	B6277 northbound - Brook Burn	Cumberland
54.653584, -2.289745	Pennine Way westbound - River Tees	Westmorland
54.574311, -2.262339	B6276 westbound - line of wall at Lay Seat Edge	Westmorland
54.506644, -2.163542	A66 westbound - line of wall near Rowton Bridge	Westmorland
54.461471, -2.174316	Megson Brow northbound - line of fence at Tackan Tan	Westmorland
54.431530, -2.291800	B6270 northbound - at Hollow Mill Cross	Westmorland
54.361591, -2.342876	B6259 northbound - line of track at Aisgill Moor	Westmorland
54.196193, -2.585461	A65 northbound junction with A683 northbound ^[1]	Westmorland
54.195848, -2.594273	B6254 northbound - at Biggins Wood	Westmorland
54.195347, -2.613542	Unnamed road northbound	Westmorland
54.195280, -2.614578	Biggins Lane northbound	Westmorland
54.187209, -2.648262	Dalton Lane westbound - at Hutton Roof Quarries	Westmorland
54.167876, -2.727507	A6070 northbound - at Heronsyke ^[2]	Westmorland
54.173623, -2.736120	M6 northbound - Tarn Lane ^[3]	Westmorland
54.184870, -2.737593	Hilderstone Lane northbound - line of footpath	Westmorland
54.187857, -2.752816	A6 northbound - crossing Main Drain	Westmorland
54.187431, -2.770036	Unnamed Road northbound - Leighton Beck	Westmorland
54.192870, -2.788611	Beetham northbound - Leighton Beck	Westmorland
54.196516, -2.803127	Coldwell Lane westbound - Leighton Beck	Westmorland
54.175834, -2.834163	Cove Road northbound - line of wall	Westmorland
54.404869, -3.162095	Cockley Beck Bridge eastbound - River Duddon	Lancashire
54.347509, -3.212335	Hall Bridge eastbound - River Duddon	Lancashire
54.326545, -3.237011	Ulpha Bridge eastbound - at Duddon Bridge	Lancashire
54.283277, -3.233440	A595 eastbound - River Duddon	Lancashire
54.496209, -3.040146	A591 southbound - Line of wall/fence at Dunmail Raise	Westmorland

[1] - the Lancashire / Westmorland boundary crosses the A683 and the A65 slightly to the south of the council boundary at the junction of these two roads. Signing the entrance to Westmorland along with the council boundary at the junction is satisfactory.

[2] - the Lancashire / Westmorland boundary crosses the A6070 a little to the north of the council boundary. The actual county boundary is at 54.175652, -2.724159. Signing the entrance to Westmorland along with the council boundary is satisfactory.

[3] - the Lancashire / Westmorland boundary crosses the M6 a little to the north of the council boundary. The actual county boundary is at 54.176149, -2.735380. Signing the entrance to Westmorland along with the council boundary is satisfactory.

A Google Maps satellite view of each boundary crossing can be viewed by clicking the coordinates link.

High resolution digital mapping of the historic county borders can be obtained from the [Historic County Borders Project](#).

Appendix C. Highway crosses historic county boundaries within the council area

Coordinates	Location Description	Historic counties
54.375503, -2.442783	A683 - River Rawthey	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.390876, -2.579782	Fairmile Road - Carlingill Beck	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.360872, -2.585739	68 - River Lune	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.324685, -2.567705	A684 - River Lune	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.311429, -2.581801	B6256 - River Lune	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.301996, -2.569866	A683 - crossing River Rawthey	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.257854, -2.510055	Barbondale Road - Short Gill	Yorkshire / Westmorland
54.223723, -2.874930	B5277 - River Winster	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.225876, -2.875220	A590 Lindale Bypass - River Winster	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.246347, -2.887704	Holme Road - River WINSTER	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.289375, -2.888241	Unnamed Road - River Winster	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.298136, -2.897196	Smithy Lane (Boland Bridge) - River Winster	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.309714, -2.908012	Unnamed Road - River Winster	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.319111, -2.903533	Unnamed Road - ford River Winster	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.337655, -2.922866	Unnamed road - wall	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.331907, -2.933777	A592 - Black Beck	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.422420, -2.977611	B5286 - River Brathay	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.421547, -3.011744	A593 - River Brathay	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.418387, -3.033845	Unnamed Road - River Brathay	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.416787, -3.055809	Unnamed Road - River Brathay	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.414961, -3.115245	Wrynose Pass - Three Shire Stone	Lancashire / Westmorland
54.560676, -2.949108	A592 Glencoyne Bridge - Glencoyne Beck	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.612219, -2.822156	B5320 Pooley Bridge	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.649086, -2.751655	M6 - River Eamont	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.651593, -2.741999	A6 - River Eamont	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.654842, -2.717036	Brougham Bridge - River Eamont	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.655232, -2.715099	A66 - River Eamont	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.647355, -2.608719	B6412 - Crowdundle Beck	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.652061, -2.579168	Unnamed Road - Crowdundle Beck	Westmorland / Cumberland
54.668510, -2.552053	68 - Crowdundle Beck	Westmorland / Cumberland

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