

Leekfrith Parish Statement (draft)



Photo needed here

The parish of Leekfrith is one of the ancient 'granges' of the Dieulecress Abbey which was in Leek, and the small remains of which can still be seen.

Upper Hulme, a small settlement in the parish, is centred around Back Brook stream, which feeds into the River Churnet to the south. It is located 2 miles northeast of Leek. To the north is the Roaches; an outcrop of gritstone rocks and a specially protected moorland habitat which is popular with climbers and walkers. Upper Hulme became an established community following the construction of a mill there in the 12th century. There have been mills in the area ever since and whilst the current 19th century mill is no longer in use as a mill, it is home to a mix of uses including industrial and a hostel.

Also within the parish is the settlement of Meerbrook, a small farming community with a church, a public house and a village hall. 'These are the focal points of the parish and even though we live far apart there is a vibrant community here. It is this spirit of community that is highly valued by the parishioners.' Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan. The settlement is approximately 2 miles north of Leek and 1 mile west of Upper Hulme. To the east is Tittesworth Reservoir, a popular walking destination. Historical records refer to a chapel in Meerbrook in 1537. Due to the reliance on agriculture for employment, the settlement has a sparse and open form about it.

Upper Hulme is located within the 'slopes and valleys with woodlands' character area of the South West Peak landscape area and Meerbrook is located within the 'upper valley pastures' character area of the South West Peak landscape area (LSAP 2009).

Leekfrith parish is in the process of writing a Neighbourhood Plan.



Leekfrith Parish Vision, Neighbourhood Plan (2019-2033)

V1. A community of all ages

As in many rural communities the average age of our population is increasing. The lack of suitable housing makes it difficult for younger people to buy a house in the village. At the other end of the age range, many older people in the past have left the community they love because they cannot down-size to a smaller home within the community. We want to have housing suitable for all ages so that our community can remain flourishing and sustainable.

V2. Where the focal points of our community are valued and protected

All communities need places of focus. In our community the Village Hall, the Church, the Chapel and the Pub at present fulfil this role admirably. The school is also important and although it is in Tittesworth parish it is on our border. Where possible our plan should ensure their long-term viability. We also want to look at providing other points of focus which could improve communication and cohesion between all of us in the community, providing benefits to health and well-being.

V3. A community where suitable businesses can thrive and employ

There are many small businesses thriving throughout the parish and this entrepreneurship should be encouraged. We want an environment, which encourages people to set up a range of businesses, giving employment opportunities for local people.

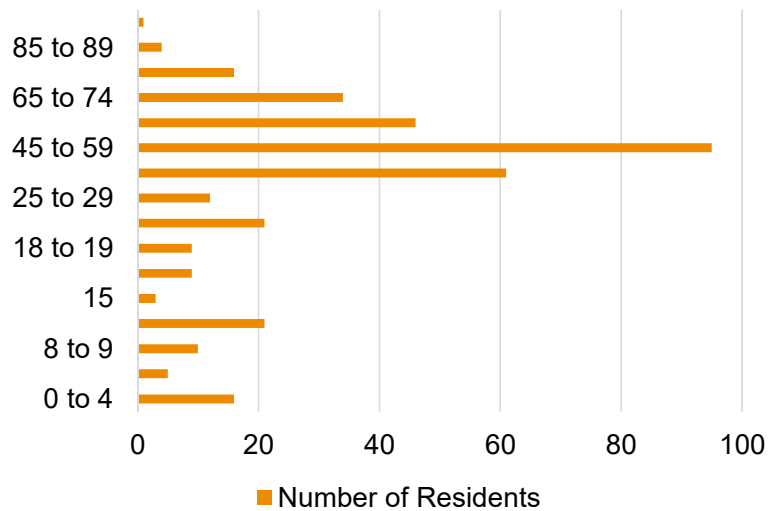
V4. Conservation

Our location is beautiful being blessed with both the Roaches and Tittesworth Water. Any improvements we make must enhance the special character here and our quality of life. We welcome the many visitors who want to share this beauty, but the numbers are such that careful management is required so as not to spoil what we have.

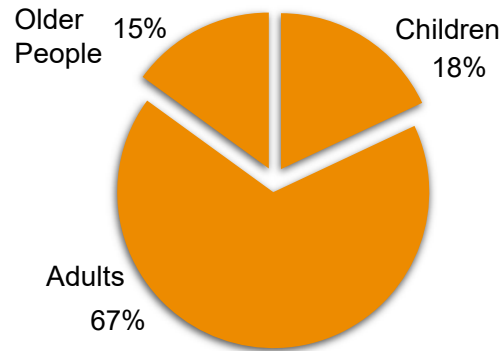


Population and Demographics

Population Age Range

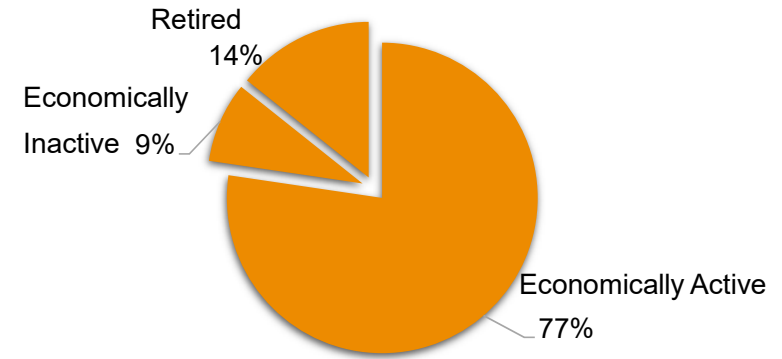


Children, Adults and Older People



KEY
Children 0-17 years
Adults 18-64 years
Older People 65 years +

Working and Non Working Adult Population (18+ years)



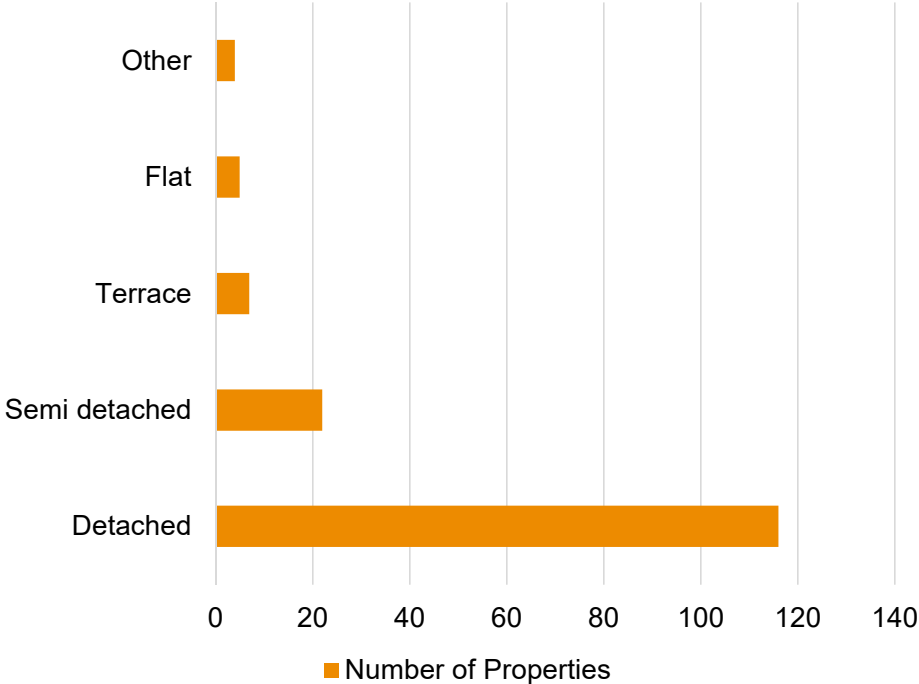
The parish of Leekfrith has a population of 363 residents (2011 census).

Source: Census 2011

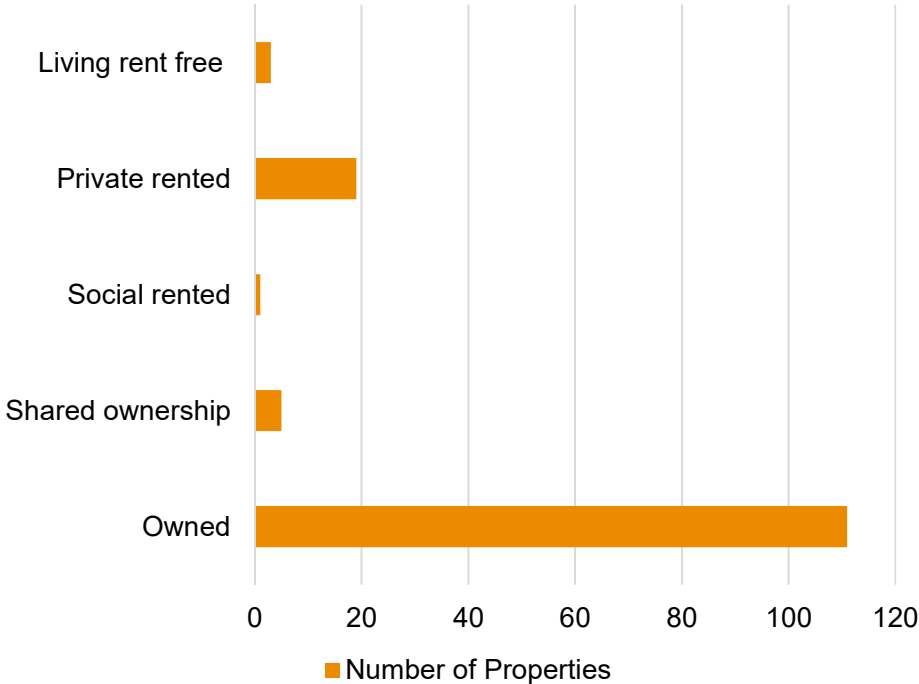


Housing

Housing Type



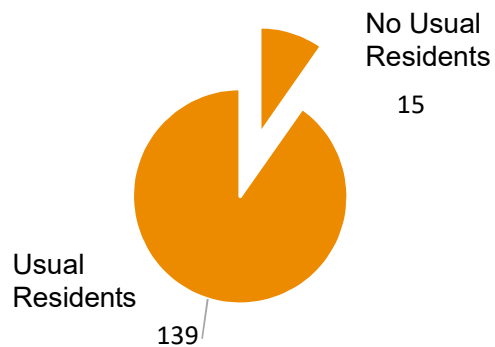
Housing Tenure





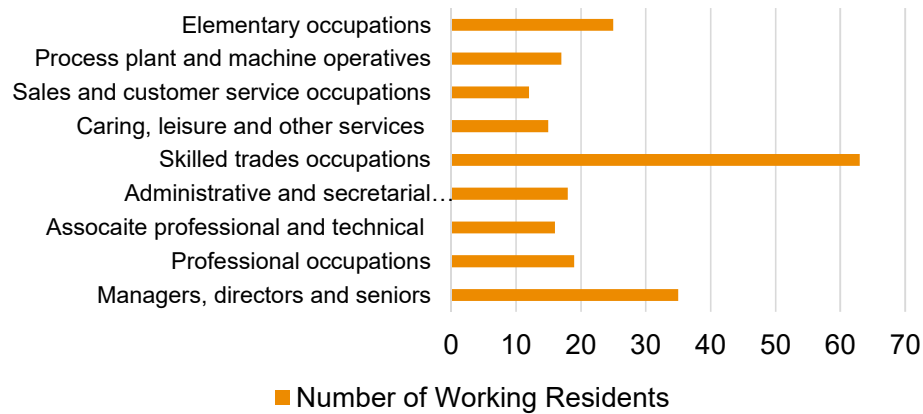
Residency

Occupancy of Properties



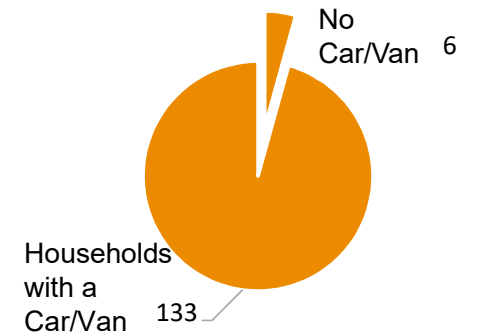
Employment

Occupations of Working Adults



Car/ Van Ownership

Households with a Car/Van





Settlement Amenities

Accommodation	★
Events/Traditions	★
Groups	★
Website/Newslatter	★
Conservation Area	★
Mobile Library	—
Church	★
Post Box	★
Public House	★
Good Public Transport Route (5+ services a day)	—
Within 1 Mile of an A or B Road	★
Distance to General Practice (miles)	3 (approx.)
Industrial Units	★
Playing Field	★
Playground	—
Community Hall	★
Primary School	—
Post Office	—
Convenience Food Shop	—

Key



Is present

Is not present



Public Transport

There is no public transport serving the parish.

Community

General	Keep Fit W.I Young Farmers Yoga
Events	Church fundraisers Community concerts Dance nights Fete Flower Festival Flower Sale Meerbrook 15k

Source: Parish Council

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Planning

Over the last 5 years 31 planning applications have been approved in Leekfrith parish.

Digital Presence

<http://leekfrithparishcouncil.btck.co.uk/>

<http://facebook.com/groups/693655204088357>

Affordable Housing

The Neighbourhood Plan states a total of 3 households present with an affordable housing need and recommends these are provided as 2x1 bed and 1x5 bed units. See Neighbourhood Plan for more details.

Upper Hulme and its Services



Key

-  A1 Shops
-  A2 Financial and Professional Services
-  A3 Restaurants and Cafes
-  A4 Drinking Establishments
-  A5 Hot Food Takeaways
-  B1 Business
-  B2 General Industrial
-  B8 Storage or Distribution
-  C1 Hotels
-  C2 Residential Institutions
-  C2A Secure Residential Institution
-  C3 Dwellinghouses
-  C4 Houses in Multiple Occupation
-  D1 Non-Residential Institutions
-  D2 Assembly and Leisure
-  Camp Site
-  Allotments
-  Playground
-  Playing Field
-  Public Car Park
-  Sui Generis
-  Bus Stop
-  Notice Board
-  Post Box
-  Telephone Box
-  Cash Point
-  Public Toilets
-  Defibrillator



Meerbrook and its Services



Key on previous page



Leekfrith Parish Boundary



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Data sources

Leekfrith Neighbourhood Plan

Leekfrith Parish Council

Ordnance survey maps

Peak District National Park Conservation Area Appraisals

Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy Action Plan (LSAP)

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/>

www.nomisweb.co.uk

www.leekfrithparishcouncil.btck.co.uk