

9 Roecliffe and Westwick today

47. Roecliffe village is perceived to be a delightful, attractive village, which is unspoilt by modern developments. The village setting around the village green with the Roecliffe Primary Church of England school in the centre is a magnificent spectacle, especially in spring with snowdrops, crocus and daffodils flowering. There are also 38 mature trees on the village green of various species, which add to the attractiveness. Although the entrance to the village is spoilt by the Industrial Area one has to pass through, on all other sides the vista is rural with fields and some wooded area. Whereas there used to be eight farms in Roecliffe and Westwick this has now fallen to four.

48. Over time there has been development especially in the Industrial Park with large companies like Reed Boardall and Paynes Dairies moving in. In the village itself the roads have been upgraded from tracks and kerb stones added. There has been a significant traffic increase, but notwithstanding all these changes the village still retains much of its historic character, and since 2008 the pretty, original centre of Roecliffe has been confirmed as a Conservation Area.

49. The population in the area has always been small and continues to be so to this day. It had a population of 238 according to the 2011 census. There has been fluctuations over time with its most significant decrease in the 1950s where it merely reached 150. The population in 2011 is very similar to what it was in 1871. In the past agriculture and general workers were the most common occupation for males. Most females with declared occupations work in domestic service.

(Note: Richard ; are these the correct figures for Roecliffe?. I have merely reprinted what was in para 49).

50. St. Marys Church of Roecliffe, which was built in 1840, fell into disrepair in 1977 when its barrel roof began to crack and was ruled unsafe. The church was fenced off and out of use until the Redundant Churches Fund took it over, put in tie bars and reinforced buttresses to secure the roof, The church reopened in 1989. The church is now owned by The Churches Conservation Trust.

51. The survey carried out for this Plan, suggests an age profile of very young children through retired people in their 80s. In the past 15 years many more young families have moved to the village, many of the children going to the local school.

52. The Crown Inn, the school and the church all serve as centres for activities, contributing to village life.