Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

# SCOTFORTH (VILLAGE)

**Lancaster Civic Vision Guide 53**

The 25-inch OS map at the end of this guide shows Scotforth around 1890. The core of Scotforth today is clear. There is the north-south Preston to Lancaster road – now the A6 Scotforth Road and previously the Garstang to Heron Syke Trust's turnpike road. To the west is the Preston to Lancaster railway line opened in 1840. Finally there are the two roads westwards over the railway (Piccadilly and Ashford Road) and Hala Road eastwards.

In 1890 Scotforth was still a township separate from Lancaster; it became part of the borough administratively in 1900. Lancaster's second cemetery was established in Scotforth in 1890 (not shown on the map) and the tramlines to town arrived in 1903.

The map shows the two pubs – the Boot and Shoe Hotel (established on its current site in 1799) and the Bowling Green Inn established in 1815 and rebuilt recently very close to its original site. The later pub is now closed. They provided refreshments for travellers and the local farming community.

Between them at the crossroads (now Booths) was the smithy of the farrier and repairer of ironwork.



Some of the houses shown are still standing. The terrace west of Booths (Nos 98–110 Scotforth Road) was built in the early 1880s, one being dated 1883. Laburnum Cottage and stable at 17 Ashford Road is Grade II listed and dates from the mid-eighteenth century. The terrace at 4–18 Hala Road east of the Boot and Shoe was built for the Friendly United Order of Mechanics in 1874. As the plaque shows, the Order was masonic in origin. It acted as a mutual benefit society, here building houses for each other. 20 Hala Road has the date 1698 over its door lintel and is Grade II listed. It was remodelled in the early-nineteenth century and has a distinctive long stair-window at the back.

The map shows a building at the foot of Hala Road, near where the Hala Centre is today. This was the Scotforth Pottery, which operated between the 1840s and 1870s producing domestic stoneware. Many of the gardens on the edge of Scotforth are shown on the map as having several trees, perhaps orchards.

A sense of the farming past can be glimpsed along Ashford Road and in Piccadilly where farmhouses and outbuildings have survived. Beyond the farmhouses, the acreage of each field is shown below its field number. The field pattern dates from after the Enclosure Act for Scotforth in 1809. Some houses on the map have been demolished, like the row between Piccadilly and Hall Park, now a public space.

The late Victorian and Edwardian years saw several new developments in Scotforth. Oaklea house was built in 1894 west of the crossroads to replace a cottage. Nos 118–160 Scotforth Road (Abbey Terrace originally) were built after 1901 and No. 181 is dated 1904. The two terraces on Ashford Road (Portland Terrace originally) were built between 1896 and 1901. There was the extension in 1894 of St Paul's Church which had opened in 1874, five years before Scotforth School moved to its present site.

Eden Park was just one of many housing developments that increasingly closed the gap between Scotforth and Lancaster. The interwar period saw housing in Bowerham encroach from the north east. The 1960s and 1970s were when Hala expanded east of the beck with extensive council and private housing. Booths opened in 1982.

There is a separate guide for *Scotforth Cemetery* (No. 33).
Map courtesy of Lancashire County Council.

**Text and photograph – Gordon Clark.**
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Barton House
Scotforth
Bowling Green Inn
Post Office
Boot & Shoe Hotel
Old Sand Pit
Sandfield Cottage
F.B.
Pump
264
8·488
299
2·559
262
2·761
301
2·534
302
·512
353
1·217
354
·628
355
1·195
358
·959
365
366
·414
367
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368
1·431
369
1·086
370
1·270
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372
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373
·960
374
2·239
375
382
383
·850
384
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385
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386
2·689
387
4·808
389
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286
1·475
291
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283
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285
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294
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282
1·352
284
2·499
283
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291
·391
B.M.142·2
B.M.161·9
B.M.149·8
B.M.154·9
300 387
1·140
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UGGLE LANE
F.U.O.M.
1874.