

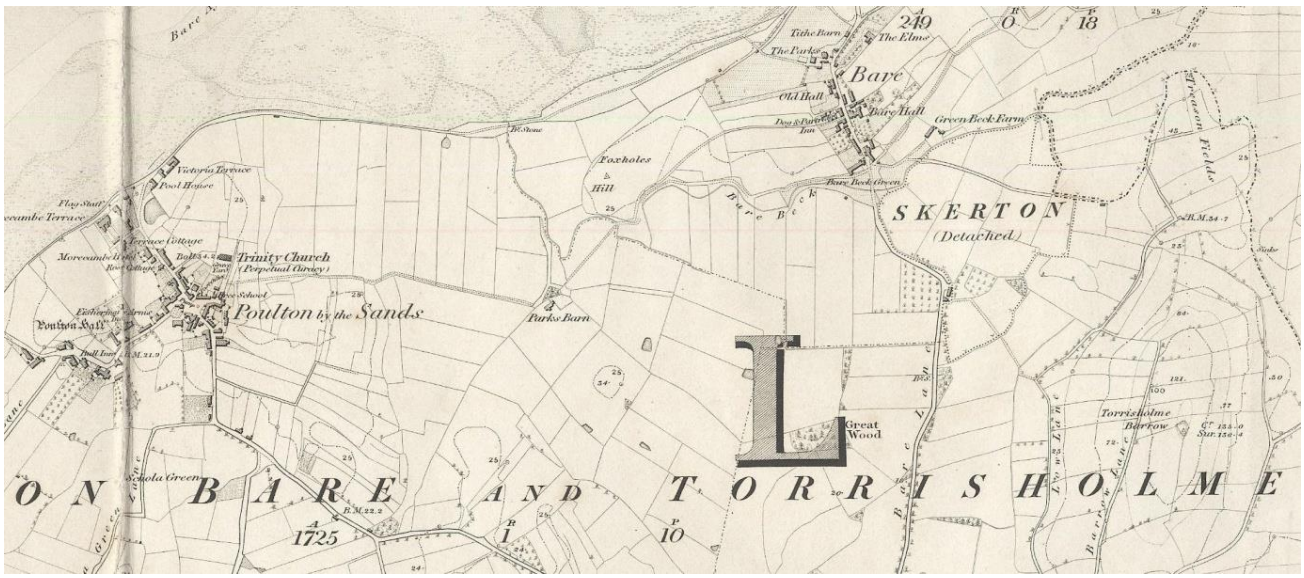
Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

BARE

Lancaster Civic Vision Guide 85

Today Bare is the northernmost built-up part of Morecambe. When Morecambe was officially formed in 1889, joining Bare with Torrisholme and Poulton-le-Sands, Bare was still a small, separate village on the coast. The map below shows Bare as it was in 1844.



Bare in 1844 (Source: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map surveyed in 1844/5, gratefully acknowledged)

On the map below we see just how small Bare was in the middle of the nineteenth century. There was a single street and a pub (the *Dog and Partridge*) and four larger buildings (Bare Hall, The Elms, The Parks and Old Hall).



Bare in 1844 – an enlargement from the previous map

The *Dog and Partridge* still trades, rebuilt several times on the same site.

Thomas Lodge built Bare Old Hall in 1766. It was demolished in 1967 for road widening.

The Elms was the private house of Thomas Giles, the Mayor of Lancaster in 1831, the year after the house was built. Later Joshua Ducksbury took it over and by 1911 he had converted it to the Elms Family and Commercial Hotel.

In 1934 it was taken over by a consortium of Halifax businesspeople, and in 1935 it opened as the New Elms Hotel, which claimed to be Morecambe's premier hotel (as did others). The building was demolished and the site is now a block of apartments. Its lodge survives as a pub.

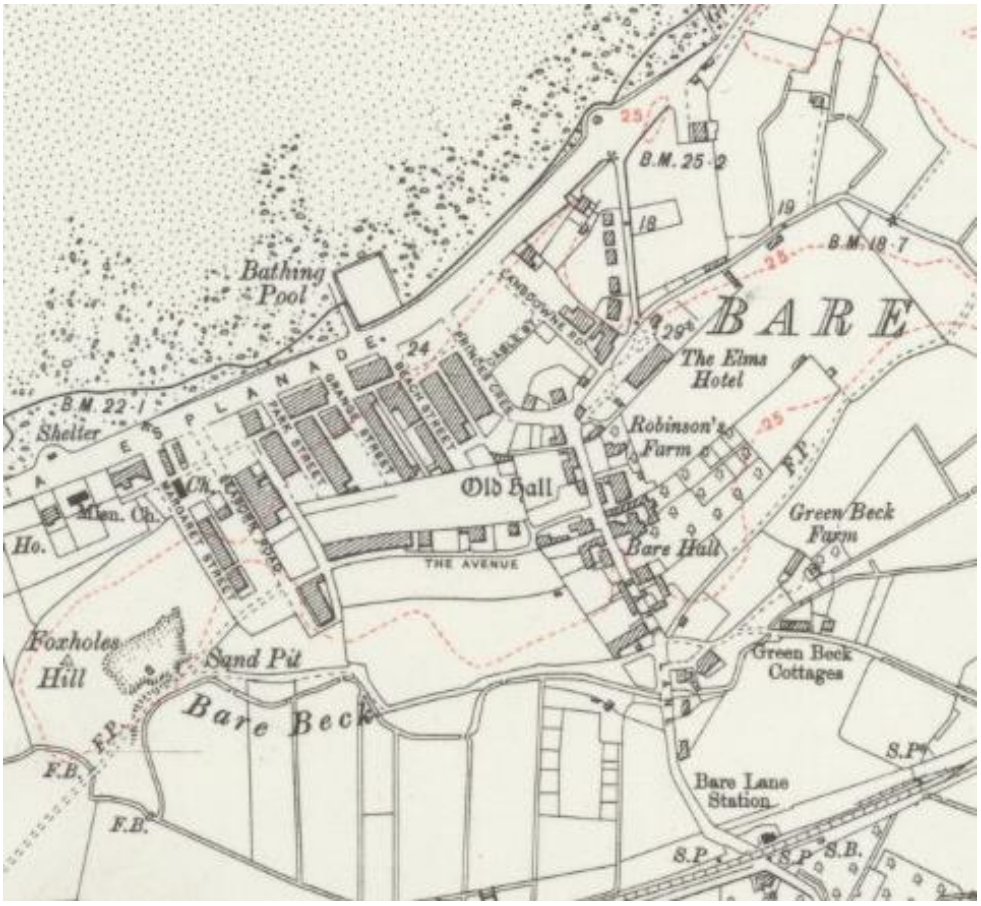
The Parks was built around 1840 by John Lodge as a private house. In 1934 it became the Craig Convalescent Home for Children. The modified building is now apartments. The Home's lodge is original and very attractive.

John Lodge re-built Bare Hall around 1830 and Lodges lived there until the 1960s. It is now part of a care home. He also built neighbouring Arbour House.

What the map does not show is that the open land to the east of Bare (where today we find Happy Mount Park and Morecambe golf course) was the location of annual Territorial Army camps in the summer months after 1886. There was artillery practice out into the Bay from Scalestones Point.



Bare Hall (Source: Author)



Bare in 1911 (Source: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map surveyed in 1911, gratefully acknowledged)

The map above shows some of the changes to Bare by 1911. The Bare Lane railway station to Lancaster opened in 1864. The Promenade / Esplanade from Morecambe (of which Bare was now a part) had been extended to Bare by 1899, and the Bathing Pool on the shore opened in 1906.

Princes Crescent was built as a completely new road in the 1890s, lined by private houses; the conversion of their ground floors to shops came later. In the very late Victorian and Edwardian periods more modest houses had begun to appear westwards along the Esplanade and just inland from it – Beach Street, Grange Street and Park Street – the start of Bare coalescing with the rest of Morecambe as one built-up area. Below is a photograph of Bare's main street around 1900. The original Bare Institute opened in 1893.





(Left) Bare Lane around 1900, looking seaward. The post on the right is a hydrant for filling up the cart that damped down dusty streets.
(Right) Cattle on the main street. The *Dog and Partridge* inn is on the left.
(Source: Red Rose Collection, Lancashire County Council, gratefully acknowledged)



The former Bare Branch of Lancaster Co-op
(Source: Author)



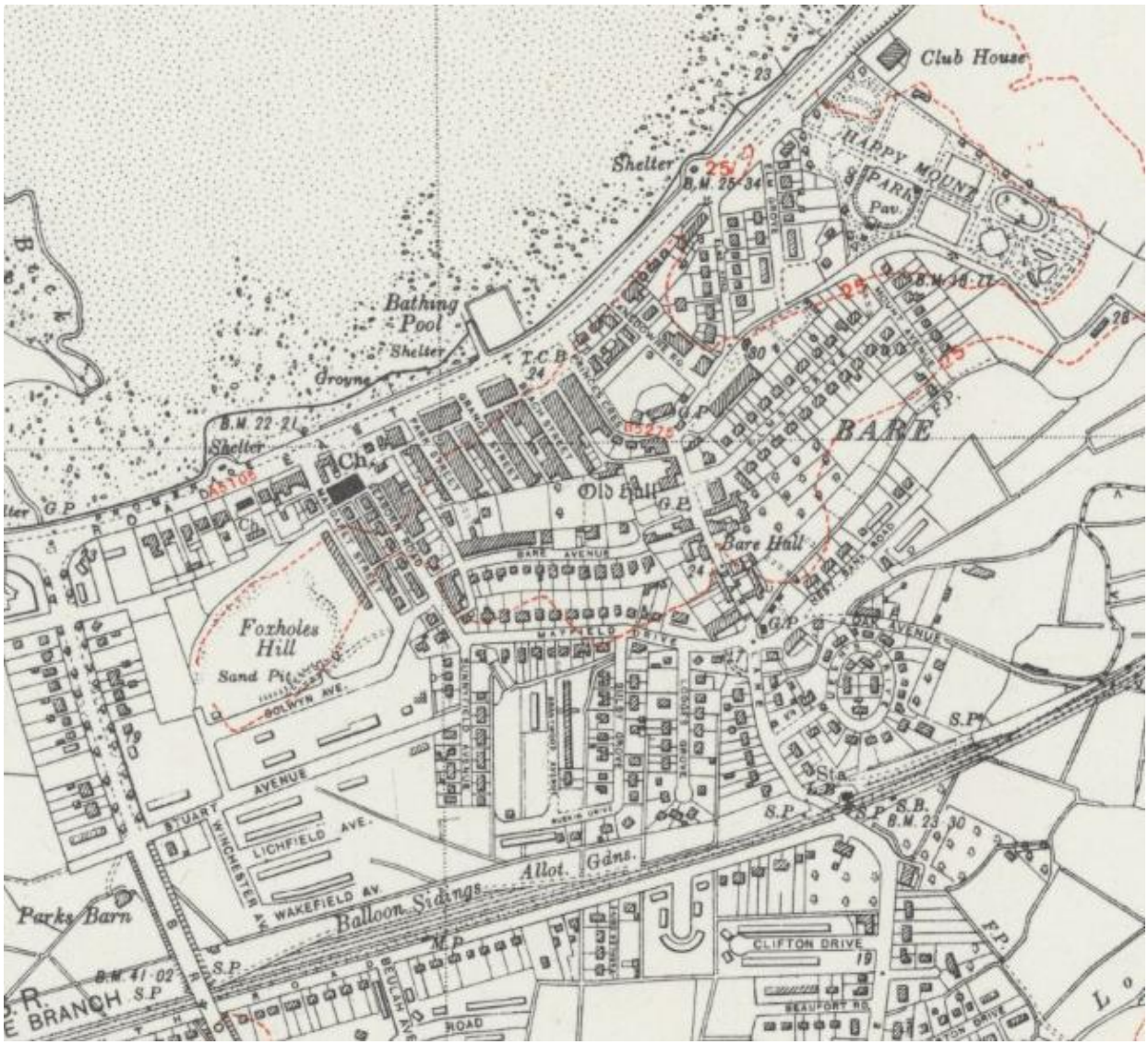
First-floor details of Whitelow House
(Source : Author)

By 1937 Bare had become more recognisable as the place it is today.

In 1923 Broadway was opened to the west, completing the new fast road link to Lancaster and the national tourist markets beyond (see Guide 45 in this series). Morecambe Golf Club, founded in 1905, took over the fields north of Bare in 1923.

In 1927 Happy Mount Park opened, designed by the Borough Surveyor. It was Morecambe's response to Stanley Park, which had opened in Blackpool the previous year (see Guide 35 in this series).

South and west of Bare, street after street of interwar, semi-detached houses had been built. The new coast road to Bolton-le-Sands opened in 1933.



Bare in 1937 (Source: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map, gratefully acknowledged)

Today only a little of the old village of Bare shown on the first map remains, Green Beck Cottages, Bare Hall and The Parks, for example, all modified.

Bungalows sprang up all round Bare between the 1950s and the 1980s. The 10-storey Lakeland Tower opened in 1976. Blocks of flats, some conversions and others new builds, have been a

notable feature of the development of Bare during the last 30 years, merging it completely with the rest of Morecambe.

Perhaps the most distinctive remaining house in Bare is Whitelow House on Marine Road East, which was built in 1905–10 for the former manager of the town's gas works.

The Bathing Pool is still there, remodelled as part of recent sea defences. The very longstanding Bare Institute with its bowling greens thrives as Bare Village Club, its premises on Bare Lane rebuilt more than once.

The Anglican (1932–4) and Methodist churches are still open, the former with some good, modern stained glass by Abbott & Co.

Text – Gordon Clark.
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