Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

TORRISHOLME and TORRISHOLME BARROW

Lancaster Civic Vision Guide 89

Torrisholme



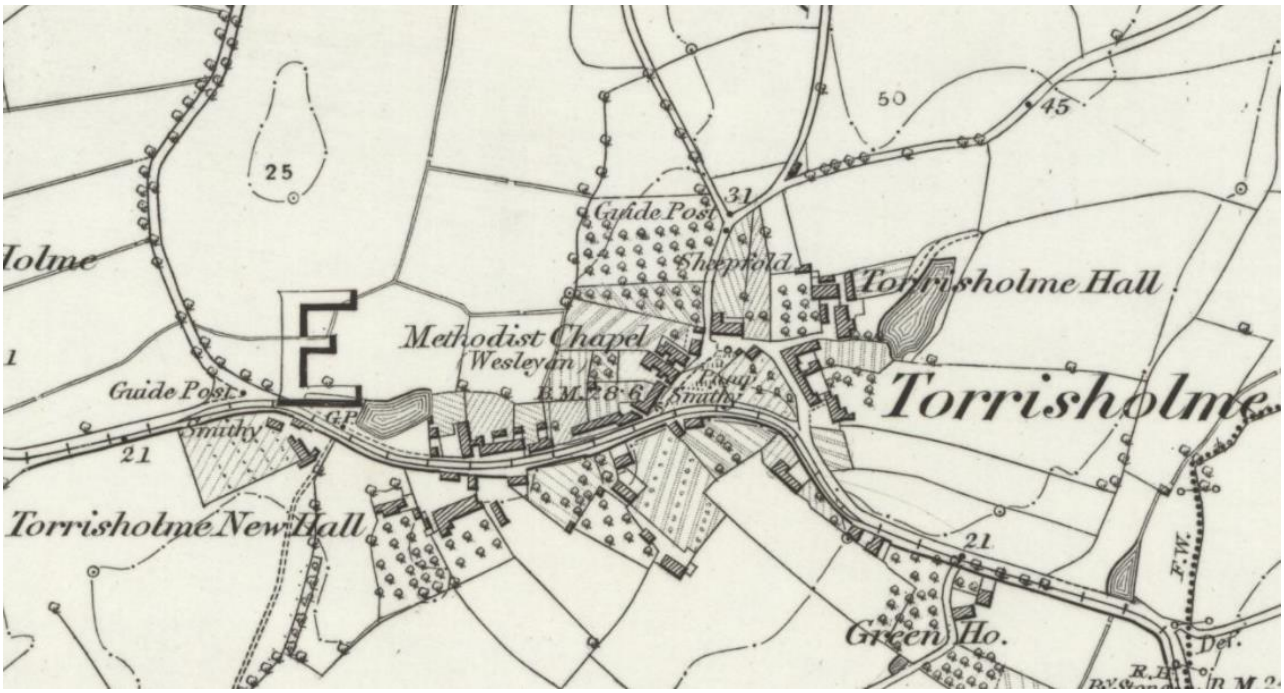
Torrisholme was once a very small village lying between Lancaster and Morecambe. The Ordnance Survey map of 1891 shows how small it was – just a single street – two smithies, a chapel, sheepfold, some short rows of houses and two larger buildings – the (Old) Hall and the New Hall.

There are five Grade II listed buildings on the east side of what we now call Torrisholme Square, Nos 8 and 9 dating from 1663 (see the date-stone above), No. 12 being mid-eighteenth century and Nos 10 and 11 mid-nineteenth century.

All have been constructed using roughly shaped stones with sandstone quoins [cornerstones], window and door framings.

On the west side of the Square are two more listed buildings – Park House and Barn and 16 Slyne Road, both early nineteenth century but containing stonework from much earlier buildings.

Torrisholme (Old) Hall has been demolished. Torrisholme New Hall survives: a late-seventeenth-century house with later additions. The date-stone says 1687 and the rear of the house incorporates some re-used sixteenth-century mullioned windows.



Torrisholme in 1891 (Source: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map surveyed in 1891, gratefully acknowledged)

The map above gives a clue to Torrisholme's future after 1891. It lay on the main road between Lancaster and Morecambe. Two years before the 1891 map was surveyed, Torrisholme had become an official part of Morecambe along with Poulton-le-Sands and Bare.

As Morecambe grew as a tourist resort, increasing traffic generated more passing trade to Torrisholme and its inns. This is why the Lancaster and District Tramways built their Lancaster–Morecambe line through Torrisholme in 1890 using Lancaster-built tramcars.

The village was well connected for employment, shopping, schools and entertainment. Torrisholme remained on the Lancaster to Morecambe direct route until the present-day Morecambe Road (the A589) was opened in 1922/23. See Guide

By 1939 Torrisholme is starting to merge with Morecambe's expansion eastwards and Lancaster's north-westwards. This process continued post-war and today Torrisholme is a part of the Lancaster/Morecambe built-up area.



Houses off Torrisholme Square (Source: Author)



Part of Torrisholme Square (Source: Author)



Torrisholme Barrow

Just north of Torrisholme lies 'Torrisholme Barrow'. Today this usually refers to the 130-foot (40-metre) oval hill. The low-lying land allows good views all around from the top of the hill. This is why there is an Ordnance Survey trigonometrical point on the hilltop – ideal for their land surveying.

'Torrisholme Barrow' also refers to the archaeological feature on the hilltop – a round or bowl barrow, which is now a Scheduled Monument. There are around 10,000 surviving barrows (and many more now destroyed) of different designs in Great Britain.

They date from the Late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age, roughly 2400 to 1500 BC/BCE. They were burial places: sometimes for one person, sometimes for several, and were often on hilltops and other prominent places. Torrisholme Barrow is a mound of up to thirty-two metres diameter and up to 2.5 metres high, comprising earth and stones.

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