Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

SHORT WALKS FROM THE LANCASTER-MORECAMBE LINE

Lancaster Civic Vision Guide 54



The 08.35 off to Morecambe

By train it is only 4 miles (6.4km) from Lancaster to Morecambe – 11 minutes by train – and 8 miles (13km) all the way to Heysham (28 minutes).

This guide describes some short walks, each starting and ending at the stations in Lancaster, Bare Lane, Morecambe and Heysham.

The present Lancaster Station opened in 1846 as part of the London-Glasgow route. The station itself dates from then in an Elizabethan architectural style, with additions in 1899–1902. The railway reached Morecambe in 1848 as part of a route to Yorkshire. Bare Lane is the only intermediate station. There is one train a day to and from Heysham Port for the Isle of Man

ferry. There are currently around 24 services a day in each direction (12 on Sundays) between Lancaster and Morecambe.

Lancaster

Leave the station by the ticket hall, turn right up the approach road and then left on to Meeting House Lane. On your left you pass the Quakers' Meeting House (1677, rebuilt 1708 and extended 1778) and then the Visitor Information Centre in The Storey (1891), an education and arts venue. Cross the one-way system at the traffic lights and walk 50m down Market Street. Turn left into Sun Street (built after 1785). The gem here is the Music Room (*c*.1730–40).



The Music Room, Sun Street

At the end of Sun Street turn left and walk up Church Street, crossing China Street at the traffic lights. Ahead is the Judges' Lodgings (*c*.1630–50) for the court in the Castle. Now a Museum, it has an unrivalled collection of Gillow furniture. Then walk up the steps on Church Street (the Judges' Lodgings on your left) to Lancaster Priory. The Priory Church's nave is early fifteenth

century and its tower was built around 1759. Inside, it is notable for its carved choir stalls (*c.*1345), organ and stained glass.

Next to the Priory is Lancaster Castle. Mostly built between around 1100 and the early nineteenth century, it has been a prison, is still a court and is open to visitors.



The Gatehouse, Lancaster Castle



The Priory Church

From the Castle Gateway turn left and walk to Castle Park with its lovely Georgian houses. Then turn right (west) and walk down over the pedestrian bridge across the railway. Carry on down West Road to Westfield War Memorial Village on your left (200m). Opened officially in 1924 it was and still is a homely community for ex-servicemen. It is a tranquil place with a poignant sculpture on the main drive.

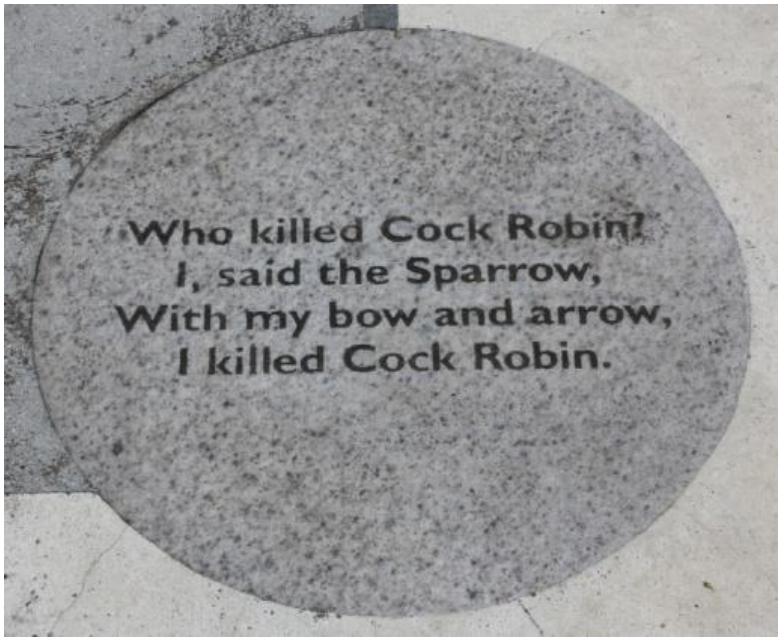


Entrance to Westfield War Memorial Village

Retrace your steps up West Road, turn right and you are now back at the railway station. Tour length is 1–2 hours depending on how long you linger! There are some steep and cobbled sections and steps along this route.

Morecambe

Leave the station (this one opened in 1994) and cross Central Drive at the pedestrian crossing. Pass the green shelter to reach the start of the Flock of Words (2003).



Part of the Flock of Words

This footpath has been inlaid with amusing poems and sayings about birds, which are a theme of the extensive public art in Morecambe. Walk along the path. At its end are the Old Station Buildings (opened in 1907 as Promenade Station), which now house The Platform entertainment venue and the Visitor Information Centre.

Cross Marine Drive Central and walk on either side past the Midland Hotel. This iconic Art Deco hotel was opened in its current form in 1933 and re-opened after major refurbishment in 2008.



The Midland Hotel, Marine Drive Central

Walk out to sea along the Stone Jetty (1853, extended 1994/5). This was the original rail-connected harbour for Morecambe. The views across the Bay and over to the Lakeland hills are spectacular. Return along the Jetty and turn left along Marine Drive Central. You will pass on your right the Winter Gardens (1897) now awaiting a new lease of life. Stop when you come to the Eric Morecambe statue (1999). Many of the duo's catchphrases have been inlaid in the area around the statue.

Walk back along Marine Drive to the Old Station Buildings, Morecambe Market (worth a visit), the Flock of Words path and the railway station. Tour length – about 1 hour.

Bare Lane station (1864)

The best walk is north along Bare Lane and Princes Crescent (1 km) to view the shops in Bare and the sea view from Marine Road East. Turn right for 600m to visit Happy Mount Park, Morecambe's main attraction for families. Retrace your route back to the station. Tour length about 30 minutes, longer if you visit Happy Mount Park.

Heysham Harbour/Port station (1904)
There is usually only one return service to Heysham per day to meet the Isle of Man ferry. The turn-round time is only 10-20 minutes so you will have time only to view the station, power stations and the busy harbour.

There are many other guides in this series that provide more details about the places and buildings mentioned in this guide.

Tourist information is available from:

Visitor Information Centre in Lancaster - the Storey, Meeting House Lane LA1 1TH; tel.: 01524 582394

Morecambe - Old Station Buildings, Marine Road Central LA4 4DB; tel.: 01524 582808 or web

www.visitlancaster.org.uk and www.exploremorecambebay.org.uk

Text and photographs – Gordon Clark
(©Lancaster Civic Vision & Lancaster and Morecambe Rail User Group 2015; revised 2022)
Lancaster Civic Vision is the trading name of Lancaster Civic Society, registered charity no. 258434