

Carnforth Heritage Trail

NORTH



- 1 Start from the Station Heritage Centre, where you will find information about the historical heritage of our town as well as the history of the local railways.
- 2 Leave the station entrance, cross the car park and turn right into Haws Hill. The first building on your right is Station House, the former home of Station Masters. This shows the respect and position held by the Station Master in the 19th and early 20th Century.
- 3 The next building on your right, 'The Haws', was once a school for girls run by a Miss Pickford in the late 19th Century. It is now a private house.
- 4 Walk up Haws Hill to Lancaster Road. As you reach the top of Haws Hill there is an imposing building on your left - Kerneforde Hall. This was the former National School and was used until 1962.
- 5 Before the canal was built and the roads improved, this sloping junction was a significant feature of Carnforth. Travellers from the south had a choice of going down Haws Hill to Warton via the Keer Bridge or straight forward for 150 yards and into North Road. The present A6 to the traffic lights and beyond, did not exist.
- 6 Turn right and walk down the hill to the traffic lights by Tesco. The Tesco site and the Lodge Quarry Industrial Estate reminds us that stone quarrying and gravel extraction were major industries in the Town.
- 7 Looking further south, the long terrace that you see on the left beyond the petrol station is Bessemer Terrace, its name changed to Hall Street and was absorbed into Lancaster Road. The row of houses was moved, stone by stone, from the Iron Works site when steel making was introduced.
- 8 Cross the road, turn right, and then almost immediately left into the entrance area to the Lancaster Canal. Walk up to the canal basin where pleasure boats call into the 'Canal Turn' Public House. Some half a mile further south on the east side of the canal are the remains of the Carnforth Coke Ovens. Coal was brought along the canal from Wigan and turned into coke for domestic use. These ovens can be seen on a separate Canal Walk.
- 9 Return to Lancaster Road and turn right up the hill and past the former school. The flats on your right, known as Oxford Court, are on the site of the former Wesley Methodist Chapel.
- 10 Cross Lancaster Road by means of the Pelican Crossing and walk into New Street. The imposing building on your right is the former premises of the Carnforth Co-operative Society with a shoe shop, grocers, chemist and butchers. Upstairs was a grand hall which saw many local events including Friday evening dances and films.
- 11 Return to the road crossing and proceed into North Road which was once the main road to Scotland. No 10 North Road is the oldest house in Carnforth, built in 1688. Pass the Council Primary School and the Vicarage on your right. Next to the Vicarage is Plane Tree House, another house from the 18th Century.
- 12 On the left a little further down the road is the Civic Hall, a former drill hall for the 5th Battalion King's Own Royal Regiment. The property supports a firing range underneath the main hall.
- 13 The green at the junction of North Road and Kellet Road, in front of the Shovel Inn. Continue forward and across Market Street to the green. This green at the junction of North Road/Market St./Kellet Road and is the old centre of the town. Before the canal was built the road/track from Warton to the Kellets passed behind the inn. The canal crossing required a new bridge at right angles to the canal and so a new road was built to traverse the other side of the Shovel Inn.

- 14 The Shovel Inn is one of the oldest inns in town dating from 1754. It was used as a stopping place for stage coaches from London to Glasgow and included holding cells for people the police had arrested.
- 15 Continue up North Road to number 101, the former home of Lord Cecil Parkinson of Carnforth, number 107 - Carnforth House - one of the best kept old houses in the Town.
- 16 A little further on the right is the old CofE Vicarage (116) and opposite is Birkett's Farm, one of the oldest working farms in town. This remains a viable dairy farm with pasture on both sides of the road. An ancient pear tree is still growing in the grounds.
- 17 Return down North Road until you reach Hawk Street. As you walk down the street you will notice the views of the old Iron Works site and Warton Crag. Half way down the street is the Emmanuel Congregational Church, built in 1896.
- 18 There is a back street almost opposite the church. Walk down this and the Town Council Chamber is the building on your left as you emerge onto Market Street.
- 19 Cross Market Street and turn left up Lancaster Road. On your left is Christ Church and almost opposite is the old Police Station (1880). The name is still faintly legible in the stone work of the building. A crest is seen in the area above the door.
- 20 Return to The Traffic Lights and cross over lower Market Street. Almost immediately turn right down the left hand side of a small shop towards the car park of the Supermarket. Before entering the car park notice the old cobbled back street on your left. This is thought to be one of the oldest streets in the Town.
- 21 Booth's car park occupies the site of the former Auction Mart, operational until the 1950's. Walk to the left within the car park and you will see a plaque showing the site of the first Salvation Army Worship Centre within the town. This is on the wall of the Carnforth Clinic.
- 22 Continue to the left into Ash Trees Way. Turn right in front of the doctors' surgery and into the War Memorial Gardens. Inscribed on the War Memorial are the names of those from Carnforth who lost their lives in the two World Wars and shortly afterwards as a result of their injuries. This memorial was erected in 1923 and was financed by donations from the residents of the town.
- 23 Adjacent to the gardens is the Fire Station, built in 1927 but still operational today by retained fire fighters. Next to the gardens was the old Roxy Cinema (1921-61), now a supermarket.
- 24 Across the road from this building is the Royal Station Hotel, currently being restored to its former glory.
- 25 Walk on into Warton Road past the old Crown Post Office, over the railway bridge and to the right is the site of the old Carnforth Iron Works. If you walk down this road for about 100 yards you will see the original entrance to the Iron Works. This entrance is bricked-up because of the dangerous access at this point.
- 26 Walk on to the junction with Shore Road on the left, where you will see the old horse trough used by the horses pulling the slag to the shore tipping site.
- 27 Return up Warton Road to your starting point at the Railway Station. While you are here, why not take the opportunity to visit the Refreshment Rooms or the Heritage Centre on the platform.

We hope you have enjoyed this tour of Carnforth - for more information about the area, talk to the volunteers at the Heritage Centre or our friendly staff at Morecambe Visitor Information Centre on 01524 582808



NORTH



A BRIEF ENCOUNTER

LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside



CARNFORTH EXPLORER PATH

This circular walk around the historical heart of the town starts and finishes at the Railway Station. It is about 3km (1¾ miles) in length over hard surfaces and takes about 1.5 hrs to complete.

HISTORICAL HEART

Carnforth is located at the intersection of three railway lines - the main line from London to Glasgow - the East to West line to Leeds - the Cumbria line to Barrow in Furness. The town was made famous as the setting for the fictional 'Milford Junction' in the 1945 David Lean film 'Brief Encounter'. Following extensive renovation of the station buildings, the Carnforth Station Visitor Centre, opened in 2003, and the 'Brief Encounter Refreshment Room' was restored to its 1940s glory.

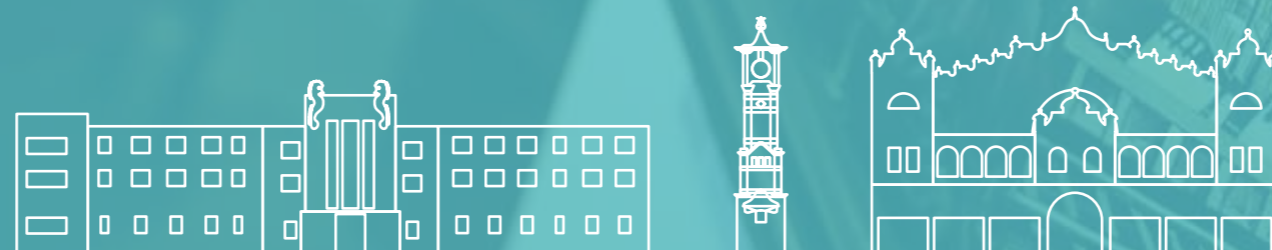
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Carnforth was first settled by invading Danes and is referred to in the Domesday Book as "Chereneforde", a ford which cranes frequented. By 1301 the village name had become "Kerneforde", a pyramid of rough stones. In the 16th Century it was known as Keer Ford, a crossing point over the Rover Keer. Carnforth was a rural hamlet up to 1801, with a population of 219.

This changed with the construction of the Lancaster canal which opened in 1797. Coal was an early cargo transported from the Lancashire Coal Mines by horse drawn barges. Local limestone was transported back to the Lancashire coal fields. This abundance of local limestone led to the establishment of Carnforth Ironworks in 1846.

Carnforth Railway Station was opened in 1846 leading to the trebling of Carnforth's population to 1091 by the mid 1850s.

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RAILWAY HERITAGE

The Railway Station was completely rebuilt in 1937. A 890ft long platform was added together with the longest unsupported single piece concrete roof in Britain.

Carnforth retains many original steam features such as the 'cooling tower', 'ash plant' and LMS engine shed. The ash plant is the last of its type left in the country and the cooling plant is one of only two survivors. These features are presently in the hands of West Coast Railways, a private engine and rolling stock company, and cannot be accessed by the public. In May 1970 following the electrification of the main London to Glasgow line, platforms 1 and 2 were physically removed. There are however moves to reinstate these platforms so the main line trains can again stop in Carnforth.

Carnforth has more recently been associated with the steam locomotive "Olton Hall," better known as the Hogwart's Express of Harry Potter fame and occasional visitor to Carnforth Station.

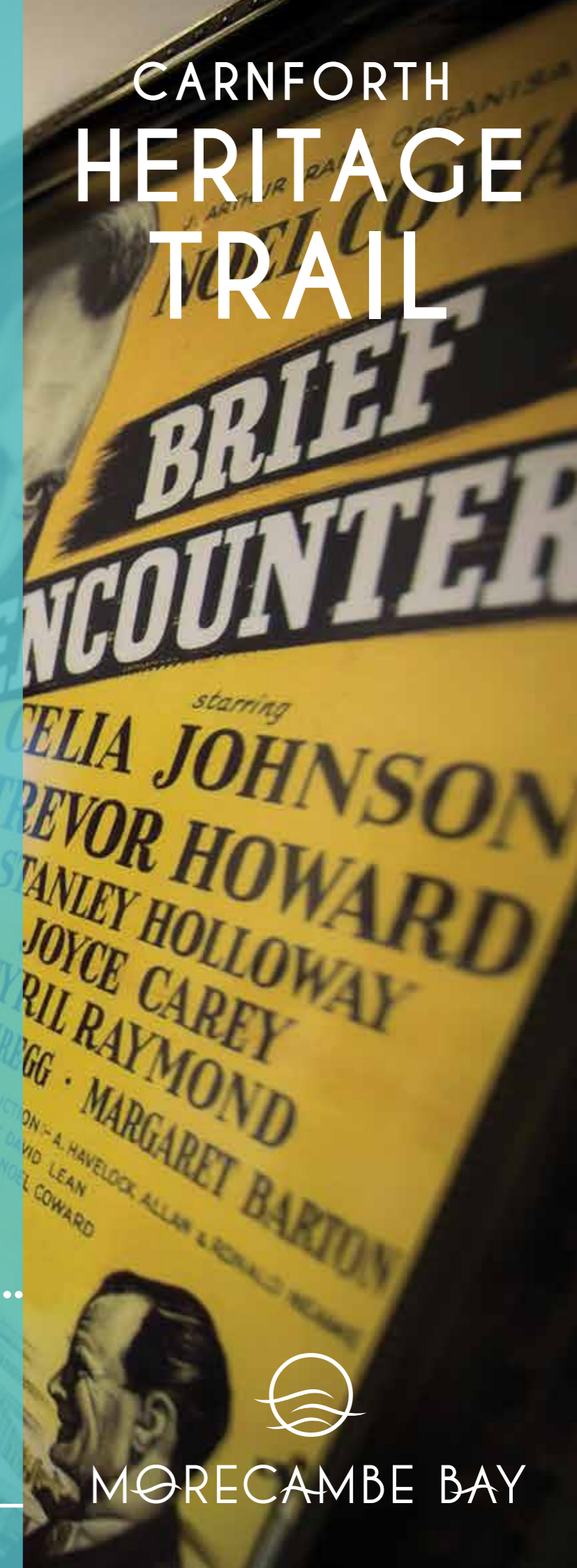
FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT CARNFORTH

Carnforth offers specialist shops, coffee bars and restaurants, lively pubs and a wide variety of accommodation in hotels, holiday cottages, lodges and caravan parks. The town is adjacent to Morecambe Bay and has stunning views overlooking Morecambe and Grange over Sands. The visitor centre on the Railway Station has many leaflets advising the visitor of additional attractions in the area.

WALKS AND TOURS

There are many walks and tours from the Town. Four local walks can be found in the 'Pocket Book to Carnforth' obtainable from many local shops and the Station Visitor Centre. The Town Council also offer a selection of guided walks at specific times of the year - see the Council website www.carnforthtowncouncil.org

CARNFORTH HERITAGE TRAIL



MORECAMBE BAY