



## Lancaster Civic Vision

Celebrating our Heritage – Enhancing our Environment – Shaping our Future

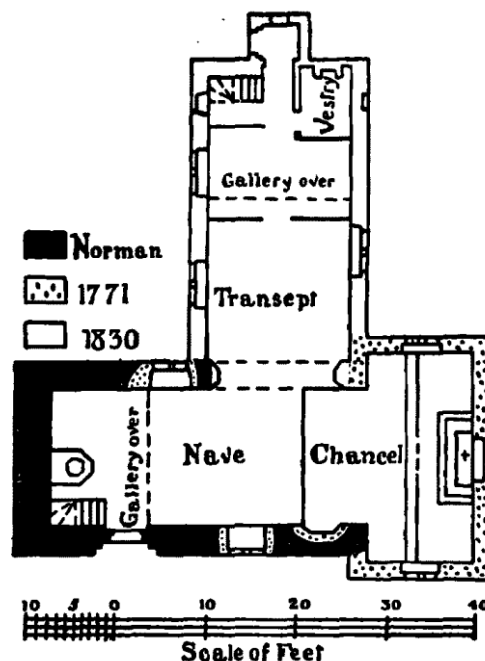
### OVERTON

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Overton lies on the Heysham peninsula between Middleton and Sunderland Point. Historic records for Overton go back to its owner in 1066, the pre-Norman Earl Tostig.

For centuries it was just a small farming village with interests in the fisheries in the River Lune. The oldest surviving building is St Helen's Church, now Grade II\* listed and well worth a visit. The west end and the south side of the nave are Norman in style and 12<sup>th</sup> century in date, perhaps on the site of an earlier church. The zigzag sculpting above the main door is distinctively Norman.

Weathering has taken its toll on the oldest stonework. In 1771 the east end – once a small apse – was demolished and replaced by today's chancel and altar. In 1830 the north transept was added with its gallery and vestry. There was further restoration work in 1902. Some box pews survive at the west end.



St Helen's Church, Overton (Source: Victoria County History, Lancashire, Volume 8, gratefully acknowledged).



Left. The Norman door, St Helen's Church, photographed by Sam Thompson c1920s (Source: Lancashire County Council, Red Rose Collection, gratefully acknowledged)  
Right. The Norman door and Bell Tower (Source: Author)

Another part of old Overton is Main Street. As the map (below) of Overton in 1844 shows, the village was really just this one street.



Overton in 1844 (Source: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map of 1844/45, gratefully acknowledged)

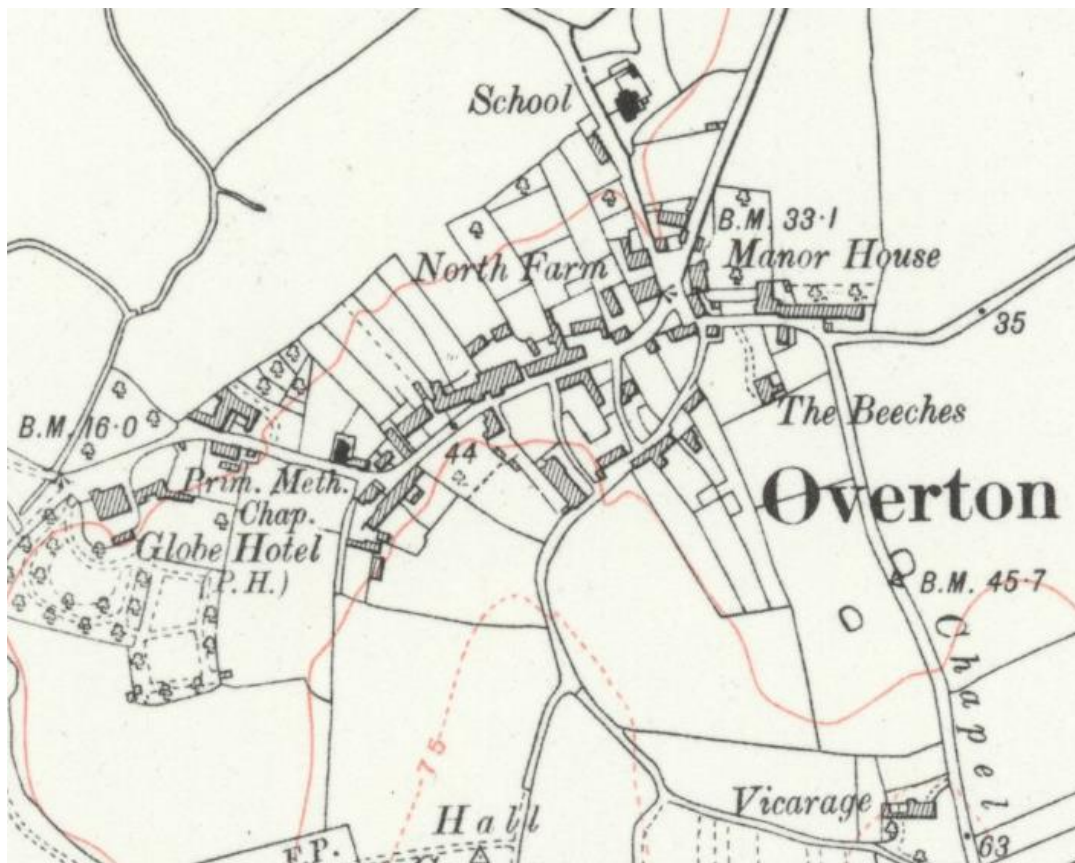
Along Main Street are six of the village's Grade II listed buildings, mostly farmhouses dating from between the late seventeenth century (North and Glebe Farmhouses) to the late eighteenth century (Overton Hall). Many have date-stones over their main door. By the mid-nineteenth

century a school had been set up and the Globe Inn was operating. This was joined by the Ship Inn. Colloway Farmhouse just north of Overton is also early eighteenth century.



The *Ship Inn* and house date-stones on Main Street, Overton (Source: Author)

By the 1910 survey little has changed – Overton remains a small village with a population in 1901 of 346 (see below).



Overton in 1910 (Source: Ordnance Survey 6-inch map surveyed in 1910, gratefully acknowledged)

By 2011 the population had grown to just over 1000 due to several housing estates around the old core, as the Google Earth image of 2018 shows (below). Commuters can now quickly reach employment in Heysham, Morecambe, Lancaster or further afield via the M6 using recent road developments.





Overton in 2018 (Source: Google Earth, gratefully acknowledged)

A short walk south of Overton is Bazil Point on the Lune with its history of a ferry crossing to Glasson Dock and haaf-net fishing for salmon. If conditions are right, from Bazil Point you might see the River Lune's modest tidal bore moving up stream.



Cockersands Lighthouse Keeper Thomas Parkinson salmon fishing with a haaf net off Sunderland Point in the 1950s/1960s. © Morecambe Bay Partnership, gratefully acknowledged



Haaf netters on the Lune at Sunderland Point, 1934 (Source: Lancashire County Council, Red Rose Collection, gratefully acknowledged)

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