

BARROW → UPON ← HUMBER

THE MARKET PLACE

The name Barrow comes from Barwe, an Anglo-Saxon word meaning wood or grove. The settlement here grew in importance with the establishment of a monastery by St Chad in the 7th century. By the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) there was a mill here and near the Humber was a motte and bailey castle, the remains of which can be detected as earthworks in fields at Barrow Haven.

In medieval times, the two centres of power were the manors on the sites of the present Down Hall and Barrow Hall, at opposite ends of the village, with a third near the church.

The Enclosure of Barrow was carried out between 1797 and 1803, transforming the parish, allotting land to individuals and improving roads and drainage. There was a lot of rebuilding during this period and well into the 19th century, much of which survives. The High Street is one of the finest in North Lincolnshire with many examples from the Georgian and early Victorian period. The streets radiating from the Market Place at one end, and from the Church at the other, also contain many buildings, grand and small, of architectural interest.

THE MARKET CROSS

In the Market Place stands the remains of a medieval cross, sometimes known as the Butter Cross, its base worn by generations of use. Stone crosses in towns and villages were a common feature in the Middle Ages. The late 19th century photograph (below) shows the Cross surmounted by a gas lamp fed from Barrow's very own Gas Works in St Chad; you can see the channel for a gas-pipe on the side of the cross - part of a 'Victorian improvement'.

JOHN HARRISON 1693-1776

John 'Longitude' Harrison lived and worked in Barrow for the first half of his long life. A self-taught clockmaker, his work finally enabled sailors to navigate accurately and so more safely. Some of his other inventions are still in common use today.

To find out more, visit Holy Trinity Church at the other end of the High Street. It contains the famous portrait of Harrison and an informative display about him and the village.



THE ROYAL OAK

The Royal Oak is one of the oldest buildings in the village, dating from the 17th century. This photo shows it towards the end of the 19th century.



For more information

