

Cleethorpes' TIMELINE



On the beach at Armed Forces weekend at Cleethorpes, June 2024

Prepared by Susan Milsom

This Cleethorpes Timeline charts the progress of the town from its beginnings as 3 small villages:

Itterby

Oole (or Hole)

Thrunscoe

- All part of the wider parish of Clee and in modern day heraldry represented by 3 Owls.

‘Clee’, being an old form of the word ‘clay’ + ‘thorpe’ an old Norse word for village:

Clee + (3) thorpes

TRIVIA FACT: the main road into the town (the A180) is in fact *Cleethorpe Road* without the ‘s’ because it is ‘the road to the thorpe of Clee’!

- 1066** Following the Norman invasion, the manor of Clee was taken from the Saxon Algar and granted to Bishop Odo of Bayeux, the half-brother of William of Conqueror.
- 1086** Itterby, in the hundred (*Wapentake*) of Bradley and the county of Lincolnshire, recorded in Domesday Book as having 22 households
- Thrunscoe in the hundred (*Wapentake*) of Bradley and the county of Lincolnshire, recorded in Domesday Book as having 25.7 households
- (For **Wapentake**, see page 9)
- Population: 25.7 households
- 1552** written evidence of **Clethorpe** meaning *Itterby* (i.e. 1 thorpe!)
- 1558** written evidence of **Clethorpes** – *Oole* with *Itterby* (i.e. 2 thorpes!)
- 1616** Manor of Itterby sold to trustees of Peter Blundell’s charity for the benefit of scholars from Blundell’s School at Tiverton, entering Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge. The name *Blundell* reappearing in recent times as Blundell Park – the home ground of Grimsby Football Club and built on land known locally as *Sidney Sussex Estate*.
- 1801** predominantly a fishing village, with a population of 284
- 1820** developments as a health resort offering sea-bathing for medicinal reasons
- 1831** population: 497
- 1842** Enclosures Bill: 8.5km² (2,100 acres) divided among land owners and 8 new roads developed



- 1848** described as 'a bathing -place.....air is pure.....scenery good....with a few lodging houses, small inns a 1 large hotel...'
- 1856** A National School opened for 300 children.
- 1858** Coastguard Station established near the Beaconthorpe hamlet. It was manned by a chief officer and four men.
- 1863** Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway reached Cleethorpes with the original station buildings ('Platform 1') on Prince's Road.
- The folly, Ross Castle, appearing to be the ruins of an ancient castle was built as a tourist attraction by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincoln Railway Company (MS&LR).
- 1866-67** Saint Peter's church built to ease Clee parish church
1871 population: 4,019.
1873 The pier was officially opened on August Bank Holiday. Costing £8000, it was 1200 feet (365 metres) in length. Financed by Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway
Cleethorpes with Thrunscoe created as a local Board of Health District
- 1877** The Clee Burial Board established, and a new cemetery was opened
- 1878** A Police Station established a sergeant and four constables to keep the peace.
- 1884** The Greenwich Meridian line, which runs through Cleethorpes as it travels round the globe from north to south, was set by International agreement as the world's prime meridian for measuring longitude and for establishing a standard time reckoning throughout the world.
- Further railway station buildings were constructed to include refreshment rooms and a clocktower by John Mann Lockerbie and Arthur Wilkinson of Birmingham.
- 1885** promenade and gardens facing the sea constructed by H.B James CE of Westminster for the MS&LR railway company
- 1888** A concert hall was built at the pier-head and an elevated link to the adjoining 'pier gardens' added at this time but was removed in the 1930s.
- 1890** The Parish was allocated to the Grimsby sub-district of the new Grimsby Registration District
- 1894** Cleethorpes Urban District Council created under the Local Government Act
- 1896** Barcroft Street Board School built to accommodate 360 boys, 300 girls and 316 infants.
- 1899** Grimsby Town Football Club (having been founded in Grimsby in 1878) moved into their new Blundell Park ground on Grimsby Road, Cleethorpes becoming



one of the few league football teams to have their ground in another town!
Blundell Park is named after Peter Blundell whose money enabled Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge to buy the land in 1616.

The rail station further remodelled by the newly amalgamated *Great Central Railway* 1889 to give six platforms and two sidings.

1900 Kingsway sea defence was built.

1901 population: 12,578.

1905 Cleethorpes Town Hall opened as the headquarters of Cleethorpes Borough Council. (Grade II listed building)

The Pier's concert hall was destroyed by fire in 1903 resulting in a new pavilion being built near the shore in 1905.

1907 The Elliston Street School built to accommodate over 1,000 children.

1910 A Technical College was opened on Isaac's Hill. Later the town's public library, it is now *The Old Library Care Home*. Its distinctive cupola underwent a £20,000 renovation in 2022 requiring its removal and re-siting.

Cleethorpes' GCR signal box was third largest on the Great Central system along with Marylebone - an indication of the high volume of railway traffic

1911 population: 21,417.

1914 Building work began on the two Humber forts, Haile Sands Fort and Bull Fort, which are distinctive sights off Cleethorpes. Designed to protect the Humber against attack from Germany in the First World War, the forts' guns were never called into action.

1915 a much-loved emblem of Cleethorpes, the statue *The Boy With a Leaking Boot* was presented to the town by shipping magnate, John Carlbon a native of Sweden. The original statue is now in Cleethorpes Town Hall, and is a copy of one in Stockholm, Sweden. For many years it was in public gardens on the sea front but after many episodes of vandalism it was removed for safe-keeping and a replica put in its place in Alexandria Road Gardens. The original in Cleethorpes Town Hall.

1916 the urban district renamed *Cleethorpes*

1922 the town boundaries of both Grimsby and Cleethorpes towns extended into outer parishes

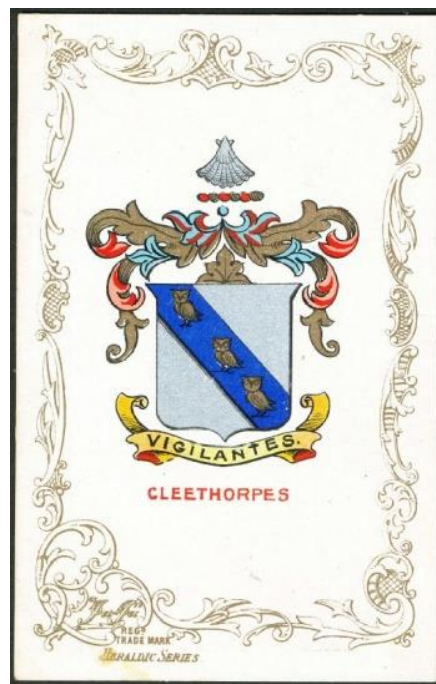
1927 Cleethorpes expanded further into parts of Humberston up to North Sea Lane, Beacon Hill area of Weelsby parish,



1930s

A metal plate was presented to Cleethorpes by Hadfields' Sheffield Foundry to mark the exact location of the Greenwich Meridian - and to test their new non-corroding steel. It also marks the distance between the Meridian and various places around the world.

Before 1936 Cleethorpes used an official coat of arms featuring a silver shield with a blue bend and 3 Owls representing the 3 Thorpes: Itterby, Oole and Thrunscoe topped by a blue scallop shell symbolising Christianity



1936

July 8th, Cleethorpes was awarded The Charter of Incorporation under the Great Seal of Edward VIII to become a Municipal Borough. The town was therefore one of the very few towns raised to Borough status during the short reign of Edward VIII before his abdication. The town has since been governed by Charter Trustees.

An official grant of arms was made combining the unofficial emblems, while making the edge of the bend engrailed, resembling the arms of Sidney Sussex College, important local landowners.

The crest is a pelican, from the arms of the Earl of Yarborough. Around the bird's neck is a leather strap from the arms of the Pelham family. The strap commemorates the capture of the King of France by Sir John Pelham at the Battle of Poitiers.

The supporters represent the Viking foundation of the town, and its traditional fishing industry.

LNER sold the pier to Cleethorpes Council.



- 1940** Pier deliberately breached for defence purposes shortening it to 335 feet (102 metres). The isolated section was demolished after the war with some of the salvaged material used on Leicester City Football Club's new stand.
- 1948** The Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway was built as *Cleethorpes Miniature Railway*
- 1953** A combination of a high spring tide and a European windstorm on 31st January 1953 caused a surge which swept down the east coast flooding more than 1,600 km of coastline and 30,000 homes.
- 1961** population: 32,700.
- The GCR station buildings were replaced by the current single storey structure
- 1963** The sea at Cleethorpes froze, during the severe winter which affected the whole country.
- 1971** population 35,824.
- 1974** Cleethorpes twinned with Königswinter, Germany
- Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Borough of Cleethorpes became part of the new Humberside County with its administrative base at County Hall in Beverley.



The Humberside shield consisted of two Yorkshire roses, a pair of gold fleur-de-lys for Lincolnshire and a gold ducet (crown?) for Hull. The crest depicted a blue eagle - from the old East Riding arms – with droplets on its wings representing north sea oil. A sword represented Scunthorpe steel; a dolphin, anchor, waves and globe represented the docks and shipping of the Humber; and agriculture was represented by the Roman goddess, Ceres.

- 1980** Cleethorpes donated some of Lincolnshire's surplus red phone boxes to Königswinter to honour the relationship between the two towns. They became mini libraries.
- 1976 & 1978** Storms and flooding caused extensive damage to houses, railway track and the outdoor bathing pool. A new concrete sea defence built between Cleethorpes and Grimsby Docks in response.



1883 The Leisure Centre opened to replace the outdoor bathing pool flood-damaged during the previous decade.

1996 Humberside abolished and replaced with four unitary authorities each with the combined powers of both a county council and district council. Despite the many attempts over the years for Grimsby to merge with Cleethorpes, the two towns were merged along with Immingham to become the unitary authority of North East Lincolnshire. The remaining parts of Humberside becoming unitary authorities of North Lincolnshire, Kingston upon Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire.



Correctly, being Charter Towns, both Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes have Charter Trustees as opposed to town councils. North East Lincolnshire's Mayor, though a politically neutral ceremonial role with no direct power and not elected by the people, is an important one as the first citizen of North East Lincolnshire.

1998 Cleethorpes Town F.C founded and known as "The Owls" plays in the Northern Premier League. Their home ground is Linden Club, Grimsby whilst *Grimsby FC's homeground address is Cleethorpes!*



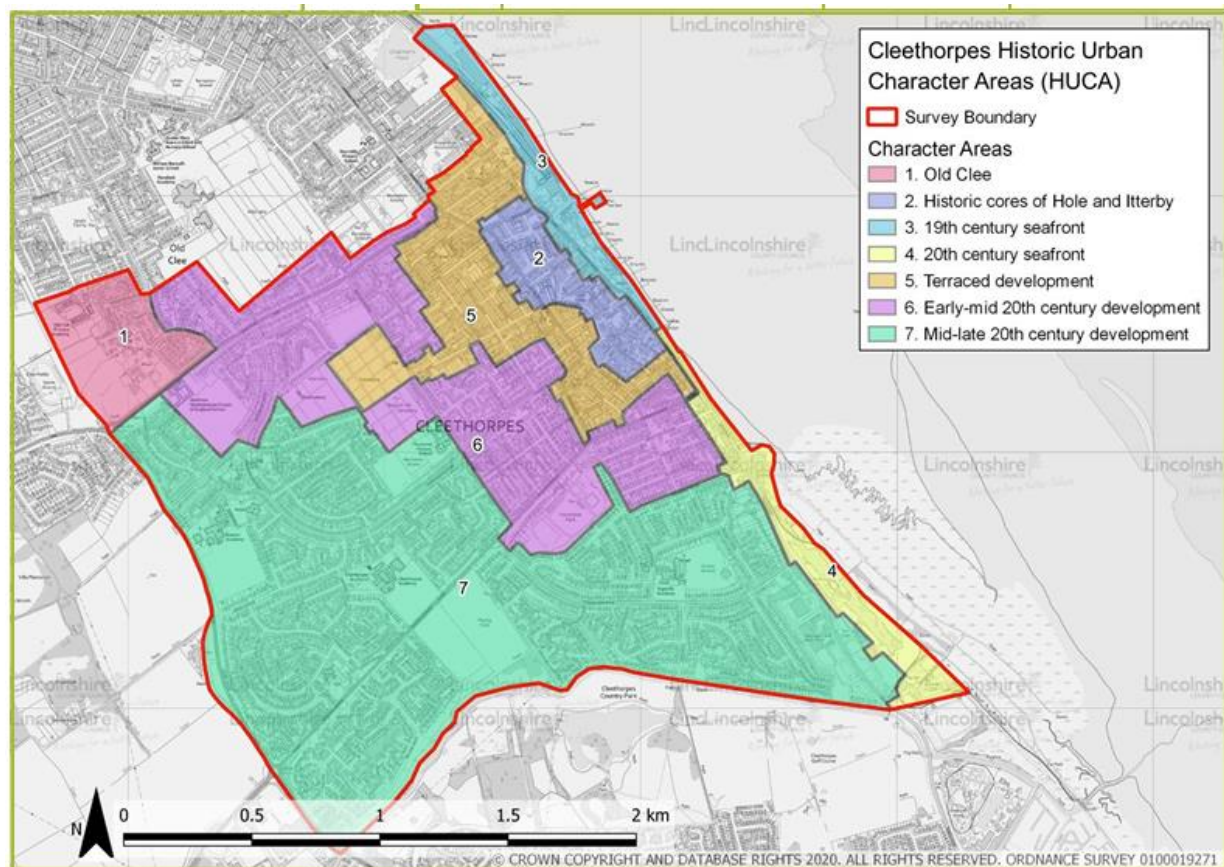
2009 North East Lincolnshire Council began to market the towns of Grimsby, Immingham and Cleethorpes under the 'Greater Grimsby' banner

2020 population: 38,372



2024 www.grimsbycleecivsoc.co.uk

SOURCES



Cleethorpes and Old Cle 2020 Project Number 2897 Historic England, Lincolnshire County Council
Nicola Grayson

Thanks to NEL Archives for their input.

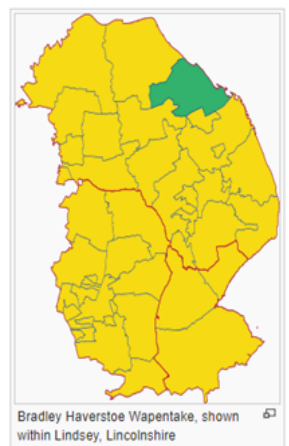
https://wikishire.co.uk/wiki/Bradley_Haverstoe_Wapentake

Bradley Haverstoe Wapentake

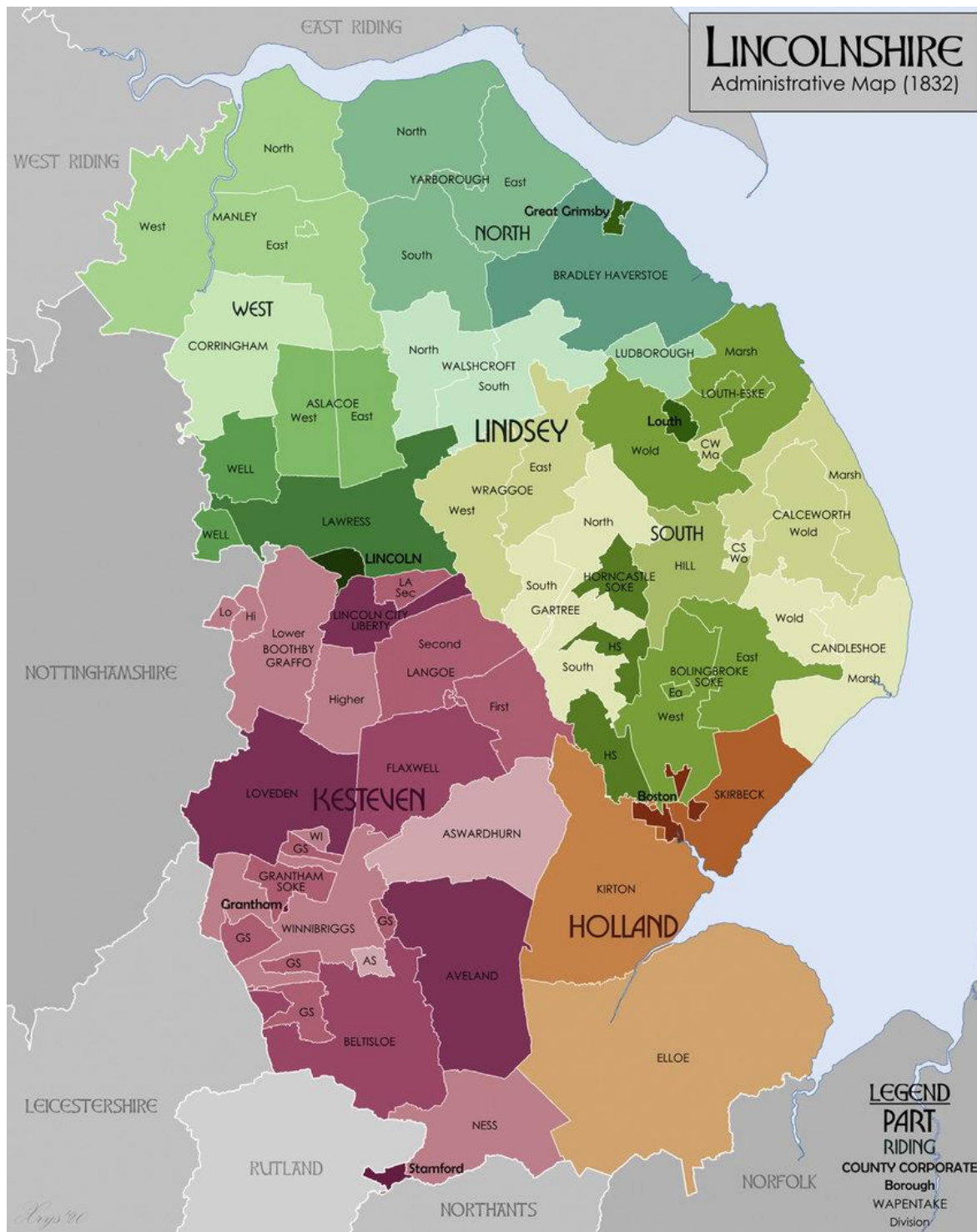
Bradley Haverstoe is a wapentake in the Parts of **Lindsey**, the northern division of **Lincolnshire**. It had a population of 157,024 in 2011. It is bounded by **Yarborough** to the north-west; by **Walshcroft** to the south-west; by **Ludborough** to the south; and by **Louth-Eske Hundred** to the south-east.

It comprises the following ancient parishes:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| • Ashby cum Fenby | • Grainsby | • Marshchapel |
| • Aylesby | • Great Coates | • North Coates |
| • Barnoldby le Beck | • Grimsby | • North Thoresby |
| • Beelsby | • Hatcliffe | • Rothwell |
| • Bradley | • Hawerby cum Beesby | • Scartho |
| • Brigsley | • Healing | • Swallow |
| • Cabourne | • Holton le Clay | • Swinhope |
| • Clee | • Humberston | • Tetney |
| • Cuxwold | • Irby upon Humber | • Waltham |
| • East Ravendale | • Laceby | • Walthe |
| • Fulstow | • Little Coates | • Wold Newton |



2024 www.grimsbycleecivsoc.co.uk



an Administrative map of Lincolnshire in 1832 showing Wapentakes and Divisions.
 [wape= weapon, taka= voting (by show of weapons)]

SOURCE: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Administrative-map-of-Lincolnshire-in-1832-showing-Wapentakes-and-Divisions-Also-showing_fig1_347762069



Internet

https://wikishire.co.uk/wiki/Bradley_Haverstoe_Wapentake

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Nicola Grayson, Historic England, Lincolnshire Extensive Urban Survey Cleethorpes and Old Clee 2020, Project Number 2897

[Timeline History of Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire \(visitoruk.com\)](#)

[Coat of arms \(crest\) of Cleethorpes \(heraldry-wiki.com\)](#)

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<https://www.cfgs.org.uk/council-logos-part-two/>

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