

= Askam and Ireleth =

Askam and Ireleth is a civil parish close to Barrow @-@ in @-@ Furness in the county of Cumbria , in North West England . Historically part of Lancashire , it originally consisted of two separate coastal villages with different origins and histories which , in recent times , have merged to become one continuous settlement . The population of the civil parish taken at the 2011 Census was 3 @,@ 632 .

Ireleth has its origins as a mediaeval farming village clustered on the hillside overlooking the flat sands of the Duddon Estuary . Askam was established following the discovery of large quantities of iron ore near the village in the middle of the 18th century .

The pair originally fell within the boundaries of the Hundred of Lonsdale ' north of the sands ' in the historic county of Lancashire , but following local government reforms in 1974 became part of the county of Cumbria , along with the rest of Furness .

The nearby River Duddon estuary and surrounding countryside have made the area well known for its wildlife , while the villages ' exposed position on the eastern bank facing the Irish Sea have encouraged the establishment of wind energy generation , amid local controversy .

= = History = =

= = = Ireleth = = =

Ireleth is the smaller and older of the two villages , with its origins stretching back to the Viking occupation of Britain . It was originally clustered along a stream , named ' Hole Beck ' , about half a mile up the hill from the estuary below . It was also the junction of four roads passing through the area . Firstly , there was the ' Sands ' road , named ' Marsh Lane ' in maps of the 1850s , heading down the hill towards the shore , where it met one of the possible routes for crossing the treacherous tidal sands of the Duddon at low tide . Secondly , there was the lane heading north along a ridge towards Kirkby @-@ in @-@ Furness . Part of these two roads form today 's A595 main road . There was also a road leading up the stream 's valley towards the hamlet of Marton , and finally a road east over the hills towards Dalton @-@ in @-@ Furness .

Viking origins exist in two forms : remains have been found near St. Peter 's parish church and the name of the village itself is Viking , translated from the Old Norse as ' hill @-@ slope of the Irish ' .

It is thought the village was included in the Domesday Book , compiled soon after the Norman Conquest , but there is debate over which of the entries for the Furness area in William the Conqueror 's census actually refers to modern day Ireleth . Several sources name a settlement called Gerleuuorde , part of the Manor of Hougoun , as the correct entry but there is no conclusive evidence to support this , not least because of the discrepancies in spelling . Samuel Lewis ' A Topographical Dictionary of England , written 1848 , posits a different contender as the true Ireleth . He claimed Ouregrave referred to the village because of the existence of a mill named Orga @-@ Mill , but he conceded this was also conjecture . Lewis ' full text on Ireleth is below .

During the Middle Ages , the entire area was controlled by the Cistercian monks of Furness Abbey . During this time , Ireleth was little more than one of many farming communities in Furness . The iron ore developments of Askam largely bypassed Ireleth , and the village developed slowly , housing farmers and workers from local towns . The religious history of the village is recorded as starting around the year 1608 , when an endowment was created to fund a village school . Giles Brownrigg , named variously as a local landowner or a tailor who had left the area to make his fortune in London , gave money to establish a school house and a salary for a schoolmaster . This building existed on what is today Sun Street ; the only remains today are a font and a plaque , kept in the modern day school building , inscribed :

Ireleth featured in the Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales . In this , it is said-

Ireleth did not have a parish church at this point , falling into the ' Above Town ' area , together with the hamlets of Marton and Lindal , of the parish of Dalton @-@ in @-@ Furness . Lacking a place of

worship , it was decided the newly built school could also be put to use as a chapel . Fishwick 's ' Lancashire & Cheshire Church Surveys , 1649 ? 1655 ' of 1849 cites this record from a church survey taken in 1650 :

In 1860 , Ireleth , along with the newly founded Askam , petitioned for the creation of its own parish following the rapid increase in population . Construction of a parish church began , with the money to build St. Peter 's coming from the new @-@ found profits of iron ore mining , giving rise to the name the ' Iron Church ' . It was dedicated for use on St. Peter 's Day , 29 June 1865 , but approval for a new ecclesiastical parish of ' Ireleth @-@ with @-@ Askam ' did not come until almost ten years later in 1874 .

= = = Askam = = =

Askam 's history starts much more recently . In 1850 , iron ore deposits were discovered in the area by Henry Schneider . These turned out to be the second largest iron ore deposits in the country , with over 7 million tons of ore extracted . By 1896 , 547 men were employed in the pits by the village and in nearby Roanhead , 347 of them underground . Several hundred others worked in local mines at Mouzell (between Ireleth and Dalton @-@ in @-@ Furness) , Roanhead and Dalton . Some were owned by the Kennedy Brothers Ltd. firm of Ulverston Barrow Haematite Steel Co and the Millom and Askam Iron Company . The latter built four blast furnaces in the village to smelt the iron ore being brought from mines all over the peninsula by rail . The village continued to grow with terraced houses and allotments erected for the flood of immigrant labour needed to work the mines . They came from all parts of the British Isles , with a large proportion coming from existing mining areas in Cornwall and Ireland . The Cornish in particular tended to bring their families and settle , while the Irish often moved on to wherever there was work . Others came from areas where Askam 's mine owners had other concerns , such as Scotland and Wales .

Remnants of the steel industry remain in Askam , as evidenced by a pier , consisting of slag from the works , that juts out into the bay toward Millom . Also , numerous streets are named after the industry and its owners . For example , ' Steel Street ' is so named because of the steel industry ; ' Sharp Street ' is named after Joseph Sharp , one of the earliest people involved in Askam 's steel industry ; and ' Crossley Street ' after William Crossley , an early investor in the Askam steel industry . The large numbers of slag banks left by the steel industry around the village are now important sites for wildlife . By 1918 , the iron ore had run out and most of the industrial buildings were demolished in 1933 . Since then , Askam has grown with commuter homes , exploiting the views over the Duddon Estuary to the Lake District .

Askam and Ireleth

Askam and Ireleth are both part of the Furness peninsula , where the suffix " -in @-@ Furness " is sometimes added to place names , such as Barrow @-@ in @-@ Furness and Dalton @-@ in @-@ Furness . Askam , when referred to on its own , often uses this but it is rare for Ireleth to be called Ireleth @-@ in @-@ Furness . A possible explanation for this is that the majority of in @-@ Furness place names were inventions of the railway that either created the settlements or caused their rapid expansion ; Ireleth , untouched by the railway , was not affected by this convention . However , Ireleth is often confused in archival records with ' Kirkby Ireleth ' , the former name for the community (two miles to the north) now known as Kirkby @-@ in @-@ Furness . These communities are differentiated in the Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales .

While the strip development has effectively created one larger community in the past fifty years , residents of both villages still retain a strong sense of being either from Askam or Ireleth . Road signs read ' Askam and Ireleth ' on entering the villages by road , but an older ' A595 ? Ireleth ' sign still stands on the former boundary between the two .

In administration terms , the civil parish of which they are both part uses the name Askam with Ireleth , as does the local Women 's Institute (WI) which had previously been called Ireleth WI .

= = Environment = =

The upper slopes of the hill near Ireleth are home to dark blue slate and is found on the roofs of several local dwellings . Haematite , the bright red iron ore , was discovered in an exceptionally large deposit ? the second largest in the country ? south of the current villages in the 1840s . Askam sprung up on the Ireleth marshes as a home for the miners attacking the new deposit . The other mineral found in large quantities , conveniently with a commercial use , is shale . This is fired with water to make red brick , and the brickworks , which is still operational today , was built in 1845 to exploit this .

Much wildlife is found on the Duddon Estuary , perhaps most notably 20 % of the national natterjack toad population , who are attracted to the shallow breeding pools . The slagbanks around Askam are also very important as nesting sites for the rare Sandwich terns that live in the area . The beach is designated an Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the range of flora and fauna present on the sands .

The Askam and Ireleth Wind Farm can be found two kilometres east of the village , on the southern slopes of Hare Slack Hill . Work on the turbines started in late 1998 , and the wind farm took eight months to complete .

The Marton , Askam and Ireleth Windfarm Action Group (MAIWAG) was one of the first such organisations in the UK dedicated to fighting windfarm development .

= = Location and transport = =

The A595 is the main coastal route , designated a primary route , connecting Dalton and Carlisle via the Cumbrian Coast . Its southern end is two miles (3 km) south of Askam at the junction with the A590 Dalton @-@ in @-@ Furness bypass although formerly continued into Dalton . The area is served by Stagecoach Cumbria service , 7A and X7 as well as various school services . There are plans to construct a crossing over the Duddon between Askam and Millom to reduce the long journey times between Furness and Copeland , due to the circuitous route of the A595 around the estuary . A scheme to build such a ' Duddon Crossing ' remains at the planning stage , but is nominated as a future project in county transport planning .

Askam is located on the 150 @-@ mile (240 km) Cumbrian Coastal Walk , which winds around the edge of the county . The railway line passing through the two villages virtually bisecting them , with a bridge and a level crossing by the station allowing people to cross the line . There is a stop called Askam Railway Station . Services run south to Barrow and some continue on to the West Coast Mainline at Lancaster . To the north the lines links to the Sellafield nuclear power plant , a major local employer , and onwards to Carlisle .

= = Politics and demographics = =

As a civil parish , the villages have a parish council which usually meets monthly , normally the third Tuesday of each month . All eight councillors will be up for election at the forthcoming English local government elections on 3 May 2007 . The villages also fall into the Dalton North ward of the borough , with voters electing three councillors to represent them on the council . The ward also elects one councillor to represent it on Cumbria County Council . It is part of the Barrow and Furness parliamentary constituency , represented by Labour MP John Woodcock . According to the most recent census , in 2001 , the population of the (civil) parish is 3 @, @ 632 , with an even balance of male and female .

= = Sport = =

The villages have several sporting facilities , including the Fallowfield Park rugby league ground , home of Askam Amateur Rugby League Football Club . Formed in 1879 , the amateur club is a member of British Amateur Rugby League Association and in 2007 ? 2008 were elected to the National Conference League Division 2 , but withdrew before the start of the season . There is Askam United Football Club who play in the West Lancashire Football League Division Two and

Duddon SC , a cricket team based at the old K Shoes factory social club , now called Duddon Sports and Social Club . There is also a newly formed junior football team and due to playing on the Sports Club pitches , has taken the name of Duddon Sports Junior Football Club .

A 10 @-@ hole links golf course , belonging to the Dunnerholme Golf Club , lies to the north of Askam . The course has one particularly interesting feature , namely a green atop Dunnerholme Rock , a large uneroded limestone rock which stands out from the surrounding flat course and sands . The golf club has been in existence since 1905 .

= = Public buildings = =

Askam and Ireleth has four village halls : Temperance Hall in Ireleth , Askam Community Centre (formerly part of Askam School) which was refurbished in 2010 , Band Hall in Sandy Lane , the home of Askam & Ireleth Silver Band , the local brass band , and venue for dances , and Rankin Hall in Askam . Temperance Hall was built by the Quakers in 1872 ; it was marked as a place of worship on Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century , and was used by the Bible Christians , a Methodist denomination . It later fell out of use as a religious centre , being marked on maps in 1913 as simply a hall . The Temperance Hall was closed before being renovated in the 1990s , and is now used as a community centre and the location of parish council alternate months with the Rankin Hall , which is also the meeting place for the local Women 's Institute .

As already mentioned , there is St. Peter 's Church overlooking the two villages atop Ireleth Hill , which is the oldest of the churches in the villages , and holds the only churchyard in the villages and adjoins the local cemetery ; and the Temperance Hall that was once used as a church . There are three other places of worship within the village .

In 1907 , at a cost of £ 350 , The Christian Meeting House was built on Crossley Street in Askam , as a Church of Christ Church . This became , in 1956 , St. Anthony 's Catholic Church , and is still used in that capacity today . Sadly it is due to close by the end of 2009 . On Duddon Road , in Askam , there is also a Methodist Church , called Duddon Road Church . This is a shared building with the Church of England and is the headquarters of the local scouts , cubs , beavers , rainbows and brownies .

There were once two other churches in the village , but they are no longer in use as Churches . Zion , on Beach Street , Askam , was a Primitive Methodist church that was founded in 1870 . It closed in 1985 . There was also a United Methodist Church in Askam , and though the building still stands on Duke Street , it is now used as a social club . The Church was opened in 1878 , on land that was donated by the Furness Iron and Steel Company. and became the Rankin Hall (see above) The Gospel hall on Duke Street closed some five years ago .

There is a lifeboat station , home of the Duddon Inshore Rescue , that was established in 1970 . Askam has a fountain commemorating Queen Victoria 's Jubilee . There are two schools , Ireleth St Peter 's CE Primary School and Askam Village School , both of which are primary schools . There are no secondary schools in the village . There is a public library in Lord Street in Askam . It was originally built in 1904 as a reading room branch of Dalton @-@ in @-@ Furness Library .