



Broom's Cross '2' on map

Two other historical features are the Stocks and Sundial, which are situated on Water Street opposite the Nags Head Public House. It is thought that the Sundial is of Jacobean origin and was erected before 1720 and is one of the oldest in South West Lancashire. The stocks were used as a punishment for people from the parish of Sefton and the earliest known reference to them dates back to 1725.

Thornton has great access to outdoor activities such as rambling and cycling and there is a large network of public footpaths throughout the area perfect for walking.

The map overleaf details the parish and highlights its public footpaths and two



Rothwells Lane 'A' on map

Thornton has close links to the surrounding towns and villages. either within its boundaries or in the form of wayside 'Crosses', which exist for the number of ancient monuments in a castle or historic event but it is significant famous as the scene of an important battle. Despite its long history, Thornton is not changed throughout its long history. Historically its boundaries have hardly grown and now stands at about 2000. Prior to 1930 Thornton was entirely rural and information on their work within Trust and the Forestry Commission stewardship of Lancashire Wildlife The two walks cross land under the Council which can be found on www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk

The aim of this guide is to highlight the local features and encourage Thornton residents and visitors to explore this rural location and discover its links to the past.

Thornton Parish is located in the Metropolitan Borough of Sefton, it is largely rural, made up of a series of small towns and villages, such as Thornton and Homer Green and its boundaries have hardly changed for hundreds of years. Thornton is approximately eight miles north of Liverpool and is neighbour to the Parishes of Ince Blundell and Sefton. The picturesque village of Little Crosby and the larger Great Crosby are both within easy reach, with their array of shops and public amenities.

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ABOUT THE PARISH



Thornton Footpath No 2, 'A' & 'B' on map



River Alt '6' on map

Thornton is well served by road and public transport links specifically bus services. Details and further information is available on the www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk Merseytravel website or Travelling on 0871 200 2233

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THORNTON PARISH



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For further details about these and other paths and walks in Sefton, see the Sefton Council website www.sefton.gov.uk or contact the Rights of Way Officer on **0845 140 0845**

Calls to 0845 numbers cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge



Parish of Thornton



VILLAGE GUIDE EXPLORING ITS HISTORICAL LINKS WITH BROOM'S CROSS

INCLUDES 2 NEW WALKS TO ENJOY

Try cycling!

It's also a great way to see the scenery in Thornton and Sefton.

There are some fantastic routes in the borough. For maps, cycling information and cycle hire, see the VISIT Sefton and West Lancs website

www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk



Roughley Around Thornton Walk

- Commencing at the Stocks and Sundial at the top of Water Street cross Green Lane into Holgate. Pass the Nags Head Public House on your right and follow the lane. Pass through a gate and horse stile and continue for a short distance before reaching Broom's Cross Road.
- Cross Broom's Cross Road via the crossing point, turn left into open countryside. Follow the field edge track and the ancient monument Broom's Cross comes into view on your left. Only the stonebase of the original medieval wayside cross still remains.
- Continue straight along the track known as Gates Lane and Thornton Byway No. 8 and turn left at the waymarker at Homer Green Farm. The path then bends to the right passing close to Homer Green Barn on the left continue until reaching Lunt Road.
- Crossing Lunt Road, turn left then turn right into Broad Lane passing the aptly named red brick house on your left. Continue straight until you reach a kissing gate, pass through the gate and continue straight on.
- Follow the track passing through three further kissing gates to the pumping station on the foot of the River Alt embankment.
- Turn right and just after the pumping station, traverse up the embankment, look right and St Helen's Church comes into view in the distance. Continue along the embankment up to Showrick Bridge and then at the bridge descend the steps onto a field edge path Sefton Footpath No 1.
- Follow the stone track to the junction of several footpaths turn right, continue along the track round to the left onto the stone track, keeping the wooded area (Roughley's Wood) on your left, follow the track to the gate at Lunt Lane.
- Proceed forward at Lunt Lane passing Lunt Farm on the right to the junction of Lunt Road. Cross over Lunt Road into Back Lane directly opposite.
- Follow Back Lane and turn left into the field after the last house on the left, follow the field edge path that runs parallel to Back Lane until you come upon a gap on the right hand side in the hedge line. Go through the gap and go straight across Back Lane into the field opposite.
- Continue straight on until you reach a fork in the path (a timber bench), turn left keeping the hedge line on the right.
- Follow the field edge, the route dog legs right then left and rejoins the track adjacent to Broom's Cross monument. Continue along the path and turn right to cross Broom's Cross Road.
- Retrace your steps back to the Stocks and Sundial following Holgate again passing the Nags Head Public House.



Wayside Walk

- Commencing at the Stocks and Sundial at the top of Water Street, cross Green Lane and turn right passing the Nags Head Public House. Take the first left into Rothwells Lane and continue to the end of the lane. Then take the public footpath to the right, Thornton No. 2, turn left and follow the path to Broom's Cross Road.
- Turn left and follow the bridleway adjacent to Broom's Cross Road. Cross the road at the crossing point before turning left onto a track. Follow the track and the ancient monument known as Broom's Cross will come into view on your left. Only the stonebase of the original medieval wayside cross still remains.
- Continue along the track then veer left onto another footpath known as Thornton Footpath No. 7.
- Follow the field edge path enjoying the wonderful views of open fields then exit onto Long lane.
- Turn right onto Long Lane and continue up to the next footpath on the left hand side, Thornton Footpath No. 5. Turn left onto the path, passing under a canopy of trees along the way. In the autumn walk on a carpet of leaves keeping a watchful eye out, as wild pheasant often frequent this path, continue and exit on to Park Wall Road.

- Turn left and continue along Park Wall Road until you reach the main Liverpool to Southport Road (A565) with the Lion Gates on your right.
- Cross the A565 and turn right and continue for a short distance to a public footpath on your left, Ince Blundell Footpath No. 4, turn left and follow the path to Back Lane.
- Go straight on at Back Lane passing Crosby Hall Educational Trust on the left hand side until you reach St Mary's Church.
- Follow the road round to the left and enter the unspoilt village of Little Crosby. In the centre of the village, note the cross carved into the brickwork on the left and the village cross on the right. Follow the main road and painted on the wall is a cross where it was reputed to be a stopping place for funeral processions, continue until you reach the lodge on your left at the far end of the village.
- Directly after the lodge turn left onto footpath Crosby No.11 keeping the wall on your left, continue until you reach the kissing gate at Ormskirk Lodge and turn right into Virgin's Lane.
- Continue along Virgin's Lane to the junction of Brook Road and turn left. Follow the road bearing right at the junction of Ince Road at the T junction, until you reach the main junction at Park View and Quarry Road.
- Cross the junction into Green Lane and follow the road back to the Stocks and Sundial.