ABOUT THE PARISH

Parish of
Thorton

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

Sefton Council

Try cycling!

It’s also a great way to see the scenery in Thornton and Sefton. For maps, cycling information and cycle hire, see the Visit Sefton and West Lancashire website www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk

VILLAGE GUIDE EXPLORING ITS HISTORICAL LINKS WITH BROOM’S CROSS

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Wayside Walk

A. 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 footpath 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.

B. Turn left and follow the bridleway adjacent to Broom’s 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.

C. Continue along the track then veer left onto another footpath known as Thornton Footpath No. 7.

D. Follow the field edge path enjoying the wonderful views of open fields then exit onto Long Lane.

E. 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, keep watchful eyes out for wild pheasants often frequent this path. Continue and exit on to Park Wall Road.

F. 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.

G. 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.

H. Go straight on at Back Lane passing Crosby Hall Educational Trust on the left hand side until you reach St Mary’s Church.

I. Follow the road round to the left and enter the unspoiled 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 this village.

J. 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 Dimslik Lodge and turn right into Virgin’s Lane.

K. 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.

L. Cross the junction into Green Lane and follow the road back to the Stocks and Sundial.

Roughley Around Thornton Walk

1. 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.

2. 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 stone base of the original medieval wayside cross still remains.

3. Continue straight along the track known as Gates Lane and Thornton Bypass No. 8 and turn left at the waymarker at Holgate Green Farm. The path then bends to the right passing close to Holgate Green Barn on the left until reaching Lunt Road.

4. Crossing Lunt Road turn left then turn right into Broad Lane passing the sply named red brick house on your left. Continue straight until you reach a kissing gate, pass through the gate and continue straight on.

5. Follow the track passing through three further kissing gates to the pumping station on the foot of the River Alt embankment.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Proceed forward at Lunt Lane passing Lunt Farm on the right and continue for a short distance before reaching Lunt Road. Cross over Lunt Road into Back Lane directly opposite.

9. 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 gain height across Back Lane into the field opposite.

10. Continue straight on until you reach a fork in the path (a timber bench), turn left keeping the hedge line on the right.

11. Follow the field edge, the route dog legs right then left and rejoin the track adjacent to Broom’s Cross monument. Continue along the path and turn right to cross Broom’s Cross Road.

12. Retrace your steps back to the Stocks and Sundial following Holgate again passing the Nags Head Public House.