

# GREAT CROSBY HERITAGE 2

## - A WALKING TRAIL

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### Crosby name?

Place names ending -by often reflect a Viking derivation and many settled in Merseyside after being expelled from Dublin in 902.

[https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/research/heroimages/Vikings\\_in\\_Merseyside.pdf](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/research/heroimages/Vikings_in_Merseyside.pdf)

The cross (probably 18<sup>th</sup> century but restored towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup>) covered the ancient St Michael's Well. Great Crosby is not mentioned separately in the Domesday Book, but only in relation to the royal manor of West Derby of which it was part. Known previously as Crossebi, 1176; Major Grosseby, 1211; Crosseby, 1212; Micle Crosseby, 1292; Much and Great Crosby both used in the sixteenth century.

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/lancs/vol3/pp91-95>

### Crosby population?

In the first Census in 1801 there were 1391 people; there were 30,000 more, about 20 times as many (31,877) by 1901. It grew by another 20,000 in the twentieth century to reach 51,789 in 2001.

### Things to see?

**War Memorial, Alexandra Park, Coronation Road L23 5RD** unveiled by Lord Stanley, 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby, exactly five years after the end of WWI on 11 November 1923. WWII names were added later. When first built it was "topped by a 'Lamp of Memory', an electric light in the form of an eternal flame to be lit every night."



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1435226>

**Glacial boulder** dug up in Crosby Brick Works (now Manor Road) in 1898 as 18 tons of gypsum dating from the ice age. It was moved to **Coronation Park** also in **Coronation Road** in 1926.



<https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/4016044>

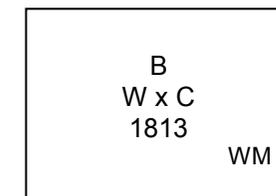
On from the village

**Windmill, Moor Lane L23 2SH** dating from 1813, the fourth oldest building in Great Crosby, was built by the local landowner William Blundell when his estate nearby was enclosed and the original mill became inaccessible.



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1257388>

The datestone (as below) is not an early advert for milling barley, wheat and corn, but refers to William Blundell's marriage to Catherine Stanley.



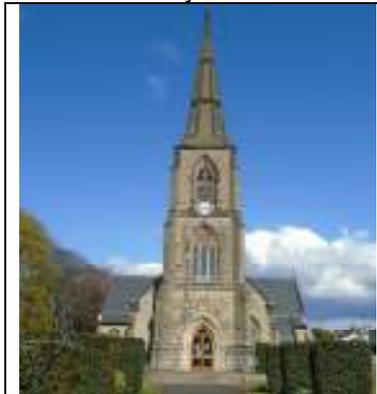
Missing its sails and now a private house, the windmill can be viewed from the road.

**Laurence Johnson Memorial** is on the Moorside Road side of **Moorside Park**. The park is named after Moorside Farm where Laurence Johnson grew up. He was sometimes known as 'Richardson' after his father Richard Johnson. He became a Catholic priest in France in 1577 and five years later back in England was accused of complicity in the supposed 'Rheims and Rome Plot'. Edmund Campion and two priests were hanged for this 'treason' in 1581, Johnson and seven others at Tyburn in 1582. He was beatified by Pope Leo XIII in 1886.



<https://catholicsaints.info/new-catholic-dictionary-blessed-lawrence-richardson/>

**St Luke's Church, Liverpool Road L23 5SE** was built 1853/54 but the inside and rear were re-built in late 20<sup>th</sup> century after fire.



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1257554>

### **Merchant Taylors Schools, Liverpool Road**

The original part of the girls' school **L23 5SP** dates from the foundation in 1620 of a Free Grammar School by the merchant John Harrison.



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1257528>

The main building in the boys' school **L23 0QW** dates from 1878, as does the Headmaster's House alongside, the entrance lodge and gateway. All four are listed.



<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1257525>

On from the village

Both schools are best viewed from Liverpool Road.

On the other side of Liverpool Road, between the Merchant Taylors girls and boys schools is **St Peter's and St Paul's RC Church L23 5TE** founded in 1826.



One of the graves in the cemetery at the back of the church is that of Pat Phoenix (Elsie Tanner in 'Coronation Street'). Towards the end of her life she and Anthony Booth ('Till Death Us Do Part') were married.

Nazareth House (not illustrated) also on Liverpool Road was originally built in 1897 as a children's home by Father James Nugent and the Sisters of Nazareth.

<http://www.childrenshomes.org.uk/CrosbyNH/>  
It is now a residential home and is not open to the public.

There is a heritage trail for the neighbouring Waterloo published in 2015 on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. See [www.visitsouthport.com](http://www.visitsouthport.com)