



*Ormskirk
Through
Time*

850

- A Viking named Orm Builds a church on a high spot on the edge of the marsh
- The vikings made their way inland probably using roads left from the Roman occupation for more information see; Peter Herring Sefton's Viking Coast; <https://dynamicdunescape.co.uk/2020/09/seftons-viking-coast>

1124

- Burscough Priory founded by Robert Fitzhenry de Lathom, was probably a large and impressive monastery .
- , At the dissolution in 1592 it housed the Prior, 4 Monks & 40 dependants.

1286

- Edward I awards a Charter to the monks of Burscough Priory to hold a market in Ormskirk
- A pivotal event that made Ormskirk a significant market town at the crossroads of major routes, with the market continuing to this day, traditionally on Thursdays and Saturdays

1359

- Black Death Probably affects Ormskirk

1435

- The first spire at Ormskirk Parish Church was **1435**, part of a smaller tower integrated into the south aisle, but it was blown down in 1731 and rebuilt, then rebuilt again after a lightning strike in 1832

1496

- Lathom House develops as one of the biggest and grandest houses in the country
- Henry VII visits Lathom House – worships at Ormskirk Parish Church.

1538

- Henry VIII Dissolves the monasteries - The Charter for the market passes to The Earl of Derby

1542

- The West tower of the Parish Church was built to house the bells from Burscough Priory



Historicengland.com



1600

- Map shows Ormskirk as a cluster of buildings around the Cross

1614

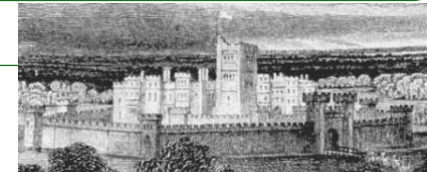
- The foundation of Ormskirk Grammar school

1617

- James I Passes the Ormskirk Cross on his way to Lathom House to take up the throne

1644/45

- Lathom House beseiged by Parlimentry Forces during the Civil War



1646

- The Parlimentarians destroy Lathom House

1648

- The Earl of Derby is Captured by Parliment Forces, beheaded at Bolton.
- He is buried in The Ormskirk Parish Church



1661

James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby,
portrait by [van Dyck](#), Frick Collection,
New York

1661

Countess of Derby presents font to Ormskirk Parish Church to celebrate restoration.

1743

- The Liverpool to Preston Road was improved
- The road was then "Turnpiked" in 1770

1751

First post passes through Ormskirk from Liverpool to Preston.
Stagecoaches would be passing along Aughton Street – Burscough Street – Coaching Inns like the Buck 'ith Vine would date from this period.

1779

- The Town Hall was built
- The Original building on Church Street still exists

1776

- The Dispensary established

1800

Population is now probably about 6,000. A small market town with a range of small scale industries - brewing, flax and silk weaving, hat and glove making, rope making, blacksmith, coopers and foundry.

1820

First Bank opened – savings bank in Lydiate Lane (renamed Derby Street in 1890).

1830

Dr. Brandreth opens a dispensary in Burscough Street – this building is now the Farmer's Club

1834

- Congregational Church built in Chapel Street



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1835

- Gas Works built in Aughton Street
- The first gas lights circ1840

1848/9

- Railway comes to Ormskirk
- The Railway company buys land from the Grammar school to build station and railway yard.

1849

- Grammar school moves to Ruff Lane
- New Building opens

1850

- Girls National School extended in Lydiate Lane
- Sessions House, Magistrates Court ,Police Building opened in Lydiate Lane cost £2200

1851

- Social conditions were hard . No sanitation, or piped water. Town overcrowded in a very compact town. St Annes RC church built just outside of the town boundaries, because of Anglican Domination Local Board of health established and replaced Court Leet as the main body of local government
- Ormskirk Advertiser oppened. An excellent local newspaper.

1853

- Workhouse built in Wigan Road, now Ormskirk General Hospital
- Water piped to houses for the first time via a series of water towers



1854

- Public Library opens in Church Street

1868

- Working' men's Club Institute opened by RT. Hon. Lord Skelmesdale, later to become Earl of Lathom - situated at junction of St Helens Road & Moor St



1870

- Market Charter passes to the Local Authority

1870/90

- Major restoration of Parish Church undertaken

1876

- Clock Tower Built by The Court Leet with money raised partly by public subscription & using balance of funds from the dissolution of this body

1876/8

- Emmanuel Church is completed

1884

- Statue of Lord Beaconsfield (Disraeli) unveiled by Earl Of Lathom



1885

- The Prince of Wales Visits Ormskirk

1890

- Victoria Park Established

1894

- Local government Reform: Ormskirk Urban District & West Lancashire Rural District are formed within the LancashireCounty

1896

- Brandreth Hospital opened



1900

- Population Circa 6500in Ormskirk Town. During the 19C has remained a small market town with a wide range of small scale industiesSimilar town sin the region have grown dramatically. St Helens population 4,000 in 1821, now in1901 85,000. Southport practically zero in1801 - now 60,000 and Liverpool from 77,000 now700.000
- Drill Hall in Southport opened.
- Derby Street west is created and Lydiate Lane remamed as Derby Street

1913

- Railway line to Liverpool is electrified- commuting begins in earnest
- The development of Aughton begins in earnest from this point



1920

- County road is built to take Liverpool - Preston traffic around Ormskirk through the fields well to the west

1921

- Ormskirk population reaches 7400

1931

- Ormskirk Population reaches 9400

1933

- Ormskirk College opens

1944

- The 1944 Education Act; the post war period sees many new schools open in response to increases in the population and new trends in education
- new schools replace the Board Schools of the 19C e.g. Greetby Hill, West End, St Annes etc

1948

- The National Health Service - Wigan Road Hospital developed from 19th Century workhouse

1950's

- Population of the town 10350
- Knowles House on the junction of Burscough Street was demolished to give way to the new Public Library

1961

- Population: ormskirk Town 10600
- New Traffic schemes were started including the diversion of traffic from the "Cross"

1962

- Skelmesdale designated a New Town
- Buildings were demolished, including The Kings Arms Hotel, The Talbot Hotel Ormskirk Hall, The Wheatsheaf Hotel, The Working Mans Institute, The Clucas Building, The Troqueer Building and Dr Suffern's House
- Regal Cinema Closes to become a Bingo Hall then in 1964 the building is redeveloped into a Tesco supermarket

1970's

Population: Ormskirk Town 14300.

West Lancs Planning Dept. consider that 80% of the population growth in the period 1961-71 has been caused by people buying newly built private houses in and around Ormskirk.

Drill Hall becomes a public Hall, run by the council. Ormskirk baths opened. Pavilion cinema closes.

Local Government reorganised. Ormskirk Urban District Council and West Lancs Rural District Council combine with others to form West Lancs District Council

The demolition of older buildings continues in this period, essentially to provide car parking space. Buildings demolished behind Derby Street West, Burscough Street and Railway Road, create the Stiles and Wheatsheaf-Leyland Way car parks. Buildings opposite the newly built Woolworths on Aughton Street were demolished to create new shops with offices above

The Victorian water towers at Scarth Hill, Ruff wood and Greetby Hill were decommissioned and demolished. The Tower Hill water tower was decommissioned only and still survives with the tank removed. A new, larger capacity and futuristic designed water tower was built on Scarth Hill.

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1980's

1981 Population: Ormskirk town C.16000.

Ormskirk originally developed as a market town with a wide range of small business industries. The market still attracts many visitors and brings income to the town. Ormskirk is now the service centre for the West Lancs area with the main employment locally being Local Government, Education, the Health Service, shops and offices in the town centre.

Ormskirk Advertiser newspaper ceased printing in the town.

A new road was built (Park Road) from St.Helens Road, across the railway, then across Moorgate and then connecting with the existing Park Road and Vicarage Road which were widened, to form the inner bypass of the town. Once the road schemes were completed, the town was pedestrianised.

A new police station was built on the corner of Burscough Street and Derby Street, on part of the site where Dr Suffern's house once stood.

1990's

1991 Population: Ormskirk town C.18000.

Ormskirk Hospital re-built on extended Wigan Road site.

Workhouse and some newer buildings from the old site retained.

Martins scrapyard in Park Road re-developed into 2 Saints Retail park.

Gas Board site re-developed into Safeway supermarket - now Morrisons.

Beaconsfield monument re-located from junction of Moor Street and St. Helens Road to the pedestrian area of Moor Street outside the Golden Lion pub.

2000's

2001 Population: Ormskirk town 23660

2005 Hattersley's closed and re-developed into Hattersley Retail Park.

Edge Hill College becomes a university with many new buildings added. Student numbers soar to a peak of C.18,000.

Many traditional first-time buyer houses in the town become student accommodation.

2010's

- 2011 Population: Ormskirk town 24,073.
- 2012 Ormskirk war memorial relocated from outside the recently closed Comrades of The Great War Club to Coronation Park.
- 2015 Magistrates courts close.
- 2019 The Post Office in Aughton Street closes and is re-located within WH.Smith on Moor Street

2020's

- 2021 Population: Ormskirk town 27708.
Windmill Inn redeveloped as apartments with additional mews housing within the grounds.
Many of the major banks start to close their branches
- 2025 The Market continues weekly, (Thursday & Saturday), but many smaller retailers did not survive the effects of the Covid Pandemic, and the Post Brexit Financial Downturn