

Vauxhall Time Line

1857 Alexander Wilson sets up Vauxhall Iron Works in London to produce marine engines.	1925 Vauxhall becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of General Motors. 25/70 S-type launched.	1946 Car production resumed. H, I and J-types cars and K, M and O model Bedfords in production.
1903 First Vauxhall car.	1927 R-type 20/60 introduced.	1947 500,000th Bedford truck produced.
1904 12/14hp model launched.	1929 T-type 20/60 replaces R chassis.	1948 L-type Wyvern/Velox models launched. £14 million expansion starts at the Luton Plant.
1905 Factory moved to Luton. 7/9hp model introduced. Company's first 4-cylinder model, an 18hp car.	1930 Cadet 17hp and 25hp models launched. T60 6-cylinder chassis in production.	1950 "Big Bedford" S-type 7-ton truck and 10-ton tractor units introduced.
1906 Bonnet flute styling is first featured on Vauxhall cars.	1931 Vauxhall's first commercial vehicle – the Bedford 2-ton truck – launched.	1951 E-type introduced in 1.5 and 2.25 litre variants.
1907 Vauxhall Motors Ltd established.	1932 Bedford 30 and 12cwt vans introduced.	1952 10/12cwt Bedford CA van introduced.
1908 20hp model introduced.	1933 Light Six 12, 14hp, BY, BX20 and 16hp 6-cylinder introduced. Bedford 3-ton truck and 8cwt van introduced.	1953 Jubilee of the Vauxhall car. 1-Millionth vehicle built. Bedford A-type replaces K, M and O ranges.
1909 R-type 16hp model announced.	1935 DY and DX – first British cars with independent front suspension.	1954 £36 million plant-expansion project announced. E-type Cresta launched.
1910 Brooklands racetrack – a Vauxhall becomes the first 20hp car to exceed 100mph.	1936 GY and GL 25hp introduced.	1955 Bedford truck production moved to Dunstable.
1911 C-type Prince Henry introduced.	1937 First car with integral body/chassis, the 10hp H-type.	1957 Victor F-type 1.5 litre saloons, PA 6-cylinder models and Bedford 6-ton D and C models introduced.
1912 25hp D-type introduced.	1938 12hp I-type, 14hp J-type cars and Bedford 5/6cwt van introduced.	1958 Victor estate car offered. Millionth Bedford made.
1913 The 30/98 introduced.	1939 10/12cwt Bedford van introduced.	1959 2-Millionth Vauxhall produced. New car plant at Ellesmere Port announced.
1914-18 Vauxhall makes over 2000 D-types as Army staff cars.	1939-45 War production – included 250,000 Bedford trucks and 5,640 Churchill tanks.	
1922 M-type 14/40 introduced. 25hp D-type becomes 23hp OD 23/60.		

1960 Bedford introduce TK trucks and tractor units.	1975 Chevette hatchback launched.	1985 Construction begins of £90 million paint shop at Luton.
1961 FB Victors introduced.	1976 Bedford outsell all other UK trucks. VX model and Bedford Chevanne launched.	1986 GM Europe established. Astra convertible launched.
1962 PB 6-cylinder launched.	1977 Cavalier production begins at Luton.	1987 New Luton paint shop begins operation. Senator range and Nova GTE launched.
1963 HA Viva 1-litre saloon launched.	1978 75 th Anniversary of Vauxhall cars. New models – Carlton, Royale, Cavalier sports hatch. 1-Millionth Bedford van and 2-Millionth Bedford truck produced.	1988 16-valve Astra GTE launched. 1 million Cavaliers sold.
1964 FC Victor 101 and Bedford 8cwt HA vans introduced.	1979 Astra front-wheel-drive car range announced.	1989 £50 million modernisation of Luton Plant begins. Cavalier 4x4 available.
1965 PC Cresta 3.3 litre 6-cylinder introduced.	1980 Viceroy saloon and Bedford TL truck launched.	1990 Calibra launched. Griffin House – new headquarters opens.
1966 HB Viva production begins at Ellesmere Port. PC – Viscount launched.	1981 J-type Cavalier launched. Bedford 50 th Anniversary. Astra production begins at Ellesmere Port.	1991 Vauxhall enters the recreational vehicle market with the four-wheel-drive Frontera, built by IBC Vehicles.
1967 FD Victor wins "British Car of the Year" award.	1982 Diesel engines available for Astra and Cavalier. Cavalier convertible announced. 1.5 Millionth Bedford exported. Astra van announced.	1992 £193 million ECOTEC engine plant opened. Vauxhall becomes first UK manufacturer to equip petrol-engined cars with catalytic converters.
1968 Ventora introduced.	1983 Bedford, now part of GM Overseas Commercial Vehicle Corporation becomes Bedford Commercial Vehicle Division. Nova range and Astra GTE launched.	1993 Vauxhall receives the Queen's Award for Export Achievement. Corsa replaces Nova. The GM Card from Vauxhall announced. Vauxhall receives Investors in People Award.
1969 2-Millionth Bedford produced.	1984 GM invests £100million in car manufacturing facilities. New Astra range launched. Astra van and 1ton Midi van launched.	1994 Omega replaces Carlton and Senator ranges as the new flagship model. Tigra coupe and Corsavan launched. Vauxhall becomes the first volume vehicle manufacturer in Europe to be registered by the British Standards Institution to BS5750 (ISO 9000).
1970 HC Viva and Bedford M-type 4x4 introduced.		
1971 Millionth Viva produced. Firenza coupe announced.		
1972 Vauxhall FE 1800 and 2300 models introduced.		
1973 Viva variants: Magnum 1800 and 2300 launched.		
1974 Bedford TM range introduced.		

1995

Vauxhall celebrates 90 years in Luton.
Vectra replaces Cavalier after £136 million refurbishment of the Luton Plant.
Ellesmere Port Plant becomes the first vehicle manufacturing plant in the world to be registered by the British Standards Institution to the new BS7750 (ISO 14001) standard for environmental management systems.
Vauxhall's new £3 million recreation facility opens in Luton.

1996

Ellesmere Port becomes the first UK car plant to gain the EMAS certificate.
Aftersales and Luton Plant gain BS7750.
Vauxhall becomes the first vehicle manufacturing company in Europe to have all its operations approved to BS7750.
£300 million investment at Ellesmere Port Plant announced.
Sintra, Vauxhall's entry into the "people mover" market announced.
Vectra Estate introduced.

1997

Vauxhall Arena goes on sale.
Vauxhall's highest-ever monthly sales volume recorded with the R-plate registrations in August 1997.
The 250,000th Vauxhall Vectra model was built on Thursday, 22nd May at the Luton Plant.
The V6 engine plant produces its quarter millionth V6 engine.

1998

Vauxhall Frontera piloted by three world-class endurance drivers sets a new World Record by driving around the world in 21 days 2 hours and 14 minutes.
New Astra, Frontera and Astravan launched.

1999

Movano medium van launched.
New Vectra and Zafira MPV launched.
Astra coupe announced.
New Omega range announced.
Vauxhall becomes the first manufacturer to sell cars on the Internet.

2000

New Aluminium ECOTEC engines announced.
IBC Vehicles to produce new van.
VX220 and Astra coupe go on sale.
New Corsa range launched.
Agila MPV launched.
Vauxhall's new Engineering Centre opens at Millbrook in Bedfordshire.
Vauxhall Customer Assistance becomes Pan-European Customer Care Centre based in Luton.
Vauxhall announced restructuring of manufacturing facilities, with production to cease at Luton.

2001

GM-Fiat joint venture begins operation bringing changes to the V6 engine facility at Ellesmere Port and Vauxhall's Purchasing Division.
Vauxhall announced Astra Convertible.
Vivaro medium van and Frontera in production at Luton site.
New Vectra to be built alongside Astra at Ellesmere Port from 2002.
Vauxhall wins three awards from the Environmental Transport Association, including a Best in Class award for the Vectra's 2.0l 16V engine.

2002

VX220, Zafira and Astra Convertible are named *What Car?* cars of the year in their respective classes.
New Vectra launched in the UK.
Vauxhall's Agila is named the greenest MPV on the road by the Environmental Transport Association.

2003

Fleet operators name the Vauxhall Vectra 2003 ACFO (Association of Car Fleet Operators) Car of the Year.
The sensational VX220 Turbo puts the company into the supercar performance league.
Vivaro wins 'Best Small Van' two years in a row in the *Commercial Fleet World* Honours.
New edition Agila is made available to order.

2004

New Astra Sport Hatch released.
Limited Edition Corsa Exclusiv, New Tigra and New Astra Estate released.
Zafira voted 'Best Buy' by readers of *Prima Baby* magazine.

2005

New Zafira and Monaro go on sale.
New Vectra and Vectra VXR released.
Astra becomes the 4,000,000th vehicle to be produced at Ellesmere Port.
Astra Wins ACFO (Association of Car Fleet Operators) Car of the Year Award.

2006

400,000th Vivaro Van rolls off the line.
Professional Van and Light Truck magazine name Vivaro Van of the Year.
Astra now available with panoramic windscreen.
New Astravan, Astra TwinTop and New Meriva VXR released.
All New Corsa unveiled at the British International Motor Show.