The Pendle Sculpture Trail

**Visit the Pendle Sculpture Trail in an atmospheric woodland setting. Art, history and nature come together against the stunning backdrop of Pendle Hill.**

Four artists have created a unique and intriguing range of sculptures. Their work is inspired by the history of the Pendle Witches of 1612 and the natural world in this wild and beautiful corner of Lancashire.

Explore the peaceful setting of Aitken Wood to find ceramic plaques by Sarah McDade. She’s designed each one individually to symbolise the ten people from Pendle who were accused of witchcraft over 400 years ago. You’ll also find an inspiring range of sculptures, large and small, which are created from wood, steel and stone, including Philippe Handford’s amazing curving tree sculptures.

Philippe’s sculptures include: Reconnected 1, Reconnected 2, The Gateway, Life Circle, Reconnected 1, Reconnected 2, and Spirits of the Wood (steel metal bats, owls and a giant spiders’ web representing the natural world at twilight and movement). There’s even a beautifully carved life-size figure of a witchfinder by Martyn Bednarczuk. This sculpture is the long-sought after figure of the local magistrate, Roger Nowell, who first interrogated the Pendle villagers who later became famous as the Pendle Witches.

Other things to see and do

There are many other things to see and do in Pendle. This is a beautiful countryside and is popular with walkers and cyclists. There are also a number of great events throughout the year including the award-winning Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival in Colne at the August Bank Holiday and the Pendle Walking Festival in September.

To find out more about the Pendle Witches we have a Pendle Witches Trail which can be done by bike, walking or on foot. This will take you up into the village of Newchurch (home of “Witches Galore” emporium) and down again into the village of Barley.

From the A59 Preston - Skipton route: At Gublaw take the road signs for Nelson, and after about two to three miles look for a pub on the left called the Moorcock Inn, after the pub look for signs for Barley Picnic site on the sharp left hand bend. Turn right. This route will take you through the village of Roughlee.

If you’ve enjoyed this sculpture trail you might like to visit these others:

**East Lancashire Panopticons**
- www.midpenninearts.org.uk/panopticons

**Burnley**
- www.tinyurl.com/towneleysculptures

**Ribble Valley**
- www.tinyurl.com/ribblevalleysculptures

**Irwell Valley**
- www.irwellsculpturetrail.co.uk

**Lancashire**
- www.lancashirewitches400.org

There are many other art attractions as well and these can be found at:
- www.visitlancashire.com
- www.visitpendle.com

Thanks to all the sculptors who have backed this fantastic project. The land on which the trail is set is owned by the Mid Pennine Arts land trust, and via the Pendle Heritage Centre. The Artists (as pictured here left to right) are Philippe Handford (Lead Artist), Steve Blaylock, Martyn Bednarczuk, and Sarah McDade.

**Walk distance:** It is approximately 1 mile to get to the trail from Barley Car Park including one uphill stretch and one steep path. Once in Aitken Wood, which is situated on a slope, you could easily walk another mile walking around. Please wear stout footwear as there can be some muddy stretches after wet weather.

**Allow around 2 to 3 hours** for your visit.

See back cover for details on how to book a tramper vehicle for easier access to the wood for people with walking difficulties.
**Witches in the woods**

The Pendle Witches lived 400 years ago but their history resonates down through the centuries and still holds lessons for us all today. During an era of religious persecution and superstition they were the convenient scapegoats of their day.

It all started on the 18th of March 1612 when Alizon Device cursed a pedlar and believed that she had harmed him. The local Justice of the Peace began an investigation, and soon it ratcheted up to become Britain’s biggest witchcraft trial. Nine year old Jennet Device, grandchild of Demdike and sister of Alizon, took centre stage in court, giving evidence against neighbours and her own family.

On the 20th August 1612 nine of the accused from Pendle were hanged in Lancaster. Jennet and Alizon’s grandmother, Demdike, died before-hand in the terrible conditions of Lancaster Castle’s Well Tower.

**Which witch is which?!**

You could win a weekend break in Pendle...

To follow this unique witches in the woods trail we have placed the rough location of each plaque on a map of the wood. Here are some clues on the identity of each witch. All you need to do is match the so called witch to the correct plaque, filling in the coupon.

**Elizabeth Southern** known as Demdike and head of one of the main families involved, was one of the accused. She was an elderly lady who was imprisoned at Lancaster Castle and died before the trial – Do you see a castle tower?

**Alizon Device** was the grand-daughter of Demdike and the one it all started with. She was begging on the road to Colne in March 1612 when she passed a pedlar called John Law. She begged some pins from him, but he refused to give her anything. She cursed him and he fell down, allegedly lamed by a spell.

Can you spot a handful of pins?

**Anne Whittle** was one of the old matrarchs of the main two feuding local families accused of witchcraft. Her nickname was Chattox because she was given to chattering with her old decrepit teeth. Somewhere you’ll find a local man, Robert Nutter. There is evidence of witchcraft because she was accused of making a clay doll or ‘picture’ as they were called, in order to kill a local man, Robert Nutter. There is evidence from history and from other cultures of the use of clay dolls with pins stuck in them to do harm to people. Can you spot a clay doll on your trip through the wood?

**Katherine Hewitt.** James Device implicated Katherine as having killed Anne Foulds, a child from Colne, by witchcraft. Her nickname was Mouldheels and she was more well-to-do than most of the other so called witches. Her husband was a clothier, which meant he was a weaver or supplied yarn. Can you see a textile weave pattern anywhere?

**John Bulcock** was one of the accused who was said to have rusted the stolen mutton at the Malkin Tower gathering on Good Friday, where the Pendle Witches were said to have plotted to release the four witches that had been taken to Lancaster Castle Gaol. Can you see a sheep’s head anywhere on the trail?

**Jane Bulcock** along with her son John, was accused of practising ‘devilish arts’ on Jennet Deane of Newfield Edge so that her body was wasted and she went mad. Jane was on the list of neighbours who were at the Malkin Tower gathering where, it’s said, they plotted to blow up Lancaster Castle, kill the gaoler and rescue the four women accused of witchcraft. If this was the case she would’ve needed some slow-match or fuses – can you see which plaque they’re on?

**Anne Redferne** was the daughter of Chattox. She was accused of making a clay doll or ‘picture’ as they were called, in order to kill a local man, Robert Nutter. There is evidence from history and from other cultures of the use of clay dolls with pins stuck in them to do harm to people. Can you spot a clay doll on your trip through the wood?

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