

General history of Barley

Barley, known as Barelegh in 1324, means the infertile lea or meadow. The Township of Barley included Barley Booth, Wheatley Booth and Hay Booth and Whitehalgh (now known as Whitehough) - "Booth" means cowsheds. About 1266 a cow farm was established, followed by extensive cattle breeding in the 13th Century. Barley earned its livelihood from agriculture until the 18th century when textiles were manufactured and handlooms were installed in attics of many smallholdings as an extra source of income. Barley's brooks - as an effective source of waterpower attracted cotton factories. There was a small mill at Narrowgates and one at Barley Green, which is now the site of the water treatment plant. At its height Barley Green Mill worked 200 looms, until floods destroyed the building in 1880. A cotton twist mill at Narrowgates was built by William Hartley to spin cotton warp thread. Weavers cottages were built adjacent to the mill and are still occupied to this day. The Whitehough area is now the Camp School established in 1938 and run by the local Education Authority.

Forest of Bowland

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The AONB is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, local councils and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area. For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland AONB, visit the website at www.forestofbowland.com or telephone 01772 531473 for an information leaflet. Leaflets available from Barley Car Park Cafe and Pendle Heritage Centre, Barrowford. Public transport details telephone Travel Line 0870 608 2608.

Much of the land around Ogden and Black Moss forms part of a valuable water catchment area. The reservoir supplies drinking water and it is important to safeguard this supply.

You can help by guarding against risk of fire, fastening gates, keeping dogs under proper control, keeping to paths across farmland and avoiding damaging fences, hedges and walls. Be careful on country roads and please protect wild life, plants and trees.

When walking and riding in the countryside please follow the country code.



Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
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Aitken Wood



Aitken Wood

The route through Aitken wood is moderately steep but the views of Pendle on a fine day make it all worthwhile! Much of the route is on hard surfaced tracks but some sections are un-surfaced and may become muddy in wet weather. There are several gates and kissing gates on the route but at the time of writing only one stile, at the Whitehough end of the walk. Allow up to 1.5 hours.

The plantations

37 hectares (91 acres) of forest around the reservoirs were planted before 1935. Part of Whitehough forest was planted in 1901 with Sycamore trees - the remainder, planted in 1935 with Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce and Scots Pine. Slacks Wood and Heys Lane were planted in 1900 with Beech and Sycamore. Heys Lane was replanted in 1981.

Aitken Wood bird life

In the woodland look out for common birds such as blue tits, coal tits, blackbirds and robins, whilst during the summer keep your eyes peeled for the migratory redstart in areas of broad-leaved trees, including hedgerows containing plenty of trees. In the conifers listen out for the goldcrest, our smallest breeding bird, weighing only 5 or 6 grams. It has a very high-pitched trill which it uses whilst moving through the tops of the trees.



The walk

- 1 On leaving the car park, walk through the picnic area and the village.
- 2 Turn first right past the Methodist Church taking the track signposted private road which leads to Black Moss Reservoirs.
- 3 At the junction turn right and follow the path towards Black Moss Road.



- 7 Pass through the wood and continue ahead to the wall stile. Turn right and follow the track back to Barley.
- 6 Pass through the Kissing Gate and follow the way marked route towards the conifer wood ahead of you.
- 5 At this point follow the way marked path down hill through the wood.
- 4 Turn right through the kissing gate and follow the track up the hill.