

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.

Geological and geographical information

The area's central feature is a north-westerly facing mounting escarpment - extending from Whalley to the Aire Gap - reaching it's highest point at Pendle Hill (563m/1830ft). Pendle Hill and the Barley area are mainly formed from Millstone Grit of the upper Carboniferous series giving a typical harsh and windswept landscape with bracken, heather and cotton grass. The Pendle grit outcrop covers several square miles, including the mountainous tracts of Barley Moor and Pendle Hill. Scree and down-washed peat prevents the base of the Pendle Grit being exposed along the northerly slopes of Pendle Hill. Higher parts of Pendle Grit are intermittently exposed in the upper reaches of Ogden Clough and Boar Clough - it's major tributary draining Barley Moor. Grit stone at about the same height forms low crags along the southern side of the valley between Upper and Lower Ogden Reservoirs.



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.



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Ogden Reservoir and Fell Wood

The reservoir history

Both Lower and Upper Ogden Reservoirs supply drinking water to the Nelson area. Lower Ogden, completed in 1914 is the larger of the two with a surface area of 8.55 hectares (21.12 acres). It is 18m (59ft) deep and can hold 715,989 cubic metres (157.5 million gallons). Upper Ogden completed in 1906 has a surface area of 2.84 hectares (7.014 acres), is 17.9m (58ft) deep and can hold 247,755 cubic metres (54.5 million gallons).

The plantations

Three forests covering more than 23 hectares (56.8 acres) are established around the reservoirs. Fell Wood **A**, the largest, was planted in 1931 with Norway Spruce, Sitka Spruce, Scots Pine and Larch. Blue Wood **B**, originally planted in 1935 with Scots Pine, Sitka Spruce and Larch was felled and replanted in 1981. Buttock Plantation **C**, was planted in 1935 with Sitka Spruce and Larch.

Woodland birds

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 and pied flycatcher, all of which prefer areas containing broad-leaved 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.

One bird, that whilst still scarce in the area, is increasing in numbers nationally, is the Nuthatch. This predominantly blue and white bird is able to climb trees in a similar fashion to woodpeckers, but in contrast has the ability to walk down a tree, head first!



The walk One or two steep gradients together with some relatively rough boggy moorland. A significant number of stiles need to be crossed over the course of the walk. Allow up to 2.25 hours

1 Leave the car park by the main entrance, turn right and then cross the road to pass the village hall on your left. Pass Barley Green Farmhouse on your right and then take the first farm gate on your right hand side, taking care to fasten it securely behind you. Follow the old track way as it zig-zags over Barley Green, passing through two kissing gates whilst heading for the top of the plantation ahead.

2 Pass along the top side of the plantation and cross another stile to join the hard surfaced track and continue straight ahead. Where the track turns right towards the farm yard, ignore the stile straight ahead and turn left to follow the wall down towards Ogden Reservoir. On reaching the reservoir road, turn right and carry on towards Upper Ogden Reservoir.



Upper Ogden Reservoir

Lower Ogden Reservoir

4 Cross the two wall stiles and on reaching the end of the wood, turn sharp left over another stile and descend the path down the side of the wood. Towards the corner of the wood you turn left over another stile and follow the path down through the woodland and towards Lower Ogden reservoir. At the bottom of the path cross two small bridges and turn right through a small gate onto the reservoir track once more and follow this down and back into Barley.

3 Climb over the stone stile and carry on to the top of the dam wall, then turn left and cross to the stile at the far side of the dam. Follow the trodden path straight up (this section is quite steep and may be quite wet underfoot but rewards frequent rest stops with excellent views of Pendle). On nearing the top of the climb, take the stile on your left and follow the path, over the wall stile, towards the top of Fell Wood.