

# Pendle Hill

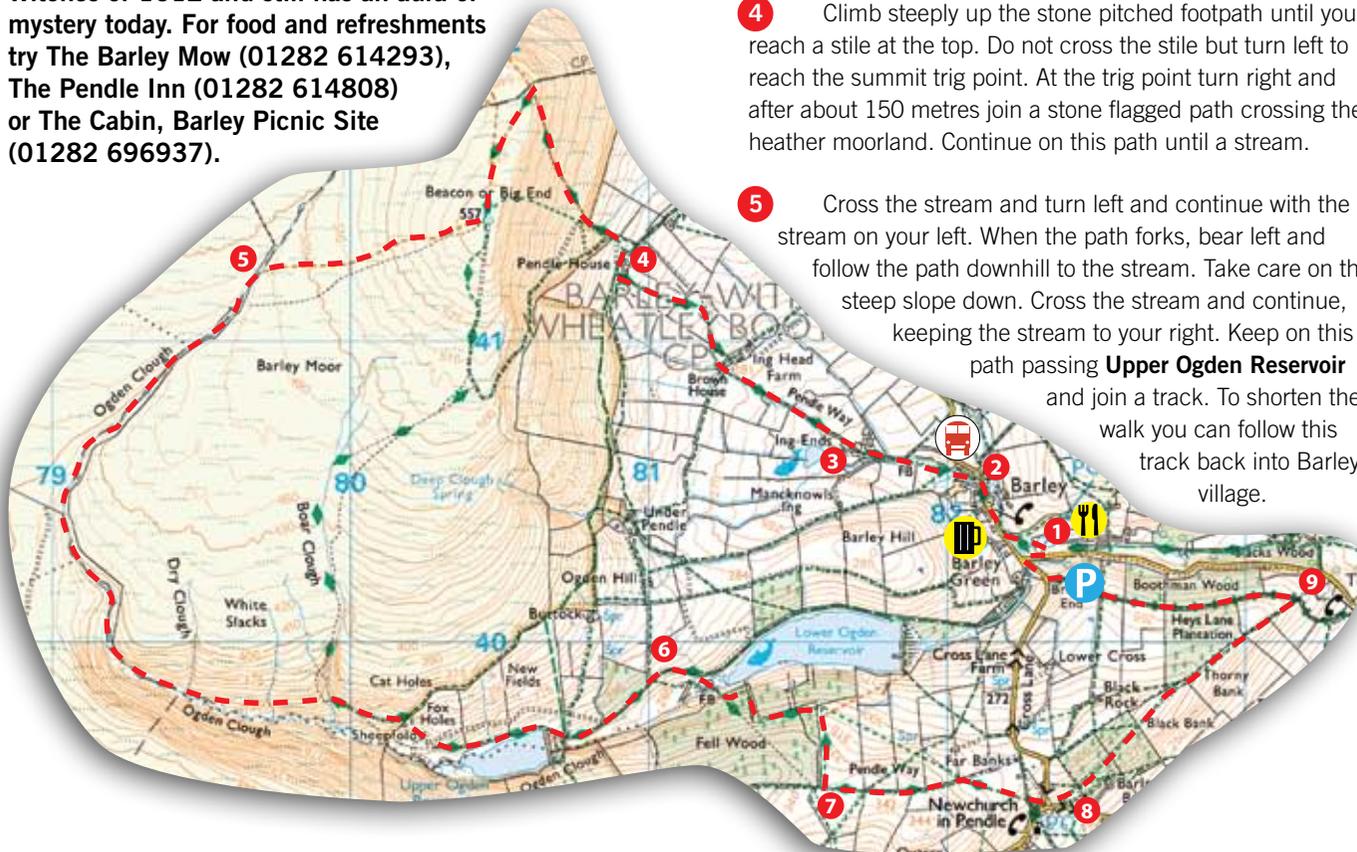
Length: 7 Miles

Time: 4 ± 5 hours

Our Pendle Hill walk starts gently enough but be prepared for a very steep climb up Pendle's Big End. We then head out across the remote Barley Moor. Our descent includes a good stretch of easy walking but watch out for the difficult slope down and the stream crossing at Ogden Clough. We finish off the walk through the farmland around Newchurch-in-Pendle. Towards the end of the walk you will be able to enjoy fine views of a hill which cast its shadow over the Witches of 1612 and still has an aura of mystery today. For food and refreshments try The Barley Mow (01282 614293), The Pendle Inn (01282 614808) or The Cabin, Barley Picnic Site (01282 696937).

- 1 Start at the car park in **Barley**. From Barley Cabin take the path into the village. Continue in the same direction passing the Barley Mow on your right. Turn left onto the footpath just before the road crosses a stream.
- 2 Head up the path keeping the stream to your right. Go through a kissing gate and after the second bridge turn left. At the first fork in the path bear right. At the next fork bear left. After a further 50 metres turn right through a kissing gate and up a cobbled path.
- 3 Keep on the well defined path heading in the direction of **Pendle Hill**. Continue past two houses on your left. Turn right at the kissing gate and first left up a field. Go through the kissing gate in a drystone wall. Follow the path through the plantation and cross the next field to reach the bottom of **Pendle's "Big End"**.
- 4 Climb steeply up the stone pitched footpath until you reach a stile at the top. Do not cross the stile but turn left to reach the summit trig point. At the trig point turn right and after about 150 metres join a stone flagged path crossing the heather moorland. Continue on this path until a stream.
- 5 Cross the stream and turn left and continue with the stream on your left. When the path forks, bear left and follow the path downhill to the stream. Take care on the steep slope down. Cross the stream and continue, keeping the stream to your right. Keep on this path passing **Upper Ogden Reservoir** and join a track. To shorten the walk you can follow this track back into Barley village.

- 6 At the top of Lower Ogden Reservoir turn right across a bridge and go straight ahead down a short flight of steps to a footbridge. Cross the bridge and go up the well defined path into **Fell Wood**. As the path leaves the wood turn right and head up to a stile.
- 7 Cross the stile and turn left keeping the fence and then wall on your left. Continue over another stile, then after a further 200 metres bear half right at the Pendle Way signpost. Cross the field to pass about 100 metres to the right of a small stone building. Go through the kissing gate and follow the steps down to the village of **Newchurch**.
- 8 Cross the road and turn right down Jinny Lane. Just after the last building on your left, turn left through a stile and cross the field to a wood. Continue in the same direction to the other side of the wood until you reach a wall. Bear slightly right keeping the wall to your left. After two stiles, cross over and continue with the wall to your right as far as a stile onto a green lane called Heys Lane.
- 9 Cross the stile and turn left into the Lane. Continue until you reach the road. Turn right and then right again to return to the car park.



## Barley

Situated at the foot of Pendle Hill, it is believed that the origin of the name Barlegh means the infertile lea or meadow. Barley is traditionally known as 'back o' Pendle' on what is usually the shady side. Farm workers made best use of the shadow at haytime. When it reached a spot where two walls came to a point, the labourers in the meadow knew it was about five o'clock and time for tea.

## Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill has kept its shape and size because of a summit layer of weather-resisting millstone grit. Pendle Hill misses the distinction of being a mountain by 169 feet, but is a very distinctive hill curiously detached from the Pennine Range.

Covering 25 square km (15 square miles), the summit is 5 km (3 miles) long and the hill stands 557 metres (1,831 feet) above sea level.

The summit is known as the 'Beacon'. For centuries the hill has been used as a warning fire site. Originally it would have warned of Scottish raiders entering the area bent on plunder, and was used later during the Napoleonic Wars. From the summit there are dramatic views of the Lancashire mill towns, the Yorkshire Dales and even Blackpool Tower. Pendle Hill also has associations with the real life Pendle Witches of 1612.

## Pendle's Big End

Situated down the rough path through the stile in the wall is Robin Hood's Well. The water was said to be the best in Lancashire. The spring is also called Fox's Well after George Fox, whose vision after climbing Pendle Hill led to him founding the Quaker Movement in 1652.

## Ogden Reservoirs

In the 19th century the population of Barley was 287; this total almost doubled in the early 20th century. This was due, in part, to the construction of the upper and lower reservoirs and the influx of Irish navvies that came to the area. On Sunday mornings, as they were Catholics, they would walk to Nelson to attend mass.

## Fell Wood

Fell Wood is one of several plantations of larch, spruce and pine created by North West Water and was planted in 1931.

## Newchurch

Newchurch takes its name from St. Mary's Church, established as a chapel of ease in 1544 to serve the outlying parts of Colne Parish. On the tower of the present building, the oldest masonry is a curious stone formation which is said to represent the all-seeing eye of god. In 1612 the Pendle Witches confessed to stealing bones from the churchyard to use in spells. The village remains little changed from the early 19th century as it was unsuitable for the mills of the industrial revolution. The nearest one is Spen Brook at the bottom of the hill.



This circular walk follows public rights of way across farmland and other privately owned land. Please respect people who live and work in the countryside. Be prepared for muddy stretches, uneven path surfaces and weather conditions which change suddenly.

- Take care to keep to the path
- Keep dogs on a lead
- Clean up after your dog
- Wear waterproof boots
- Take waterproof clothing