

# The Pendle Way

A walk of contrasts from gentle riverside paths around Watermeetings to the breezy moorland of Weets Hill with outstanding views into the

**1** Start in the car park across the road from **Pendle Heritage Centre**. Go through the gate and follow the river to emerge at the road. Go left over the bridge, cross the road and turn immediately right by **Higherford Mil**. Follow the road past the last house on the right where you take the path alongside the river. The path takes you to Watermeetings, the confluence of Blacko Water and Pendle Water.

**2** At Watermeetings turn right over the bridge then immediately left. Follow the track round to the right and go over the footbridge. Veering right, cross the field to a stile on the skyline. **Blacko Towe** is visible to the right. Go straight over the field to a stile, continue across the field to the next stile then follow the open field on your right to the farm. Skirt to the left of Blacko Foot Farm to reach the road.

**3** Turn right down the road until just past the bridge. Turn left and follow the river on your left, crossing two stiles then emerging through a small wood up to a lane.

**4** Go left over the bridge then turn right down some steps to cross a stream. Keeping Admergill Water on your right, carry on for some 300 metres, before bearing uphill to a stile. Cross this field and the next, until you reach a stile, leading into the grounds of the house at Lower Admergill. Use the bridge on the right shortly before the house. Keep to the right of the house and turn left when you reach the lane.

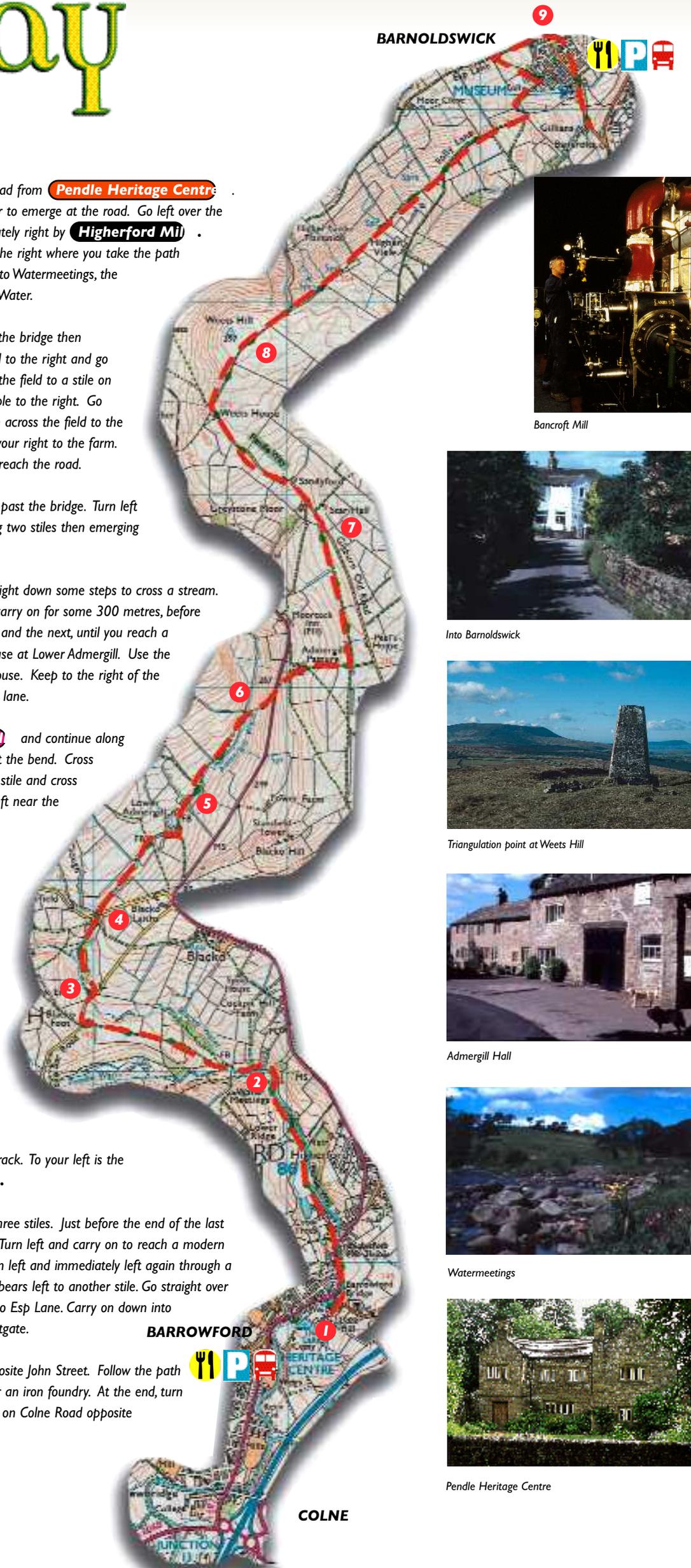
**5** Pass in front of **Admergill Hal** and continue along the lane, going straight on over a stile at the bend. Cross two fields, bearing right at the end to a stile and cross the stone bridge. Climb uphill, bearing left near the top to reach Gisburn Road.

**6** Cross the road to the stile on the left. Proceed diagonally left uphill and follow the stone wall to an iron gate. Keep the farm to the left and climb the stone stile ahead. Follow the old track to the top then cross the next field to the stile in the wall ahead. Turn left immediately and follow the wall for 700 metres bearing right at the end to emerge onto **Gisburn Old Road**.

**7** Turn left on the lane and continue for half a mile to Weets House Farm. Through the gate, turn right along the track. To your left is the triangulation point at **Weets Hill**.

**8** Follow the wall downhill, crossing three stiles. Just before the end of the last field turn right over a stile onto a lane. Turn left and carry on to reach a modern housing estate. Opposite Elm Close turn left and immediately left again through a gate. Climb two stiles before the track bears left to another stile. Go straight over the field to the corner and turn right into Esp Lane. Carry on down into **Barnoldswick** turning left into Westgate.

**9** Turn right before the car park opposite John Street. Follow the path past the former Ouzledale sawmill, later an iron foundry. At the end, turn right up Forty Steps. The path emerges on Colne Road opposite **Bancroft Mill**.



Bancroft Mill



Into Barnoldswick



Triangulation point at Weets Hill



Admergill Hall



Watermeetings



Pendle Heritage Centre

### **Pendle Heritage Centre**

The Heritage Centre, also headquarters for the Heritage Trust for the North West, is based at Park Hill, a group of 17th and 18th century farm buildings. Exhibitions explore the history of the buildings and the area including the story of the Pendle Witches. The garden has been recreated in the style of the 18th century and contains many old-fashioned flowers and vegetables. Facilities include a tourist information centre, art gallery, parlour shop and tea room. There is a small charge for admission to the museum, cruck barn and walled garden.

**Opening Times. 10am - 5pm every day except Christmas Day.**  
**Tel: (01282)661702.**

### **Higherford Mill**

Built as a water-powered mill in 1824, Higherford Mill was supplemented by steam power with a square stone chimney in 1832. It is now adapted into workshops for artists and craftspeople. **Tel: (01282)661701.**

### **Blacko Tower**

Also known as Stansfield Tower, Blacko Tower was built around 1890, by a local grocer and landowner, Jonathan Stansfield. He thought that he would be able to see over into Ribblesdale from the top of the tower, but was proved wrong. He shrugged off the disappointment saying, "I've never drunk nor smoked in my life, so am making this as my hobby".

### **Admergill Hall**

Admergill Hall is typical of many 17th century houses in Pendle. At this time a great many houses were rebuilt using stone, as the domestic textile industry brought increased prosperity to the area. The most obvious clue to buildings of this date are the mullion windows.

### **Gisburn Old Road**

Now a dead end to vehicles, Gisburn Old Road was the main packhorse route to Gisburn until it was superseded by the new road constructed by a Turnpike Trust. The old arched bridge at Higherford was originally part of this route. Although the Old Road now runs out at Weets Hill, its direction can still be traced for some way and is now on the route of the Pennine Bridleway.

### **Weets Hill**

On a clear day, Weets Hill (397 m) provides beautiful views of Pendle Hill and the Three Peaks in the Yorkshire Dales (left to right: Ingleborough, Wharfedale and Pen-y-Ghent). Weets is the last outcrop of gritstone, which gives way to the gentler limestone landscape on which Barnoldswick stands.

### **Barnoldswick**

The centre of the town retains the narrow streets of its pre-industrial past, but large areas of the town have been much altered by 19th century industrial expansion. Many cotton mills have now closed, like Bancroft Mill, or have been taken over by other industries, notably engineering. A similar fate has affected some of the many non-conformist chapels. The 40 steps leading to Colne Road (count them - there are only 39) were probably built for the handloom weavers in the nearby cottages, who carried their raw materials from Gillians Mill and the finished cloth back again.

### **Bancroft Mill**

This working museum has occasional steamings during the Summer and is open by appointment at other times. For more information about Bancroft Mill see Section 2 of the Pendle Way.

**For dates and further details contact Barnoldswick (01282) 813751 or 865626.**



Pendle Water, Higherford

**Birds to Look for**

**Moorland** - Curlew, Red Grouse, Wheatear

**Plants to Look for**

**Waterside** - Marsh Marigold, Monkey Flower, Butterbur  
**Moorland** - Heather, Heath Bedstraw, Cotton Grass



Blacko Foot Farm and Burn Moor



Old Bridge, Higherford

The Pendle Way covers a variety of terrain and you are likely to encounter some muddy stretches. Weather conditions can change suddenly so be prepared for all eventualities.

- Wear stout, waterproof boots
- Take waterproof clothing
- Carry a compass and map
- Inform someone of your route
- Allow plenty of time
- Keep dogs on a lead across farmland and under close control at all other times

Barnoldswick Tourist Information Centre

Tel: (01282) 666704

Pendle Tourist Information Centre

Tel: (01282) 661701



The Pendle Way is well signposted.



Designed by The Promotions Team, Pendle Borough Council. November 2001

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Barrowford - Barnoldswick



Section ONE - 11km (7miles)