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WEST PENNINE
MOORS



Edgworth Village

*One in a series of village
based Heritage Trails within
the West Pennine Moors*

Heritage Trail



Edgworth Heritage Village Trail

This trail explores the fascinating industrial and agricultural history of the beautiful village of Edgworth. The village is situated one mile north of Bolton within the stunning West Pennine Moors. The historical content of this walk is courtesy of the members of the Turton Local History Society.

Start: This walk begins and ends at the Barlow Institute, Edgworth where there is ample car parking to the rear. GR SD 741 165.

Public Transport:

For up to date travel information contact:
The Travel Line on 0870 608 2 608 or
on line at www.traveline.org.uk

Walk information

- ▶ The walk is made up of two connected circular walks each about two miles in length.
- ▶ If walked as a whole it will take about two hours.
- ▶ The route is on roads and generally well surfaced paths but be prepared for some uneven and short muddy sections, walking shoes or boots are recommended.



Useful Contacts

Blackburn Visitor Centre (general information)

01254 53277; email:

countryside@blackburn.gov.uk or visit

www.blackburn.gov.uk

Countryside Services (information and events)

01254 691239, email

countryside@blackburn.gov.uk or visit:

www.blackburn.gov.uk

Great House information centre (West Pennine Moors information) 01204 691549

L.C.C. Countryside Service 01772 534709

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The Country Code

- ▶ Be safe – plan ahead & follow any signs
- ▶ Leave gates and property as you find them
- ▶ Protect plants & animals & take your litter home
- ▶ Keep dogs under close control
- ▶ Consider other people



1. The Barlow Institute was presented to the village in the memory of James and Alice Barlow by the Barlow family in 1899. From the car park walk past the children's playground and down through Barlow Park taking the path to the right down to the stone bridge. Turn right at the bridge through a gate walking down stream to, and over the wooden footbridge crossing the Quarlton Brook.

The footpath climbs over the brow of the hill past **2. Pelton Fold**. A 17th century farmhouse. Continue over a stile below Meadowcrofts Farm, so named after a 1700s owner. You are now on the line of the Roman Road between Manchester and Ribchester. Proceed about 20 yards and take the path on the right towards the stone chimney.

Along this path are good views over Quarlton Vale Print works Reservoir to Edgworth and Turton Churches. Continuing to the small gate and through woodland past Scott wood on the left and down the steps into the site of - **3. Quarlton Vale Printworks** was established as a Calico Printing Works in the early 1800s, work finally ceasing in 1964. The vale is now a housing development.

Walk along the road through the estate turning left at the first junction curving round into - **4. Birches Road**. An ancient highway. Turn right in front of a row of cottages originally called 'Printers Row' after its connection with the local Printworks.



Bear right again past more earlier 19th century cottages to - **5. Bolton Road.** This was formed during the 1795 enclosure of Edgworth Moor and most of the buildings lining the road are of the early 1800s and include the strange names of Kettle Row, Teapot Row and Grubb Street.

Turn right crossing the road to more convenient pavements passing the house of - **6. Spring Bank** which was associated with the Spring Bank Mill in the Bradshaw Brook valley below. Passing Beech House, cross Bolton Road onto Back Sandy Bank Road leading to Hillock farm on the left. Bearing left round a stone garage and skirting the bottom of Edgworth School playing field, we come to a wicket gate.

Turn left through the fields to another wicket gate on the left, pass through along a cobbled lane passing Sandy Bank House (c 1810) to - **7.**

Brandwood Fold. A 17th century fold of two farms and supporting cottages. On the gable end of Brandwood Fold Farm you will see a blue plaque commemorating the birthplace of Sir Thomas Barlow (1845-1945), the Royal Physician.

Having completed the first half of the walk you can return to the Barlow Institute by turning right up Bolton Road or alternatively continue on the second half by turning left, crossing the road past Teapot Row to - **8. The Black Bull.** One of Edgworths four public houses. Walk through the car park to the footpath at the rear.



Through a gateway the walk continues ahead towards the -**9. Wayoh Reservoir** embankment on the left with views of the reservoir and the railway viaduct ahead. It was built as a compensation reservoir in 1876 to ensure a continuous flow of water into Bradshaw Brook- so essential to feed the several bleach works down stream at that time. It is now used as domestic supply and another compensation reservoir has been built down stream in the Jumbles.

Follow the ascending path to the right continuing over the brow of the hill to the corner of Turton FC ground, leaving this via a large gate leading to - **10. Thomason Fold**. Another good example of an Edgworth fold, named after Thomas Thomason in whose house is a decorated plaster plaque dated 1669. An early Quaker church was established here and the front garden of the second cottage on the left from the football field is known as the 'Quaker Burial Ground'. Passing through the fold turn left after the converted barn up Horrocks Fold Lane.

After passing on the left the deserted burial ground of the now demolished Edgworth Congregational Chapel, we see, also on the left - **11. Horrocks Fold House now called Thimble Hall**. A large three storey stone building dated 1694. Obviously a house of status with much architectural decoration, this was the house of the Horrocks family who operated the large quarry to the rear now filled and landscaped. A family member was John Horrocks who set up large cotton enterprises at Preston.



Following the lane passing modern housing we come to - **12. Isherwood Fold** probably the finest example of a fold in the Turton area with its several farms and barns, although most have now been converted to dwellings. These buildings are mostly of the late 17th and early 18th century.

Continue through the fold noting the converted barns on your left, at the end of which turn right into a small field and onto Blackburn Road the 'ancient highway' through Edgworth which at Wayoh Fold joins up again with the Roman Road - **13. Blackburn Road.**

Turning right you will see a mixture of old and new houses including Middle Turn, Crown gardens and Crown Point, eventually reaching the crossroads at the - **14. White Horse.** This Inn and all the adjacent buildings date from the Enclosure of Edgworth Moor in 1795 when the 'new' roads of Broadhead and Bolton Road were laid out to straddle the 'ancient highway'. This crossing formed the new village centre and still houses the Inn, Post Office, Craft Shop, Grocers, Butchers and Pharmacy. Holdens ice cream is second to none! The village Medical Centre shares a car park with the White Horse. Turning right past the Edgworth Cricket Club ground we return to the Barlow Institute.



If you have enjoyed this walk why not try out one of the other Heritage trails within the West Pennine Moors: Belthorn, South Tockholes and North Tockholes heritage trail. The latter two can be combined to form an enjoyable five-mile circular walk.

Please note that every effort has been taken to ensure details are correct at the time of printing. The authors cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions nor any consequence arising from the information.



Explore! Discover! Enjoy!

The West Pennine Moors

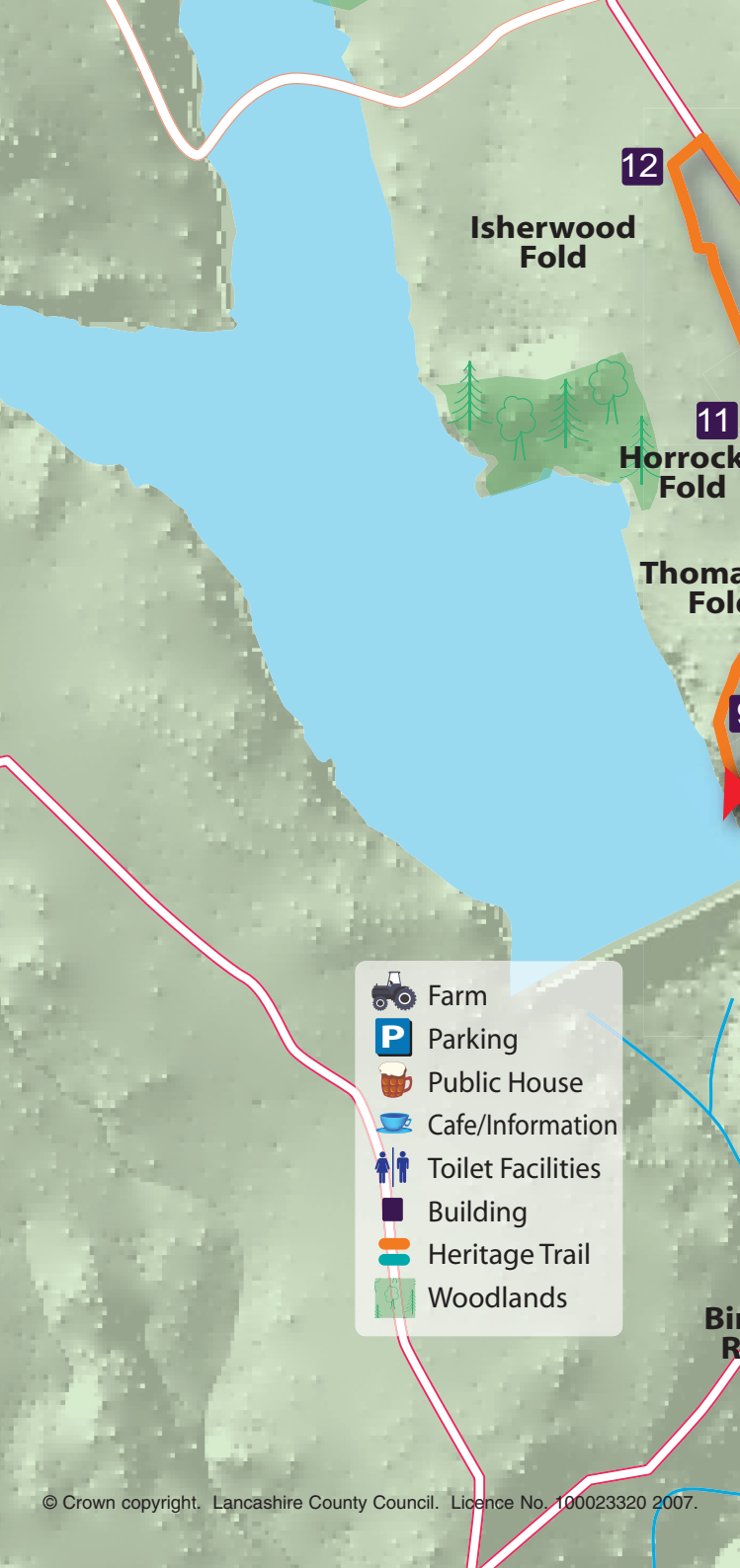
Explore 90 square miles of unspoilt moorlands, numerous reservoirs and beautiful woodlands

- ▶ Discover hidden valleys and explore some of the many historic villages
- ▶ Enjoy getting close to nature – see curlews, peregrines and brown hares
- ▶ Wander the long distance walk, the Witton Weavers' Way – the full 32 miles or one of four shorter circular walks
- ▶ Large areas of the West Pennine Moors are designated 'Open Access'. See Ordnance Survey Explorer series Map No. 287 West Pennine Moors.



WEST PENNINE MOORS












12

Isherwood Fold

11

Horrock Fold

Thomas Fold

-  Farm
-  Parking
-  Public House
-  Cafe/Information
-  Toilet Facilities
-  Building
-  Heritage Trail
-  Woodlands



