

THE VIEW FROM THE TOWER

To the south nearby are Winter Hill (1,498 ft) with its TV and radio masts and also Great Hill, these merge with the distant Snowdonia and Great Orme's Head, with the Irish Sea beyond.

Along the coast are Southport, Preston and the Ribble Estuary, Blackpool and its Tower lead to the River Lune and Black Combe in Cumbria.

Directly below you can see the local features of Earnsdale and Sunnyhurst Hey Reservoirs, then Sunnyhurst Wood, Darwen golf course, Hoghton Tower and the densely wooded Billinge Hill.

On the skyline to the north you can see the mountains of the Lake District and on a clear day the Isle of Man. The Forest of Bowland and the Yorkshire Dales, where the three giants, Whernside, Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent tower beyond Pendle and the Ribble Valley. The Hills of Rochdale and the nearer Holcombe with its Peel Tower are framed by the south Pennines of Yorkshire which join the Derbyshire Peak District to complete the panoramic view.



Darwen Moors – wonderful walking country.



Darwen Town Centre at Dusk

A splendid view of Darwen can also be obtained. Note the 300 foot India Mill Chimney which was modelled on the style of a Venetian campanile. Taking 14 years to complete at a cost of £14,000 it was

opened in 1868. In recent years peregrine falcons have successfully nested on the chimney.



A popular area for outdoor action.
Photo Matt Donnelly

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

THE WEST PENNINE MOORS EXPLORE! DISCOVER! ENJOY!

- Explore 90 square miles of unspoilt moorland, numerous reservoirs and beautiful woodland
- 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 map Explorer series No. 287 West Pennine Moors.

For more information contact The Great House Barn 01204 691549 or visit www.westpenninemoors.com

NOTES FOR WALKERS

Essential Kit

The OS Explorer Map No. 287 (West Pennine Moors) provides excellent aid and information on all areas covered in this guide. (Ordnance Survey tel: 08456 050505 / www.ordsvy.gov.uk)



Further Information

If you are travelling to the start of the walk using public transport, please contact

Travel Line on:

Tel: 0871 200 2233.
Web: www.traveline.org.uk

Blackburn Central Railway Station

(Enquiries). Tel: 08457 484950.

For information on local attractions, events, places of interest and accommodation, please contact **Blackburn Tourist Information Centre**. Tel: 01254 688040. Email: visit@blackburn.gov.uk

Alternatively visit the Blackburn with Darwen website at:

www.blackburn.gov.uk/parks
Blackburn with Darwen Countryside Services Office. Tel: 01254 691239 for countryside information and events or email: countryside@blackburn.gov.uk

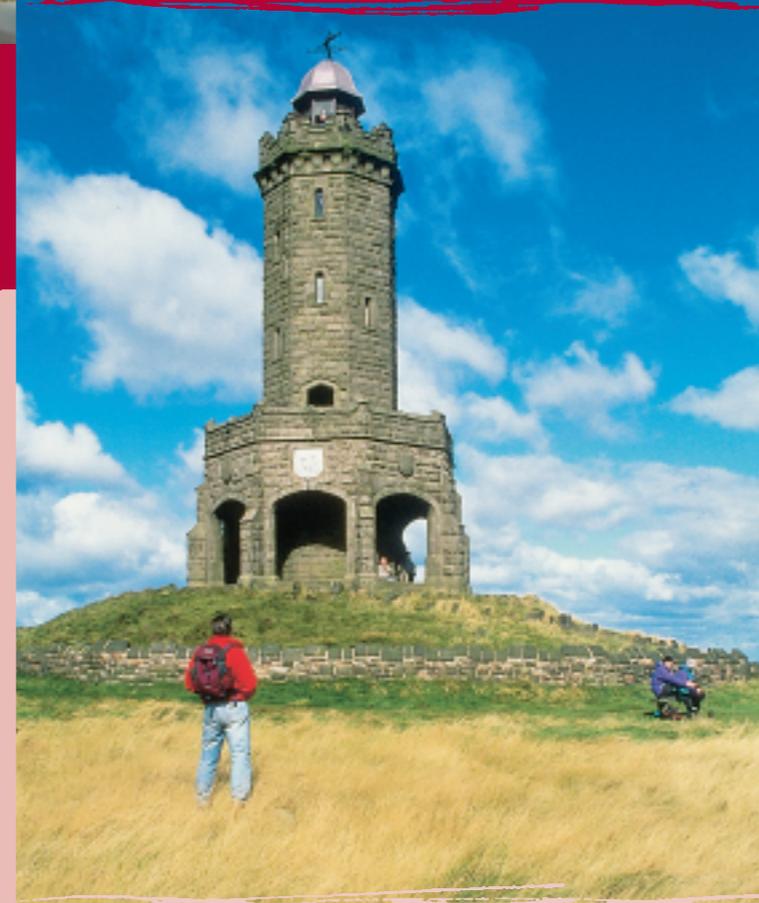
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Photos: Mike Tattersall, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, Matt Donnelly



Darwen Tower Walk 1



WEST PENNINE MOORS



WEST PENNINE MOORS

A West Pennine Moors Trail



A walk of 2 miles,

Approx. 1.5 hours –
steep ascent/descent

On a clear day the Isle of Man and the hills of North Wales can be seen from Darwen Jubilee Tower. The Tower celebrates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and to many local people it also celebrated the freeing of Darwen Moor in the previous year.

You are strongly advised to use these walk details in conjunction with OS Explorer map No. 287, West Pennine Moors.



1 With Darwen Town Hall behind you, start walking to your right along Croft Street to its junction with Market Street, the main road. Cross over the road at the crossing and continue up the road immediately in front of you (Borough Rd).

2 Follow Borough Road up the hill to enter the main gates of Bold Venture Park on your right.

BOLD VENTURE PARK

The park, constructed from a number of quarries and cloughs, is well known for its magnificent floral displays and specimen trees. The park was opened in 1887 and extended in both 1898 and 1914 to reach up to the foot of Darwen moor.

As you walk through this beautiful park note the following:

THE WAR MEMORIAL¹

This memorial was unveiled in 1921 in the honour of over 1,200 citizens of Darwen who gave their lives in the 1914-18 war. The memorial stands symbolically on five steps for the five years of WWI. It is also inscribed in memory of those who died in World War II. In this picturesque setting, it makes for one of the most attractive war memorials in the area.

THE LAKE²

The ornamental lake, the centrepiece of the park is populated by breeding mallards and was known as Bold Venture Reservoir.

THE WATERFALL

A 70-foot cascade which creates a dramatic sight after heavy rain, forming a small lake at its base.

3

Take the path to the right following the edge of the lake, past the waterfall, making your way up the park to emerge onto Manor Road.



2. Bold Venture Lake, populated by breeding mallards

4

Cross Manor Road to enter upper Bold Venture Park. Take the right fork of the path to follow the arrow on the stone way marker. Keep Bold Venture Brook to your left all the way up the wooded paths, which are bordered by holly, rhododendron, lime and ash trees.



5

Emerge from the top of the park through the kissing gate and follow the track slightly to your left, up past the disused quarry, leading onto the open moorland.

6

Continue up the track as it bends round to the right climbing all the way up to the Tower.

Darwen Tower³ stands overlooking the town at a height of 1225 feet and is 86 feet tall. It is the most prominent landmark in the area and is open to the public free of charge. It has a circular viewing platform on the way up as well as the parapet walk at the top. Its history is written on the shield on the front of the tower.

7

After visiting the Tower, retrace your steps down the hill to the Ordnance Survey triangulation point. Take the path on the right and at the next junction carry straight on ahead along the wide path downhill.

8

Part way down the hill look out for a kissing gate on your right at the end of a wall. Pass through the gate and straight down the field to Sniddle Hill Farm.

9

Go through a kissing gate by a farm gate to pass Sniddle Hill Farm on your right.

10

Carry on straight down the path, crossing over Turn Lane via the stile and kissing gate to pass Holly Tree Farm on your right. You are now on Punstock Lane which leads down to Punstock Road.

11

Turn left out of Punstock Road at the T-junction to join Borough Road, which leads you back to Darwen town centre.



1. Bold Venture Park (War Memorial)



3. Looking up to the Tower