

The Pendle Hill LP area includes several heritage assets of note:

The physical geology of the hill includes an important exposure (a Site of Special Scientific Interest) of the base of the Upper Carboniferous era: the so called 'Pendleian' sand and gritstone series (Millstone Grit) which lies on top of the Lower Carboniferous limestones and Bowland Shales. The hill is the result of the uplifting of these layers along a NE – SW axis and their repeated sculpting by ice and water.

The biodiversity of the hill includes peat bogs and heather moorland on the upper slopes and plateau of the hill; and runs into fringe habitats and wet grasslands supporting important plant and insect assemblages and wading birds such as lapwing and curlew. On the lower and more intensively farmed areas there is still a rich network of hedgerow, clough woodlands and small areas of species rich grassland. The LP area includes 61 local wildlife sites covering 17% of the area. The hill summit is an important migratory staging post for dotterel, a small species of plover, which visit every year in May. Annual average rainfall is 146cm!

Archaeology: there have been several Bronze and Iron Age finds on the hill, including a scheduled ancient monument: an Iron Age hill fort at Portfield. There are also traces of Roman roads and tracks and other finds. Human influence is strong upon the hill, and its very name reflects how many settlers have been here: 'Pen' is Celtic for hill, and 'dun' is the Saxon word for hill: so it is, in fact called 'hill hill hill'.

Historic landscapes: there are strong landscape and place-name clues pointing to the existence of the medieval Forest or Chase of Pendle, including deer parks, and the large number of vaccaries and 'booths' which were Norman farmsteads. The LP area is essentially a farmed landscape with a network of dry stone walls, some dating from medieval times and others the result of enclosure acts in the 18th and 19th centuries. However, there is also evidence of the area being a testing ground for the industrial exploitation of minerals, coal, and stone (there are further 3 scheduled ancient monuments at lime kilns and lead mines); the development of water power, and the early cottage industries of woollen and worsted textiles. Large 19th century parks at Downham, Read and Huntroyde also remind us of the existence and impact of both those historic families who can trace their landed estates back for hundreds of years, and the 'new' generation of gentry: the 18th and 19th century owners of textile mills in neighbouring Pennine Lancashire.

The historic buildings of the area are similarly largely agricultural in nature, and range from late sixteenth century cottages and halls through to eighteenth and nineteenth century farmhouses and barns. Grade II* buildings occur at Downham village; Little Mearley, Great Sabden and Read Halls; and the church of St Mary the Virgin in Newchurch.

Recent history: based on its location, prominence and vistas, Pendle Hill has always been a magnet for walkers and cyclists. It can be climbed in a couple of hours: providing great exercise and a feeling of achievement. The surrounding foothills and villages have traditionally been reached by walkers and picnickers from the nearby towns of Clitheroe, Colne and Nelson; and buses and cars have brought sightseers from further afield on 'high days and holidays' for much of the last 150 years and up to the present day. The area therefore provides great value to people offering wellbeing, relaxation and renewal.