

**WEST PENNINE MOORS**  
**Landscape Heritage Scoping Study**

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**for the**  
**West Pennine Moors**  
**Area Management Committee**

**December 2007**

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# WEST PENNINE MOORS

## Landscape Heritage Scoping Study

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In the West Pennine Moors the landscape heritage—the rich historical resource which is the broad landscape itself, together with the very numerous individual historic sites, areas, and incidental features which compose that landscape—should be a key dimension in the formulation and application of management policies. It complements and is closely integrated with two other crucial dimensions—the ecology of the area, and its visual quality and the enhancement of access and recreational use—and represents an important asset which gives opportunities for leisure and recreation, education, and conservation. This mainly desk-based study of the West Pennine Moors is intended to provide both a background paper and a framework within which more detailed strategic policies can be constructed, and practical programmes for specific locations can be implemented. As a scoping document it necessarily concentrates on the ‘big issues’, but it will be clear, from the numerous examples which are given as illustration, that the richness and diversity of the landscape heritage of the West Pennine Moors demands and repays detailed study and careful interpretation.
- 1.2 The aim is that, with this framework of understanding in place, and supported by a continuing development of detailed investigation and the formulation of specific policies, the landscape heritage dimension will complement and can be integrated with the approaches towards the physical environment of the area and its contemporary use, such as its ecology and habitat patterns. These themes have already been the subject of detailed investigation, reporting and analysis, and policies towards them have been developed over the past few years. It is now an appropriate time to provide a comparable development of knowledge and practical policies towards the historic landscape. The framework thus outlined will inform the management, conservation and restoration policies not only over the area as a whole, but also for specific sites, allowing them to be placed more firmly in the wider regional and sub-regional context. Very importantly, it can also be the basis for a wide variety of interpretive and educational projects and their accompanying literature.
- 1.3 The landscape heritage of the West Pennine Moors is rich and complex, underpinned by a very clearly defined geological and geomorphological structure, which shapes the landscape itself and has acted, throughout history, as a crucial factor in explaining the nature and location of human activity. Everywhere in the West Pennine Moors, and in any approach to archaeological and historical research and analysis, the dramatic topography of hills, plateaux and valleys, and the geological structure which moulds them, is the essential background and context to our understanding. The history of human activity in the area is very long—with at least six thousand years of identifiable occupation and settlement—and very varied. This depth and extent of occupation and activity have been instrumental in shaping the surface landscape of the West Pennine Moors, just as the patterns and forms of human

activity were themselves guided by the physical geography and geomorphology. In other words, an enduring and powerful interactive process has produced the present landscape, and any approach to landscape heritage has to emphasise that point repeatedly. This also means that the landscape itself has become a unique and invaluable record in its own right, so that its protection and conservation should have a very high priority, and it must be treated with sensitivity and respect.

- 1.4 The very complexity of the landscape heritage of the area means that it is probably most practical and realistic, when formulating policies and strategies, to identify and focus on a range of key themes in the development of the West Pennine Moors. It is clearly very important to have geographically-focused interpretation, involving the investigation and explanation of specific areas and sites, adopting a multi-period and multi-themed approach to the landscape of particular places. But it is immediately apparent that many themes have had a powerful and often very long-lasting influence across the West Pennine Moors as a whole. These themes provide the basic building blocks of the heritage framework and they act as a unifying force, relevant to the entire district and helping to give it that strong sense of identity and shared experience which is one of its hallmarks and helps to create its distinctive character.
- 1.5 In terms of their interpretive importance, these themes are not only representative of the experience of the West Pennine Moors as a whole, but also provide crucial links (whether physical, or in terms of historical processes, or both) between this sub-region and the surrounding areas. Highlighting these linkages and connections should help to cement the relationship between the West Pennine Moors and its large potential catchment as a recreational area and open space. To take just one of many potential examples, for 200 years the West Pennine Moors has been one of the most important water catchments in North-West England, and throughout that period it has played a vital role in the supply of drinking water to industrial South Lancashire and beyond. This has not only been a major factor in creating the present landscape, but also represents a powerful association between this area and its surroundings which can be highlighted in landscape heritage policies and interpretation. To a visitor from one of the big towns around—Bolton, Bury or Blackburn, for instance—it is possible to express this quite simply: ‘You turn the tap on and water comes out. That water comes from this valley ... those reservoirs ... that stretch of moorland’. It is not just an academic issue or an abstract concept. The links are a vital reality.
- 1.6 The name and the concept of the West Pennine Moors are comparatively recent. Historically the area as it is now defined had no specific name, and was usually seen as an extension of the Forest of Rossendale. This is very typical of upland areas in Lancashire and Yorkshire—even a feature as significant in our thinking as the Pennines had no name in popular understanding until the eighteenth century—but there is good reason to think that the recently-coined title ‘West Pennine Moors’ will become generally accepted (as has clearly been the case with an earlier equivalent, the North York Moors). Similarly, the boundaries of the West Pennine Moors (as the area is defined for our

purposes) have of course been chosen according to twenty-first century criteria. They are based upon practical considerations such as the extent of open land and access land, the degree of urban and industrial development, and the existence of natural or logical boundary lines such as main roads and the hard perimeter of built-up areas.

- 1.7 These two factors—a lack of historic definition, and a pragmatic modern boundary—inevitably mean that the area as it is at present constituted did not have a specific individual identity in the past. This should not be perceived as a problem, for the same applies to almost any area defined according to landscape characteristics (even the term ‘Lake District’ is only two centuries old, and there is no evidence that local people there felt a sense of district identity or allegiance). However, it is important to recognise that many of the factors and influences which shaped the historical development of the landscape were also found beyond the present borders of the West Pennine Moors. The area cannot be viewed or analysed in isolation and neither should it be seen as possessing unique historical attributes.
- 1.8 For that reason this scoping study frequently refers to localities and communities beyond the boundaries of West Pennine Moors, and emphasises how the local experience should be seen in the wider context of Lancashire as a whole. It is essential that areas such as the Bolton valleys, the western fringes of Rossendale, and the north-facing slopes and valleys around Darwen and Knuzden, are included within our review of the West Pennine Moors, even if some parts of these areas technically fall outside its boundary. As already noted, these linkages in terms of historical pattern and process represent one of the great potential strengths of the West Pennine Moors as a regionally-important resource. However, some of the themes identified, although shared with other areas, have a special significance in the West Pennine Moors and our area demonstrates their development to an outstanding extent. The West Pennine Moors can therefore be seen as exemplifying, and providing particularly good examples of, some key themes in the landscape history of the North West. For example, water supply and catchments, upland coal-mining and stone-quarrying, the exploitation of marginal lands for agriculture, and the development of the road network over many centuries, are revealed in this area more impressively than in any other part of the region.

## **2. The background to the study**

- 2.1 This study begins with a brief summary of the work which has already been undertaken by historians, archaeologists and other researchers into the landscape history and heritage of the West Pennine Moors. It then gives an overview of the historical evolution and key characteristics of the landscape heritage of the area. This is followed by an inventory of the major themes which have shaped the landscape and which form the framework of the suggested strategy. Each of these major themes is analysed in turn, identifying the typical range of heritage features and landscape types which can be related to each theme. Specific examples are given, but a full appraisal of the range, quality and importance of individual sites should form part of later more detailed research, as the basis of the ongoing development of policies and

strategies towards landscape heritage. Certain of these themes are identified as having priority status, and it is suggested that they might form the basis of a first stage of major policy formulation and implementation, with practical management and interpretation strategies built around them.

- 2.2 The definition and contextualisation of the area is an important issue. In terms of their historical context, the West Pennine Moors should be seen as the western half of that major offshoot of the Pennines which extends westwards from the main spine of the hills running south from the Colne-Keighley area towards the northern edge of the Dark Peak. Thus, the physical context and landscape history of the West Pennine Moors are closely linked not only with the immediately adjacent area of Rossendale, but also with the main extent of the South Pennine massif. The altitude of the West Pennine Moors is of particular importance in this context: Winter Hill, at 456 metres, is almost as high as the summits of the main Pennine chain along the Lancashire/Greater Manchester/West Yorkshire boundary, and the intervening hills and plateaux are almost comparable in height. This is a consequence of the geological formation of the area, defined on its western edge by the great north-south fault line. Its significance is that the landscape patterns and process typical of the *high* Pennines are also found across Rossendale and the West Pennine Moors. The physical boundaries are comparatively sharp and clearly-defined, and the West Pennine Moors does not in general possess the characteristics of foothills.
- 2.3 This has major relevance in terms of the interpretation of archaeological and historical evidence. Until recently the extent of archaeological investigation has been limited, and geographically patchy, and detailed investigation of individual sites has been infrequent. Indeed, for many decades the high Pennines were themselves not usually considered to have much intrinsic archaeological interest (especially compared with, say, the uplands of Northumberland or the North York Moors). But because of the shared physical characteristics right across the uplands of South Lancashire and West Yorkshire it is realistic to postulate that any conclusions reached from a specific site in one place may well have been widely applicable across the area as a whole.
- 2.4 This helps to fill in the gaps in the archaeological and landscape history record. That can be illustrated with an example from Rossendale. From the early 1960s to the early 1970s pioneering work on the prehistoric ecology and settlement of the Pennines was undertaken by the botanists J.H. Tallis and J. Mcguire, using evidence from the peat mosses north of Haslingden. Their work established for the first time a sequence of reliable dating of, and accurate explanations for, the chain of processes by which the Pennines, which were once heavily wooded, became denuded of their tree cover and turned into peat mosses. The research correlated this process with climate change and the expansion of human activity, including the grazing of animals and the deliberate or accidental use of fire to clear woodland. The conclusions reached are now generally recognised as applicable to the entire South Pennines and their upland offshoots. It is possible to say with confidence that the experience of the research site in Rossendale was shared by upland areas such as the West

Pennine Moors, and such use of analogy is now an important method of reconstructing the landscape record of the area.

- 2.5 The linkages in the historical period between upland and lowland are readily appreciated, and in the 250 years since the middle of the eighteenth century, during the Industrial Revolution and its aftermath, those connections assumed an outstanding importance. Again, there are common patterns and trends across all the uplands, from the Aire Valley and Leeds in the east to Bolton and Preston in the west, and from the northern Peak District to the Clitheroe-Skipton gap north of Pendle. The West Pennine Moors shared fully in these developments. All these uplands, for example, have had a role as a source of resources and raw materials (such as coal, stone and water) for the conurbations and major industrial centres on the plain and at the lowland/upland interface. Likewise, the challenge of finding and creating communications routes between the heavily-populated areas and passing through the uplands—whether the South Pennines, the Rossendale Moors or the West Pennine Moors—has been a key theme in their development over the past 250 years. Since the mid-nineteenth century the use of the uplands as an area for recreation and leisure has been a crucial theme, and today such trends as the repopulation of upland valleys as a result of commuting to conurbations is reshaping social and cultural patterns, as well as environmental and landscape character, across all the upland fringes.

### **3. The existing research evidence**

- 3.1 As already noted, comparatively little detailed and specific historical or archaeological work has been undertaken on the West Pennine Moors. There is a wide range of background or general literature to place the area in context, but not much which focuses on the district itself. Among the more important background works is Angus Winchester and Alan Crosby, *England's Landscape: The North West* (English Heritage and Collins, 2006), which is a comprehensive review of the landscape history of the region over the past five thousand years, highlighting the interaction of man and environment. John Porter's *The Making of the Central Pennines* (Moorland Publishing, 1980) covers the area from the Lune valley to the southern edge of the West Pennine Moors, and eastwards to Bradford and Halifax. It provides an accessible 'popular' overview, but is necessarily very generalised and is strongest on the Ribble Valley, Bowland and East Lancashire. Alan Crosby's *A History of Lancashire* (Phillimore, 1998) is the most accessible recent historical overview of the county. A more chronologically focused account is Nick Higham's *A Frontier Landscape: the North West in the Middle Ages* (Windgather Press, 2004).
- 3.2 Archaeological reports and regional overviews have proliferated in recent years, as archaeologists have set agendas and provided frameworks for their own research. This has produced valuable literature giving period-by-period assessments of the archaeological 'audit' of the region, and identifying priorities for future investigation. The most important contributions are the two volumes of *The Archaeology of North West England: an archaeological research framework for North West England* edited by Mark Brennand. Vol.1

*Resource assessment* (Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers/English Heritage/Council for British Archaeology, 2006) and Vol.2 *Research Agenda and Strategy* (same publishers, 2007). These are copiously illustrated with photographs, maps and plans and although they cover the region from the Scottish border to south Cheshire they are essential for placing the current archaeological circumstances in context. An earlier volume was Richard Newman (ed.), *The archaeology of Lancashire: present state and future priorities* (Lancaster University Archaeology Unit, 1996), which is a more general and accessible overview and has frequent references to the West Pennine Moors area. Two period-specific works are Michael Nevell's snappily-titled *Living on the edge of Empire: models methods and marginality: Late-Prehistoric and Romano-British Rural Settlement in North-West England* (Archaeology North West vol.3, 1998) and his *From Farmer to Factory Owner: Models, Methodology and Industrialisation: The Archaeology of the Industrial Revolution in North-West England* (Archaeology North-West vol.6, 2003).

- 3.3 Specific themes are tackled by a wide range of researchers. The architectural history of the southern part of the area is brilliantly recounted in Clare Hartwell's *The Buildings of England: Lancashire: Manchester and South East Lancashire* (Yale University Press, 2004), including detailed descriptions of all significant historic and architecturally-interesting buildings and excellent introductory essays. Her forthcoming companion volume covering mid- and North Lancashire (expected 2008) will complete coverage of the West Pennine Moors. Industrial archaeology has, not surprisingly, been the subject of considerable attention. Mike Rothwell's series of *Industrial Heritage* guidebooks cover the northern fringes of the area (Oswaldtwistle 1978; Accrington and Baxenden 1979; Blackburn 1985-1986; Darwen 1992) though they are inevitably somewhat out of date, as is Owen Ashmore's *Industrial Archaeology of Lancashire* (David & Charles 1969) and his similar volume on *North West England* (David & Charles, 1982). A much earlier classic is G.H. Tupling's *The economic history of Rossendale* (Manchester University Press, 1927) which includes discussion of the eastern parts of the West Pennine Moors and is still an important source. The road network and its development are covered by various authors in Alan Crosby, *Leading the way: a history of Lancashire's roads* (Lancashire County Books, 1998).
- 3.4 There are many books and smaller publications which deal with individual communities, as well as site-specific archaeological reports. These are a crucial source but often lack the wider context which is required in interpretational approaches to landscape history. *The history of Haslingden Grane: a valley, its landscape and its people* (West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee, 1991) was written by Alan Crosby following some of the earliest systematic historical and archaeological research in the area. The publications of the Turton Local History Society are models of their kind and include much work on industrial archaeology, mining and agriculture in the area of the former Turton UDC, while Jack Nadin's *Coal mines around Accrington and Blackburn* (Northern Mine Research Society, 1999) inventories all documented and many undocumented collieries as far as Darwen and Huddlesden. These are just a few of the many such publications

available—the list is long and continues to grow as local historical research progresses.

- 3.5 In addition to these sources, there are articles in the transactions of learned societies, such as the Historic society of Lancashire and Cheshire and the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, though these are less numerous for this area than for many other parts of the region. Unpublished sources include, for example, reports which have been commissioned over the years by Bolton Metropolitan Borough (on different aspects of the landscape history of the Smithills estate; on Seven Acre Park; the Bradshaw Valley; Burnt Edge; Smithills Moor; and Hall i' th' Wood, all by Alan Crosby). I have recently undertaken similar work on the Sunnyside Woods area of Darwen, and there are other unpublished notes, reports and compilations of historical material, as well as archaeological reports, by other researchers. These are often difficult to track down, though local studies libraries (as at Bolton, Blackburn, Darwen, Chorley and the Lancashire Local Studies HQ in Preston) are the key locations.

#### **4. The historical evolution of the West Pennine Moors: an overview**

- 4.1 As noted above, the palaeobotanical evidence, preserved in the thick peat deposits of the Rossendale moors and first investigated in the 1960s, has confirmed that the Pennines were originally (that is approximately 6000 years ago) thickly wooded with the exception of some of the highest and most exposed summits. The present bare and open character of the hills is thus a later development. The research conducted almost fifty years ago in Rossendale was primarily aimed at establishing the vegetation history of the uplands and seeking an explanation for the distinctive moorland ecology. In the course of that project it became apparent that although these fundamental changes may have been triggered by climate change in the Bronze Age (some 4000 years ago) they were never reversed, and that human activity had played a major part in maintaining the open character of the uplands and indeed in creating their characteristic landscape. This was one of the first occasions on which it was appreciated that prehistoric human settlement had both a geographically widespread and long-term environmental impact.
- 4.2 A deteriorating climate in the second millennium BC, with increasing rainfall and lower temperatures, led to waterlogging on the plateaux of the Pennines, and to a weakening and thinning of the woodland cover. The supposition is that as the woodlands died, peat began to form, leading in turn to increased waterlogging which exacerbated the vegetation change. But at the same time there was a major increase in human activity, as population grew and pastoral agriculture became more widespread. Cattle and sheep were grazed in the edges of the woodlands, and the grazing prevented any regrowth of woodland or scrub cover (a phenomenon well-attested in the area up to the present day). For the next four thousand years, therefore, a combination of increasingly intensive grazing and the waterlogging from the ever-thicker peat deposits prevented any return to the 'natural' vegetation of the uplands—though with the decline of grazing during the past hundred years, woodland cover has

begun to re-emerge on a modest scale at many sites throughout the West Pennine Moors.

- 4.3 Prehistoric settlement on the plateau tops was probably always very limited, but is likely to have been much more extensive on the better-drained slopes of valley sides. In this area most evidence for prehistoric settlement sites has either been erased by later changes and development, or has simply gone unrecognised because it comprises unobtrusive features, such as scatters of worked flints, which are easily overlooked. However, more intensive archaeological investigation in the area east of Rochdale, on the main Pennine spine, has demonstrated that there were numerous settlement sites, many of which are interpreted as seasonal encampments occupied during the summer months by people whose main habitation was on the plains. The only large area in the West Pennine Moors where comparable research has been undertaken is the north-west facing slopes of Wheelton Moor and Anglezarke Moor where, at various times since the 1950s, members of the Chorley Archaeological Society and others agencies have discovered worked flint sites in several places and where settlement evidence is now available. There is every reason to accept that this pattern is not unique and that other similar areas such sites remain to be revealed.
- 4.4 The West Pennine Moors have a number of important prehistoric monuments of Neolithic and Bronze Age date which are associated with ritual activities rather than settlement. These are typically to be found on the highest slopes and ridge tops, characteristic locations in most parts of the British Isles. The most distinctive is the stone circle and associated enclosure at Cheetham Close above Egerton, while others include the cairns and burial mounds on the western slopes of the Winter Hill massif, between Horwich and Wheelton Moor. It is probable that other such sites remain unidentified, since they are often heavily-eroded and look relatively insignificant, and are often in very remote places. Iron Age activity is scarcely known in the area, but this reflects a general absence of evidence from Lancashire as a whole and probably indicates the absence of archaeological investigation rather than any real suggestion that the area was not settled and farmed. No hillforts of this period have been identified, but again it is conceivable that promontory or ridge-top defended sites may have existed and are unrecognised. The striking find, in the nineteenth century, of a Bronze Age or early Iron Age severed female head in Red Moss near Horwich (a variant on the more familiar 'bog body') implies that there is much yet to be discovered.
- 4.5 The Roman period is represented in the West Pennine Moors only by the very well-defined main road from Manchester via Ribchester to Carlisle, which crosses the area from Starling near Ainsworth, in the south, to Eccleshill near Darwen. It is followed for much of its length by metalled minor roads, with a typically direct alignment cutting straight across country. There are no other clearly Roman sites in the area, although some authorities have postulated that there might be features such as signal stations along the road itself. The absence of obvious Roman activity is in keeping with the evidence elsewhere in the region—towns, forts and civilian sites tend to be found on the plains and lowland areas. In the uplands, as with the West Pennine Moors, the sub-

Roman or pre-Roman lifestyles continued unaltered, and so archaeological investigation would focus on native farmsteads and comparable types—though such investigation is as yet lacking.

- 4.6 Similarly, the post-Roman period is little understood and even less investigated. Some features are apparent—for example, Dark Age or Anglo-Scandinavian sculpture and decorated stonework is known from several sites on the perimeter of, or just beyond, the West Pennine Moors (such as Bolton St Peter, Whalley and Brindle), and there are occasional finds of Anglo-Saxon material elsewhere. The most tangible legacy of the Anglo-Saxon and Scandinavian period is in fact the place-names of the area, most of which date from this time.
- 4.7 Nevertheless, although archaeological evidence for the five centuries after the Roman period is very scarce (as it is for the whole of Lancashire) it is possible to reconstruct the general outline of settlement and landscape change. The uplands were by this time not dissimilar to their present appearance, with extensive tracts of moorland and peat moss broken by deep valleys, where woodland survived along the steeper slopes. The plateaux were exploited for their peat reserves, and for rough grazing, while settlement was limited to the valleys or the gentler lower slopes. By charting the location of known pre-Conquest or early medieval churches, for example, we can see that the main settlements formed a ring around the perimeter of the West Pennine Moors: Bolton, Horwich, Chorley, Brindle, Blackburn, Church, Haslingden and Bury. Further up the valleys or the lower slopes were minor settlements such as Egerton and Baxenden, Rivington and Anglezarke. During the early medieval period there was a very significant improvement in the climate, which became warmer and drier. This allowed the expansion of agricultural activity and improved crop yields, and in turn led to a major population increase. The consequence was that permanent settlement and more intensive agricultural use of the land extended beyond the previous limits—the margins of viability were pushed higher up slopes and into areas that were previously too difficult or time-consuming to bring into farming use.
- 4.8 All along the Pennine foothills and edges in Lancashire and Yorkshire these more marginal areas were exploited during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Place-names often indicate the location of such activities, particularly the element which is variously formed as rode, rod, ridding or ryding in local field and farm names. It specifically means ‘land cleared from woodland’ and it is specifically associated with the period from the Norman Conquest until the early fourteenth century. Minor place-names containing this element are numerous and widespread on the fringes of the West Pennine Moors and Rossendale, highlighting the role of these areas as zones of increasing population and agricultural exploitation. Many of the farm sites which still exist in areas such as Egerton and Turton, Rivington and Brindle, were first settled in this period, although surviving evidence of buildings does not normally predate the late sixteenth or seventeenth centuries.
- 4.9 There is also extensive evidence for larger-scale and more organised commercial farming under the auspices of major landowners. This was not an

area with significant monastic estates (unlike, for example, the Yorkshire side of the Pennines, or parts of North Lancashire) but there were very influential and important secular landowners whose role was crucial. The most important of these were the de Lacys, earls of Lincoln, who held the honour of Clitheroe and the lordship of Whalley and whose estates extended southwards into Rossendale and the eastern edge of the West Pennine Moors. Other important families with estates in the area included the earls of Derby, the Chorleys of Chorley, the Andertons (lords of Lostock and Anderton) and the Grelleys, early medieval lords of Manchester. As was the case elsewhere in the Lancashire Pennines, these estates managed large commercial cattle farms or *vaccaries*, which typically occupied the higher slopes of the upland margins.

- 4.10 There was a cluster of such farms in the Horwich area, and others around Haslingden. Elsewhere, the forests of Rossendale and Tottington were extensive hunting chases, with little woodland but large expanses of open country managed under forest law. The de Lacy interests and estates eventually passed by inheritance to the Crown and the Duchy of Lancaster, so that from the late fourteenth century onwards Rossendale and Tottington were subject to absentee control as part of the vast properties of the Duchy. Lordly control is also demonstrated in the creation of deer parks, as for example at Healey Nab above Chorley and, most impressively, Musbury.
- 4.11 The economic activity generated by the expansion of agriculture and population is reflected in the growth of wider trading patterns and the founding of markets and cattle fairs at, for example, Bolton, Chorley, Tottington and Haslingden. The later pattern of key urban centres on the perimeter of the West Pennine Moors was foreshadowed in the first half of the medieval period by this sequence of market locations, which reinforced the developing pattern whereby the focus of economic activity was on the lowland-upland interface: it is noteworthy that in every instance the successful market towns occupied this key position, usually (as at Bolton, Blackburn and Bury) where a major valley or group of valleys opened out onto the lowlands. This also had the effect of channelling routeways along valley slopes to nuclei at market centres. The uplands were economically dependent upon the lowland market centres and, increasingly, were exploited as a resource—thus, wool, timber and other agricultural products from the ‘interior’ were brought for sale at the markets just outside the upland zone.
- 4.12 Although the sharp downturn in economic circumstances in the early fourteenth century (for which a series of factors such as climate deterioration and a wave of epidemic diseases among livestock were responsible) halted the expansion, and although the Black Death in the mid-fourteenth century drastically reduced the human population, the pattern was firmly established. When the economic and demographic revival began once more in the mid-fifteenth century the existing infrastructure and geographical patterns were the basis of renewed growth.
- 4.13 In South Lancashire the available evidence points to a gathering momentum during the sixteenth century, measured by population increase and key indicators of social and economic activity. For example, from the late-fifteenth

century onwards new chapels were founded in places such as Bradshaw and Tockholes, reflecting growing numbers of communicants in those areas. Property deeds and place-name evidence point to greater levels of agricultural activity towards the margins of the cultivated area, and manorial records indicate increasing numbers of tenants, social friction as a consequence of the competition for land, and the rising rental values which are a sign of an active land market. Across the West Pennine Moors and Rossendale this process was recognised by the great landowners. In particular, the Crown and the Duchy saw that more money could be made from selling land or leasing it out for farming than from retaining it as undeveloped or underexploited hunting chase. During the sixteenth century, and into the early seventeenth, the disafforestation of the area proceeded apace—that is, the removal of its status as royal forest (or deer park) and the sale or leasing of the land to private individuals.

- 4.14 Substantial areas were thus taken out of moorland, grazing land or woodland use and converted to farmland, leading to the founding of new farms and the laying out of planned field systems on the upper slopes. At the same time, and as part of the same process of population increase and pressure on land resources, some parts of the area, such as the Darwen valley and Pickup Bank, became attractive sites for squatter settlement. Impoverished incomers, as well as the surplus population of existing settlements, gravitated to the moorland fringes, particularly in the more remote areas where manorial control was weak, and carved tiny holdings and small fields out of the waste. This gave rise to the untidy and incoherent patterns of settlement which are well exemplified by, for example, Yate and Pickup Bank, or the area north of Haslingden towards Rising Bridge and Baxenden. Such squatter sites were technically illegal, but manorial lords tended in the fullness of time to regularise their status in return for a monetary payment, so they became permanent.
- 4.15 Part of the attraction of the area for newcomers was that by the middle of the sixteenth century its economic structure was becoming more varied and offering greater commercial opportunities. Elizabethan manorial records make it plain that intensive sheep-grazing was practised in Rossendale and the West Pennine Moors, sometimes to the extent that over-grazing was damaging the environment itself. The flocks supplied the rapidly-expanding cloth industry with wool, its essential raw material. This greater intensity of agriculture in turn meant that smallholders could engage in activities such as spinning and weaving to supplement the family income, while the increasing demand for building stone, roofing slabs and coal as a domestic and industrial fuel allowed mining and quarrying to emerge as alternative sources of income. The growing level of economic activity is reflected in the development of improved communications and, in particular, the network of packhorse routes with stone-built causeways which was threaded across the hills and down the valleys of the West Pennine Moors.
- 4.16 The intensification of economic activity and rising population are also reflected in the settlement pattern. Historically the area had almost no nucleated villages of the type relatively common in parts of lowland south

Lancashire. Instead the typical pattern was of dispersed farmstead and cottages in the valleys and on the lower slopes, and largely uninhabited tracts of upland plateau. The development of squatter settlements along the moorland fringe has already been noted, but it is also apparent that a parallel process was the creation of the 'fold' pattern of settlement, extremely characteristic of the Pennine margins. Hamlets grew around the nucleus of a single older farm, as attendant cottages were built for the growing number of labourers and often for additional family members; sometimes, too, farmhouses were subdivided. The fold pattern is readily seen today across the West Pennine Moors, and is also identifiable by the place-name evidence ('fold' being a very widespread name throughout the area).

- 4.17 In the eighteenth century this type of settlement was paralleled by, and sometimes merged with, the emergence of handloom weavers' colonies with which it had some basic similarities. Elsewhere, existing communities grew substantially in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, so that, for example, Haslingden became a significant town, and the twin hamlets of Lower and Over Darwen began their expansion into one of the largest of the mid-Lancashire mill towns.
- 4.18 The Industrial Revolution, as already suggested, did not suddenly begin in the 1760s. There had been a long period of earlier development, known to historians as 'proto-industrialisation', which saw the expansion of spinning and weaving, the gradual use of cotton as first a secondary and eventually the main fibre in the Lancashire textile trade (it was first recorded at the end of the sixteenth century) and the evolution of the 'dual economy' system whereby household employment including not only farming but also hand-powered industrial processes, or small-scale mining and quarrying. The formal reclamation and enclosure of moorland began in the early seventeenth century, in areas such as Haslingden Grane and Oswaldtwistle, where manorial lords and their tenants divided up the waste and laid out new fields and farmsteads. Thus, change was well under way long before the 1760s, the crucial significance of that period being that it was the start of extensive mechanisation of industrial processes.
- 4.19 Since water power was the initial driving force, the West Pennine Moors and Rossendale were well-placed to capitalise on the new inventions: they had abundant fast-flowing streams which were easily-harnessed, and had pure soft water which was ideal for a range of processes in the textile trades. They were also conveniently close to Manchester, the financial and organisational centre of the Lancashire textile trade. Early industrialisation thus became a feature of the district. Although cotton has received most of the attention from outside it is clear that a woollen industry survived in some areas until the early nineteenth century, and that other trades such as bleaching, dyeing and tanning were also important. As steam power superseded water in the early nineteenth century the insatiable appetite for coal prompted the exploitation of the reserves in the West Pennine Moors and adjacent upland areas, even though the coal seams were relatively poor and thin, and geographically often very inaccessible.

- 4.20 The demand for building materials also grew with exceptional speed, as a result of the urbanisation and industrialisation of South Lancashire. Although stone buildings themselves were comparatively rare, every flagged backyard and every length of pavement or kerb constructed in the burgeoning towns created a demand for stone that was most readily met by the hillsides of the West Pennine Moors and Rossendale—and many large public works projects and great engineering schemes, such as docks and harbours, or new roads (and later railways), created specific short term demands. The quarrying industry became one of the dominant influences shaping, in a literal sense, the landscapes of the West Pennine Moors and Rossendale.
- 4.21 All these processes of industrialisation and urbanisation, both within and beyond the district, required a new transport infrastructure. Because of its topography the area was not amenable to canal-building—the Leeds and Liverpool just skirts the north and west fringes of the West Pennine Moors, but the projected canal from Bury to Accrington via Haslingden, which would have been spectacular, was never constructed. Similarly, railways are relatively few—only the two north-south routes, from Blackburn to Bolton and Accrington to Bury via Haslingden. But the area was of outstanding interest and significance in the development of the road network, with textbook examples of turnpike roads which are impressive even today. In some places, such as Haslingden Grane, a sequence of different types of trackway and roadway criss-cross along the valley, spanning three or more centuries of technological evolution. Settlement forms were also developed further during the early phases of the Industrial Revolution, with the emergence of new communities of handloom weavers in areas such as Brindle and Brinscall, Darwen and Haslingden, and (even more impressively) the development of purpose-built industrial villages, often financed directly or indirectly by an employer. The West Pennine Moors has some of the finest of these anywhere in England, as at Abbey Village and Barrow Bridge.
- 4.22 The advent of industrial settlement within the West Pennine Moors marked a decisive change—a movement of people into an area which had, despite the agricultural colonisation of the years around 1600, was relatively thinly-populated. The second half of the eighteenth century and beginning of the nineteenth saw a further expansion of agricultural activity, as population pressure generated a major new demand for food supplies. Especially from the mid-1790s to the mid-1820s, a high-water mark of agricultural colonisation was reached, with farms and cottages being built to the 1200-1300 foot contour in some places and with wet and exposed upland slopes and moorland being improved for ploughing and cultivation. This phase coincided with, and is partly explained by, the desperate food shortages of the Napoleonic War period (1793-1815) when the government actively encouraged the extension of agriculture to marginal areas.
- 4.23 That pattern of activity rarely lasted more than a couple of generations, for by the 1870s a series of fundamental economic and environmental readjustments was under way. The tide of settlement began to ebb, producing the distinctive sight of abandoned farms and tumbled cottages in all the valleys and along all the hillsides of the West Pennine Moors. These factors were not necessarily

inter-related, but they had a combined impact which drastically reworked the local landscape and its heritage.

- 4.24 The first was the economic marginality, and ultimately the non-viability, of such high altitude farming on difficult terrain and very poor soils. The availability of cheap imported food supplies from the 1870s rendered such locations uneconomic, as the price of essential foods fell sharply, while at the same time the impoverishment of soils in such areas either demanded expensive artificial improvement or implied falling yields and profitability. This was sufficient to make many of the smaller farms uneconomic and force their abandonment.
- 4.25 The second process was the abandonment of most of the upland coalpits and many of the quarries. The coal reserves were either exhausted or, more generally, could not compete with the large-scale output of the pits in areas such as South-West Lancashire (particularly since the latter were rail-connected whereas almost none of the pits in the West Pennine Moors had such an advantage). The ending of mining, and the closure of many smaller quarries, further weakened the viability of upland communities.
- 4.26 The third, and ultimately most extensive and far-reaching change, was the recognition that the upland areas such as the West Pennine Moors had a new role to fulfil, that of providing water for the conurbations and industrial towns around their margins. This had a double impact: first, the creation of the dramatic landscapes of dams, reservoirs and associated engineering works, and the flooding of substantial sections of most of the major valleys; and second, the deliberate buying-up and depopulation of the catchments of most of the larger reservoirs, as part of the Victorian focus on public health and water purity. Associated with that was the afforestation of some significant areas within the major catchments, a process that had begun as early as the 1850s with the landscaping of the Rivington area following its development for water supplies by Liverpool Corporation.
- 4.27 Put together these processes threw into rapid reverse the trend, apparent in the early nineteenth century, for the population of the West Pennine Moors to increase. By 1914 large areas were totally uninhabited and in some cases (as at Grane Village) entire communities had disappeared. Nevertheless, one important new development was also becoming apparent—the increasing perception that the West Pennine Moors were an area for recreation, despite the serious obstacles to realising such potential (the most important of which was the question of access and the private or public ownership of the uplands). Perhaps the building of Darwen Tower in 1897 was in a literal as well as a metaphorical sense a landmark, for it followed a bitterly fought legal campaign to secure access rights to Darwen Moor for the people of the town, and was thus a harbinger of the future.
- 4.28 The twentieth century saw changes which were no less dramatic than any hitherto experienced. The gradual depopulation of the higher uplands was associated with the decline of what had now become ‘traditional’ industries in the valleys. In the 1920s and 1930s a wide range of communities, from

substantial towns such as Darwen and Haslingden to smaller industrial villages such as Edgworth, saw stagnant or declining population levels, and the deindustrialisation of the valleys continued apace as the most of the remaining collieries, quarries and older textile works closed. This was fast becoming an abandoned landscape, a process accentuated by the further decline of agriculture—large areas of upland which had continued in use as rough grazing for sheep were gradually abandoned for that purpose, or were used far less intensively. Further afforestation schemes were implemented, although with one major exception, at Jumbles, reservoir-building had ended by 1914 and the cities now looked further afield for their water supplies.

- 4.29 Even the large landed estates were in decline, with important implications for the question of future management and land use. In the case of the Smithills estate, the Ainsworth family sold the entire property to Bolton Corporation in 1938, and so brought a substantial area of the south-western West Pennine Moors into public ownership. Similarly, the majority of the water catchments had passed out of private hands in 1880-1920 as local authorities bought out the private water undertakings, a process reversed in the 1980s. At no stage in the pre-war period, however, was there any serious suggestion that the area was worthy of any sort of formal protection or conservation on landscape and amenity grounds. The Pennines were generally regarded as lacking true scenic value (in obvious contrast to the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales and Lake District, each of which was proposed as a national park during the 1930s). This negative image was associated with factors such as air pollution, which made it difficult actually to see the West Pennine Moors for significant periods of the year, and with a perception that moorland was less worthy than, for example, mountains and lakes.
- 4.30 For the first 20 years after the Second World War little happened to alter the circumstances of the West Pennine Moors, but in the late 1960s the climate of opinion, the planning framework and the economic realities all underwent significant change. Firstly, the planning system, which had hitherto been geared towards, on the one hand, development control and, on the other, large-scale formal designation of national parks, began to incorporate smaller-scale measures, a more flexible approach, and an emphasis on recreation and conservation. The AONB system, while not yet broad-minded enough to accommodate areas such as the South Pennines and the West Pennine Moors, demonstrated that areas other than those designated as national parks were worthy of careful consideration. That, and the local and county plans, in turn allowed local authorities to make at least tentative informal or non-statutory identification of areas of landscape value such as West Pennine Moors. Secondly, the late 1960s saw the revolution in conservation, which encouraged an awareness of ecology, habitat and environment, and thus emphasised the importance of landscape diversity—so that moorlands and peat mosses were given an enhanced value.
- 4.31 Thirdly, planning (and the legislative framework) for leisure and recreation shifted towards the numerous opportunities afforded by country park, regional park, designated trails and paths, and visitor centres, most of which were directly or indirectly a response to the rapid growth in mobility following the

exponential increase in car ownership. Access was widened, and a more proactive and participatory approach on the part of local authorities was required. Fourthly, the major environmental improvements consequent upon, for example, the Clean Air Acts and the loss of polluting industries, greatly enhanced the attractiveness of the landscapes of areas such as the west Pennine Moors. This series of basic changes in perceptions and policies, together with much improved accessibility by road, changed the wider view of the area. It was regarded positively, its landscape became a resource in its own right, and it was increasingly designated for protection by the planning authorities.

- 4.32 No less important, however, was the unanticipated reversal of the population decline in many communities around the West Pennine Moors. In the 1950s the building of a new road from the Accrington area to Bury and on towards the M62 and Manchester was planned as a means of revitalising the acutely depressed industrial economy of North East Lancashire, while its spur to Rawtenstall (originally envisaged to continue over the hills to Burnley) would have a similar impact upon Rossendale, where traditional industries were in rapid decline. Similarly, the M61 was intended to relieve the existing A6 of heavy traffic and to provide (as it duly did) a fast new link from Manchester via Bolton to Preston. But the unforeseen consequence of these new roads, and to a lesser extent of improvements to some local rail services, was an entirely new commuting potential. Fast access to and from Manchester, in particular, allowed commuters to consider living in Rossendale and the fringes of the West Pennine Moors, in housing which was solid and stone-built and set in villages and countryside which, in the absence of industry and pollution, were now seen to be highly attractive. In the initial decades, too, this was an area with an abundance of very cheap property.
- 4.33 The loss of traditional heavy industries was to some extent compensated for by the development of large new industrial estates and retail parks, though none of these is actually in the West Pennine Moors boundary (the most significant just outside being at Middlebrook/Horwich, Shadsworth and Walton Summit). In places such as Haslingden and Darwen high levels of employment have remained and there are still serious economic problems, but out-commuting to places beyond the West Pennine Moors has become a significant new flow of labour mobility.
- 4.34 The results of these trends are very familiar. Already in the 1950s areas such as Tottington and Edgworth were growing with new private housing estates, and they have continued to expand within the constraints of green belt designation, but more remarkable is the demographic revival and social reinvention of places such as Ramsbottom and Rawtenstall. The impact of this on the West Pennine Moors is potentially very considerable. The combination of major new flows of industrial traffic (for example, from Shadsworth to the M66) and car-based commuting have applied pressure on the landscape as a resource, greatly increasing the traffic on the roads of the area (as the Grane Road exemplifies), while the challenge of managing development pressure for new housing in some areas provides a new context for landscape policies and strategies.

- 4.35 Over the past forty years, therefore, the West Pennine Moors have undergone some fundamental changes. In contrast to any previous historical period, they are generally recognised and officially valued as a landscape asset and a visually attractive, even beautiful, amenity. They have become a zone of increasingly intensive recreational and leisure use. Whereas populations had been falling for much of the twentieth century, in some parts there is now a demographic revival. Conservation of the landscape and of historic features has, like the ecological and natural history dimension, become an important theme in planning and the exploitation of the resources, which in turn creates threats to the more vulnerable components of the natural and man-made landscape. The remainder of this report considers the key themes in the landscape heritage of the area, identifies their special characteristics, and attempts to place them in the context of the region as a whole.

## **5. The landscape heritage framework: the main themes**

- 5.1 Each of the themes considered below has a relevance across the West Pennine Moors as a whole. They are broad both in the geographical sense and also in terms of historical periods, and they introduce key issues and factors which have shaped the landscape, society and economy of the area. It could with good reason be suggested that these are the factors that have made the West Pennine Moors which we see today—they are the fundamental processes that have shaped the present landscape. The evidence of each of these themes can be seen in the landscape, and each of them has an interpretational value. Any consideration of how the area has developed over the past five thousand years (but especially the past three hundred years) must involve at least some of these factors.
- 5.2 They also raise crucial questions in the context of how, today and in the future, we value, use and manage landscape and its heritage. There are countless individual historic sites in the West Pennine Moors, of an extraordinarily wide range and diversity—from prehistoric cairns and medieval houses via enclosure tracks of the Stuart period to abandoned coalpits and Victorian dams and so much more in between. To understand these sites properly, and to be able to interpret them reliably and clearly, we need to think of their wider historical circumstances, placing them in context and asking such questions as ‘is this typical or is it unique’, ‘how and when was this feature created’, and ‘how does this site relate to its surroundings’. The framework of key themes below provides a way into these important dimensions to landscape heritage policies and strategies.
- 5.3 The ways in which these themes can be addressed in the context of landscape heritage and its management are of course many and varied. In a broad brush sense, they can inform and underpin general planning strategies, complementing and relating to policies towards ecology and visual quality to form a tripartite basis for action. In a more specific sense, they can form the subject matter of a virtually unlimited potential range of interpretive and educational resources, promotional literature, conservation and building protection policies, guided walks, trails and itineraries. Any such decisions of course depend of the definition of specific policies towards individual areas,

and the expansion and deepening of research and information-gathering on individual topics—and, inevitably, on the availability of resources. Therefore the section of the scoping study below includes no specific proposals, but merely indicates, where appropriate, the types of opportunities which are potentially available. It is arranged under eleven themed headings, given below. Of course, this list does not exhaust the landscape heritage ‘audit’, but it does identify those topics which can be regarded as most significant and which have the greatest potential as policies and strategies are formulated.

- prehistoric settlement and early landscape change
- medieval gentry and aristocratic estates
- agriculture and settlement
- ancient tracks and roads
- stone extraction and quarrying
- the mining industry
- water-powered industry
- the housing of the Industrial Revolution
- water catchments and reservoirs
- churches and chapels
- public parks and monuments

#### ***5.4 Prehistoric settlement and early landscape change***

5.4.1 This is a relatively specialised theme, and one which will undoubtedly present considerable challenges in the context of, for example, interpretive projects, but it has an obvious importance for the landscape of the West Pennine Moors. Furthermore, the area has some significance in terms of the wider picture of the prehistory of North-West England, so this topic merits inclusion on that score. As noted above (paras. 3.3-3.4) there is a series of prehistoric sites on the Winter Hill massif, together with a smaller number of locations further east. The former includes cairns such as that on Noon Hill (GR647150); the stone sub-structure and fallen capstone of the chambered long cairn at Pike Stones; and the various scatters and concentrations of worked flints which have been found on Wheelton Moor and adjacent slopes. There are almost certainly many other sites to be identified, and several locations where the existence of a cairn or mound is subject to debate (as Two Lads above Horwich). The eastern half of the area includes the small stone circle on the ridge at Cheetham Close, together with the modest remains of the adjacent enclosure, and the site known as Thirteen Stone Hill near Haslingden.

5.4.2 As noted, there are certainly numerous other sites which have not been recognised as such—for example, in the Peak District the place-name element ‘low’ for a hilltop is normally associated with prehistoric burial mounds or related ritual monuments (e.g. Arbor Low) and there are several such hills in the West Pennine Moors—Pike Lowe near Pickup Bank, Hog Lowe at Musbury, and Brown Lowe on Darwen Moor are examples—which merit more detailed investigation. Names such as Standing Stones Hill are also significant, but in many instances it is unclear whether the features which give rise to such names are natural (as at Hanging Stones on Turton Moor). In

short, archaeological work has been limited and often unscientific, and much of the jigsaw puzzle is missing.

5.4.3 Some of the sites mentioned above are scheduled ancient monuments, and so are relatively secure, and they are in remote areas which are not likely to be affected by any development pressure. In the context of interpretive projects, the major problem is that they are not visually impressive compared with, for example, the prehistoric henges at Maybank near Penrith, or the stone circle on Birkrigg Common near Ulverston. Indeed, the flint scatters have no obvious visual identity at all. Furthermore most of these sites are on boggy hillsides with no easy public access. This has of course helped to protect them from damage, but it makes it more difficult to include these sites in proactive landscape heritage projects. The main exception is perhaps Cheetham Close, which lies in a prominent location immediately alongside the Witton Weavers Way, but even this is less than spectacular—some rough stones largely hidden in the heather and grass.

- The landscape of the West Pennine Moors was significantly shaped by prehistoric human activity
- The surviving monuments are generally unimpressive visually and of specialised interest
- In most instances they are not sufficiently concentrated geographically to form the basis of subject-specific trails or other interpretive work, although some (such as Cheetham Close) are suitably placed to form part of multi-themed interpretation
- Those which are closer together (along the western margin of the winter Hill massif) are in difficult terrain
- The significant message from the prehistoric evidence concerns the creation of the moorland landscape by a combination of climate deterioration, woodland burning and animal grazing. This underpins much of the general landscape ‘feel’ of the area and thus is important in its own right, but it also introduces ideas about environmental change and man’s impact upon the environment.
- Future heritage work on this theme could, in some circumstances, involve partnership or collaboration with archaeological agencies (possibly including local history and archaeological societies under suitable guidance)

## **5.5 *Medieval gentry and aristocratic estates***

5.5.1 The medieval landscape heritage of the area focuses particularly upon the activities of the major landowners and the great estates. This encompasses deer parks and hunting chases, vaccaries and large houses. The main contextual theme, as already seen, is the increasing population during the period from the Norman Conquest to the early fourteenth century, during which time agricultural colonisation and expansion led to the creation of new farmland higher up slopes and towards the heads of valleys. Yet there are very few visible remains of medieval vernacular architecture in the area—the homes of ordinary folk—and neither do the churches and chapels of the West Pennine Moors include substantial surviving medieval fabric. This inevitably means that the obvious visual element from the medieval period is relatively limited in terms of specific sites, although the rural landscape retains some

elements: the intricate patterns of fields and footpaths in, for example, the area east of the M61 around Limbrick and Healey Nab is, in its general character, a medieval landscape (though naturally modified over the ensuing six or seven centuries).

5.5.2 The activities of major medieval landowners have, however, left a legacy of high-status sites, some of which continue to be distinctive and important landscape features and potentially permit the development of specific guided walks, interpretive literature and other opportunities, as well as more general information about their impact upon the area as a whole. In particular, some of the larger houses, of which two are open to the public, are important medieval buildings. The most impressive evidence comes from Smithills Hall, with its magnificent great hall (one of the most significant in North-West England) and from Turton Tower. These are among the foremost heritage assets in the West Pennine Moors and are already very familiar, having been open to the public for many years. They are also the subject of educational and interpretive work, which is shifting its focus away from the buildings towards their settings and their place in wider management of a great estate. At Smithills, in particular, the work of landscape restoration and the upgrading of the estate environment has involved major physical improvements and extensive new research over the past decade.

5.5.3 Deer parks were a very important feature of gentry estates in the medieval period, being regarded as a status symbol. As already noted, considerable parts of the area were also subject, at least in principle, to forest law and to the protection accorded to deer belonging to aristocratic and royal owners. The most significant individual site in this context was the very large and well-documented deer park at Musbury, much of the outline of which can still be readily traced running along ridges and hillsides. There were other deer parks at, for example, Healey Nab and Smithills. There were also the early medieval cattle farms or vaccaries (eight in the Horwich area, and others at Hoddlesden, Antley [Oswaldtwistle] and Baxenden). They have left fewer visible traces, and are less well documented than those further east in Rossendale and Pendle.

- few medieval buildings survive in the West Pennine Moors, although two are of major architectural and historical importance—Smithills Hall and Turton Tower. Both have obvious potential in heritage terms and as the focus of a wide variety of activities, projects and landscape strategies
- deer parks are of considerable historical interest and are identifiable at several locations; tracing their boundaries provides the potential for circular walks through particularly attractive landscapes; some of the vaccaries, though less well known, were in similarly impressive landscapes and contribute to the overall landscape heritage
- medieval churches and chapels (for example, Brindle, Chorley St Lawrence, and Bury St Mary) were all outside the area of the West Pennine Moors; medieval fabric is very limited or has been completely replaced, so there is little potential for church trails with a medieval theme
- a more general medieval ‘feel’ in the landscape is most apparent along the western margins from Horwich northwards to Brinscall; everywhere,

interpretation of place-names gives much valuable evidence about the landscape between the Norman Conquest and the fourteenth century

## **5.6 *Agriculture and settlement***

5.6.1 For several millennia agriculture was much the most important land use in the area, even in the moorland areas which were exploited as rough grazing land for cattle and sheep. Indeed, the character of the present landscape was to a very considerable extent determined by agricultural uses until the early years of the twentieth century. However, today that all-important role is not immediately obvious to many observers, and few would probably think of farming as a key element in the present landscape. Of particular historical significance is the changing character of agriculture over the past thousand years, with the pattern of 'ebbing and flowing' of the intensity of farming and the geographical extent of agricultural settlement. A very wide range of detailed features of the landscape are also the product of agricultural activity—some are obvious, such as the intricate field patterns of areas such as Rivington and Limbrick; Holcombe and Affetside; or Yate and Pickup Bank, or the drystone walls and tall stone gateposts of the uplands, while other features are less obviously related to agriculture—the shaping of the network of roads and tracks over large areas of the West Pennine Moors, for instance.

5.6.2 In considering the development of agriculture over the past thousand years, several key phases can readily be identified, and form another dimension to the framework of landscape heritage:

a) the early medieval expansion of farming activity and its geographical extension up the slopes onto the upland margins (with associated processes such as woodland clearance and the founding of new farms)

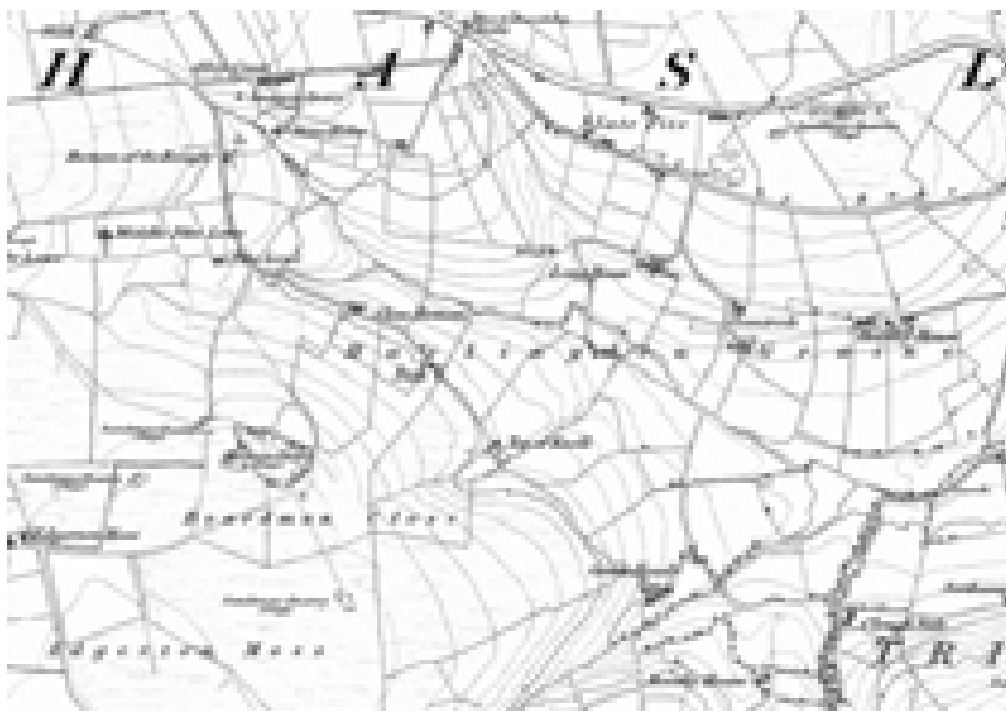
b) the growth in farming, or more particularly smallholdings and crofts, at the margins of the settled land during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, with the emergence of squatter settlements and encroachments on the moorland edge in places such as Pickup Bank;

c) the intensification of agricultural activity in the seventeenth century, associated with the gradual development of the 'fold' pattern of farming hamlets, and with the very widespread rebuilding of farmhouses (many of which survive today with characteristic later seventeenth and early eighteenth century agricultural styles);

d) the more ambitious reclamation of moorland from the early seventeenth century, involving planned field patterns extending over hundreds of acres, together with the subdivision of areas such as Musbury deer park and the development of new farms in formerly marginal ground, often linked by newly laid out tracks



**Pickup Bank in 1846** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map): the intricate and confused pattern of dispersed cottages, small fields and lanes resulted from colonisation of the moorland fringe in the years around 1600. This distinctive landscape, which has recently been the subject of conservation and environmental enhancement work, has a regional significance as a representative of social and economic changes during a period when Lancashire was moving towards early industrialisation.



**The upper part of Haslingden Grane in 1846** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map): all the houses, farms and cottages shown here have now been abandoned, but the sites of most can still be easily identified and in several cases substantial ruins survive, together with networks of paths and access tracks, field boundaries and ancillary features such as stone troughs. These merit consolidation and restoration, followed by further interpretation work.

e) the major and hasty expansion of farming in the years around 1800 and the bringing into cultivation of land high on the plateau edges, and the improvement of rough grazing for more intensive pasture; associated with infrastructure improvements such as drainage and walling, and with new farms and smallholdings which were often established in very marginal and economically and environmentally uncertain locations

f) the rapid contraction of agricultural activity in the second half of the nineteenth century, and the abandonment of many upland farms and cottages, some of them being relatively recent date, creating a 'relict' high-tide line at around 1250 feet OD

g) the impact of water catchments, leading to depopulation, the disappearance of active farming over large areas, and the desertion of entire farming settlements, especially from the mid-1870s onwards

h) the challenges of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, with the afforestation of former farmland, the change of use of dwellings from farming to commuter housing, the gradual decay of many of the details of the landscape such as drystone walls, and the steady reversion of pasture to boggy moorland and scrub.

5.6.3 Each of these phases has a particular historical interest, but taken collectively they offer a timeline of change over a long historical period, with abundant evidence surviving on the ground. Since, as suggested above, agriculture was an important factor in shaping the network of paths and tracks in the West Pennine Moors, almost any routeway will show examples of features from the local farming heritage—whether drystone walls (which many people simply take for granted) or ruined farmhouses and cottages; or the overgrown signs of ploughing of marginal land two hundred years ago; or the contrast between improved pasture, rough pasture and moorland grazing which is one of the most immediately visible elements in most views across the West Pennine Moors.

5.6.4 Patterns of fields and changing landscapes are readily identifiable from the ground but also from older maps and it is possible to demonstrate landscape change in a very visible fashion using such sources, reinforced with the evidence of, for example, census returns which can help in reconstructing the nature of communities in the past. The built environment of farming—the cottages, outbuildings, farmhouses, folds and walls—is a very obvious feature of the landscape, and it is clear that the architectural heritage of the West Pennine Moors has been shaped to a very important extent by the requirements of agriculture in the past. The decline of agriculture has in turn shaped that heritage (as in the stark choice of abandonment or reuse). Here, too, contemporary issues also emerge—questions such as the fate of agricultural land which is being taken out of use, the challenges of whether natural regeneration or deliberate management is the preferred strategy.

5.6.5 Within the general theme of agriculture, therefore, certain key subsidiary topics emerge which could form the basis of more specific studies and which

have major potential as central themes in landscape heritage policies and strategies. These individual topics include: drystone walls and other boundaries; abandoned communities and settlements; field patterns and the related settlement patterns; the relationship between farming and the natural environment of soils, slopes, geology and climate; the relationship between farming and other occupations such as weaving, mining and quarrying; the impact of water policies on farming in the nineteenth century; and the management of larger gentry estates such as Smithills.

- agriculture and farming are the oldest human land-use in the West Pennine Moors, have had the widest impact upon its landscape, and were the basis of its settlement, society and economy for thousands of years
- much of the present landscape has been shaped, directly or indirectly, by agriculture
- the sequence of phases of expansion and decline in farming over the past thousand years is a historical timeline which could form the basis of much heritage work
- the diversity of farming activities has given rise to the detail of different landscapes and can be closely related to other historical sources such as maps and plans and census returns
- the separate themes within the farming topic are readily related to more detailed projects or interpretive work, as noted in the above list
- farming and its history are closely related to very broad historical themes, such as climate change and the impact of industrialisation
- the subject also raises many issues of great contemporary relevance in the context of environment, planning and social policy

## ***5.7 Ancient tracks and roads***

5.7.1 The West Pennine Moors have a remarkable and intricate network of routeways, with examples from almost all historical periods from the prehistoric (almost certainly) and Roman (definitely) through to the late twentieth century. The history of communications in the area is very complex, and collectively the network forms a superb historical and heritage asset, with many textbook examples of archaeological and landscape features. Many miles of routeway used in past centuries for foot, horse or packhorse traffic survive as public rights of way and as clearly defined routes, while substantial stretches of older main roads, which were used by wheeled vehicles, were superseded during the Industrial Revolution and remain as attractive green lanes, or tracks across the uplands. This legacy of unmetalled routes means that there is very great potential for the development of interpretive projects and recreational use, exploiting their almost unlimited potential for walking, cycling and riding. They pass through very attractive countryside and link other historic features and landscape heritage assets.

5.7.2 The development of communications can be directly correlated with the changing economic and social character of the area, so that these routes are an important tool in reading the landscape and explaining its development. The changes in communications were both a response to changes in the local economy, but also were themselves a means of stimulating change. This

important message has useful implications for interpretive work, since a walk along almost any route will not only be a 'historical experience' in its own right but will also provide a series of pointers and links to earlier societies and their economic structures. There is a further potential benefit—in many parts of the area different routeways from various periods are found in close proximity, perhaps interlocking and overlapping, so that it is possible to devise walks and circular itineraries which, within a relatively short distance, include a rich variety of historical evidence: for instance, a section of Roman road, a packhorse causeway, a medieval hollow-way, a high-level inter-valley track and an eighteenth century turnpike.

5.7.3 There are many hundreds of miles of routeway, but some important examples of different types are given below for illustrative purposes:

a) **Roman roads:** As noted above, the minor road through Affetside, Edgworth, Grimehills and Eccleshill is almost entirely on the alignment of a Roman road, and in a few places where the alignment is not metalled some trace of the route may be seen in field boundaries

b) **Medieval roads:** Numerous lanes and trackways in, for example, the western margins of the area around Limbrick, Anderton and Rivington are medieval origin, but a particularly good instance of a medieval road which retains much of its ancient character is the superseded section of the main Blackburn to Bolton road, running from Roddlesworth to Hollinshead and then across the open moorland to Longworth and Belmont. There are sections of hollow way which are especially impressive, and this is one of the best examples of the old 'king's highway' in South Lancashire.

c) **Packhorse routes:** Many of the higher-level tracks which cross between valleys were intensively used by packhorses from the sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries: some sections have extremely good examples of the characteristic flagged causeway structure, while others show evidence of engineering works such as the use of zigzags and sinuous curves to ease gradients on steeper sections, or of hollow ways and pitched surfaces on the crest of slopes and valley sides. Haslingden Grane, for example, has fine examples of paved causeways, engineered sections, former packhorse bridges, and high-level valley side routes.

d) **Enclosure roads:** Although parliamentary enclosure was rare in this part of Lancashire there are some interesting examples of roads or tracks which were deliberately laid out as part of a planned process of moorland enclosure under private auspices, some of them significantly earlier (seventeenth century) than the main period of enclosure of the waste (1750-1820). Good examples may be seen on Oswaldtwistle Moor and the north side of Haslingden Grane.

e) **Turnpike roads:** South-east Lancashire as a whole had one of the densest and most complex turnpike networks in Britain. Many of the routes are, inevitably, now followed by modern main roads (such as the Grane Road and the Belmont Road), which reduces their potential for landscape heritage

projects (primarily on safety grounds) but others are less heavily-trafficked. A distinctive feature of the second phase of turnpike development in the area (from the 1790s onwards) was the construction of entirely new routes, rather than the improvement of existing roads, and the area has some outstanding examples of early nineteenth century highway engineering which are of national significance.

**f) Roads and tracks for special purposes:** The area has several historically-important examples of nineteenth-century tracks and roads which were built for specific purposes such as access to mines and quarries: the network of green tracks on Darwen Moor, fanning out to give access to coal-pits; the Coalpit Road on Smithills Moor; the remarkable paved wagon-road linking Burnt Edge Colliery with the turnpike at Walker Fold near Halliwell; and the network of tracks, inclines and former tramways serving the great Musbury quarries are examples. These are integral to wider industrial archaeology sites of great importance both locally and regionally (and in some instances with a national significance). These area merit major conservation and interpretation, as a key element in the social and economic history of the area.

- routeways of all sorts are naturally integral to access policies and strategies and most are already public rights of way; they also include routes through the most attractive areas of the West Pennine Moors landscape
- the area provides textbook examples of most ‘classic’ types of routeway, but hitherto relatively little attention has been paid to them as historic features in their own right—there is much potential for giving them a higher profile
- they link with many other historic sites and are therefore invaluable in the development of trails, guided walks and other leisure/access projects
- they are fundamental to the social and economic history of the area and so offer a way in (both literally and metaphorically) to wider themes which can be used as the basis of landscape heritage work

## **5.8 *Stone extraction and quarrying***

5.8.1 The hillsides of the West Pennine Moors are scarred and pockmarked with the remains of stone quarries. Sometimes, as at Scout Scar above Egerton or the great Musbury Quarries, the remains of the quarries themselves, and the waste tips of rubble and stone, are extremely prominent and visible, while elsewhere shallow scoops in the hillsides, long overgrown and vegetated, may only be detectable by careful observation. A glance at the six-inch OS maps of the mid-1840s shows hundreds of small delphs and quarries for sandstone across the hills and moorlands. Many of these were worked to provide small supplies of stone for individual farmhouses or drystone walls in the immediate vicinity.

5.8.2 Throughout the West Pennine Moors, as also in Rossendale, the existence of excellent building stones and flagstones supported a major industry for two centuries from the mid-eighteenth century, although today in this part of the uplands quarrying has largely finished (the main exception being the quarries at Heap Clough and Haslingden), while for many hundreds of years before the Industrial Revolution smaller-scale working of the stone provided the raw material for countless dwellings and also for immense networks of drystone

walls and miles of paved or flagged causeway. Furthermore, the quarries provided stone for many places far beyond the borders of the West Pennine Moors—the use of flagstones from Musbury for the paving of Trafalgar Square in London is perhaps the most famous example. Stone quarries thus form a significant element in the industrial archaeology of the West Pennine Moors.

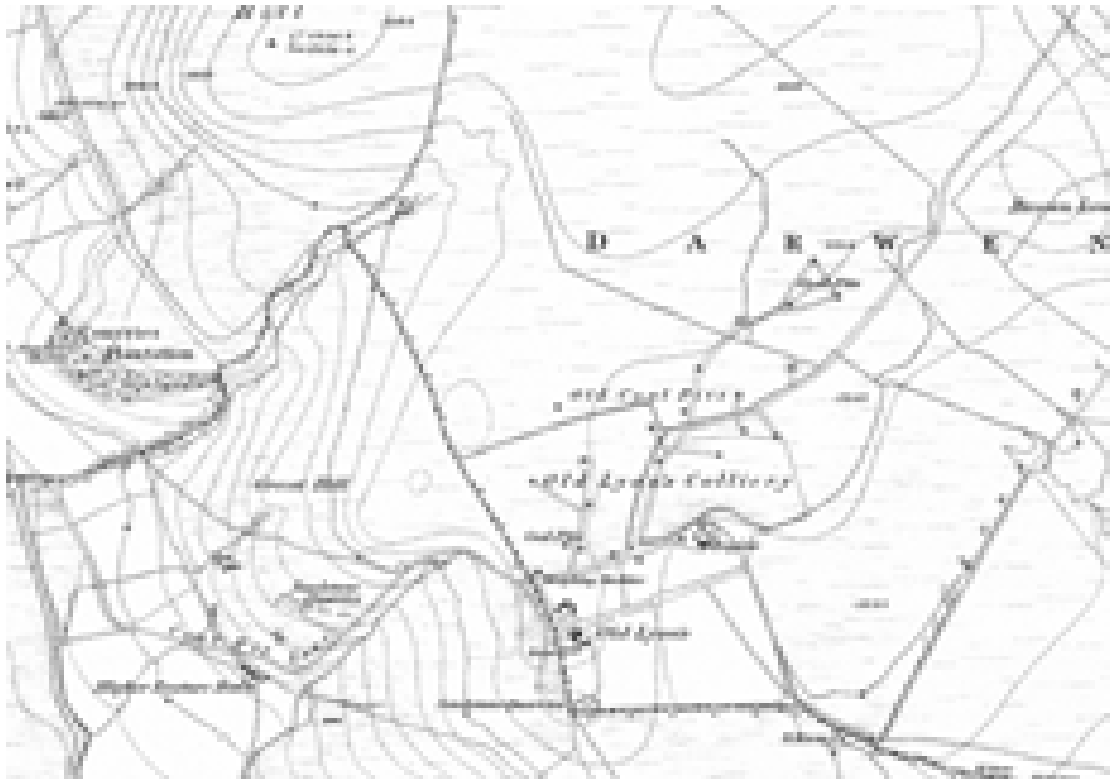
- 5.8.3 In terms of landscape heritage, this theme links very closely with the parallel work on ecology and natural landscapes, highlighting the geology and geomorphology of the area. Thus, the very distinctive ‘step and ledge’ topography of the Rossendale valleys and moorlands, so clear from so many viewpoints, is not only a consequence of the geological structure but also determines the outcropping of the workable building stones. It presents a valuable opportunity to look at the natural landscape and the underlying structure and then to relate that to patterns of human activity. At the same time, important questions of technology and society are raised: how was the stone extracted; how was it lifted; how was it moved within and away from the quarry site; what working environment was there for the quarrymen; who worked in the quarries? Questions such as these can be answered by reference to the surviving landscape evidence (ramps, cart tracks, inclines, loading platforms, foundations of machinery), with older photographs and maps and plans, and with documentary evidence such as census returns and directories.
- 5.8.4 There is also scope for specialised quarrying to be highlighted as a theme—in other words, particular stones had specific uses, such as the Haslingden slates [sandstone flags] used for paving and earlier for roofing; or the very tough sandstones of the Brindle and Brinscall area, which were used since the early Middle Ages for millstones; or the relationship between particular quarries and individual building projects (such as the opening of quarries to supply stone for reservoir construction). Since much of this also relates to a careful assessment of the geological character of the material itself, the link between the natural landscape and man’s exploitation of it is again reinforced.
- 5.8.5 Thus, industrial archaeology, while of central importance, is only one dimension to the interpretation of quarry sites. Clearly this theme, like that of mining considered below, raises important issues concerned with safety and access, but most quarry sites are already accessible and close to public rights of way and/or within access land, so with common sense and caution significant problems should not arise.
- quarrying was an important industry with an obvious and extensive environmental impact, and an influence which extended far beyond the West Pennine Moors
  - the industry has left very significant and intrinsically interesting industrial archaeological remains, and can be interpreted in the context of the natural landscape of geology and geomorphology; ecology and habitat creation; economic history; and the social history of individual communities within the West Pennine Moors

- many of the quarries are in comparatively remote and visually attractive areas, but are on or close to public rights of way so can easily be incorporated into interpretive projects

## **5.9 *The mining industry***

- 5.9.1 Like stone-quarrying, coal-mining was widespread across the West Pennine Moors, and has left many traces in the landscape, though in general they are less prominent than the quarries and require more careful observation. This is particularly since the (in retrospect unfortunate) levelling of many mining remains between 1960 and 1995 on the dubious various grounds of amenity and public safety. The industrial archaeology of coal-mining has thus suffered considerable loss and damage in relatively recent times. The coal seams of the West Pennine Moors are thin, the coal of fairly poor quality, and the problems of working the coal are considerable—all the pits in the area were prone to water and flooding, though gas was not usually a major problem.
- 5.9.2 Mining began at an unknown date—the earliest local records go back to the sixteenth century, but the likelihood is that surface outcrops were worked during the medieval period (there is documentary evidence for this further east, in the Pendle and Trawden area). The market for the coal was purely local, with the product being transported no further than nearby market towns such as Blackburn and Bolton. The pits were comparatively shallow and often short-lived, and in areas such as Darwen Moor and Winter Hill large numbers of shafts were worked over a large area of moorland, linked by an intricate pattern of access routes fanning out from a single main approach route. The majority of the mines had been abandoned by the 1870s, as a result of competition from better-quality coal from elsewhere in South Lancashire, the pits of the West Pennine Moors being at a major disadvantage because of the lack of rail access. Only in a few locations did significant mining activity survive into the twentieth century.
- 5.9.3 Although, as already noted, there have been significant losses, the industrial archaeology of coal-mining in the area retains a great deal of interest. The sites themselves rarely include any standing structures, partly because of demolition but also because most older shafts were small and only had temporary headgear and sheds. However, in many instances the access routes, spoilheaps, lodges or reservoirs, and sometimes foundations of buildings can be identified. Part of the intrinsic interest is that pits were worked in remarkably inconvenient locations (those on the summit of Winter Hill are among the highest in England) and this leads to consideration of the human story. As with quarrying, questions can be asked about working conditions; the workers themselves (for example, where did they live, and how much was the employment of children and women typical of this area); and the practicalities of getting coal to the market.
- 5.9.4 In some areas, such as Winter Hill and Darwen Moor, sub-regional case-studies can demonstrate all these factors and can be tied in with the surviving evidence on the ground. Although the locations were frequently very remote, the sites are often accessible by public rights of way or are in access land.

Safety issues are not serious, since most of the mines have been abandoned and infilled for over 130 years, and shafts are normally capped. Indeed, some of the sites, such as those on Winter Hill, are very close to well-used trackways.



**Old Lyon's Colliery on Darwen Moor in 1846** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map): the numerous shafts linked by a branching network of access tracks, and a main route (Coalpit Road) leading up to the moor top from the valley is typical of the smaller and more remote moorland collieries of the West Pennine Moors. Substantial evidence of these workings remains today, although largely unknown to walkers.

5.9.5 There are some sites in the West Pennine Moors where materials other than coal were mined. The best-known is the small lead-mining site at Anglezarke. This was always limited in scale compared with the mines in major leadfields in areas such as the Peak District and Wharfedale, but substantial remains survived and the mining site was the subject of one of the earliest industrial archaeology conservation and interpretation projects in the area. The fireclay deposits which occur in the coal measures have also been exploited, particularly at Huddlesden but also in several other locations (such as Burnt Edge). This is a little-known industry but of considerable interest and deserves closer attention, especially as it gave rise to, for example, the tile and firebrick manufacturing trade in the Huddlesden valley. .

- coal-mining was a significant industry until the second half of the nineteenth century, although its visual contribution to the landscape is relatively modest; but the industrial archaeological potential is important and given the popularity of this subject the coal-mining dimension to the landscape heritage should have a high priority

- the coalpits themselves have few structures, but plenty of evidence of layout and the relationship between individual pits and shafts can readily be established
- as with quarrying, there is a great deal of potential for linking the physical evidence with the social and highlighting the ‘human story’ using census returns and contemporary documents
- the linkages between the history of coal-mining and the development of themes such as transport history and infrastructure has much potential, as has the relationship between mining and geological structure

## **5.10 *Water and industry***

5.10.1 The West Pennine Moors was one of the most important areas in England for early industrialisation, both during the many decades of ‘proto-industrial’ development and also in the first phase of the Industrial Revolution. These early industries were able to take advantage of the abundant supplies of clean, reliable, fast-flowing and soft water which could be used both as a source of power and also in the bleaching, printing and dyeing stages of textile production. Although several locations within the area (in particular Haslingden and Helmshore, and Brinscall and Withnell) developed significant concentrations of steam-powered cotton production in the nineteenth century, the special importance of the West Pennine Moors lies in the evidence for the earlier phase of the Industrial Revolution. In this respect the survival and restoration of the mill complex at Helmshore means that the area has as its industrial focus one of the most outstanding monuments of the period anywhere in Britain.

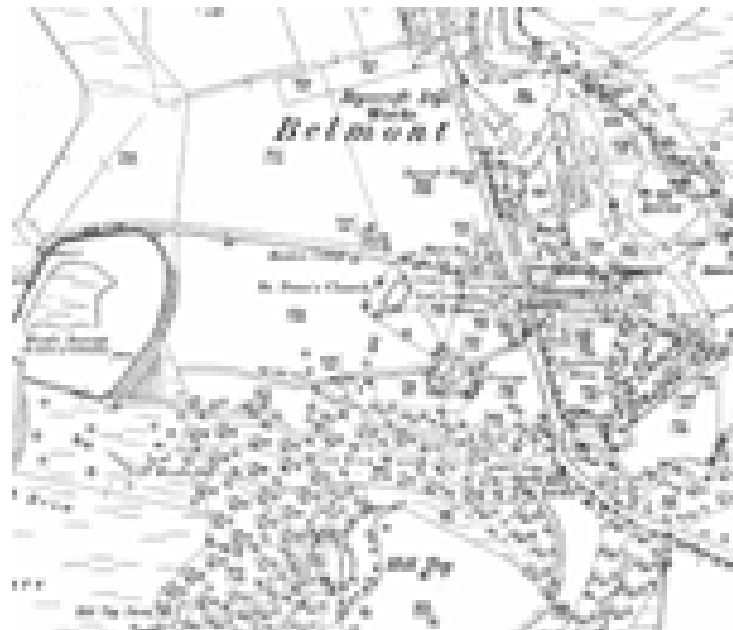
5.10.2 The use of water as a source of power predates the Industrial Revolution by at least seven centuries. Numerous examples of medieval water-powered cornmills are known from the local historical record, although extant fabric of that date is minimal, and some sites survived in use until recent times. Fulling mills are also known from historical sources, pointing to the emergence of a woollen textile industry in the thirteenth century (sites such as that at Helmshore being the successors to this much earlier phase in the development of the industry). Archaeological and historical research on these earlier phases of industrialisation is relatively limited, since so much more attention has been given to the Industrial Revolution and its aftermath, and there is probably extensive scope for further investigation. William Yates’s 1786 one-inch map of Lancashire shows more than twenty watermills in the area of the West Pennine Moors, in places such as Horwich, Heapey, Turton, Bradshaw, Rivington and Quarlton. In some of these locations there has not been any major subsequent development, so that in principle the sites of the cornmills should be identifiable and features such as leats and the remains of millponds will be recognisable.

5.10.3 The use of water-power for other industrial processes, and for the much larger textile mills of the early Industrial Revolution, marked a vital new stage in the evolution of technology (since most earlier inventions which related to the mechanisation of textile production were dependent upon water power). The availability of water power was, within narrow limits, confined to the

riversides and streamsides, so the location of the new mills was almost entirely determined by the existence of suitable watercourses. This is so self-evident that it is often forgotten. It is crucial in explaining not only the distribution of industry in the first phase of the Industrial Revolution, but also the radical relocation which took place when steam power superseded water. Steam power freed industry and other locational factors, such as transport routes and the availability of labour, to become more influential.

- 5.10.4 That, in turn, meant that the first industrial locations eventually tended to become backwaters, preserving the sites of earlier mills and works from intensive redevelopment. Most of the major watercourses flowing through the West Pennine Moors thus show evidence, sometimes very well-preserved, of early industrial sites. However, the building of reservoirs in some instances drowned such places (as at Ogden Reservoir in Haslingden Grane or Jumbles Reservoir on Bradshaw Brook).
- 5.10.5 Water power is the most familiar theme, but the use of very large supplies of clean water for bleaching, dyeing and printing was integral to the burgeoning cotton industry. The location of bleachworks, printworks and dyeworks was carefully determined, since it was essential for them to be above the main sources of pollution (which by the beginning of the nineteenth century implied either other major industries or towns or both). Therefore these industrial sites tend to be found on the upper reaches of larger watercourses—that is not invariably the case, because other sources of water might be found, but the pattern is fairly clear in the Bolton area, for example. Ironically, of course, this meant that anywhere below the major dyeing, printing or bleaching sites was itself subject to serious and often noxious pollution. Water supplies were therefore jealously guarded and frequently the subject of litigation, either because of what was deemed to be excessive abstraction or because of spoiling of quality with effluent and pollution.
- 5.10.6 In some instances manufacturers might join forces to develop supplies of pure water exclusively for industrial use (the Holden Wood Reservoir at Helmshore was built in 1832 by a consortium of industrialists from the Irwell Valley, to provide an alternative to increasingly dirty river water). Alternatively, ambitious manufacturers might seek alternative water supplies from further afield, bypassing polluted river courses or collecting water from wide areas by leats or channels: the classic instance of the latter is the construction in the late 1820s of a network of leats and reservoirs on Smithills Moor to provide a dedicated supply to the great Dean Mills at Halliwell.
- 5.10.7 Taken together, those locational factors meant that by the early 1840s scarcely any significant watercourse in the West Pennine Moors was without industrial sites, and some had chains of mills, works and their associated ponds and lodges, diversionary channels, filter and settling beds and other elements in industrial processing. The water was therefore reused many times over, and every works was dependent upon the reliability and quality of supply passed down from higher upstream. The sites of many such works were often awkward and difficult of access, because fast flow to drive waterwheels was the most important locational factor—overriding considerations of lack of flat

ground, or availability of transport links. That, too, militated against reuse of sites in the steam age, and many early mills and bleaching sites were abandoned in the mid-nineteenth century.



**Belmont in 1893** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25-inch map): a classic location for water-powered industry, Belmont was a newly-created settlement of the 1820s and 1830s, the disadvantages of a remote position being outweighed by the availability of power and the situation on a new inter-urban turnpike road. Once industrial development lost its dependence upon water, a location such as this was less favourable, and Belmont has grown little beyond its mid-nineteenth century size.

- the area is among the most important nationally (and thus globally) for the evidence of early water-powered industry in the first phases of the Industrial Revolution
- many sites were subsequently abandoned and, because of their location, have been subject to relatively little change
- the magnificent site at Helmshore is protected and cherished, but much less is known about other sites, many of which have great potential in terms of industrial archaeology and the social and economic history of the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries
- this is particularly so in conjunction with the planned industrial communities discussed in the next section
- as watercourses tend to have chains of sites there is great scope for the development of 'linear heritage' using the river valley as the basis of walks and trails
- bleaching, printing and dyeing have been given much less attention, and are less familiar in the popular imagination, than spinning and weaving: the West Pennine Moors has extensive evidence of the later finishing stages of textile production and the profile of these sites could be enhanced

## ***5.11 Planned villages and weavers' cottages: the housing of the Industrial Revolution***

- 5.11.1 Early water-powered industry is, therefore, a key theme in the history and landscape heritage of the West Pennine Moors, and the area is among the most important anywhere in its surviving evidence for this period. This pre-eminence is complemented by the impressive legacy of planned industrial communities of the period 1780-1840, perhaps the best such grouping in Britain. These villages include Abbey Village, Withnell Fold, Barrow Bridge and Belmont, and are supplemented by others (such as Bank Top) which are just outside the West Pennine Moors boundary. There are also smaller groups of planned dwellings in several locations, such as the housing around Queen's Square in Huddlesden.
- 5.11.2 They all originated from a pressing practical problem for early industrialists—that the water-powered textile sites were often remote from existing settlement so that labour was in very short supply. The solution was to create new communities so that the workers lived on the spot, immediately adjacent to the works. However, although practical considerations were clearly the driving force, many employers in other industries and, indeed, in the textile industries in other parts of the country, relied solely on private enterprise and speculative building to provide housing for workers. The difference in this area was that these new locations were not particularly attractive for private investment (especially as the notion of large scale industrial development was itself unfamiliar), so the speculative builders could not be relied upon to undertake the task.
- 5.11.3 Employers therefore sponsored or directly paid for the creation of communities which, because they were built as single projects, were planned to at least some extent, and had a relatively uniform appearance. No less important is the philanthropic emphasis placed by some employers upon ensuring reasonable standards of building and the provision of basic amenities. This is in part because of genuine humanitarian and socially-enlightened philosophies, and in part because the development of model villages reflected creditably on the employer himself. Some of these projects therefore resulted in exemplary housing (by the standards of the time) and a distinctively neat and attractive appearance. They were the forebears of socially-designed communities such as Port Sunlight, and of the garden suburb and new town movements. As such, they have an important place in British housing history and in the social history of the industrial age.
- 5.11.4 The housing provision of the early phase of the Industrial Revolution also included the building of numerous cottages for handloom weavers. These were designed to include space for looms, usually either in large cellars or attic storeys. Many existing dwellings were also adapted for weaving by the construction of rear or side extensions, often known as loomshops. This type of housing was a response to the circumstances which prevailed from the 1780s to the 1830s, when spinning was not only mechanised but was increasingly adapted to steam power. This generated a massive increase in the output of yarn, but as weaving was still primarily dependent on human power,

using the handloom, it remained essentially a domestic trade. Weavers commanded high wages and there was a powerful economic imperative to expand the handloom weaving trade, to cope with demand. During this period, therefore, hasty adaptation or purpose-built housing alike changed the nature of the housing stock.

5.11.5 Much research work has been undertaken, both to identify the numerous surviving examples of these cottages and to reconstruct the way of life and domestic circumstances of the weavers. Typically, the houses were built as long single rows, often in isolated places, and associated with farming and smallholdings because weaving families tended to practise the 'dual economy' system. Despite the vicissitudes of the past fifty years (such as housing clearance and renewal) these cottages are found in large numbers in areas such as Belthorn, Tockholes, Lower Darwen, Horwich, Egerton, and Haslingden. Recognisable particularly by their over-large attic windows, or half-windows at cellar/street level, they are a distinctive element in the architectural and social heritage of the area, although many have experienced drastic alterations in the last half-century.

- the model or planned communities are a particularly impressive feature of the built environment and landscape heritage of the West Pennine Moors
- they are usually relatively well-documented and are intrinsically attractive, as well as having rich social history significance, and they are well suited to interpretive projects
- as they are by their nature intimately associated with industrial archaeology and industrial sites of importance, they give the opportunity for multi-disciplinary work on heritage
- they are one of the themes in which the West Pennine Moors has an outstanding historical legacy, definitely of national and perhaps of international importance
- the handloom weavers cottages are similarly distinctive to the area and have a major architectural and social history interest, which has been the subject of research by housing historians
- these cottages are very widespread in the West Pennine Moors, and most communities can show at least some examples, while in places such as Belthorn and Tockholes there are many surviving groups; they are the evidence for a unique and dramatic phase in the industrial history of the nation

## **5.12 Churches and chapels**

5.12.1 Although the almost complete absence of surviving fabric from the medieval churches of the area has been noted, the 'landscape faith' remains a subject of major interest and its visual impact is important. Post-medieval churches and chapels provide a focus to most of the communities within the West Pennine Moors, and their architectural heritage reflects the fundamental changes which were experienced in the county of Lancashire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In the sixteenth century several new chapels appear for the first time in the historical record, although it is likely that there were undocumented medieval chapels in some of those places. Examples of chapels

which first appear in 1500 to 1700 include Bradshaw, Rivington, Turton/Walmsley, Darwen, Tockholes and Accrington. Other older churches, such as Haslingden, were enlarged and rebuilt in the same period. The population increase of the Industrial Revolution placed heavy pressure upon existing places of worship, and new chapels or churches were founded in all the growing communities within the West Pennine Moors, particularly after 1840. Examples include Belmont 1850 Helmshore 1851, Grane Village 1867 [relocated in the 1920s], and Baxenden 1877.

5.12.2 All of these were Church of England establishments, but there was also a major expansion of the various nonconformist denominations. In the area of the West Pennine Moors early nonconformity is represented by, for example, the chapels at Rivington, Lower Darwen, and Dearden Gate in Haslingden, each of which dates from the first half of the eighteenth century. However, the close association between early industry and nonconformity, together with the growth of Methodism in the later eighteenth century, meant that chapels of all denominations proliferated in the growing industrial communities. To these were added, from the 1790s onwards, Catholic chapels and churches, a trend which was accelerated from the 1830s, and especially the 1850s, by the massive influx of Irish people to south Lancashire.

5.12.3 In the twentieth century many churches and chapels closed because of falling attendance and dwindling congregations, and were either demolished or converted to other uses, but their architectural contribution to streetscapes and townscapes remains crucial, while the social history of religion in the area is of special interest—as is the part played by industrialists and employers in the provision not just of places of worship but the accompanying schools, Sunday schools, community halls and other amenities. Little research and interpretation work has been undertaken on the religious buildings, ‘the landscape of faith’, in the West Pennine Moors as a whole, although some individual sites, such as Rivington and Tockholes, have been studied in detail and are well-documented. General histories of some churches have been published, and their architectural history is admirably covered in the new volumes of the Buildings of England series, but the overview is still missing.

- churches and chapels are prominent in townscapes and landscapes
- their social history, as much as their architectural history, is an important element in the story of the West Pennine Moors
- the relationships between the different faiths and the community is a subject of continuing importance, as is the role of the church and religion in Victorian industrial society
- the links between the churches, educational provision and the circumstances of children in the nineteenth century is a topic which merits further exploration
- church and chapel buildings, and the schools and other facilities which were often provided in conjunction with them, are integral to walks and trails around most villages and towns within the West Pennine Moors, but there is little available material to explain and interpret the more general history of religion in the area

### **5.13 *Water catchment and reservoirs***

- 5.13.1 The role of the West Pennine Moors as water catchments has been one of the most important factors shaping its present landscape. Almost all the valleys in the area have at least some evidence of this function and in some areas, such as the valley of the Bradshaw Brook, and the Roddlesworth area, have been very extensively remodelled to accommodate reservoirs. In the second half of the nineteenth century over wide areas the moorland and upper valleys were acquired by water companies and then depopulated, with a consequent dramatic reduction in agricultural activity, so that the land use and ecology of much of the area was reshaped. Water supply remains a key feature of the area, and the reservoirs themselves have now been developed, in many instances, as major foci for leisure activities and recreational use. The opening up of access routes means that most reservoirs are now the centre of a network of paths and tracks, and several have visitor centres and other formal facilities. The availability of car parking in these places also means that they are logical starting points for a wide range of other activities associated with landscape heritage themes.
- 5.13.2 The history of water catchment is complex, because at no time was there any coherent overall planning (only since the creation of North West Water and subsequently of United Utilities has the water industry in the area been subject to any all-embracing management). One important theme is the way in which different towns and cities, and industrial enterprises, took individual piecemeal decisions about the provision of water supplies. There was a degree of competition for reservoir sites, and no co-ordination. Furthermore, water rights were at a premium throughout the nineteenth century because securing supplies for domestic drinking water was often in conflict with the needs of industry, particularly when many mills still used water-power, and wherever bleaching and dyeing industries were found.
- 5.13.3 As a major theme in industrial archaeology the water industry has perhaps been undervalued, but in any assessment of the landscape heritage potential of the West Pennine Moors the outstanding engineering works of dams and spillways, together with the networks of channels, leats, sluices and catchment dykes, must be given prominence. Areas such as Rivington demonstrate the vision, scale and ambition of Victorian municipal engineering, remodelling whole landscapes to satisfy the thirst of urban populations. In addition, the various contemporary strategies for landscaping the reservoirs and their catchments have produced very distinctive landscape elements—such as conifer woods and the specialised architecture of dams—which have an important place in the history of Victorian landscape design.
- 5.13.4 Placing the water supply industry in its social and economic context also offers interesting evidence of historical themes—depopulation and the abandonment of settlement; the decline in traditional agriculture; the ever-widening influence of urban areas as they made demands on the resources of the countryside; issues of public health and pollution; the development of Victorian engineering; and public opinion and planning issues in relation to proposed reservoir projects.

5.13.5 The reservoirs themselves naturally fall into sub-groups defined by individual catchments, offering the potential for smaller areas of study and interpretation. The most significant of these are: Rivington, White Coppice and Roddlesworth (which are linked as part of the same catchment system but are geographically distinct areas); Haslingden Grane and the abortive site at Musbury; the Darwen and Huddlesden catchment; the Bradshaw Brook catchment; the Eagley Brook catchment including Belmont; and the Dean Brook (which has special relevance since its reservoirs were intended for industrial supplies, not domestic drinking water). Each has a distinctive history and each provides an opportunity to trace the evolution of water strategies during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In a wider sense, the crucial issue of public health and the Victorian city is illuminated by these projects.

- reservoirs and their catchments are a dominant landscape feature and have a central place in the social history of the nineteenth century
- they are well-documented and present fascinating case histories of engineering, public policy and landscape management
- they have a vital existing role in terms of leisure, recreation and public amenity which could be enhanced by giving more attention to the history and heritage dimension
- they are integral to the network of access routes within West Pennine Moors and the separate catchments within the area offer opportunities for 'sub-regional' approaches which are relatively self-contained
- they are representative of key themes in the exploitation of resources and use of landscape in the public arena
- their ancillary structures and landscaping are important topics in their own right, and they raise questions about environment and planning in the past, present and future, so the development of heritage policies towards reservoirs and catchments will allow more ambitious and challenging educational and interpretive work

#### **5.14 *Public parks and monuments***

5.14.1 Within the West Pennine Moors there are several important examples of parks and formal landscapes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and this can be considered as an important theme, not only because of its landscape heritage context but also because it tells the fascinating story of increasing public access and the developing opportunities for working people to enjoy and share in the countryside. For generations of local people such access to the moorlands was limited, either because of practical considerations (such as distance from home and poor transport) but also because of the attitude of landowners who sought to restrict or forbid public use of grouse moors and shooting estates. Public parks, provided by local authorities, were a mid-Victorian solution to this problem, the philosophy being that recreational space was a means of letting the people breathe cleaner air and benefit from wholesome recreation. The idea of the public park was invented in the 1840s in North-west England, and was taken up with enthusiasm as borough councils began to develop a wider range of amenities for the population.



**The Rivington Hall estate in 1893** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25-inch map) shortly before the area was dramatically relandscaped to create the park and terraced gardens. This is now one of the most important Edwardian landscapes in Britain, a site of exceptional historical and cultural significance and in many senses the ‘flagship’ of the West Pennine Moors—as well as being a recreational and leisure asset of regional importance. The context within which the new landscapes were formed is clearly shown here—a pattern of small farms and wooded slopes—and, despite the extent of the remodelling work, significant evidence of the earlier landscapes remains.

5.14.2 The most important examples of this type of park in the area are the three were laid out by Darwen Corporation in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, at Sunnyhurst Wood, Whitehall and Bold Venture. Although they differ considerably in character, the latter two being overtly designed

landscapes while the former was intended to retain the form and appearance of natural valley and woodland, they are collectively an excellent assemblage of later Victorian concepts of landscape design and public amenity.

- 5.14.3 Elsewhere, smaller and less ambitious public parks were established. However, the greatest local example of a newly-designed landscape in this period was the creation by Lord Leverhulme from 1900 of the remarkable park at Rivington, with its multiplicity of landscaping features, its integral relationship with the moorland above and the chain of lakes below, and the skilful incorporation of the existing village and buildings of Rivington into the overall design. This is unquestionably one of the largest and most impressive examples of landscape design in Edwardian England and, with characteristic generosity, it was made available to the townspeople of Bolton by its owner and creator in 1904 (though it was not given into the ownership of Bolton Corporation, contrary to the widely-held view).
- 5.14.4 Between the wars Bolton Corporation was fortunate to acquire two more major estates—Moss Bank and Smithills—and to be able to use these for public open spaces in similar fashion. The latter, in particular, includes particularly good examples of mid-Victorian landscaping and gardens, around the superb medieval and later mansion which is now a museum. The acquisition of the Smithills estate also allowed the Corporation to open up, for wider public access, the great sweep of moorland extending to the summit of Winter Hill. Before the First World War this area had been the focus of a concerted and sometimes violent campaign to secure access to the moor. That, in turn, followed on from earlier attempts to increase public access elsewhere in the West Pennine Moors, most prominently in the 1879 battle for Darwen Moor, which was successful when the high court supported the case of the townspeople to be allowed free use of over thirty miles of tracks and paths across the moor.
- 5.14.5 A distinctive feature of the landscape in the area is the collection of prominent public monuments and follies, commemorating individuals or events. The best-known are the tower on Rivington Pike, the Peel Tower on Holcombe Moor and Darwen Tower, each of which is celebrated because, apart from any architectural or historical significance, it is such an outstanding landmark. There are, however, numerous other monuments, ranging from the sadly-ubiquitous war memorials, themselves now the subject of intensive study because of their relevance to the community and its collective and individual memory, to plaques and tablets recalling events (the foundation stones of schools and chapels, the opening of bridges), and the commemorative inscriptions which identify the donors of public amenities and features in parks. Darwen's Sunnyhurst Wood, for example, has a fine collection of such plaques and inscriptions spanning the years from its opening in 1903 through to the late 1930s.
- 5.14.6 Since the Second World War public access, and the enjoyment of the West Pennine Moors as recreational open space, have become a central element in landscape policies and strategies, with great success, but these older examples, each of which involves a more formal and designed approach to the

management of open space, are classics of their type. They are recognised, by English Heritage and other bodies, as possessing major historical interest as examples of planned parks and gardens, and their social history relevance is clear—the local authorities such as Darwen, which laid out parks or were public-spirited enough to acquire gentry estates that were on the market; or Lord Leverhulme with his extraordinary philanthropy; or the individuals and groups which campaigned for wider and unrestricted public access to moorland as a right, all played their part in creating the circumstances which we now enjoy. By their very nature, these areas are important elements in the landscape heritage of the West Pennine Moors, and they serve as the focus of much leisure and heritage activity which can undoubtedly be further enhanced.

- parks and open spaces are now a major land use in the West Pennine Moors, and those designed as formal spaces are of major historical significance
- they tell an interesting and relevant story in terms of public and private philanthropy and the social history of working people in late Victorian and Edwardian England
- most are specifically recognised as being of special landscape and historical significance by their inclusion on the English Heritage list
- in design and landscape terms they complement the less formal open spaces and access land, the main contribution of the past fifty years to the development of public use of the uplands and valleys of the West Pennine Moors
- the Rivington landscapes are of national importance and have historical significance far beyond the area; they have been neglected, have suffered considerable deterioration, and are under intense recreational pressure, so their fate is crucial

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 The West Pennine Moors have a rich and complex historic landscape, which is available for public access and heritage interpretation to a much greater extent than in any previous period. In comparison with some other parts of the region this landscape heritage has been less understood and perhaps less appreciated than it might have been, and so there is a great deal of potential for development work which increases public knowledge and awareness, while maintaining in a sensitive and appropriate fashion the integrity of the landscapes themselves. At the same time, because of its late nineteenth and twentieth century experience of agricultural contraction, industrial decline and landscape neglect, there is a considerable backlog of physical decay and deterioration which needs to be addressed. The opportunities for landscape enhancement and conservation in conjunction with interpretation and explanation are thus very numerous.
- 6.2 The suggested ways in which the research and interpretation element can be achieved are varied, and much will depend (unavoidably) on resources but also on the nature of the area and specific project. There is much potential for integrating landscape history with, for example, ecology, wildlife and habitat creation and conservation, and this has exciting implications for educational work in which the West Pennine Moors can be seen as an outdoor laboratory

for themes such as land use, man's exploitation of resources, the interaction of man and environment, the importance of conservation and landscape protection, and the ecological diversity of the area. Landscape history, especially where it is focussed on the built environment (which can be widely defined) has important relevance to a wide range of other historical themes—architecture and buildings; industrial archaeology; transport history; family history; community history; and the general theme of 'our heritage'.

- 6.3 All of these represent ways in which community and individual involvement with the landscape, the countryside and the environment can be enriched and expanded. The range of possibilities extends from the more formal (such as publications, information boards, or visitor centre displays and exhibitions) to the more spontaneous or informal (such as programmes of guided walks, school activities, photography competitions, occasional heritage events, and media features).
- 6.4 It is clear that there is a great deal of latent interest in the landscape heritage of the West Pennine Moors. Some parts of the area, such as Roddlesworth, the Winter Hill massif, and the Bradshaw Valley, are already intensively used for recreation and leisure, but most of those who make use of the countryside in this way are relatively unaware of the landscape history and heritage which they see—yet when this is explained and illustrated there is a genuinely enthusiastic response. This can be illustrated specifically: in December 2007 I gave a talk, illustrated with pictures and maps, to the annual general meeting of the Bolton Ramblers. The subject was 'Smithills Moor: a lost industrial landscape'. Afterwards, many members of the audience expressed very great interest in the subject, some saying that they had walked across the moor for forty years and more and had never realised about its heritage, others that they walked past or along features shown in the talk and had no idea what they were until now. They were excited and stimulated by the idea that the moor was more than just a landscape—that it had a history and a vivid (if somewhat harsh) human story to tell.
- 6.5 It is important that the physical protection and enhancement of the landscape heritage receives careful attention. The evidence of deterioration of standing structures, such as walls, deserted buildings, tracks and pathways, and relics of mining and quarrying, is widespread, and it is inevitable that time will continue to take its toll. It is also unavoidable that projects involving physical conservation, consolidation or restoration of structures (as of habitats and landscape types) are costly and time-consuming and therefore priorities must be established and, ideally, work should be concentrated in defined areas which have a clear and immediate historic landscape significance and an intrinsic interest which can be readily interpreted. It is also essential that none of these projects is over-ambitious or unrealistic in terms of time, money or rationale. Incremental implementation of smaller projects is a much more suitable approach, not least because the aggregating of smaller projects on a realistic timescale and budget can produce the intended overall outcome but with far fewer logistical problems.

- 6.6 Another key ingredient in the recipe is that community involvement should be encouraged and the resources of volunteers exploited. In the case of landscape history and heritage this is particularly feasible and desirable. There is no need to repeat the obvious arguments in favour of community involvement, but it is apparent that there is already an 'infrastructure' of local history and archaeology groups, civic organisations, and groups which have outdoor and environmental roles, and it should be possible to develop this existing resource and tie projects firmly into a community framework. To take a hypothetical example, the restoration and conservation of a stretch of packhorse causeway could well be 'adopted' by a local community group, bringing in volunteer labour and perhaps involving a joint information and interpretation leaflet produced by the West Pennine Moors team and the parish council. A scheme to consolidate and make accessible some ruined dwellings high on a moorland fringe might be linked with a project, under the auspices of a local family history society, to research the history of the nineteenth century residents of those houses and to publish the results in some form.
- 6.7 At a different level, consultation and close involvement with organisations such as the archaeology units, the Garden History Society, English Heritage, the Victorian Society, the museum services, and other national and regional bodies remains crucial. Since the overall aim is to enhance and protect heritage these organisations will have a statutory involvement in some circumstances, but it is clear that they might be able to offer other services. For instance, there is scope for archaeological investigation which might entail undergraduates on archaeology courses at local universities doing surveying, reports, or test excavation. Bodies such as the Chorley History and Archaeology Society have a long history of active research on aspects of landscape heritage and they could well be interested in joint approaches to sites and themes in their area. Joint promotion of landscape heritage themes via agencies as diverse as the East Lancashire Railway, British Waterways, Helmshore Museum, or the Haworth Art Gallery might also be considered.
- 6.8 Below is a checklist of potential ways of developing and promoting landscape heritage projects and themes. The list is not definitive, but it reflects the range and varieties of options which are available.

a) **publications, information and literature**

- a book on the landscape history of the West Pennine Moors and adjacent areas, perhaps as a joint project with a commercial publisher (of whom there are several in north-west England)
- a series of themed booklets on e.g. water; stone; coal; agriculture; or roads and tracks, focusing on the West Pennine Moors and the surrounding towns
- individual landscape booklets/expanded leaflets that look in more detail at the landscape history and heritage of specific areas (for example, Winter Hill; Darwen Moor; Haslingden Grane [already exists but a revised version needed]; Roddlesworth and Hollinshead; Musbury; Holcombe Moor, White Coppice)

- leaflets detailed themed walks with historical notes and annotation about features of interest along the way (for example, a reservoirs walk, or a coal-mining trail)
- leaflets detailed area-based walks looking at different themes, ideally with a standard format so they form a set (for example, a Smithills Moor walk, or a Yate and Pickup Bank history trail)
- information and interpretation boards/displays in selected areas, as is already done in a number of locations in the West Pennine Moors (displaying individual sites with detailed explanation of what can be seen, or giving introductory information about a wider area, and preferably in conjunction with printed literature)
- educational packs for schools, looking at themes or areas; would need to be done in close consultation with teachers from the relevant areas of the four education authorities involved
- a West Pennine Moors family history pack, outlining what can be seen (built environment and community) and how to find out more about the area
- regular exhibitions on landscape heritage themes at visitor centres, historic buildings, museums and libraries, perhaps linking with specific anniversaries and commemorations of local events
- a dedicated user-friendly West Pennine Moors website, which can publish any of these documents (except, probably, the book), highlight community links (both literally, as web links, and metaphorically), promote and publicise activities and events, include a user forum, and raise the profile of the area and what's going on

**b) scope and type of practical landscape heritage projects and policies**

- restoring drystone walls in areas of particular visual and historical importance, and also as part of strategies towards defining routes and access
- identifying and conserving surviving stretches of 'classic' paved packhorse causeways
- protecting and restoring stone gateposts, stone troughs, creepholes, and other details of the farming landscape
- undertaking pro-active woodland management to control and guide the encroachment of self-regenerated scrub, and to eliminate invasive species such as rhododendrons
- developing an audit of, and then practical protection and conservation policies towards, prehistoric sites
- maintaining in working order the networks of water supply and drainage channels on moorland slopes and summits
- consolidating and conserving the key examples of abandoned farmsteads and cottages in moorland fringe areas
- seeking to ensure that agricultural practices do not conflict with conservation of landscape features, and to develop practical management policies for areas still in farming use
- ensuring that surviving examples of former collieries and coal-tips, or abandoned quarry workings and spoilheaps, are protected from levelling, recycling of material and dumping, commensurate with safety and hazard

issues; conserve and consolidate any surviving evidence of structures and access routes

- maintaining (or restoring) surviving examples of water-powered industrial sites, such as bleachworks and dyeworks, with lodges which are (ideally) still in water and with functioning inflow and outlet channels
- removing, in some circumstances, inappropriate conifer planting of the twentieth century, and either replacing with native species or recreating moorland habitats and landscapes
- limit or end the planting of new woodland on moorland sites, and instead focus upon abandoned or declining farmland
- monitoring the nature and extent of grazing, to try to ensure that open moorland is retained with a high degree of visual and ecological integrity; if necessary, consider (as the National Trust does) negotiating grazing agreements with farmers to maintain open landscapes
- ensuring that key sections of the historic routeway network remain in regular use by (as appropriate) walkers and horse-riders [as part of bridleway strategy], to limit overgrowth and physical deterioration—improve access and employ guided walks and literature to encourage use
- avoiding the use of inappropriate materials and historically inaccurate or inappropriate reconstruction
- restoring slab bridges, stone culverts and other features of older watercourse management and access routes, and thereby also help to prevent waterlogging and flooding of routeways
- trying to ensure, if possible, that the restoration or renovation of older properties is in keeping with the historic structure, uses traditional materials, does not conflict with the architectural style of the area, and does not include intrusive outbuildings and hard surfaces
- developing traffic and highway policies which seek to maintain the traditional form and character of rural routes, and to avoid inappropriate widening or kerbing, and also seek to adopt the English Heritage approach to reducing and minimising signage and street/roadside furniture (Save Our Streets)
- developing new permissive routes and footpaths to complement the existing network and create better circular walks and trails through areas of landscape history interest and importance
- undertaking, or continuing, conservation and restoration regimes and strategies in key historic buildings and sites such as Darwen Tower, Smithills Hall and Hollinshead Hall

6.9 As already noted, prioritising themes and proposals is essential if a realistic practical programme of landscape heritage projects is to be achieved. With this in mind, the schedule of suggested themes which is discussed in section 5 above has been divided into three categories, reflecting their level of intrinsic interest, historical importance, and landscape heritage value. This is of course a subjective assessment, but it provides a realistic framework within which to develop policies and practical proposals for landscape heritage within the West Pennine Moors. It should be noted, however, that in many instances local area-based projects will ascribe a greater importance to themes which across the area as a whole are not given the highest ranking. For example, while area-wide perspectives would give a Grade 3 ranking to ‘public parks

and monuments' as a theme, any local strategy for Rivington and Anglezarke would highlight this aspect. A pragmatic approach is therefore essential.

**Grade 1:** themes of outstanding importance (for priority attention)

**Grade 2:** themes of major importance (for follow-up work)

**Grade 3:** supplementary themes (for later development)

Grade 1: agriculture and settlement

Grade 1: ancient tracks and roads

Grade 1: water-powered industry

Grade 1: public parks and monuments

Grade 2: water catchments and reservoirs

Grade 2: stone extraction and quarrying

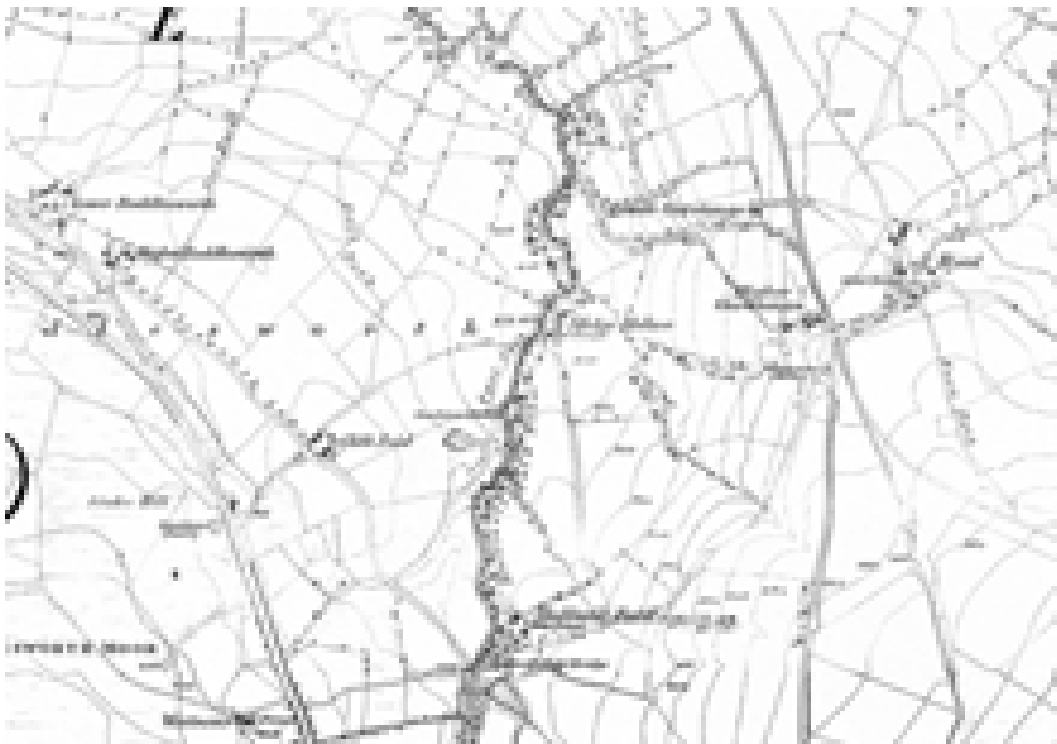
Grade 2: the mining industry

Grade 2: the housing of the Industrial Revolution

Grade 3: medieval gentry and aristocratic estates

Grade 3: churches and chapels

Grade 3: prehistoric settlement and early landscape change



**Roddlesworth in 1846** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map): the alteration of the valley as a result of reservoir building produced dramatic changes shortly after this map was surveyed, but there is still extensive evidence, amid the later woodland, of the farms and field boundaries shown here. Roddlesworth Lane is part of the ancient highway from Bury towards Preston, superseded by the turnpike road in the 1820s. An area such as this gives considerable potential for heritage and landscape history interpretation work in conjunction with its role as a major leisure amenity.



**Winter Hill and Smithills Moor in 1846** (OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map): within this extensive upland area many sites of industrial archaeological significance can be identified, many of them close to existing access routes; that these moors and valleys were once busy with coalmining, water exploitation, quarrying and other industrial activities is little appreciated by most people who use the moors for recreation. Interpreting and explaining this former role will greatly enhance the value of uplands such as this for local residents, while some of the features have a regionally-important historical significance.

### **Annex: some possible landscape heritage projects**

The list below is indicative, rather than exhaustive, but it proposes examples of landscape heritage projects which are practical, would produce immediate results on the ground or in terms of user awareness (or both), would be well suited to interpretational work, and are associated with the highest ranking themes indicated in para.6.8 of the report.

#### **Haslingden Grane**

- urgently-needed consolidation and partial restoration of the important series of deserted farms and cottages along the line of the Rossendale Way from GR 745224 to 742227; these are in a dangerous condition but are alongside a heavily used track, they have major historical significance, and they are associated with a series of other very important features, including the track itself which is a fine, though deteriorating, example of a paved packhorse causeway; the track is waterlogged and often barely passable, and remedial works on the route could be undertaken in conjunction with a consolidation/restoration project
- work on clarifying and improving the access routes and footpath network of the upper half of the valley, to create more opportunities for circular walks (and historical trails) which completely avoid the main road; restoration work

on the old coach road along the valley at the Grane Village end; consolidation of the surviving abutments of the old packhorse bridge at Grane Head

### Musbury

- development of a package of historical literature and walks based on the Rossendale Way but looking at three key themes: the medieval deer park and its surviving remains; the quarries and their tramroads; and the Ogden and Holden Wood reservoirs; following a more detailed survey, undertake drystone wall restoration, protection and restoration of paved causeways, and consolidation of remaining structures within the quarry workings

### Smithills Moor, Winter Hill and the Anglezarke Moors

- physical survey of the network of early nineteenth century water leats which cross the moor and feed into Dean Mills Reservoir; where necessary, restoration of these to maintain the water supply to the reservoir; restoration of the major drystone wall that runs along the boundary at Dean Ditch (?though perhaps too remote); a landscape inventory of the remains of coal-mining on the upper moor, together with consolidation/preservation of any surviving visible evidence (though much was unfortunately cleared in the mid-1990s)
- a major opportunity at the site of Burnt Edge colliery, possibly in conjunction with the archaeology unit, involving a detailed archaeological and historical survey (building on my own report of 2005), urgently-needed consolidation work on buildings and access tracks, and the possibility of seeking ancient monument status for the colliery site and the extremely important paved causeway which links it with Walker Fold

### Rivington and Anglezarke

- a comprehensive landscape history survey and assessment of the area between White Coppice and Great Hill, along the Dean Black Clough axis, looking at i) water supply and its industrial archaeology; ii) ancient routeways and tracks; iii) quarrying and evidence for mining; iv) abandoned farmsteads and cottage sites, and the associated field patterns; v) water-powered industries at White Coppice village; and vi) the possibility of further prehistoric sites on the moors; to be followed by a programme of drystone wall restoration, the consolidation of ruined buildings, and the creation of new circular heritage walks and historical trails
- formulate realistic proposals for the consolidation of the fabric of the terraces at Rivington, and identify a series of small-scale proposals for restoration of the most accessible sections; continue the existing policy of management of e.g. rhododendrons; take steps to protect and conserve surviving structures, such as the foundations of The Bungalow, and to ensure that further damage to the terraces and steps is minimised
- Lead Mines Clough: refurbish the existing mining sites, which have deteriorated since their initial conservation, and widen the scope to include the

upper part of the valley and the Yarrow Valley to the south; undertake building consolidation work at Upper and Lower Hempshaw's, and Old Rachel's; upgrade and restore drystone walls in this area; possibly upgrade existing informal paths across Hordern Pasture to develop a clearer route between Belmont and Rivington/ Anglezarke, linking with a quarrying theme focusing on the delphs on the Belmont Side.

### Bolton valleys

- Seven Acre Park: further work on the excavation and consolidation of industrial archaeology features, and in particular the former bleachworks lodges on the west side of the Bradshaw Brook, rewatering (if feasible) sections of the bleachworks leat which runs parallel with the brook, and continued incremental scrub clearance to expose industrial archaeological sites
- Bradshaw Brook: restoration of the high-level leat to the former bleachworks, as far as the lodges, and permanently rewatering the channel, together with surveying and consolidation of associated features such as the quarry access route and the gardens at the former Bradshaw Hall (where the possibility of recreating the ornamental lake and wellspring should be considered); with interpretative literature including an industrial archaeology trail, in conjunction with the Jumbles Visitor Centre

### The Darwen area

- detailed survey work on coal-mining and stone-quarrying sites on Darwen Moor, and the associated networks of tracks and access routes, with the potential for devising an industrial archaeology trail; restoration of drystone walls along the better-used routes to Darwen Tower and on the southern moor (Witton Weavers Way); possible creation of new footpaths to open up circular routes across the top of the moor, in conjunction with industrial archaeology interpretation
- detailed survey of landscape history features at Roddlesworth, looking at the surviving evidence (usually in woodland) for older landscape elements such as field boundaries, farm sites, coal-pits and stone quarries; consolidation of some of these features in conjunction with improvement of the existing footpath network and possibly habitat creation/enhancement; this area is intensively used but little published literature considers its landscape development or identifies the features which visitors can see on their woodland walks

### Egerton

- in conjunction with archaeological authorities, a report on the state of the prehistoric remains (stone circle and settlement site) at Cheetham Close, and on their future protection and possible interpretation; and a wider assessment of the quarrying, mining and farming remains on Turton Heights; drystone wall restoration and limited consolidation of mining remains

A checklist of potential areas for heritage projects therefore includes:

- Haslingden Grane
- Musbury (including the quarries)
- Smithills Moor and Walker Fold
- Rivington Park and Gardens
- the Bradshaw Valley
- Seven Acre Park and the Thicketford area
- Darwen Moor and Sunnyhurst Woods
- Roddlesworth and Hollinshead
- White Coppice and Anglezarke
- Helmshore and its surroundings
- Smithills Hall and adjacent areas (where work is already well advanced)
- Holcombe Moor and Ramsbottom