

WALKING IN THE PENDLE WITCH COUNTRY AND THE WEST PENNINE MOORS

Chris Gee

There are two sides to Pendle Hill — the gentle, pastoral landscape that rolls towards the River Ribble, embracing Downham, Whalley and Clitheroe, and Witch Country, an altogether rougher side to Pendle, sheltered below its south-eastern flanks.

Pendle Hill is famous for the events that happened in the early seventeenth century. In 1612 twelve women and men from farmsteads and villages around the foot of Pendle Hill were arrested for practising witchcraft. They were marched across country to be put on trial at Lancaster where nine were sentenced to death. The news spread rapidly across the country and the Pendle Witches tale became the stuff of myth. But this has also been an inspirational landscape, where George Fox had his vision that led to his foundation of the Quaker movement. Pendle Hill is considered by many to be the inspiration for J.R.R. Tolkien's Lonely Mountain in his epic trilogy *Lord of the Rings*.

To the south, the West Pennine Moors is a 90 square mile area of upland moorland, riven with valleys and wooded cloughs — steep sided ravines, often wooded, through which a stream or beck flows. The landscape is dotted with reservoirs, large and small, that feed the towns and villages that have sprung up in the valleys. There are barely any settlements on the high ground, swept as it is by the prevailing westerly winds that race in off the Irish Sea, but there are historic villages to be found in the valleys and around the edges.

Today this landscape is popular walking country: there is a wealth of footpaths criss-crossing this landscape and a number of long distance paths stride out across the moors and hills, including the Witton Weaver's Way, the Rossendale Way, the West Pennine Way, the Rotary Way and the Pendle Way.

This is glorious country — a landscape of moors and hills, of cotton grass and purple heather, of history and legend — which is explored by local man Chris Gee in this supremely informative and beautifully illustrated companion guide.

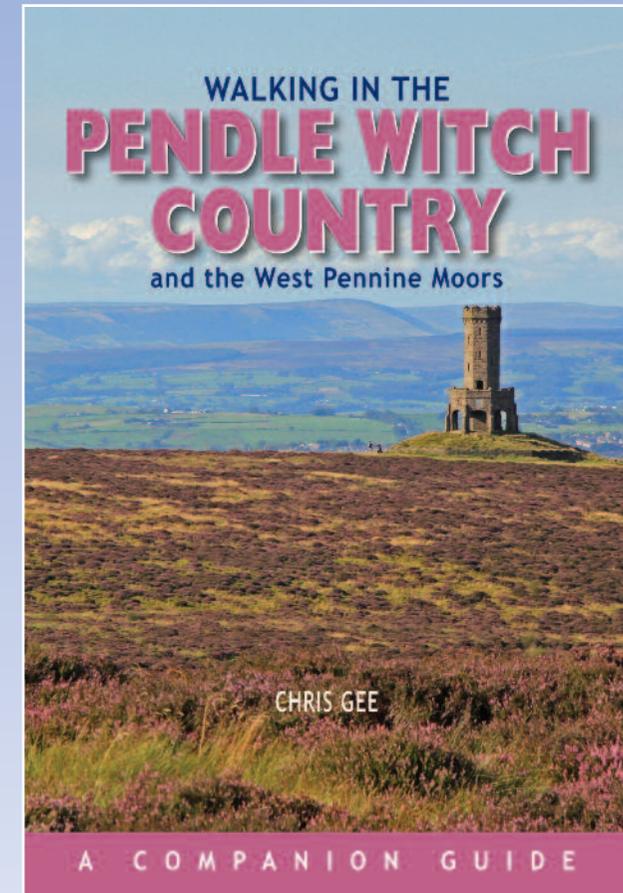
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Having grown up within sight of Lancashire's hill country and going to school in Bolton, **Chris Gee** is now a York-based photographer who specialises in outdoor writing and landscape photography. Chris combines his passion for the outdoors and walking with a keen interest in industrial archaeology, wildlife photography and recording the changing seasons. Having relocated from Lancashire to Yorkshire in 2012, Chris spent his last five years in Lancashire exploring every inch of Pendle and the West Pennine Moors.

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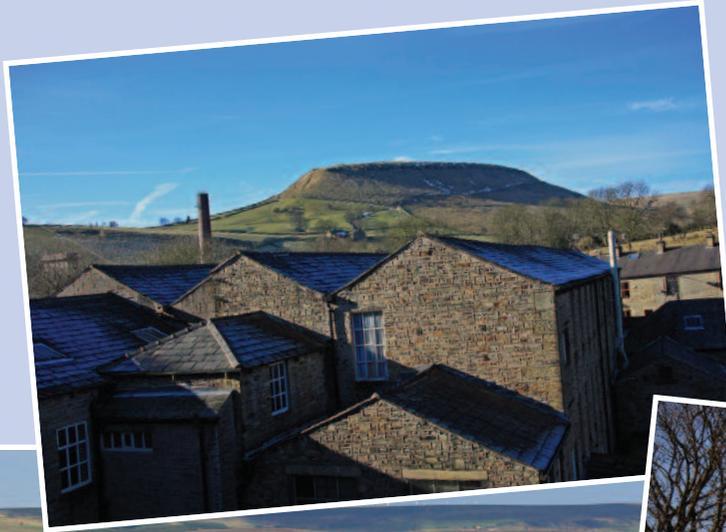
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Musbury Tor from Helmshore Textile Mill.



Above: Lower Ogden Reservoir.

Left: Pigeon Tower above Rivington Woods.

Below: The Cotton Mill Express passes beneath Turton's castellated bridge.

Left: India Mill with its iconic chimney seen from Darwen Moor.



The Scout Cairn on Pendle Hill.



Example of a double-page spread.