The Forest of Bowland AONB

The Forest of Bowland AONB is a nationally protected landscape and is internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. The AONB is managed by a partnership of landowners, farmers, voluntary organisations, wildlife groups, recreation groups, local councils and government agencies, who work to protect, conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of this special area.

Much of the Access Land in the Forest of Bowland AONB is within a Special Protection Area (SPA). This European designation recognises the importance of the areas upland heather moorland and blanket bog as habitat for upland birds. Bowland’s moors are home to many threatened species, including golden plovers, curlews and the rare hen harrier; symbol of the AONB.

Many people depend on the Access Land for their livelihoods, including upland farming and game management. These rural industries have shaped the landscape we see today and play an important role in the conservation of the AONB.

What is access land?

Open access only applies to areas of open country and registered common land and is shown on Ordnance Survey maps (post September 2004) as yellow areas. Access Land will be identified by the Access Land Symbol at access points. Some areas within 20m of a dwelling or livestock pens will have signage and interpretation to guide you. Never climb over walls or fences. - indicates no public access rights beyond the point where this symbol is displayed.

Access Land does not include right to:
• Lower lying farmland and buildings
• Livestock pens
• Areas within 20m of a dwelling or building or walls of a building, i.e. a garden.
• Access Land only applies to recreation on foot, such as walking, bird watching, painting, rambling and climbing.

You must observe general and local restrictions. You must not cause any damage, leave litter dumped on the land or feed livestock or deliberately disturb livestock, wildfowl or animals. You will be classed as a trespasser if you fail to comply with access land restrictions or damage any walls, gates or stiles.

Information points are available on the ground at key locations. Access information points are in prominent locations such as car parks and points sites are shown on Ordnance Survey maps using this symbol. These are also indicated on the map overlay. These contain general information about Access Land and the locally as well as showing a more detailed map. In addition, there are information points at key access points that have detailed local maps as well as up to date information about any restrictions that may be in place.

Where to go?

It is your right to walk freely across Access Land but with that right comes responsibilities and walkers must be mindful that much of Bowland’s Access Land is privately owned and grazed by sheep and cattle and is of international importance for its wildlife.

Even in areas where open access does apply local restrictions may restrict access. Plan Ahead - For the most up to date information and what local restrictions may be in place, visit www.countryaccess.gov.uk or call the open access helpline on 0845 100 3298.

Once out and about always follow local signs and advice. Once on Access Land some areas are waymarked with white-topped posts, this is to help you across difficult terrain and to help you avoid the area’s most sensitive habitats and protected ground nesting birds.

Access land may be closed during exceptional weather or ground conditions to prevent fires or to avoid danger to the public. Remember:
• Wear suitable footwear and clothing
• Take a map and compass, spare food, drink and clothing
• North someone about where you are going and when you expect to return.
• Do not walk alone if you are inexperienced or uncertain of your ability.

Livestock, wildlife and dogs

In order to protect the interests of the wildlife that relies on Bowland’s Access Land, local restrictions are in place:
• Dogs are not permitted on many of the moors in Bowland.
• In other areas, from 1st March to 11th December, dogs must be kept on a fixed lead of no more than 2m in length. At all other times dogs must be kept under close control.
• Dog restrictions do not apply to trained guide/hearing dogs and dogs on the land with the landowner’s permission.
• Your rights to take dogs on public rights of way are unaffected by access land restrictions, but dogs must be kept under close control preferably on a fixed lead.

Signs at access points will show any restrictions on dogs - please observe them.
• Please refer to the advice given in our ‘Treading Carefully Leaflet’.

When exploring Access Land in Bowland you are likely to encounter sheep and cows that are not used to walkers. Cows in particular may be curious and approach you if you have a dog. Remember by law farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that worries or injures their animals.

For your safety please observe the following rules and guidelines when encountering livestock:
• Keep your dog on a short lead.
• Plan how you will get around a herd, never cut through a herd or get between a cow and her calf.
• If you have a dog and you feel threatened by cattle, let the dog go and retreat.

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

The Moorland Visitor’s Code

Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
• Leave gates and property as you find them
• Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires
• Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
• Keep dogs under close control
• Consider other people

Access & Information Points

Access Points are the entry and exit points on Access Land. In most cases these will be kissing gates, which will be marked with the Access Land Symbol. Once on Access Land there are kissing gates and stiles to enable you to cross internal boundaries, which should be used wherever possible.

The majority of access points are where public rights of way meet or cross the Access Land boundary. All of the access points within the Forest of Bowland AONB are marked upon a map held at the Bowland Visitor Centre, Beacon Fell Country Park.

Remember:
• Consider other people
• Leave gates and property as you find them
• Prevent uncontrolled moorland fires
• Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
• Keep dogs under close control
• Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

The Forest of Bowland AONB

A place to enjoy and keep special...
Walk 1: Chipping Circular
Start & Finish: Chipping Village, Car Park. SD 632 043
Approximate distance: 5 miles
Brief route description: From Chipping Village car park follow road north-west to just beyond Clark House Farm Camping Barn - take public footpaths heading north-westwards to the main road. Turn left at Winn Mill National  - follow the path to Fall Foot - up to Parlick Summit - along ridge northwards over Blundell Fell and along Fall Lane Fell to the nearby village and farm - continue westwards along the tarmac up the top of Whin Fell - over the fence onto Saddle Fell - southwards along unsurfaced tracks down Saddle Fell to Saddle End Farm - north-eastwards along unsurfaced track to Bumblethorpe - south down surfaced track to meet up with the tarmac road - take public footpath past Benthem Lee to pick up the public bridleway past Chipping Down Farm - continue down the tarmac track to the cattle grid at the road - westwards back into Chipping Village.

Walk 2: Dunlop Valley & Crossdell Fell
Start & Finish: Dunlop - back to Car Park - follow B6292.
Approximate distance: 4 miles
Brief route description: From Dunlop Bridge - follow the public bridleway northwards alongside the River Dunlop until the river divides - cross the footbridge to follow the Whitehorse River through Whitehorse to Hard Hill Tip to meet the Helmsley track - follow the track south down over Low Fell 1/2 mile to the tarmac road - continue down this road to High Wood House - take the public footpath south to Gold Hill - westwards along tarmac road to Luptons - public footpath to Burn House - continue westwards along surfaced track past Cheesburn - public footpath westwards past Beaumaris - continue diagonally along public footpath across a large field - over wall and down steps to meet up with public bridleway back into Dunlop Bridge.

Walk 3: Langden Castle (Family walk)
Start & Finish: Langden Bridge - back to Car Park - follow B6292.
Approximate distance: 4 miles
Brief route description: Ideal family ramble (surfaced rough tracks) - from Langden Bridge follow the surfaced track westwards past the Water Works - follow Langden Brook to Langden Castle - return along the same track with a slight change along the higher track past Holdron Castle.

Walk 4: Clapham & Whit Moors
Start & Finish: Clapham Quarries (disused), SD 5309 6440
Approximate distance: 3 miles
Brief route description: From Clapham Quarries - through the tunnelages at the end of the road - turn immediately south west following a track across Clapham Moor along the windfarm until you come to a cattle grid on the Rosedale Bridge - go east follow public footpath via Woodburn and Throstle to Moor Lane - follow Moor Lane north to the entrance to Bark Farm - turn west across Whit Moor to the summit - pick up track back to Clapham Quarry.

Walk 5: Bowland Knots & Catlow Fell
Start & Finish: Cross of Great Bridge, SD 7025 5900
Approximate distance: 5 miles
Brief route description: From Cross of Great Bridge - follow the road north west to a cattle grid from north west over Calver Hill to Newby Castle - via Gold Stone and Copy Nook to the road at Bowland Knots - follow public footpath south across Old Moss - then west back to Cross of Great.

Walk 6: Ward's Stone, Mallowdale & Salter Fell
Start & Finish: Little Clith Camp Park, SD 592 8710
Approximate distance: 2 miles
Brief route description: From the car park at Little Clith follow public footpath south east across Ward's Stone to Brown Sike - turn north west over Mallowdale Fell to the pony track road - follow the track north to high Gallop - take public footpath west via Mallowdale Deep, Crag, Littledale Hall and Bath Farm back to Little Clith.