

B2 West Pennine Moors

The West Pennine Moors are aligned perpendicularly to the main Pennine ridge. The moorland occurs in number of discrete blocks at Withnell Moor, Smithills Moor, Turton Moor, Anglezarke and Rivington Moors, Oswaldtwistle Moor and Holcombe Moor. They are generally slightly lower in altitude than those of the main South Pennine spine, although include some notable high points, for example at Winter Hill on Rivington Moor. The hills can be seen from long distances and form a significant backdrop to the surrounding towns of Bury, Bolton and Blackburn. The area is of considerable archaeological importance reflecting past land use and settlement history and has been subject of considerable archaeological research. On the West Pennines the sense of remoteness and wildness is diminished as a result of the relatively small area of the individual moorland blocks and the dramatic and panoramic views across the adjacent urban areas of the Lancashire Plain and the Greater Manchester conurbation. The accessibility of the moorlands to the surrounding towns means that they are a very important recreational resource.