

C1 Rossendale Hills

The upland plateau of the Rossendale Hills is distinguished by the geology with outcrops of Lower Coal Measures in combination with the Milestone Grit and a mantling of glacial boulder clay. It is generally a flat landform with only the peat capped ridges and summits providing pattern and diversity in the landscape. The distinctive character of these bleak uplands is derived from the history of colonisation and human attempts to conquer the moors. A network of gritstone walls encloses virtually the whole of the upland area, and the landscape is dotted with small isolated farms. Many of these are now abandoned and in ruins as farming has retreated downslope. The area's industrial history is reflected by the landscape of miner-farmer small holdings and squatter settlements, a legacy of abandoned coal and lead mines and associated spoil heaps. The overall impression is of a, somewhat, derelict landscape with rush infested pastures and tumbled stone walls. Views of prominent high tension power lines which cross the plateau top, reinforce the sense of bleakness.