

Introduction

This field trip explores cyclothems of the Alston formation and elements of the lead mining history of the area. The trip is in two parts:

- (a) A 3.2 mile walk from Garrigill, following the Ashgill from Garrigill geotrail, leaflet available here <https://northpennines.org.uk/location/ashgill-from-garrigill-geotrail/>
- (b) A shorter walk of about 1 mile, exploring the remains of Whitesike and Bentyfield mines and the geology exposed there, particularly the Great Limestone, utilising Brian Young's report for the OREsome project <https://www.northpennines.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Whitesike-and-Bentyfield-geology-report.pdf>

Note that the footpaths through Bentyfields have been closed for mine reclamation works. They are scheduled to re-open on 3rd August. In the event that re-opening is delayed an alternative short excursion, probably to Nenthead, will be offered for the second part.

Logistics

The walking is on footpaths, open fields, minor roads and old mine tracks. Suitable footwear should be worn. Warm clothing and waterproofs are recommended to be carried.

A packed lunch should be taken. This can be left in the car as we will return to the cars by lunchtime.

Start

We will meet at **10.00** at the village green in Garrigill where free roadside parking is available – Grid Ref NY 744 415, Postcode CA9 3 DU.

Public Toilets are available in the Village Hall.

Ashgill geotrail

We will set off on the geotrail as soon as everyone is assembled. This is expected to take 2-3 hours.

Lunch

Lunch will be taken after completing the geotrail at the village green in Garrigill.

After lunch we will drive the short distance (1 mile) to Whitesike where there is roadside parking. Grid Ref NY 750 424.

Whitesike and Bentyfield

As well as the extensive mine ruins and information boards there is a good exposure of the Great Limestone here. This section is expected to take 1-2 hours.