

## INTERESTING FEATURES

1. Furness Abbey - Cistercian Order 1127 - 1537 A.D.
2. Abbots Wood - Site of Sir James Ramsden's House.
3. Yarlside Mines - Several shafts, building bases and tramway beds, remains.
4. Woodbine Pit - Chimney and some building remains.
5. Longland Iron Mine site.
6. Stainton Quarry opened in the 1870's.
7. "Cromlech" (site of burial chamber).
8. Remains of old lime kiln.
9. Bekume Pit No. 2.
10. Lowfield Pit No. 1 - Offices and Pump House remains.
11. Diamond Pit - part of Gill Brow Mines.
- 11a. Note engine house at road junction.
12. Whinfield Mines - Some buildings incorporated into waste plant.
13. Main Vein - Cote Dykes and many more.
14. Rawlinson Pit - small lake is all that remains.
15. The Waste an Open Works - approximately 16 shafts.
16. Askam Ironworks loading jetty formed from slag.
17. The site of the Askam Ironworks - Millom Ironworks across estuary.
18. Chapman Lot Pit, Woodhead Pit, Pit No. 5 plus 10 old shafts.
19. Nigel No. 1 and No. 2 Peggy, Rita, Ethel and Violet Pits.
20. Park Mine - once produced 350,000 tons of ore per year.
21. Sandscale Haws - Nature Reserve.
22. Mineral Railway from Sandscale Iron Mines.
23. Slag heap to Barrow Haematite Iron and Steel Co.
24. Ormsgill Lower Reservoir - Cooling water to ironworks.



# THE HAEMATITE TRAIL



## Introduction

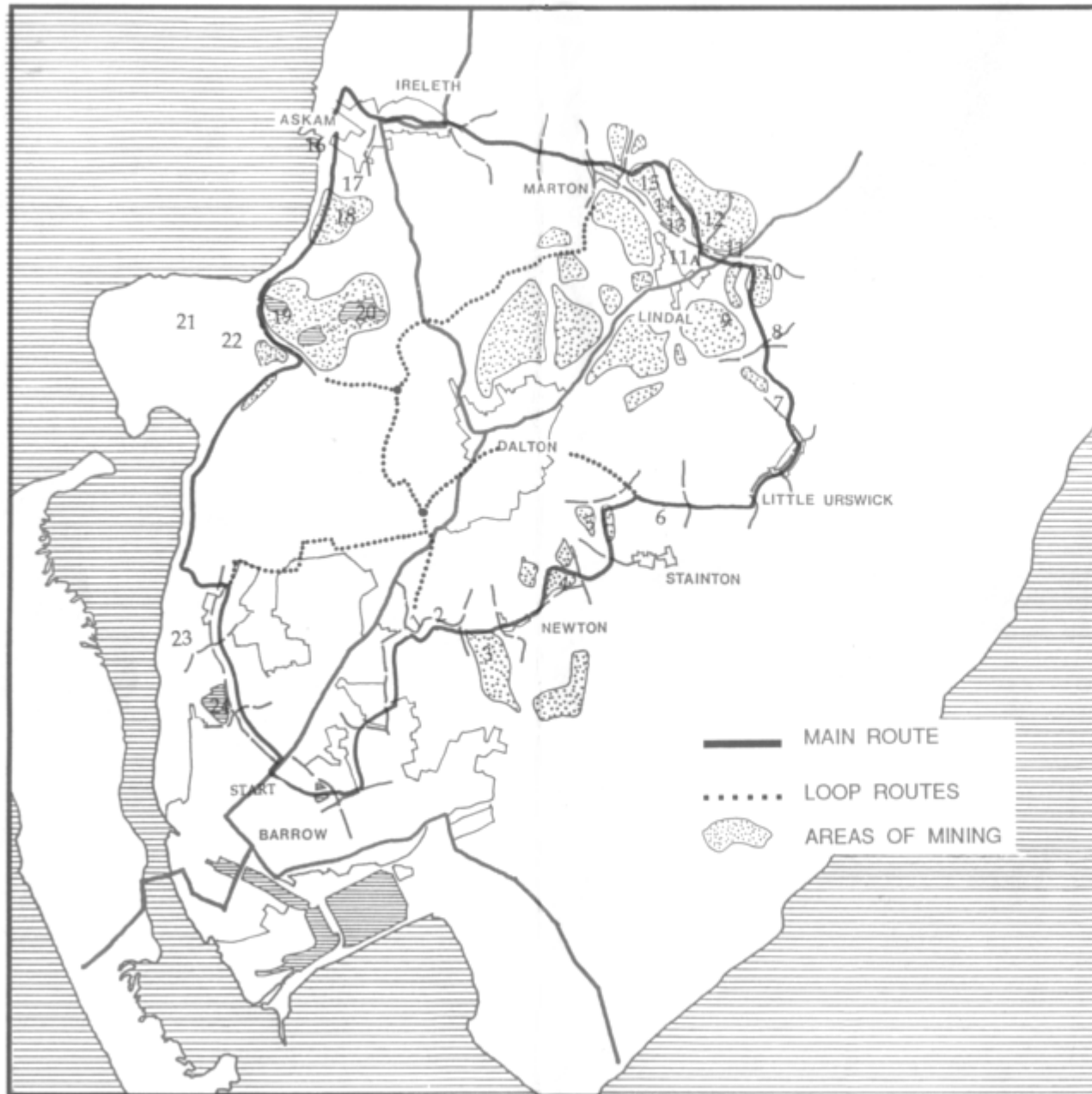
The Haematite Trail has been devised to explore some of the fascinating remains of the iron mining industry which brought about the industrial expansion of Furness and the subsequent emergence of Barrow. It follows footpaths and minor roads within the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness except for two sections which are within South Lakeland District Council.

The Haematite Trail is a circular route which is waymarked with symbols. It begins at the Abbey Road entrance to Barrow Park and is approximately 29 kilometres (18 miles) long.

The Furness mining industry was in its heyday an equivalent to the American "Gold Rush". The attraction of Furness Haematite was that it provided some of the richest iron ore worked in Britain.

## The Trail

Walk down through the park, over the bridge and past the leisure centre. Taking a right turn onto Park Drive, cross over (still walking right) and take the first road on the left into Bridgegate Avenue. Walk over the hill, take the first left and proceed to the top of Lesh Lane. Here turn right into Harrel Lane but then follow the road bearing left. Take a right turn into Ostley Bank, at the top of which you will notice the Holy Family Church. From here take the path signposted to Rating Lane. Turn left into Rating Lane, continue up the road until reaching a post pointing to Manor Road and signed Furness Abbey. Go along Manor Road and at the junction turn right to the Amphitheatre Field. The monks of Furness Abbey encouraged local mining, albeit on a small scale; the place name of Orgrave, near Dalton, means an ore working.



The Abbey is open to visitors at the following times:-

1st October-31st March; 1st April-31st September  
10 am - 1 pm                      10 am - 6 pm  
2 pm - 4 pm



Walk up the hill past the Amphitheatre, where the trail begins to encounter evidence of mining history. Although the mines are no longer working, throughout the walk the effect that mining had upon the landscape, villages and towns of Southern Furness will become obvious.

Also on the route, to the left, is the driveway into Abbotswood, home of Sir James Ramsden, one of Barrow's most important founding-figures. He was the Managing Director of the Furness Railway and the first Mayor of the town.

Walk down into the valley, take the first kissing gate from Manor Road by the small island, where there is the first of the Haematite waymarker signs. Proceed up the hill, noticing to the right the first signs of iron mining at Yarlside mines. Here is a collapsed sandpit, several pit head spoils and a prominent old tramway zig zagging down the hill to Parkhouse Road.

At the top of the hill, by a hedge, go through a kissing gate and a field, to enter the village of Newton. This is a village which is surrounded by evidence of mining and it contains several good examples of workers' cottages.

Proceed past the Village Inn pub and continue down the main street, passing the Farmers Arms on the way. On leaving the village follow the waymarkers to Barrow House Farm, turn right through the yard and notice the old works and chimney of the Woodbine Pit. Keep the barbed wire fencing to the left and cross over the stile in the left-hand corner of the field.

Climb up the field towards Greystone Lane, noticing the old mining offices on the right and on the left the old mine workings with a pond in the bottom. At Greystone Lane turn right and 150 metres on the left go through a squeeze stile. Aim for the yellow waymarker post and walk diagonally across four fields; on exit turn right into Long Lane. Take the first turn on the left along a green lane. Minikin Hall is on the right and at the end of the lane, again to the right-hand side, buildings can be seen which were once part of Longlands iron mines.

At the road, turn right and continue until reaching a row of cottages. On the right-hand side, opposite the cottages, is a stile which leads to Slop Lane. Cross over the lane and go through the stile. Walk along the edge of Stainton Quarry, keeping it and the hedge to the right. The quarry started production in the late 1860's. Arriving at Stone Barrow Lane, turn right and continue up the road for a few yards to the stile on the left.

The path now passes through a limestone outcrop, which was thought to have been laid down in a warm sea around 300-340 million years ago. Pass through the kissing gate entrance and onto the tractor path. Follow this down hill, noticing how impressive the views are along this stretch. At the end of the track turn left into the lane and walk towards the Swan Inn in Little Urswick.

From here carry on along the main street and take the next path to the left, signposted to Dimple Holes Lane. Pass through the gate and over the stile, bear right but do not go over the stile which leads to the woods. Instead go over the two stiles in the left-hand corner which lead onto Hooks Lane.

Follow the public footpath sign, bearing slightly left across the field to a stile over a stone wall. From the stile continue in the same direction. The large outcrop of limestone to the left is a "cromlech", meaning the site of an ancient burial chamber.

At the next wall turn left over the stile and walk slightly right aiming for the top corner of the field. Drop down into the valley and walk through the kissing gate to the next stile. This is not very obvious because of the need to step up the corner of the retaining wall and to step over the fence. Follow the wall until exiting onto the road. Straight across is a green lane which would have been used by workers going to the lime kiln in the field on the right and also to the mine shaft on the left. Go along this lane; on reaching the cattle pen, notice on the left the remnants of Bekume Pit No. 2. In the last century mineral lanes would have run from this pit back to Lindal, passing Bekume Pit No. 1.

Press on to the Victorian kissing gate - showing the high regard that the Victorians had for the provision of footpaths - and follow the path as it turns downhill to the right, looking ahead to see the office and pumping engine house of Lowfield Pit No. 1. To the left one can see a large railway embankment, which was built by the Furness Railway for use as an ore yard. Cross the stile in the top corner of the field, pass under the railway and cross the main road. Turn left and then bear right, heading up the lane past the cricket ground. On the right-hand side notice the large piles of dressed stones; these were once part of a tramway leading to the Diamond Pit, situated on the other side of the road.

Proceed up the hill to the crossroads, go straight on, (following the direction sign to Marton) and notice to the right an engine house with a lantern roof. In the field to the right there are two huge crushing rollers used for breaking down the ore. This was once the site of the Whinfield Mines. Leave the road by the right-hand track, passing Whinfield Farm (most of it now has been converted), take the first track left up the hill and onto the old lane signposted to Carr Kettle. From here there are magnificent views of the Lindal Moor mining area. Lindal itself has perhaps the finest examples of mining influence, for example the land opposite the school was the site of one of the many "shanty towns" which housed the hundreds of miners and their families who settled here in search of work. Lindal and Marton School was sponsored by the mine owners and once accommodated over 350 children.

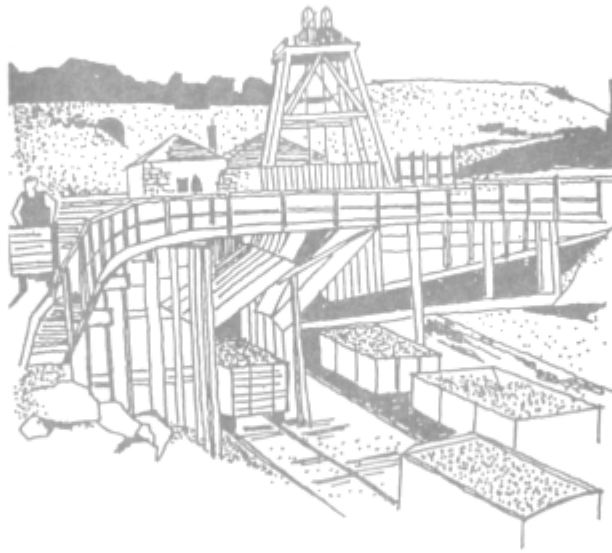
Continue along the lane, passing the site of Rawlinson Pit, until reaching the waymarker sign on the left-hand side. Turn left between the two cottages (beware of open drains, scaffolding, etc - a hazard of the walk). Eventually a row of white houses comes into view; the hill behind these is a man-made hill formed due to the tipping of waste ore. Continue down the hill, go over the stile and turn left onto the road. Then turn right and proceed into Marton, passing through an area of mines which were called Poaka Lots.

Another example of the mine owners' influence can be seen at Marton. Next to the children's play area is a house with round topped windows which was once a reading room built by the mine owners for use by their employees.

Walk into Marton, passing the New Inn pub, and then turn right. After a few yards turn left through a farmyard and go through a gate. Go down to the stream, cross over by the bridge and then walk up to the crest of the hill. Cross over the road by a stile into the field opposite.

A line of stiles is followed in a north-westerly direction until a track is reached leading into a farm. Just before the farm use the gate on the right and cross leftwards to the corner of the field. A narrow path exits at the top of Ireleth Hill.

This panoramic view would in the 1930's have been obscured by smoke from the two steel works at Askam and Millom.



At the junction turn left down Ireleth Hill, following the sign pointing towards Barrow. Walk into Askam, cross the railway line and take the first road on the right, walking past the K Shoes factory. At the Askam information point, proceed onto the beach and walk left towards Askam Pier. This was once a loading pier made entirely out of hot slag from Askam Ironworks. Railway lines would have run continuously along here, allowing boats to load and unload. Walk under Askam Pier and continue along the sands to the nature reserve at Roanhead, home of the rare natterjack toad. Following the road past the cottages and then the farm building, there is a gate on the right-hand side; go through and continue down the track on the left. Amongst

the shrubs are large lakes and the remains of the largest deposits of waste ore. Proceed to the next waymarker and turn left up the track, past the farm using the waymarkers as guidance.

At the fork in the track, take the right-hand route which leads to a stile on the left-hand side. Turn right onto the beach.

Bear left along the beach and eventually reach a sign directing the walker along the Coastal Way. Walk along the track and go over the stile into the farmyard. From here take the left-hand green lane and walk over the bridge to the next stile leading to the main road. Cross the road and turn right and walk down Park Road and along Schneider Road. On the right is Ormsgill Reservoir which was once a cooling reservoir for the Barrow Steelworks. At the roundabout go straight ahead and walk down Ainslie Street, meeting Abbey Road and Barrow Park at the junction.

This is the end of the Haematite Trail which we hope has given the walker an insight into the industry which dominated the Furness economy in the last century. The Furness iron mining industry began to decline at the end of the 19th century and had ceased as a commercial factor by the 1920's. During this period many of the people who had been enticed to the region to work in the mines left Furness to migrate to the United States, Australia and South Africa.