

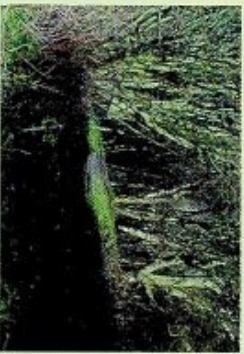
1) Thornley is a small picturesque village with panoramic views into Weardale. Have a look at St. Bartholomews Church in the centre of the village and the well-situated War Memorial with its references to the sinking of the Lusitania during the First World War.



2) Helme Park Hall dates back to 1324 when the Bishop of Durham formed "The Helme Park" as a deer hunting estate. The house has been restored and extended many times since then and is now a modern hotel with many facilities.



3) Collers Wood Picnic Site situated on the A68 is the starting point of a short nature trail (approximately 10 minutes) through a pretty wood of mostly silver birch. The well-surfaced path leads to a view point overlooking Weardale. This path is suitable for push chairs and offers some disabled access. There are public toilets on site and free car parking facilities.



4) The Clough Path through Heatherley Clough forms an attractive path through the local woodland and marvellous views across the valley.

5) Barracks Farm, as it's name suggests was once a former army barracks.

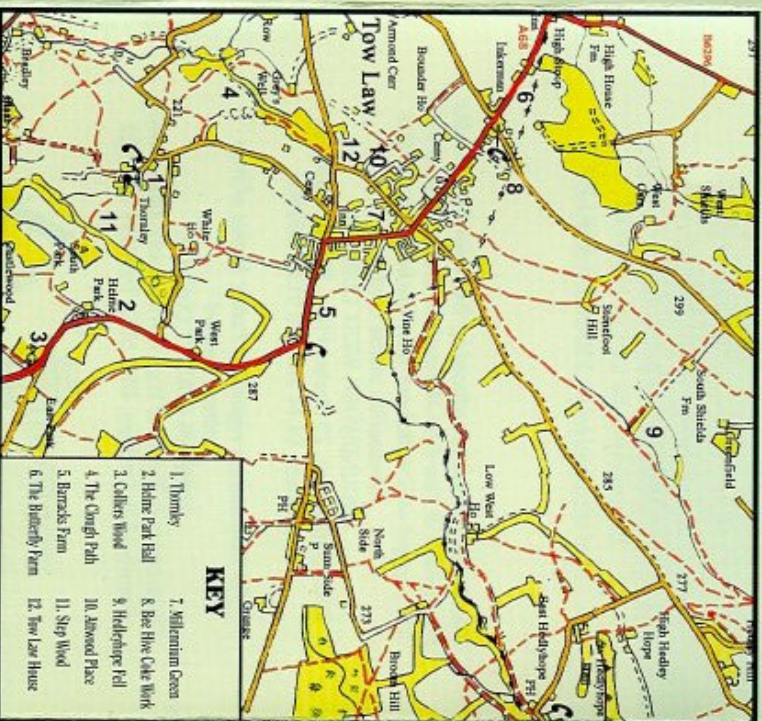
6) The Butterfly Farm located on the A68 houses some of the most spectacular tropical and native butterfly species. The farm is free and open to the public. The butterflies are most active on sunny days.

TOW LAW MILLENNIUM GREEN

7) Tow Law Millennium Green lies in a central location in the town with parking amenities nearby and was formerly industrial land. A plan was drawn up in 1997 in consultation with the local community to transform the area into an informal recreational 'breathing space' for the local community.

Over the next few years a gradual transformation of the area took place and the Millennium green was officially opened in June 2000. The former inaccessible industrial land is now an attractive informal recreation area complete with amphitheatre, industrial art features and stone sculptures which depict local history and incorporate local children's designs. On a clear day, the view of the surrounding countryside is spectacular.

The green is also host to an annual summer festival for everyone to enjoy and often rare breeds of sheep can be seen in the grazing area.



KEY

1. Thornley
2. Helme Park Hall
3. Clough Wood
4. The Clough Path
5. Barracks Farm
6. The Butterfly Farm
7. Millennium Green
8. Bee Hive C&Mk
9. Hedleyhope Fell
10. Atwood Place
11. Step Wood
12. Tow Law House

8) The Inkerman Bee Hive Coke Owens date from 1846 and were used to convert locally mined coal into coke for use by the railway industry (steam locomotives) and the local steel industry (blast furnaces). The ovens had an opening at the top where the coal was fed in and an arched opening at the base for withdrawing the white-hot coke. The converting process took three days and the ovens had to be opened and recharged every hour. The ovens have been recently restored and are open to the public.



9) Hedleyhope Fell provides not only a beautiful view but is a popular spot for radio-controlled model aircraft enthusiasts and is home to an amazing range of native flora and fauna, including deer, sparrow hawk, grouse and skylark.

10) Atwood Place was built in 1850 by the Weardale Iron Company to provide a combined office and living quarters for Charles Atwood and the Company Manager. The fields opposite used to be the former ironworks.



11) Step Wood, a delightful wood to visit in spring with its two foot bridges over the stream and wildflowers are prevalent.

12) Tow Law House dates back to the 1650's and is the oldest building in Tow Law. It has been used by shepherds tending sheep and even as a public house until it was bought by Charles Atwood in the 1800's in an attempt to stop his workers drinking during work hours.



Tow Law History

Located 10 miles north-west of Bishop Auckland on the A68, Tow Law commands a spectacular view of the hills and dales of the North Pennines AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

Tow Law sprang up as a town in the mid 1800's when Charles Atwood opened the Weardale Iron and Coal Company; with support from Baring's Bank. Most of the coal mined in the area was turned into coke for the steel furnaces. The pubs and inns located in Tow Law all date back to the industrial boom.

The area around Tow Law has been subject to many changes in land use. In medieval times much of this area was used by the Bishop of Durham for deer hunting and several estates were set up for this purpose. More recently, industry has been the dominating feature with intensive coal mining and steel works. Today the industries are long gone and visible only through industrial heritage sites such as the Inkerman Beehive Coke Ovens.

The attractions that modern Tow Law has to offer are stunning views, opportunities for nature watching and features of historical interest. Much of this can be appreciated by using the networks of footpaths surrounding Tow Law.

Getting Around

The map shows a network of footpaths and roads around Tow Law, including the village of Thornley, allowing you to select a route to suit yourself. Marked on the map are various places of interest that you might like to include in your walk or that you can visit while you are in Tow Law. For detailed maps of footpaths in the Tow Law area please refer to ORDANANCE SURVEY LAND RANGER 92 map.

There are numerous cafes and pubs/inns that offer a wide selection of refreshments.

For further information on bus timetables contact:-



PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

- Enjoy the Countryside and respect it's life and work
- Fasten all gates
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone
- Keep your dogs under close control
- Take your litter home with you
- Make no unnecessary noise
- Keep to the public paths across farmland
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls
- Take special care on country roads
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees
- Help to keep water clean
- Guard against all risk of fire


Acknowledgements

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This leaflet has been produced by Tow Law Parish Paths Partnership & Tow Law Millennium Green Trustees with the support of Groundwork West Durham. For further information please contact:
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For information regarding Public Rights of Way please contact

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL
Countryside & Rights of Way, Environment Department
County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UQ. Tel: 0191 3833452



Paths & Places around Tow Law