Start in the centre of Trawden in the heart of Trawden Forest at The Trawden Arms and walk up the old tram tracks. When you reach the main road, take the signed path opposite just to the right passing the old Literary Institute. At the road go left and immediately left again down a footpath. Turn right and continue into a field. At the junction of footpaths turn left and go through several fields to reach the right hand side of Slack Laithe Farm.

Continue past the house uphill to a stone stile, cross the stile and follow the wall down on your left. Just before the enclosed lane turn right and follow the path which runs between walls on either side and continue to Higher Naze End Cottage. Continue on the well marked path past the house and continue through the next field until you reach a farm track. Turn left down the track to Oaken Bank. Turn right in front of the cottages and go up the path and through a gate. Turn left through a gate just before Alderhurst Head farmhouse and go downhill on the farm track.

At the bottom of the track turn right. Just after the houses to your left, turn left following the path down to the stream. At the bottom bear right ignoring the bridge on your left. Go over a stile and cross two bridges. Then follow the path up to the Lumb Spout waterfall. Continue passing the ruins of the old café and a bridge on your left.

Bear right to follow a shallow valley uphill and head for the stile at the far end of the field. Follow the wall on your right to a stone stile at the end of the next field. Go over the stile onto a track at the foot of Boulsworth Hill.

We start near The Trawden Arms and The Old Rock Café (01282 861133) in the village of Trawden on a walk which passes 17th century farmhouses and the beauty spot of Lumb Spout. The full walk takes you to the summit of Boulsworth Hill so be prepared for uneven paths in this remote landscape. We use an old moorland pack horse trail before dropping down to the hamlet of Wycoller with its Brontë associations. There you will find a visitor centre and The Wycoller Craft Centre and Tea Rooms (01282 868395). We return to Trawden through the attractive farmed landscape of Trawden Forest.
Trawden Forest

Described as a wasteland in the Domesday Book, Trawden Forest was granted to the knight Roger de Poictou, who also built Clitheroe Castle. From the 11th century it was used primarily as hunting grounds. The discovery of primitive wooden mining tools bears out the theory that the earliest settlers in Trawden were farmers who mined their own coal from opencast sites around the village.

Tram Tracks

The tram tracks in Trawden extended the line from the original terminus at the Rock Hotel (now the Trawden Arms). The last tram ran in 1928 and the rails were taken up around 1942 for the war effort. However a section of rail can still be seen today near the old tram terminus, now used as a bus stop.

Oaken Bank

Until recently only one house in this pretty hamlet was occupied. But the attractive cottages were recently restored. A century ago there were two shops and a small pub here to support the outlying farms.

Lumb Spout Waterfall

Lumb Spout waterfall is now a tranquil hidden gem, but in its heyday it was a popular beauty spot. The ruins of a nearby café and a bungalow are still clearly visible. The buildings had their electricity supply produced by a waterwheel.

Boulsworth Hill

The moorland of Boulsworth Hill is dominated by wiry tussock grasses and also marsh thistle, bilberry, heather and purple moor grass. This provides excellent habitat for ground nesting birds including curlew, golden plover and red grouse. The importance of this area for birds is internationally recognised by its status as a Special Protection Area.

The pasture and the moorland slopes were once home to oak and birch forests but now woodland is largely concentrated in the stream valleys. A wide variety of wild flowers can be seen. In spring look for butterbur, celandines and wood sorrel; while in summer you can see herb robert, dog violet, foxglove and german speedwell. In the trees you can see the robin, blackbird, dunnock (hedge sparrow), mistle thrush, blue tit and great tit.

Wycoller Quantry Park

The settlement of Wycoller can be traced back beyond 1000 BC. In keeping with Anglo-Saxon tradition, the site was named after the prominent tree in the area and so they chose ‘Wic-air’ meaning the dairy farm among the alders. Wycoller was an agricultural settlement until the 18th century when the manufacture of woollens and worsted on handlooms became an important industry. The site has been a popular picnic spot for family outings with a tea room, craft centre and visitor information centre to enjoy. Seven bridges span the stream beside which Wycoller is built, ranging from an ancient packhorse bridge to one single slab of stone believed to be over 1,000 years old.

Wycoller Hall

Wycoller Hall is the best known feature of the hamlet, built in 1550 but crumbling since the death of its last squire in 1818. It was thought to have been used as a model for Ferndean Manor in ‘Jane Eyre’. In the novel, Jane was reunited here with her blind, maimed Rochester.

Pulpit Stiles

These stiles have a high central area which, like a pulpit, is large enough for a preacher to address an open air congregation. It is thought that some of the famous itinerant preachers, such as George Fox and John Wesley, preached from the pulpit stiles.