Boulsworth Hill

The moorland on Boulsworth Hill has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area, and is regarded as one of the best examples in the Pennines. Much of upland Pendle would originally have resembled this landscape of peat and tussocky grass, before farmers enclosed fields and improved the quality of the soil by liming. Kites were built to convert limestone to lime. The rundown wall halfway up the hillside shows where moorland has encroached again on former fields.

Emmott Arms

The pub takes its name from the local land-owning family, William the Conqueror granted the estate to the Emmotts, who lived here until 1939. Emmott Hall, just off the Haworth Road, had a handsome 18th century façade concealing an earlier building, but was demolished in 1968.

Carriers Row

The name of this terrace of cottages suggests that the early occupants moved goods to and from the town by packhorse. They may have carried wool and finished cloth for the domestic textile industry.

Wycoller

This was once a royal hunting area which was granted to the de Lacy family in the 12th century. It was an Anglo-Saxon tradition to name settlements after the prominent tree in the area and Wycoller derives from Wic-alr, meaning the dairy farm among the aldors. There were two cattle farms in Wycoller and you can still see the 14th century vacancy wall enclosures. The term is derived from the Latin vacca for cow. The cottage industries of handloom weaving took over Wycoller in the 18th century, but the growth of the mills drove people to the towns. In the 1890s the Water Board intended to flood the valley to provide a reservoir. The threat was lifted in the 1940s and this fascinating village with its ancient bridges was bought by Lancashire County Council to create a country park.

Wycoller Hall

Wycoller Hall was the home of the Cunliffe family who owned the estate. The last squire, Henry Owen Cunliffe, was a wild character with a passion for cockfighting. He died in 1818 and with the break-up of the estate to pay his debts, the hall was left to fall into ruins. Charlotte Brontë is said to have based Ferndean Manor in ‘Jane Eyre’ on Wycoller Hall.

Foster’s Leap

Foster’s Leap, an outlier of large boulders above Wycoller Dean, is the scene of a feat of daring by Foster Cunliffe, a relation of the Wycoller family. He reputedly managed to clear the not inconsiderable gap between the boulders without mishap.

Brink Ends

A Bronze Age burial mound of around 1,500 BC was discovered at Brink Ends in 1959 by a local historian, the late Stanley Cookson.

Coldwell reservoirs

The first (lower) reservoir at Coldwell was completed in 1884 to supply water to the rapidly expanding town of Nelson. It holds 80 million gallons, while the Upper Reservoir, opened in 1935, is half the size and supplies the upper part of the town. Part of the land around the reservoirs is a reserve for wildlife managed by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and United Utilities.

Walton Spire

Walton Spire was erected in 1835 on the moors above Nelson by Richard Wroe-Walton of Marsden Hall. It is rumoured to be erected on an ancient battlestone dating back to the Battle of Brunanburh. It may mark a mass burial site for those who died in the battle.

Coldwell Inn

Coldwell Inn stands on the road from Colne to Hebdon Bridge. A pub until 1939, it is now an outdoor activity centre for groups and a tea room. (See section five for more information on Coldwell Inn.)
Discover the village of Wycoller with its ancient bridges and ruined hall which inspired Charlotte Brontë for her novel ‘Jane Eyre’. The route follows an old packhorse trail across the moors with the

1. Start by the Emmott Arms at Laneshaw Bridge and walk down School Lane. Turn right into Carriers Row. Beyond the cottages, turn left through a kissing gate and follow the path along the stream, go through the gate. Go over a footbridge, then left alongside the wall. Pass through a squeeze stile and turn immediately right. Carry on through a gate and a stile to the lane. Cross the bridge and turn left past 17th century Lane Ends Farm. At the road go left into Wycoller.

2. Cross the packhorse bridge and turn right past the ruins of Wycoller Hall. Carry on along Wycoller Dean, here sharing the route of the Brontë Way. Up to the left is an outcrop of rocks, including Foster’s Leap.

3. A mile from Wycoller you reach Parson Lee Farm. Continue alongside the stream, over a stile and climb uphill to where the track enters open country.

4. After about half a mile go over a stile and turn right along the track. Follow the wall for about 100 metres to a gate. Continue on a poorly defined path, passing through a gate. Follow the wall on your left round to a gate on the left near Wycoller Hall.

5. After 20 metres turn right to find the stream and continue on the uphill path to join a track at the top. Turn left here and carry on along the track into open moorland.

6. To take a detour to visit Lumb Spout waterfall take the ladder stile on your right slightly before the building called Spoutley Lumb. With the wall on your left cross another stile and cross a field heading towards a concrete bridge. Bear left before the bridge to follow the stream down to Lumb Spout. Retrace your steps to rejoin the Pendle Way at point 6.