A. Waterside
Here Colne’s textile industry grew using the readily available water supply to provide power. Wool production was centred around the home, but the change to cotton during the 19th century brought the mills which produced a large volume of cloth at high speeds. Waterside Bridge was an important crossing place, carrying traffic en route for Burnley and Halifax. The present bridge dates from 1791, but as early as 1323 there was a bridge on the site.

B. Carry Hall
John Waterhouse built the house in 1702 using stone from the quarry at nearby Winewall. He was a local cloth dyer and both his and his wife’s initials are carved on the porch along with the date.

C. Carry Bridge Mill
There was a bridge here in 1546, which gave the surrounding community its name. In the 1840s a cotton mill was built here, but it was burnt down on June 5th 1842 during a riot.

D. Colne Cemetery
Formerly known as the King’s Field, it was here on 25th June 1644 that a skirmish took place between Royalists led by Sir George Lucas and Parliamentarians led by Colonel Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe. The Royalists were defeated. In 1880 the Burial Board decided to provide a new cemetery here to relieve the congestion in Colne churchyard.

E. Ball Grove Country Park
This site originally contained one of Europe’s largest light tanneries, set up in 1860 by two brothers, John and William Sagar. Over 300 men worked at the company in its heyday and the site covered 8 acres. Colne Water was used to power the water wheel and provide the water supply necessary in the tanning process. 100,000 gallons of water a day was taken to the site via a system of weirs and reservoirs. In 1970 the business was declared bankrupt and in 1974 demolition work began. The reservoirs or lodges were retained, the lower one for fishing, the higher one as a wetland for wildlife and plants. The restaurant built on the site is appropriately named The Hide.

F. Carriers Row
In the 16th century Colne’s woollen industry led to trade with Yorkshire textile towns such as Halifax and Heptonstall. By the 17th century, haulage companies transporting the goods with packhorses were established and had formed small communities. The name of Carriers Row suggests this may have been such a community. Laneshaw Bridge was an ideal location for such business being at the junction of several major routes, including one of the earliest turnpikes in the area built in the 1750s along a former herders’ track to Howarth.

The Ferndean Way covers a variety of terrain and you are likely to encounter muddy stretches. Weather conditions can change rapidly so be prepared for all eventualities.

— Wear stout waterproof boots
— Take waterproof clothing
— Carry a compass and a map
— Inform someone of your route
— Allow plenty of time
— Keep dogs under control

The route is easy to follow on the ground and is waymarked between Colne and Carriers Row with small blue plaques. From Carriers Row the route merges with the Pendle Way, so follow the yellow arrows.
You may return from Wycoller using the same route, or alternatively use one of the many alternative definitive footpaths to return to Colne. Buses to Colne run regularly from Laneshaw Bridge and from Trawden, times are available from information centres and local bus operators.

Allow at least 3 hours for the return journey.

The Ferndean Way links into other waymarked routes. The Bronte Way starts at Wycoller, whilst the Pendle Way also passes through the hamlet on its 45 mile tour of the Borough.

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The Ferndean Way follows Colne Water from Waterside in Colne to Wycoller. Mostly on the level, the path is easily discernible and is approximately 3 miles long.

1. The walk starts at Waterside in Colne. Go over the Bridge and turn left to walk alongside the river. Continue along the track, over a stile and through a field. The house across the water is Carry Hall. Pass over another stile, then walk alongside Carry Bridge Farm to emerge on to Coal Pit Lane.

2. Turn left to cross over Carry Bridge, then turn right. This was formerly the site of Carry Bridge Mill. Further along on the hillside to your left is Colne Cemetery. Continue along the riverside for about half a mile. Climb the steps which bring you out on to the road at Cotton Tree Lane.

3. Turn right and walk along the road for 200 yards, then turn left into Winewall Road (signposted to Ball Grove). Before the bridge, turn left to enter Ball Grove Country Park, which was created on the site of a demolished tannery.

4. Follow the path through the country park. Walk past the weir and concrete bridge staying on the left hand bank. Beyond the top lodge, cross Colne Water by the wooden bridge. Climb the steps, then walk along the flagged path which leads to a second wooden bridge. Cross this bridge and shortly afterwards a third bridge to emerge onto the road at Carriers Row in Laneshaw Bridge.

5. Cross the road to go through the stile directly opposite, then follow the path along the stream. From here to Wycoller, the Ferndean Way merges with the Pendle Way and Colne Water becomes Wycoller Beck. In the distance straight ahead is Boulsworth Hill. After crossing another stile, look to your left. In the woods on the hillside stood Emmott Hall.

6. Go over two adjacent stiles, then turn left along the wall. Pass through a squeeze stile and turn immediately right. Carry on over two more stiles to the lane. Cross the bridge and turn left past the 17th century Lane Ends Farm.

The Packhorse Bridge that crosses Wycoller Beck.

At the road, turn left into the heart of Wycoller. The ruined Wycoller Hall is thought to have been the inspiration for Charlotte Bronte’s Ferndean Manor - hence the name of this walk.