

# Brontës in Pendle

Length: 8 miles  
(Short walk: 6 miles)

Time: 4 to 5 hours

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.



**1** 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.

**2** 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.

**3** 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.

**4** 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**.

**5 (Short Walk)** Turn left onto the track and continue following the directions from 6.

**5 (Full Walk)** Turn right onto the track then immediately left, taking an unmarked path to the summit of Boulsworth Hill. Go down past the large Abbot Stone, down to the track and return to the start of this Boulsworth Hill loop.

**6** Continue for just over a mile along the track which now forms part of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. Just before the bridleway turns right to cross a large bridge, go straight ahead through a gate. Follow the path downhill, keeping the stream to your right. After another gate go on uphill to continue with the timber fence to your right. Go through a kissing gate and cross the bridge over the stream. Turn immediately left and follow the footpath to the lane. Go immediately left over a stile and down the field to a kissing gate reaching the lane again. Turn left and continue past the clapper bridge and into **Wycoller Country Park**.

**7** Cross the stream at the stone bridge opposite **Wycoller Hall** and turn left up the lane. After 200 metres bear right up a flight of steps, through a wood to a **pulpit stile**. Continue in the same direction, pass to the right of Germany Farm and continue until you reach Little Laith.

**8** Turn right and keep the stream to your right for two fields, cross the stream and continue with the stream on your left to reach a track. Follow this left into the farm yard of Near Wanlass. Turn right over the stile and cross the next field.

**9** Go over a stile and stone bridge then turn left down the field just right of the trees until you reach Trawden Brook. At the stream turn right and follow the footpath to the road. Turn left to return to The Trawden Arms.

## Trawden Forest

Described as a wasteland in the Domesday Book, Trawden Forest was granted to the knight Roger de Poitou, 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 germander speedwell. In the trees you can see the robin, blackbird, dunnock (hedge sparrow), mistle thrush, blue tit and great tit.

## Wycoller Country 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-alr' 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.



Coldwell



Lumb Spout Waterfall



Boulsworth

This circular walk follows public rights of way across farmland and other privately owned land. Please respect people who live and work in the countryside. Be prepared for muddy stretches, uneven path surfaces and weather conditions which change suddenly.

- Take care to keep to the path
- Keep dogs on a lead
- Clean up after your dog
- Wear waterproof boots
- Take waterproof clothing