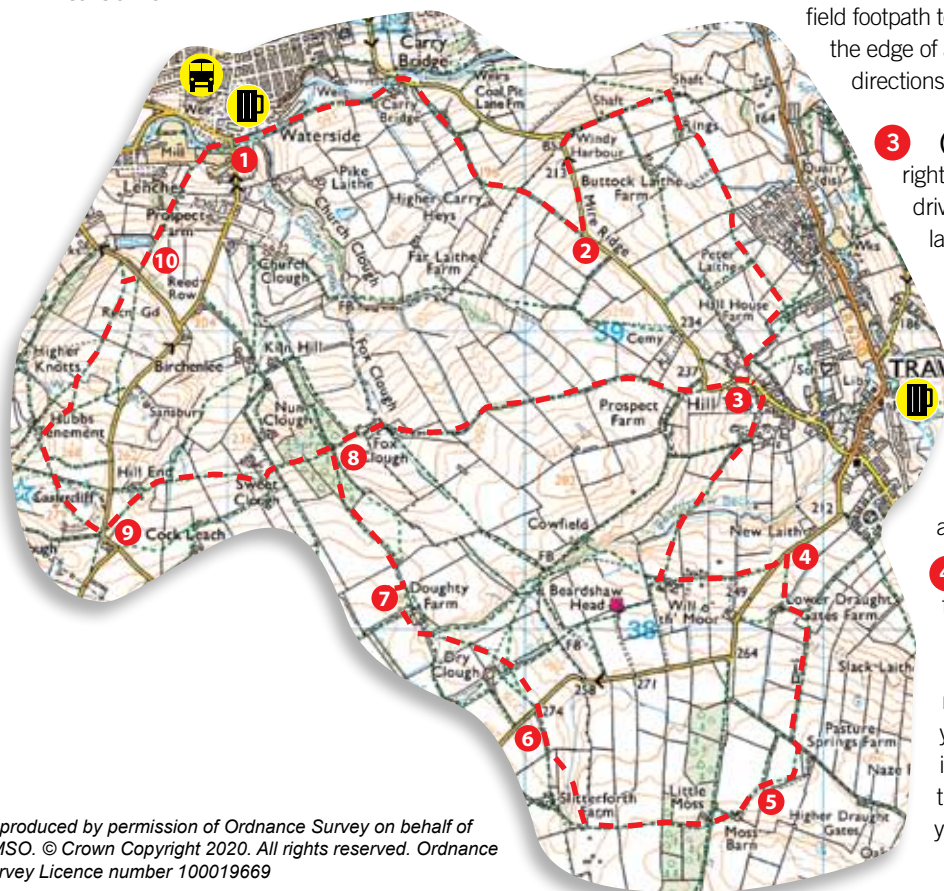


# Castercliff

Length: 6½ miles  
(Short walk: 4½ miles)

Time: 3 to 4 hours

Our walk starts from the Admiral Lord Rodney pub (01282 870083) and sets off running alongside Pendle Water. We soon take a path over the hills towards Trawden and take a route back towards Colne through this attractive area of Pennine Lancashire. We walk across the site of an iron age Hill Fort with its spectacular 360° views of the surrounding hills before dropping back down into Colne.



**1** From the Admiral Lord Rodney pub cross the bridge and turn left along the path beside Colne Water until you reach the road at **Carry Bridge**. Don't cross the bridge. Turn right and after 40 metres bear right again up the old flagged footpath until it joins a track. Continue straight ahead to the path off left at a gate. Go up the path until the road Mire Ridge.

**2** Turn left down the road, and at the sharp bend, where the road becomes **Coal Pit Lane**, turn right onto a farm track. At the kennels turn right towards Rings. At the house follow signs left through the small fields then turn right keeping the wall on your right. At the gate keep on the same line to cross a ditch and stile. Now head slightly more right to a large gap in the wall ahead. Continue to the houses and a track. Turn right and follow the track up. At the junction go left to the road.

**3** **(Short Walk):** Go right up the road and take the first footpath on the left up to a track. Cross straight over following the field footpath to **Fox Clough**. Go to a 5-Way signpost at the edge of a plantation. Continue by following the directions from Number 8.

**3** **(Full Walk):** Go left down the road and right at the first footpath. This goes up a drive and on through small fields. After the last house bear right to a field gate. From there continue past the trees to a bridge. Cross the bridge and go through a gate continuing steeply up left. Head towards the right hand side of the house ahead. Go through the gate and turn left. Bear left and through a gate signed as "Bob's Footpath". Go through a small wood and then fields to a stile at the road.

**4** Go left at the road and take the first footpath on the right. Head towards the communications mast behind the house. Bear left at the house to a stile. Then bear right and keep the wall (and the mast) on your right up to a farm road. Go left then immediately right through a gate. Follow the footpath going right at the fence until you reach a stone stile.

**5** Go left up the drive and through a field gate to Moss Barn. Turn right in front of the house and continue through a gate and on to a stile. Go into the wood turning left then immediately right and continue over two stone stiles before leaving the wood. Head in the direction of **Walton Cross** on the horizon. At the second stile go half right to a marker post and on down to a stream crossing. Go uphill in the same direction to a wall and follow it right to the road.

**6** Go straight across the field opposite to reach a bridge. Bear half left to a gap in the fence and continue to a stile. Bear left to the corner of the field. Go through the gate and follow the sign pointing to Colne. Take the gate on your left and follow the path around the farm buildings to a gate. Cross the farm track and continue past the large milking sheds to a field.

**7** Turn right down the side of the milking shed and then left along the edge of the field. Next cross the stile to the field on the left and continue alongside the wall. Take the stile right and follow the path through a wood to a farm road.

**8** On the full walk turn sharp left through the wood just before reaching the road. If continuing the short walk then leave the farm road at the cattle grid and take the path straight ahead through the wood. The footpath passes to the left of Sweet Clough Farm. Cross the farm track to a stile and cross the field to a stile under a mature sycamore tree. Continue in the direction of Hill End. At the bottom of a slope before the house bear left uphill and make for a stile just right of a row of houses.

**9** Cross the road and take the stile into the field opposite. Head straight uphill and continue to the top of **Castercliff**. Continue to a stile (the direction is just left of the mobile phone mast). Continue to a farm track and go down to a waymark post. Turn right and continue up to a second waymark post. There are two stiles on the skyline. Go to the highest one. Follow the waymark posts to the road.

**10** Go straight across the road and follow a path down past a small reservoir. At the caravans continue straight ahead. After a small field turn left down a flight of steps. Turn right at the bottom to return to the start of the walk.

## Carry Bridge

Carry Bridge, or the bridge over the marshy place, is mentioned as early as 1546 in the Clitheroe Court Rolls as Carry Hey Bridge. Trawdeners originally built a wood bridge over the river in 1640. The present bridge dates from 1791. The bridge was the cause of many arguments and disputes, the people of Trawden and Carry Bridge arguing over who was responsible for keeping it in good repair. The river at Carry Bridge used to be the boundary between Colne and Trawden.

## Carry Bridge Mill

This is the site of one of the earliest mills in Colne. It was five storeys tall and from 1786 it was operated by John Starkie. When he went bankrupt in 1797, the mill was taken over by Richard Sagar and for three generations a Richard Sagar owned the mill. In 1842 the mill was burnt down in the power loom riots but it was rebuilt in 1845. Power was supplied by a waterwheel and later by a steam engine.

## Coal Pit Lane

The 17th Century name given to this road was due to the many small coal pits in the area. Two of the pits are still shown on Ordnance Survey maps as "Shaft" although there is little visible trace left today. The "Old Engine Cottage" which you pass on the walk was the pump house for at least one of the pits.

## Fox Clough

One of the largest coal pits in the area was Trawden Colliery which was just north of Fox Clough Farm. From here a system of tramways, including overhead sections, took the coal down to Waterside near the start of the walk. The coal was then hauled uphill to Railway Street Mill which stood near the present day police station. These tramways had fallen into disuse by the late 1800s. Today all visible traces of the colliery and the tramways have disappeared.

## Walton Cross

Walton Cross was erected in 1830 – 1840 by the Reverend Wroe-Walton of Marsden Hall. The cross stands on what is thought to be the battle stone to mark the Battle of Brunanburgh which was fought in about 937. King Athenstan defeated the combined Norse and Celtic forces and this firmly established England as a single kingdom. There is some uncertainty about whether this was the site of the battle, but the stone monolith may mark the site of a mass burial. There is no public access to Walton Cross.

## Castercliff

Castercliff is an Iron Age hill fort which is thought to date from between 580BC and 440 BC. The name comes from the Old English words of "caster" (fort) and "clif" (bank or cliff). An excavation in 1971 found evidence of "vitrified" walls, the very thick rough stone walls which now appear as earth embankments. There was also evidence of defensive palisade fencing on the site of the fort, but there were no artefacts found during the excavation.



Colne



Flagstone path up from Carry Bridge

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