

Old Laund Booth

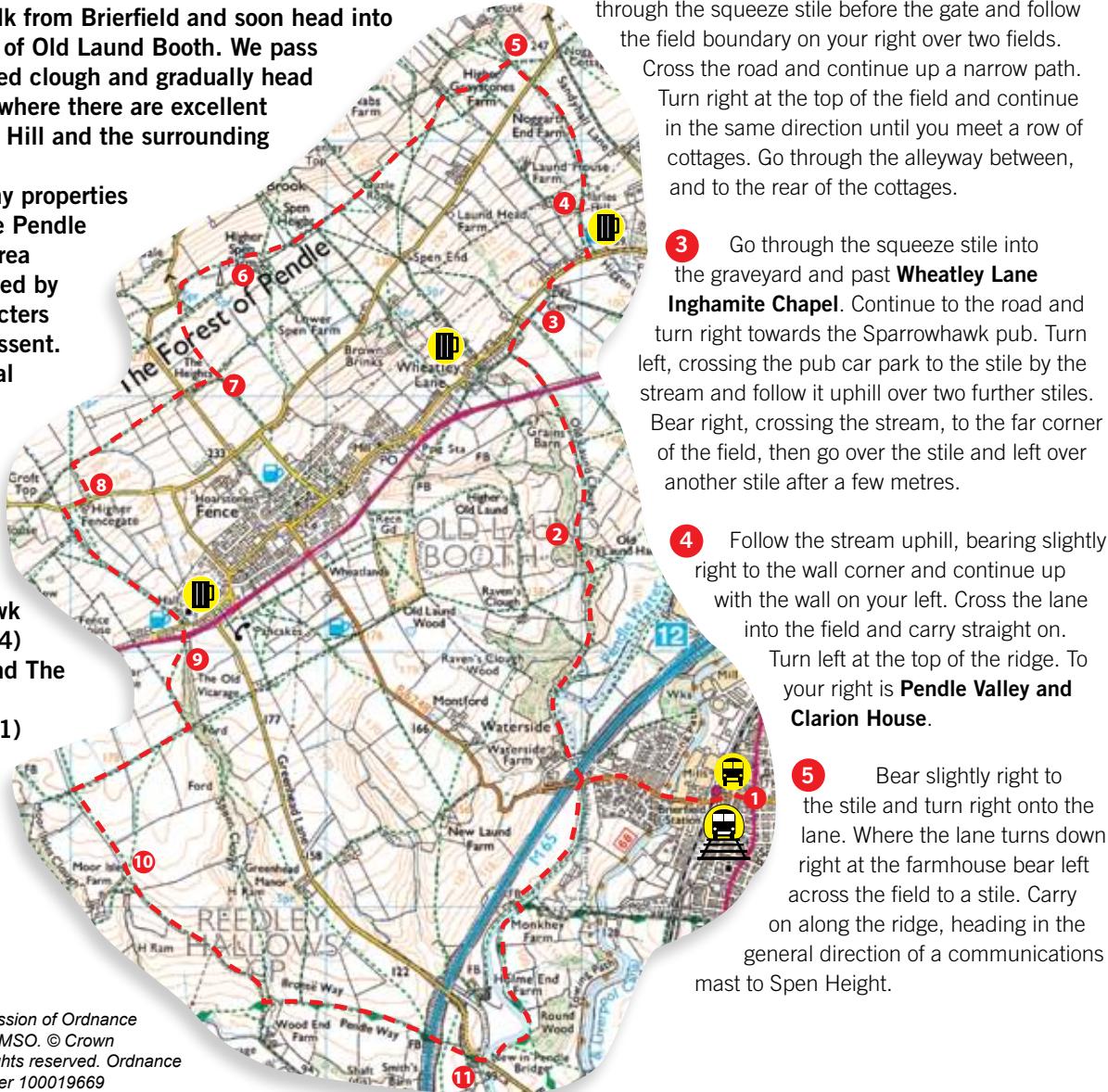
length: 7 miles

Time: 4 ± 4 ½ hours

We start the walk from Brierfield and soon head into the countryside of Old Laund Booth. We pass through a wooded clough and gradually head up to the ridge where there are excellent views of Pendle Hill and the surrounding area.

We go past many properties with links to the Pendle Witches in an area which was shaped by its strong characters and religious dissent. There are several country pubs on the route including The White Swan (01282 611773)

near point 3, The Sparrowhawk (01282 603034) near point 4, and The Fence Gate Inn (01282 618101) also near point 9.



Brierfield

This was originally a scattered community of farms and hamlets with coal being the predominant industry.

Non-conformity was strong in the town of Brierfield where, it was reputed, 'there were more churches than pubs'. From early days Quakers were particularly active in the area, although many suffered imprisonment, including one Stephen Sagar who eventually died in prison for his beliefs.

Quaker Bridge

This interesting local feature marks the line of the old highway between Clitheroe and Halifax.

It was on nearby Pendle Hill that George Fox, founder of the Quaker Movement, had his vision in the year of 1652 and 'saw a great people gathered.'

Before the present stone bridge was built, there was a wooden footbridge, which the Quakers of Pendle Forest put up so that they could cross the river on their way to their meeting house without wetting their best clothes. The local Quakers first met in cottages and farms before building their first meeting house on Marsden Heights in 1697.

Old Laund Hall

Hidden amongst the woods is Old Laund Hall, which dates from the 16th and 17th Centuries. The original hall was known for its 'great fire-places and mullioned windows.' It was owned by a family called Robinson, who were Catholics. During the Civil War they fought on the Royalist side with Charles Towneley of Towneley Hall. Following Parliament's victory, the estates were seized and sold to a Londoner in 1654.

Wheatley Lane Inghamite Chapel

This is the second oldest place of worship in Pendle Forest. It dates from 1750 and was built by the followers of the Rev. Benjamin Ingham. The Chapel was originally built of rough unhewn stone and acquired its present appearance in 1897. In the Chapel's earliest days many people travelled long distances for Sunday worship.

It is known that John Wesley and other itinerant preachers preached more than once at nearby Roughlee. Although Benjamin Ingham was a colleague of John Wesley he chose to break with the Church of England before the Wesleyans.

Pendle Valley - Clarion House

From the ridge there are spectacular views of the valley with its side smoothed by glacial action. Embedded in the valley is Clarion House, built by the Independent Labour Party earlier last century. A network of such establishments provided refreshments and a resting place for walkers and cyclists from the towns. This Clarion House still fulfils its original function every Sunday all year round and is the only one remaining in the UK.

Fence

The origins of the village of Fence, which is part of the Forest of Pendle, date back to the time of William the Conqueror. The name of Fence originates from the custom of the nobility to hunt deer in the Forest, where an enclosure was constructed to preserve the herd of stags for sport.

In 1618 Sir Jonas Moore, to whom we ultimately owe Greenwich Mean Time, was born at what is now called Higher White Lee. He had always had a keen interest in astronomy and it was through him that the Royal Observatory at Greenwich was built.

Moor Isles

Also known as Moorhiles, this farm was the childhood home of Christopher Towneley, a member of the great Burnley family of Towneley, who was born in 1603. His brother Charles, who was killed at Marston Moor, is said to have hidden in Moor Isles during the Civil Wars. The present house was built by Christopher in 1668; over the door are his initials and the date.

Greenhead

Greenhead was also connected to the Pendle Witches as the home of father and son Christopher and Robert Nutter – the earliest documented victims of the Pendle Witches. Robert Nutter made advances towards Anne Redfearn who lived on their land. Anne lived with her aged mother Anne Whittle, known as Old Chattox,

because her lips chattered incessantly. When Anne rejected him, Robert Nutter threatened to turn them off the land. Later, Chattox and Anne Redfearn were seen making clay figures of Robert and Christopher Nutter. They buried the figures in a ditch, and shortly afterwards Robert fell ill and died. Christopher died later, claiming he had been bewitched.



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