

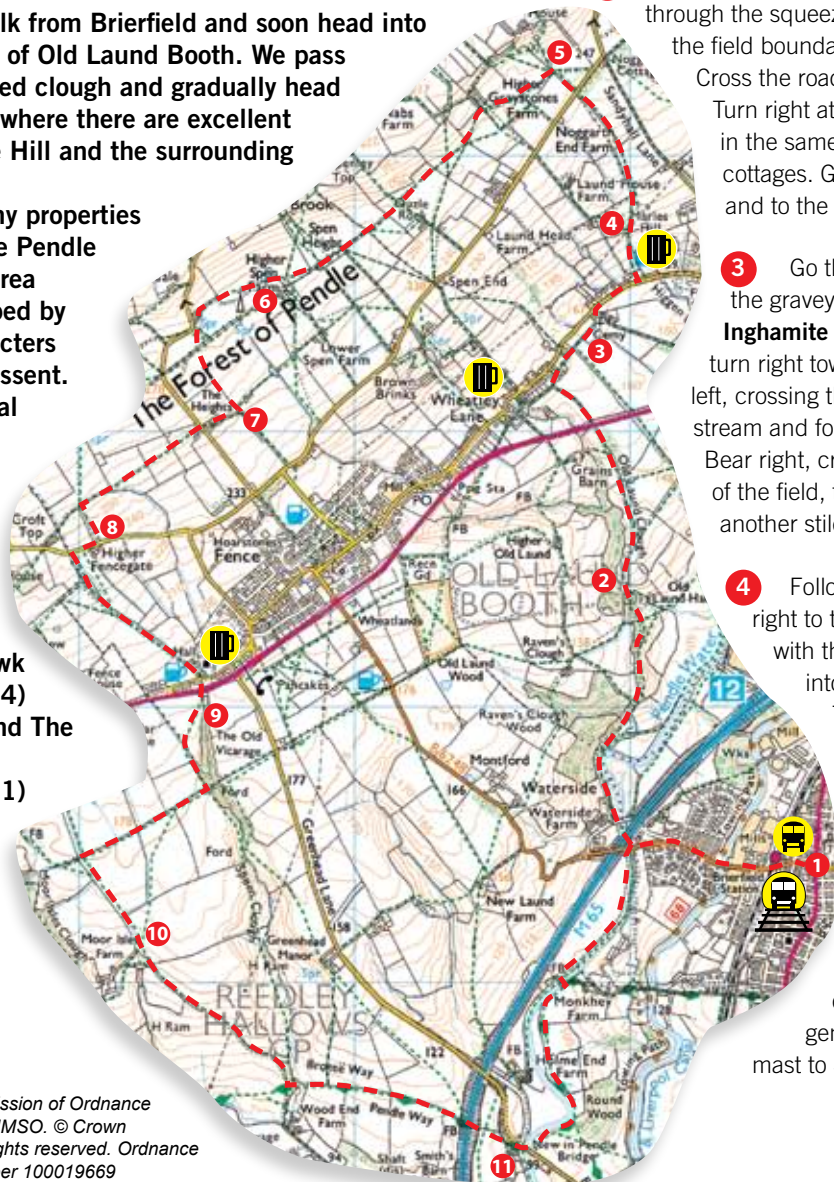
Old Laund Booth

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.



1 From the centre of **Brierfield** go down Railway Street. Take Clitheroe Road which forks right before the motorway bridge. Where the road ends, turn left down the footpath and under the motorway. Turn left over **Quaker Bridge** and right along the lane. At the fork, go up the left-hand track through the wood. Carry straight on to **Old Laund Hall**.

2 Continue up the track alongside the clough. Turn left through the squeeze stile before the gate and follow the field boundary on your right over two fields.

Cross the road and continue up a narrow path. Turn right at the top of the field and continue in the same direction until you meet a row of cottages. Go through the alleyway between, and to the rear of the cottages.

3 Go through the squeeze stile into the graveyard and past **Wheatley Lane Inghamite Chapel**. Continue to the road and turn right towards the Sparrowhawk pub. Turn left, crossing the pub car park to the stile by the stream and follow it uphill over two further stiles. Bear right, crossing the stream, to the far corner of the field, then go over the stile and left over another stile after a few metres.

4 Follow the stream uphill, bearing slightly right to the wall corner and continue up with the wall on your left. Cross the lane into the field and carry straight on.

Turn left at the top of the ridge. To your right is **Pendle Valley and Clarion House**.

5 Bear slightly right to the stile and turn right onto the lane. Where the lane turns down right at the farmhouse bear left across the field to a stile. Carry on along the ridge, heading in the general direction of a communications mast to Spen Height.

6 Just past the farmhouse, bear right along a diverted footpath and pass to the rear of a stable block. Turn right, crossing a gallop then go immediately left past a pond. Take the path across the fields and carry on past Douglas Hall. At the road, turn immediately left over a stile and cross the field. Beyond the track bear right towards the double telegraph pole and the stile beyond.

7 Climb the stile and follow the path, downhill. Take the next footpath on your right and follow the path, passing through a courtyard of Height Farm and continue to the road. Turn left onto the road, then right after a few metres in front of Height Cottages. Go through the kissing gate and cross the field to the stile. Continue across the next two fields in roughly the same direction until a small stream. Carry on through a kissing gate and alongside the stream. Turn left through a gateway and cross the field heading towards Higher Fencegate.

8 Turn right onto the lane. Take the second footpath left through a gate down the field. Keep the stream on your right for 100 metres then cross the stream over a stile and follow it downhill to the lane by St. Anne's Church, **Fence**. Go through the hotel car park and cross the main road to a stile.

9 Bear right across the field and over the stile. Follow the stream downhill over two fields. Cross the ditch and stile and turn right alongside the fence. When you meet the middle of the new plantation turn left downhill. Cross the stile in the corner and continue on towards **Moor Isles**.

10 Go over the stile and continue down the lane. Before reaching Wood End, turn left to join The Pendle Way. Cross the clough by the footbridge and follow the field boundary straight on. To your left is **Greenhead**. After 500 metres cross the footbridge and continue downhill to the bridge over the motorway.

11 Turn right over the stile at the end and follow the path down to New-in-Pendle Bridge. **Either** cross the bridge and turn left along a rather marshy path along the river. Turn left over the footbridge to the site of **Jewell Mill** and right to follow the river back to Quaker Bridge. **Or** cross the road and follow the lane then path along the riverbank and back to Quaker Bridge.

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