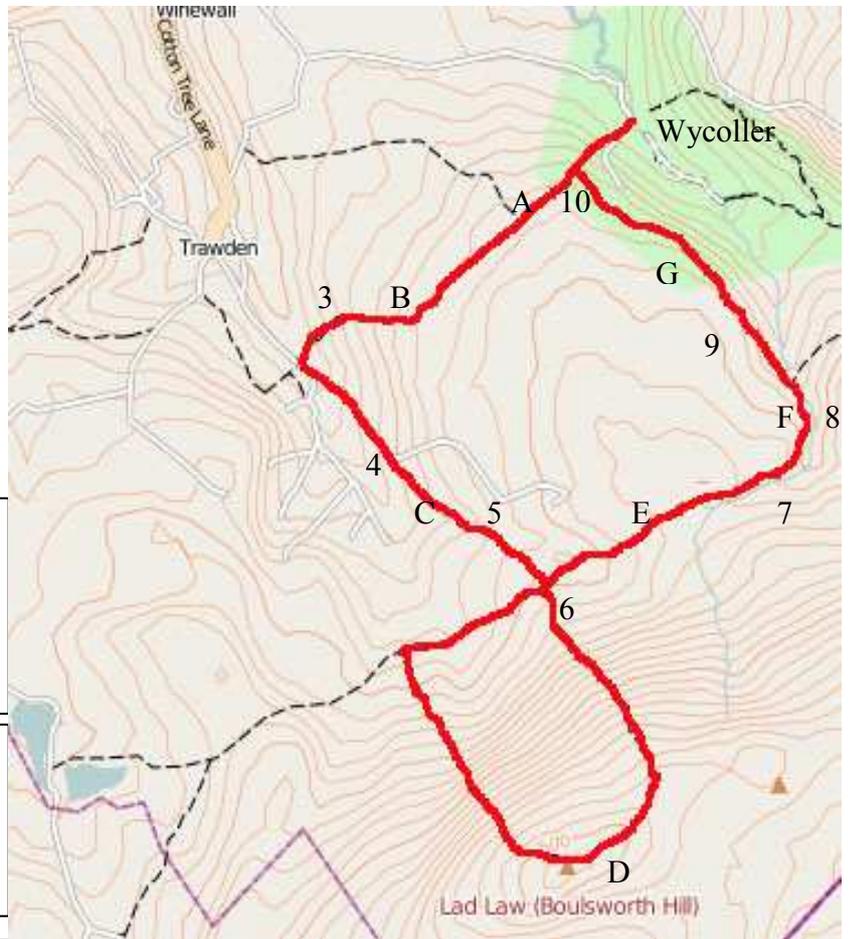


WYCOLLER – TRAWDEN- BOULSWORTH HILL

12 kilometres (7 miles) (about 3 hours)



1 From Wycoller, take the access road to Ravens Rock Farm. Climb the steps on the right-hand side of the road & follow the path. Continue through the young plantation & over the pulp stile.

2 Continue along the footpath & keep to the right around Germany Farm. Pass Little Laithe & follow the hill downwards towards Trawden keeping to the edge of the field.

3. At the gate bear left & cross the cattle grid. Walk down to Trawden Brook & up past the mill. Turn left onto the lane (please be careful of traffic and walk along the right-hand side of the road). Pass the mill & continue along the roadside.

4. At Frigham's Cottage the lane bears to the left & you may follow this if you wish to shorten the walk & omit Boulsworth Hill & Lumb Spout (see map). Alternatively, continue straight past the cottage & through the farmyard at Lodge Moss. Follow the footpath & cross the small brook by the bridge.

5. Turn immediately right & continue until you can see Lumb Spout waterfall. Re-trace your steps back to the bridge. Follow the footpath up the slope, cross the stile & continue alongside the stone wall to Spoutley Lumb Farm.

6. From Spoutley Lumb Farm you may climb to the top of Boulsworth Hill by following the North-West Water Authority's concessionary access strip shown on the plan & also on the stone plinth at the base of the hill. This access strip will bring you back to the track & you should continue along this following the line of the wall all the way to its end.

10. Follow the footpath through the gate & down the track to the end of the walk at the Information Centre.

9. Follow the footpath through the two open gateways, turn left & walk along the edge of the field. Continue in the same direction along the valley shoulder & past the unusually twisted Hawthorn trees.

A walk for the more energetic with a full morning or afternoon to spare. This is a circular walk through contrasting enclosed pastureland & wild moorland. There is the option to climb to the summit of Boulsworth Hill, one of the highest vantage points in Lancashire, from which it is possible to see the Yorkshire Dales and Lakeland hills, & experience the landscape enjoyed by the Brontës.

8. Walk up the slope towards the large outcrop of rocks known as "the viewpoint". From here, fine views may be seen down the valley & across Wycoller.

7. Continue on the path to the boundary of the Country Park near Brink Ends. Climb the stile over the stone wall & proceed along the path, then fork to the right to avoid a boggy section & climb the stile.

12 Kilometres (7 miles) (about 3 hours)

POINTS OF INTEREST (see map)

A. Notice the new plantation of predominantly broad leaved trees established in 1975 by Lancashire County Council. Alder, rowan or mountain ash, birch & larch are among the variety of trees which may be seen. The land was previously meadowland improved by earlier generations of farmers by the application of lime & manure. The resulting soil conditions have favoured the growth of certain trees. Alder is particularly successful & will further improve the soil due to the action of the bacteria in the root system which make use of atmospheric nitrogen by fixing it in the soil & creating a reservoir of nutrient for the tree.

B. Enclosed pockets of land such as this are typical of the small copses used by farmers in earlier centuries to grow wood for buildings & fencing & sometimes to provide shelter from prevailing winds.

C. Lumb Spout: this feature & its immediate surroundings are of special interest for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the cascading water has clearly eroded a deep channel in the cliff face. This has been caused by minute stone particles, carried in the water, rubbing over the soft sandstone cliff



– rather like sandpaper rubbing on wood.

The ultimate effect of this action is to wear away the cliff, allowing the water a smooth passage. Secondly, the course of the river seems to have been artificially directed across the cliff face to produce the waterfall, the old course of the river can be seen to the left of the waterfall & now acts as an overflow in storm conditions. The redirection of the river was probably made in the Victorian era when the clough was an attractive tourist spot. Finally, the valley contains an interesting fragment of Oak-Ash woodland in which foxgloves can be seen in bloom in late summer & many varieties of ferns & liverworts, in endless shades of green, are clearly seen on the cliff face.

D. The Lad Law stone has been said by some to be a Druid altar, it is more likely however that the

WYCOLLER – TRAWDEN – BOULSWORTH HILL stone is a boundary marker which has been weathered & beaten by the wind & rain into this unusual shape.



E. The wall to the left of the track marks the boundary of the land which has



been improved for agricultural use. You can easily see the difference in the quality of the land; it is rich & green on the left of the wall & wild & barren on the right. The quality of the enclosed land has been improved by enriching the soil with lime which was made by reducing limestone, deposited in the area by glaciers, to lime in limekilns.

Examples of these limekilns can be seen in the distance (see map) but all have fallen into a state of disrepair as they became useless once the limestone was exhausted early in the last century.

F. This circular mound of stones is thought to be a Bronze Age burial mound. It was excavated in



1971 but no human remains were found. This may

mean that although constructed as a burial mound it was never used. Alternatively, any remains may have been removed previously without being recorded.

G. This field is dotted with glacial deposits, called erratics,



which have been carried along by a glacier & deposited as it has melted.

Also, note mature Hawthorn trees, many of which have very irregular twisted trunks due to the high altitude, harsh weather conditions & poor soil in which they grow.