



02 Boulsworth Hill

via Lumb Spout: the short summit loop

Boulsworth is the great moorland hill above Trawden, and this is the quickest way up it from the door. Start with a muddy little detour to Lumb Spout, a hidden waterfall that drew Victorian day-trippers, then climb the waterboard path onto the moor. Up top, gritstone tors called Little Chair Stones and Weather Stones make perfect picnic seats. From Lad Law, the highest point in the South Pennines, the view runs from Pendle Hill to the Yorkshire Three Peaks. Save your appetite for the Trawden Arms.



DISTANCE
5.5 miles



TIME
About 3½ hours



ASCENT
1,337 ft (about 408 m)



DIFFICULTY
Moderate: steady climb, open moor, wet in places



DOGS
Sheep on the moor; access-land lead rule 1 Mar to 31 Jul



START & PARKING
By St Mary's church, Trawden (SD911386)

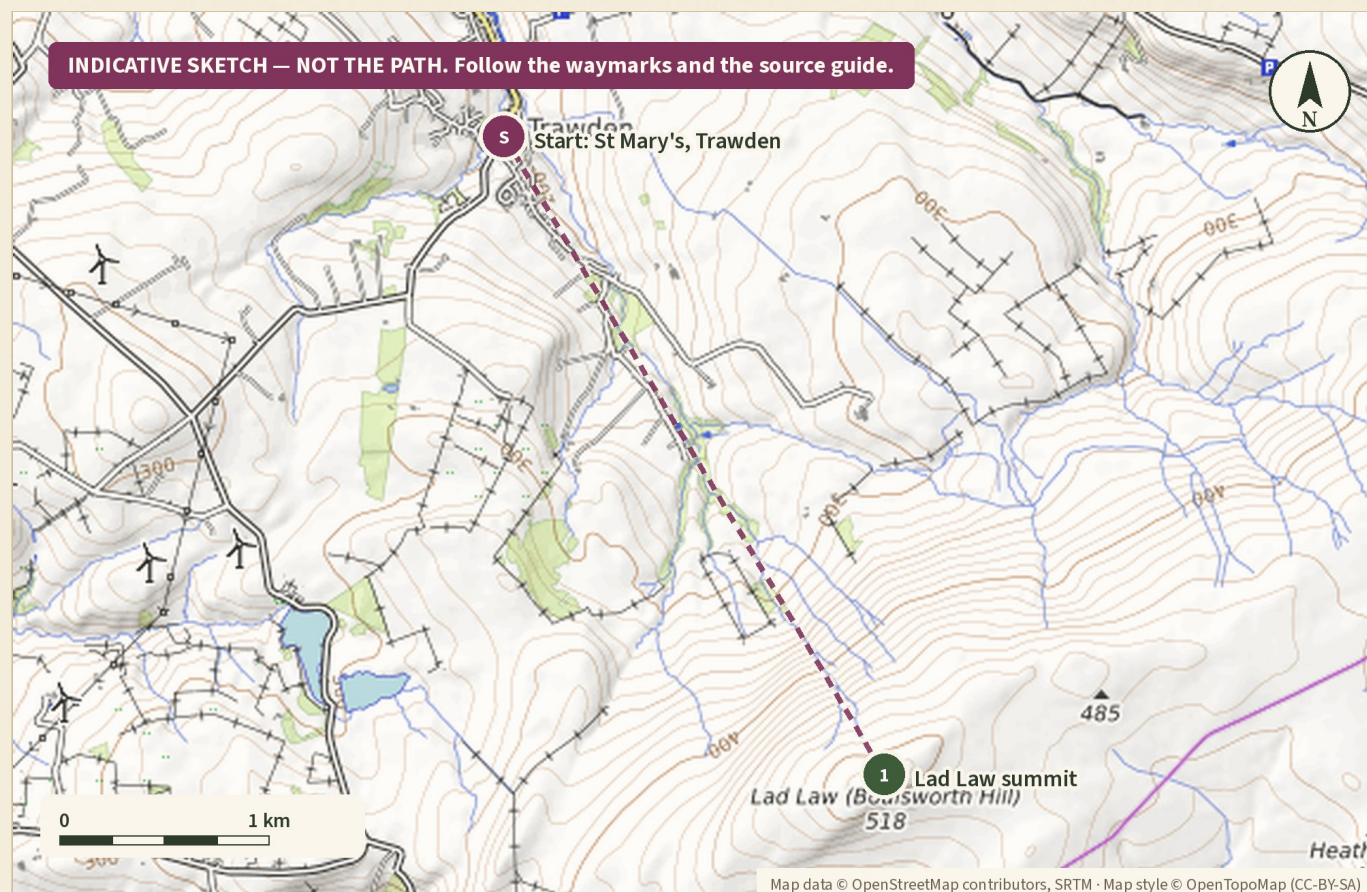


PUB STOP
Trawden Arms on your return



The map

INDICATIVE SKETCH



Indicative only: this is not the path. The pins show where the main places named in the route sit (positions from OpenStreetMap), and the dotted line shows the order you reach them. Follow the waymarks, OS Explorer OL21 and the source guide. Base map: OpenTopoMap · © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Getting there

Walk from the cottage: the start is by St Mary's church in the village. On-street parking near the church is limited.

Map & kit

OS Explorer OL21 South Pennines. Waterproof boots and layers, water, snacks and a charged phone. The source gives a route outline only, so the map and waymarks matter here.

The route

ROUTE OUTLINE

The source is a walker's report with a route outline, not turn-by-turn directions, so these notes stay at that level. Take OS Explorer OL21, follow the waymarks and check on-site signs for the concessionary path. For full step-by-step directions of a longer 8-mile Trawden, Lumb Spout, Boulsworth and Wycoller variant, see the Lancs Live article in the sources.

- 1 Start in Trawden village by St Mary's church (grid ref SD911386).
- 2 Head for Lumb Spout. The source describes the beginning as nice and easy, with a short, muddy detour to see the waterfall.

Look out for...
Lumb Spout

Visit Pendle calls Lumb Spout Pendle's highest waterfall, and it was a popular spot with Victorian visitors.



3

Continue by Spoutley Lumb and climb the waterboard's concessionary path up onto the moor.

4

On the summit plateau, pass Little Chair Stones and the Weather Stones.

Look out for...

Picnic rocks

The walk's author ate soup sheltering among the larger rocks at the Weather Stones, which is a fine plan on a breezy day.



5

Reach the top of Boulsworth Hill at Lad Law and its trig point.

Look out for...

The hill that wouldn't be tamed

Lad Law (517 m) is the highest point in the South Pennines. An Enclosure Act of 1821 allowed the whole of Boulsworth to be fenced off, but the work was begun and never finished once it was clear the land was too poor to farm. The hill was even meant to be a highlight of the Pennine Way, which in the end passed to the east.



Look out for...

What you can see

On a clear day: Pendle Hill, the Bowland moors, Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Great Whernside.



6

Descend by Antley Gate and Oaken Bank. The source calls the descent fairly straightforward, with some quite wet sections.

7

Return past Pasture Springs Farm to Trawden.



Fuel stop

- Nothing on the hill: carry water and snacks.
- Trawden Arms on your return: the community-owned village pub, a few minutes from the church.



Countryside Code & safety

- Leave gates as you find them and keep to marked paths unless you are on open access land.
- Don't block gateways or lanes when you park.
- Take your litter home, and bag and bin your dog's poo.
- Dogs: keep them under control and in sight, and on a lead around livestock. On open access land (most of the moorland here) dogs must be on a lead from 1 March to 31 July, and near livestock at any time. If cattle threaten you, let your dog off the lead so you can both get to safety.
- Moorland fires are devastating. No fires or BBQs.

These are real Pennine walks across working farmland and open moor, and the weather can change fast on the tops. Wear waterproof boots, carry a waterproof layer, water and a map (OS Explorer OL21 South Pennines covers Trawden, Wycoller and Boulsworth; OL41 covers Pendle Hill), and tell someone your route. Phone signal can be patchy.

Sources. These directions follow the guides below; check them before you go, as paths, stiles and opening times change.

My Pennines walk report, Boulsworth Hill (11 Oct 2009): <http://www.mypennines.co.uk/south-pennines/walks/111009.html>

Visit Pendle: Brontë Way, Lumb Spout and Coldwell: <https://www.visitpendle.com/whats-on/bronte-way-lumb-spout-and-coldwell-p827080>

Lancs Live: longer 8-mile variant with step-by-step directions: <https://www.lancs.live/whats-on/whats-on-news/lancashire-walk-hidden-gem-waterfall-23737010>

Countryside Code: GOV.UK. Facts checked October 2026.

