



03 Boulsworth Ridge & Wycoller

the big Trawden day

For walkers who want the full Pennine experience without touching the car. Head out along the lane towards Hollin Hall, then make a stiff climb past the extraordinary Abbot Stone to Lad Law's trig point. From there, follow the wild ridge east among weather-carved gritstone tors and drop to lonely Watersheddles Reservoir on the Yorkshire border. The Brontë Way then leads you down to Wycoller's ruined hall and ancient bridges before the field paths home. Ten glorious miles. Pack a proper lunch.



DISTANCE
10 miles (16.3 km)



TIME
About 6 hours



ASCENT
1,400 ft (424 m)



DIFFICULTY
Moderate: stiff climb; vague ridge path, navigation needed in mist



DOGS
Ladder stiles at Watersheddles: fit dogs that can be lifted



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

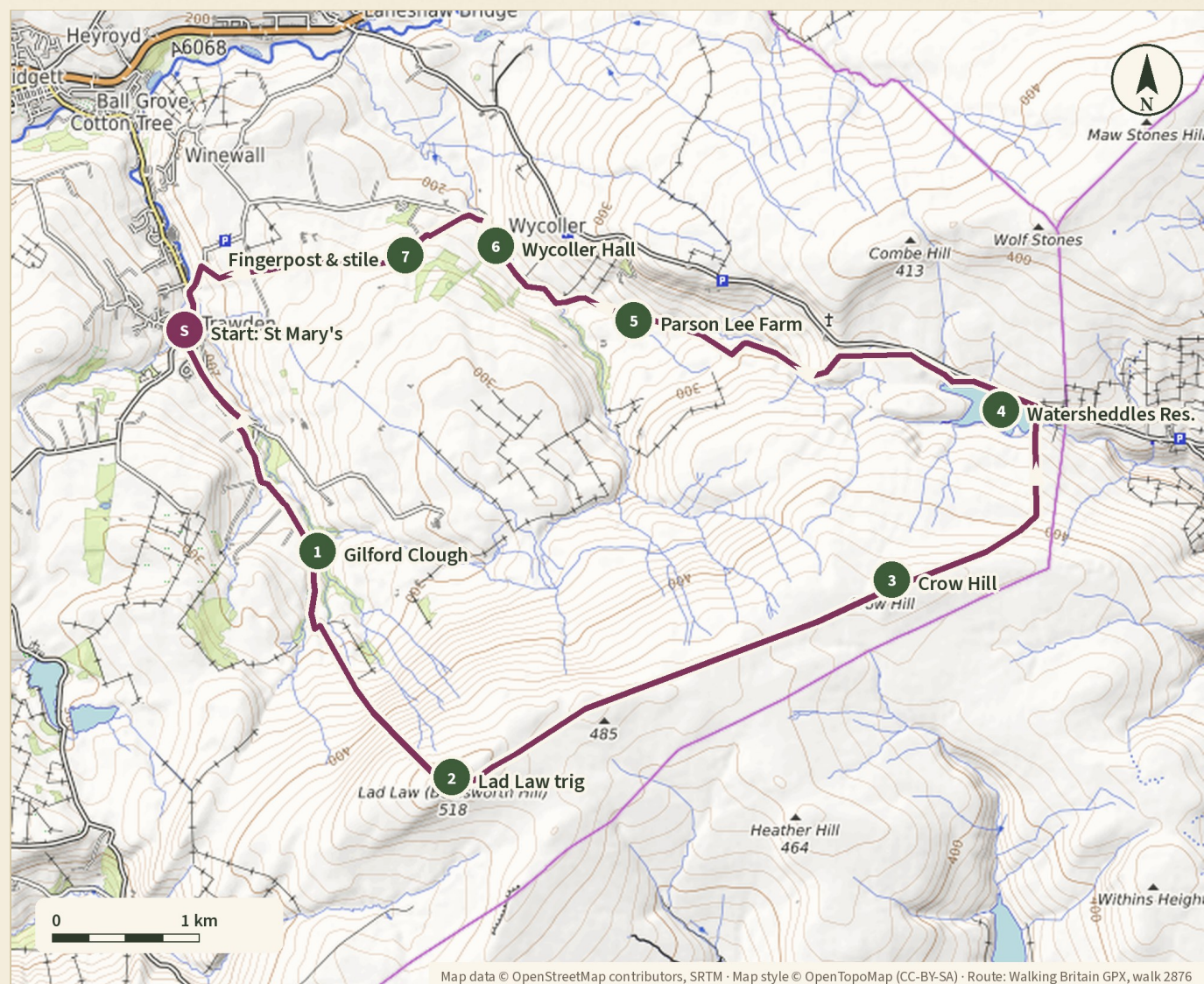


PUB STOP
Wycoller (check) · Trawden Arms (finish)



The map

ROUTE DRAWN FROM GPX



Route line drawn from the source's own GPX file (Walking Britain GPX, walk 2876). Numbered pins match places named in the directions. Still carry the OS map: GPX lines can be a few metres out. Base map: OpenTopoMap · © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Getting there

Walk from the cottage: the start is by St Mary's church in the village. Limited on-street parking if you drive.

Map & kit

OS Explorer OL21 South Pennines. Waterproof boots and layers, water, snacks and a charged phone. Directions below follow the source guide step by step.

Spring Cottage, Trawden · **Book direct and avoid third-party booking fees**

Sleeps 4 · dogs welcome · walks from the door · thespringcottage.co.uk/book · hello@thespringcottage.co.uk

scan to book
direct



The route

STEP BY STEP, FROM THE SOURCE GUIDE

- 1 From beside the church of St Mary the Virgin (SD911386), walk past the church (on your right) and follow the road signed to Hollin Hall. After 700 metres turn right up the access drive to Slack Laithe Farm.
- 2 After 50 metres turn left through a wall gap and cross a field with the wall on your right to a tarmac track at Meadow Bottom Farm. Walk between the farm buildings and continue south for nearly a kilometre to the buildings at Gilford Clough (SD920371).
- 3 Continue ahead on the signed footpath, which climbs a field to the Pennine Bridleway. Go straight across and start the stiff climb onto the ridge. After crossing a stile, the path climbs to the Abbot Stone, then on uphill to the OS trig column on Lad Law.

Look out for...

The Abbot Stone

A big upright slab of gritstone standing on the climb to the ridge. From the trig point on Lad Law (518 m by the source) the panorama is a full 360 degrees.



- 4 Cross the nearby stile and turn left along the fence. Take time to explore the summit area and its weathered outcrops: the Weather Stones and the Little and Great Saucer Stones.
- 5 Follow the broad ridge east-north-east on a vague path to Crow Hill (SD959369). Keep the same direction downhill for a kilometre to steeper, rough ground, then head down aiming for the right-hand end of Watersheddles Reservoir and a wall gap.

Look out for...

Saucers and weather stones

The tors along the ridge have been carved by wind and rain into extraordinary shapes. Watersheddles Reservoir sits right on the Lancashire–Yorkshire border.



- 6 Cross the dam and turn left along the Brontë Way over a ladder stile. Continue beside the water to a second ladder stile and turn left. Cross a track and continue parallel to the road (on your left) through a kissing gate onto a clear track (SD956384).
- 7 Turn left and follow the track as it bends right. Just after the next left-hand bend, turn right through a gate/stile along another track (SD949385). After 700 metres pass to the right of Parson Lee Farm to join a track (Keighley Road), which soon improves and runs beside Wycoller Beck into Wycoller.
- 8 Pass the remains of Wycoller Hall on your right and cross the two-arch bridge over the beck. Continue through the village and follow the road as it bends left over the beck. At the next right-hand bend, turn left over the stile to the right of a metal gate. Head half-right across two fields and pass to the left of Bracken Hill farm.

Look out for...

Wycoller's bridges

The two-arch bridge is the packhorse bridge, Sallie's Brig, built before 1550. The ruined hall beside it is said to be Ferndean Manor in Jane Eyre.



- 9 The path heads south-west to a fingerpost and stile (SD926391). Continue with a wall on your left, cross a track, pass through a gap, then head half-right across the field to a stile and a track. Cross into the field opposite and head half-right. Continue across the next field with a wall on your right, then between walls through Higher Stunstead Farm.



*Look out for...**A Christmas Eve tree*

Close by is Stunstead House, home of the Midgeley family from 1694 until 1869. There was an old belief that a tree at Stunstead would blossom on Christmas Eve.

10

Go straight across a track and follow a narrow track between walls into Stunstead Road. Continue downhill to Keighley Road and turn left into Trawden. At the B6250 bear left uphill, pass the Trawden Arms and continue uphill to the church.

**Fuel stop**

- Wycoller: older guides mention a café and tea rooms in the hamlet, but Wycoller's tearooms have closed in recent years. Check before you rely on it and pack a picnic. The Old Rock Café & Cake Shop on Keighley Road, Trawden, is a sure bet on the way home.
- Trawden Arms (finish): you pass it on the last stretch back to 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.

Walking Britain, Walk 2876: Boulsworth Hill & Wycoller from Trawden (Lou Johnson): <https://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walk-2876-description>

Walking Britain GPX (route used for this map): <https://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walk-2876-gps>

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

