



08 Ball Grove & the East Colne Way

a toddler favourite, with a five-mile option

A rainy-day saviour and a toddler favourite. Ball Grove was once a mill and tannery, and it's now a peaceful nature reserve, with a pond, a play area and riverside paths along Colne Water, and a café for hot chocolate afterwards. For a longer walk, the five-mile East Colne Way heads up past the Hartley jam family's almshouses and on by Noyna Hill and The Rough, where curlews call in spring, before looping back via Foulridge Upper Reservoir.



DISTANCE

Park loop 2.4 km · East Colne Way 5 miles



TIME

30–60 min · 2–3 hours



ASCENT

Not stated by the sources



DIFFICULTY

Park loop easy · longer loop has farmyards and stiles



DOGS

Leads on the East Colne Way; curlews nest at The Rough in spring



START & PARKING

Ball Grove Park car park, Grove Drive, Colne, BB8 7HY



PUB STOP

Lakeside Café, Ball Grove

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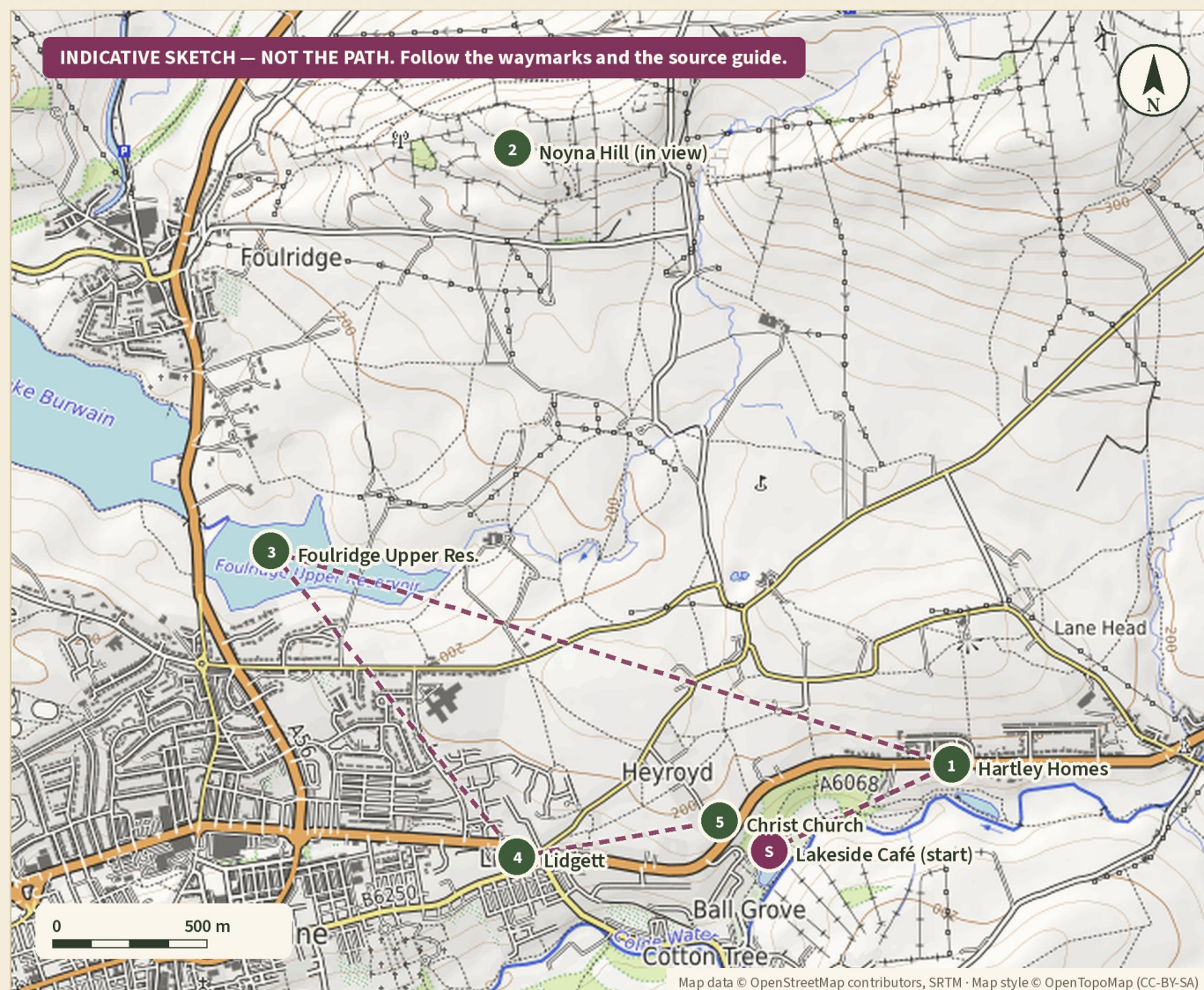
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The map

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

Ball Grove Park car park, Grove Drive, Colne BB8 7HY. About 2.5 miles by road from the cottage (around 8 minutes).

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.

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The route

STEP BY STEP, FROM THE SOURCE GUIDE

Short and easy: the Ball Grove Park circular (2.4 km, 30 minutes to an hour) simply loops the park, with benches and a play area; paths can be muddy after rain. The directions below are for the longer East Colne Way, from the Friends of Ball Grove leaflet.

- 1 From the Lakeside Café, take the path to the left with Ball Grove Lake on your right to join the main track. Turn left beside Colne Water to an information board, then bear left up the hill to Keighley Road. Take care crossing to Spring Row cottages. Go right to see Hartley Homes and the Edward VII post box, then retrace your steps and continue along Keighley Road to the Crow Nest bus stop and footpath sign.

Look out for...

Jam, almshouses and a post box

Hartley Homes are 20 Grade II listed almshouses with a central clock tower, given to Colne in 1911 by Sir William Pickles Hartley, founder of Hartley's jam, and Lady Hartley. The wall box by Spring Row Cottages dates from Edward VII's reign (this plainer version, 1901 to 1904).



- 2 Follow the footpath uphill across two rough fields, turn left onto the lane and continue to a gate into a field. Go straight ahead through the next gate. Turn right, then shortly left, and keeping to the slightly higher ground cross the field to a row of cottages. Pass in front of them to the narrow road called Bents and turn right.

- 3 At Skipton Old Road turn right and pass Heyroyd House. Take the waymarked path on the left across the field to a stone stile and continue to Castle Road. Cross and follow the signposted footpath to the stone step stile onto Cockhill Lane.

Look out for...

Heyroyd House

A Grade II listed hall house whose classical front of 1777 was probably added to the back of the original house. Its name is thought to mean 'high road'.



- 4 Turn left, with Colne Golf Course on your right, and continue past the track to Cock Hill Farm to a stone stile. Noyna Hill is in front of you to the north. Take the stile and follow the path to a stone footbridge over Moss Beck, then go on to the lane.

Look out for...

Noyna Rocks

Known locally as 'Noyna', the hill's wide rocky outcrop (122 m) was once a quarry. On summer evenings swallows circle above it.



- 5 Follow the lane bearing left past Moss Houses Farm. At Little Moss House take the waymarked track right to Causeway Top. Go through two gates and yards to the Ragstones Farm track. Through the squeeze stile, follow the field edge parallel to the track down to Whitehouse, round the barn corner and join the track to a small gate on the left. Go straight down the field, then right beside the wall of Lower Clough House, through the small gate, and bear right to a gate in the hedge at the top of the field. Turn left along the track to Brownhill Lane.

- 6 Go downhill and cross Foulridge Upper Reservoir, then uphill to leave the lane by a stone stile on the left. Follow the footpath over three fields to the drive of Lower Clough House. Don't enter the drive: turn right uphill to a gate, join the drive and continue to Castle Road. Cross and follow the footpath sign opposite onto The Rough.



*Look out for...**Curlews on The Rough*

The Rough is what remains of Lob Common. Each spring countless curlews (red-listed by the RSPB) nest on the ground here, and their cry is the soundscape of the place. Keep dogs close.

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Go through the gate and down the field towards an old boundary wall and rough tree line. Cross a small drainage ditch, pass two stone stile posts and keep the tree line and wall on your left as you go downhill. At an old wall and gate post turn left, keeping the ditch on your right. Pass the old Pump House on your left and follow the path down to Skipton Old Road. Turn right towards the historic Lidgett cottages.

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Opposite them, take the footpath and bear left onto the fields known as the Lidgett Triangle. Head for the corner of the hedge, follow it round, then walk straight on with the wall on your right to the stone steps. Continue to the path leading to Bent Lane and turn right past Christ Church to Keighley Road. Cross carefully, go down the steps opposite, turn left at the road and go through the car park back to Ball Grove.

*Look out for...**Weavers' Lidgett*

Lidgett means 'livestock gateway' in Anglo-Saxon. Look for handloom weavers' cottages with pairs of loomshop windows, the 1749 former Lidgett Hall and the Grade II Turnpike House.

**Fuel stop**

- Lakeside Café, Ball Grove: set up in 2015 by cake-maker Tracey Bolton; homemade breakfasts, soups and afternoon teas, with a playground beside it.

**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.

Friends of Ball Grove / Place Pendle, East Colne Way leaflet: <https://placependle.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/East-Colne-Way-Leaflet-A4.pdf>

AllTrails, Ball Grove Park Circular: <https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/trail/england/lancashire/ball-grove-park-circular>

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

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