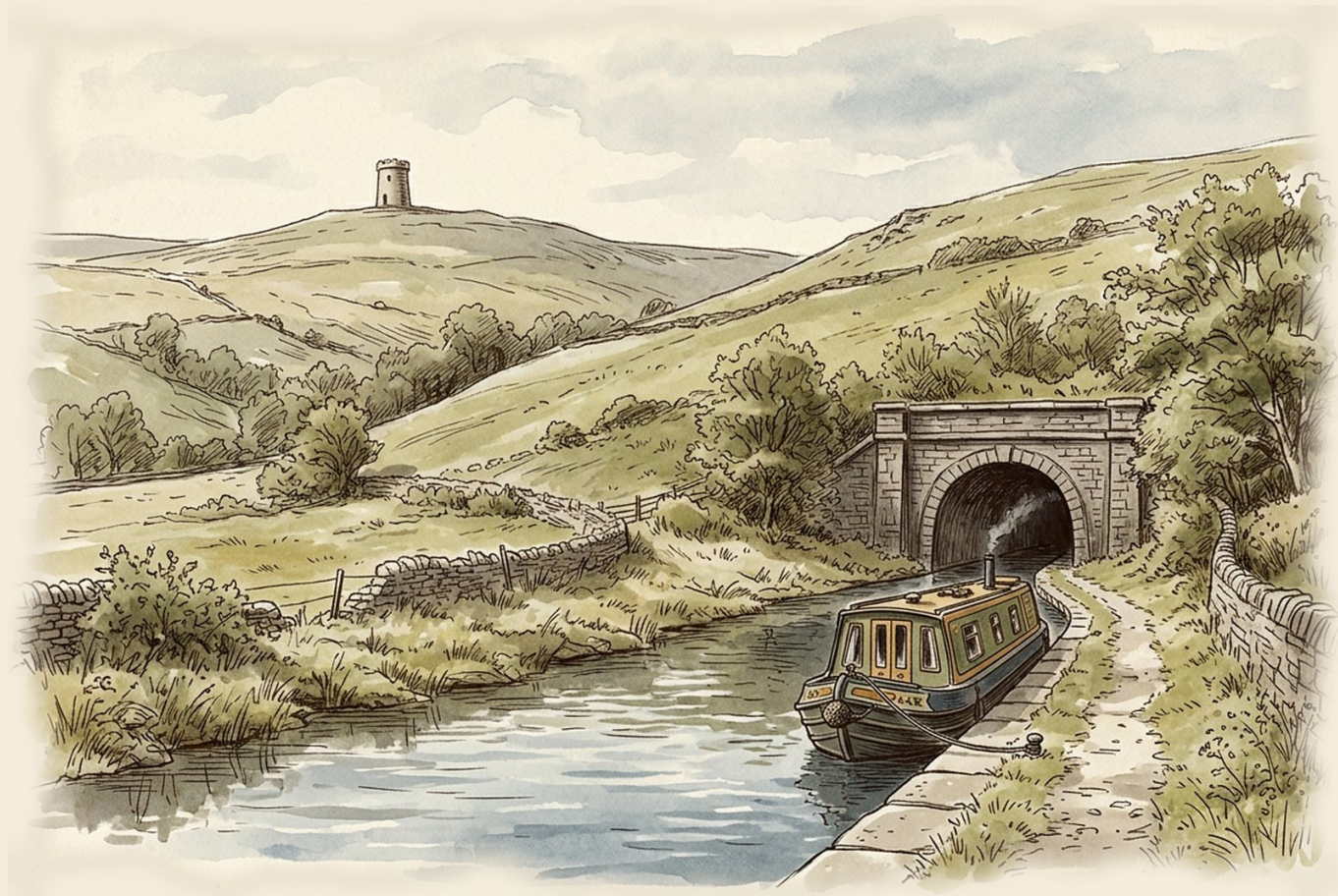




10 Mile Tunnel, Blacko Tower & Lake Burwain

canal history, witch country and a folly

Canal history, witch country and a folly tower in one easy six-mile loop. First, a tip: locals say 'Foal-ridge'. Start at the wharf by the mouth of the Mile Tunnel, where bargemen once 'legged' boats through the darkness, and amble along the towpath. Then climb past a working cotton mill and the Fanny Grey pub to a high lane with views to the Dales, pass Blacko Tower, a grocer's folly, and finish along the shore of Lake Burwain.



DISTANCE
6 miles



TIME
About 3 hours



ASCENT
Not stated by the source



DIFFICULTY
Easy



DOGS
Stiles (one tricky), farm dogs and curious young cattle: lead on



START & PARKING
Foulridge Canal Wharf car park (by the lime kiln)

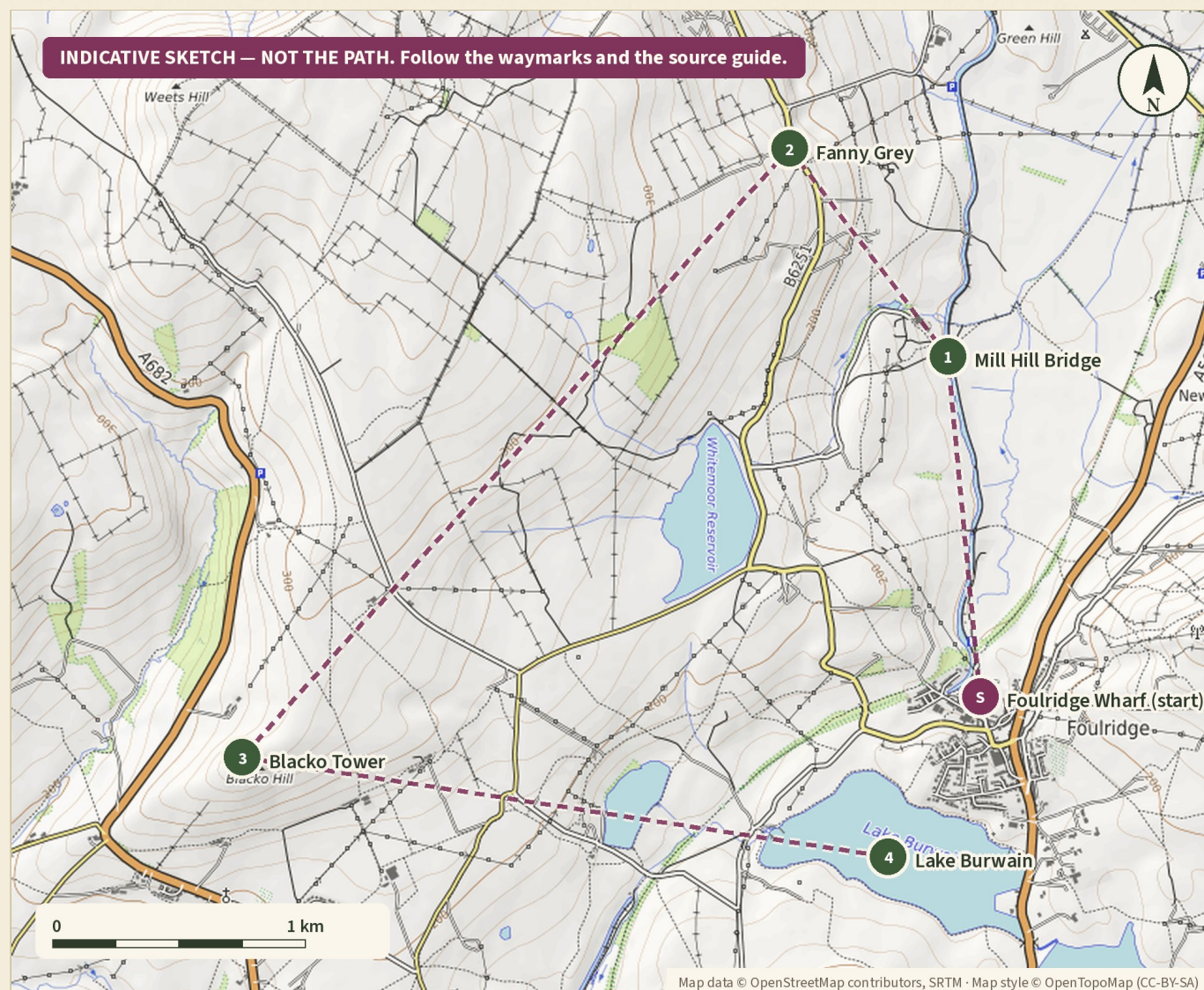


PUB STOP
Fanny Grey (on route) · Foulridge pubs



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

Foulridge Canal Wharf, Warehouse Lane, Foulridge: about 3 miles from the cottage (around 10 minutes by car).

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

- 1 From Foulridge Canal Wharf, walk away from the village and the tunnel entrance along the canal towpath for about a mile to the third bridge, Mill Hill Bridge. Cross the bridge and ignore the footpath sign pointing right through the canalside meadow. Instead, walk up the field towards the mill and go through the gate into the mill yard.

Look out for...

Legging the Mile Tunnel

The wharf sits at the eastern end of the Foulridge 'Mile Tunnel' (1,630 yards, says Wikipedia). It has no towpath, so barges 'legged' boats through, lying on their backs and walking along the tunnel roof while the horses were walked over the hill. Local legend says a cow once fell in and swam the whole tunnel, to be revived with brandy at the far end.



- 2 Walk up past the mill and into the access road. Follow it until it bends left. Keep ahead there, dropping down to cross a footbridge over a stream. Walk up the other side, keeping to the left of the field, go through the gate, then across a narrow field to a stile. Keep ahead past farm buildings on the right, through two more stiles to a field gate. Don't go through the gate: turn left and walk up the wall side to the road.
- 3 Turn right at the road, walk past the Fanny Grey pub and immediately turn left up a track. Continue up it to pass a farm on the right, immediately before the gate. Go through the gate and up the walled green track to another gate and stile. From here head slightly right to a gate on the skyline, and beyond it join a moorland track to a gate into Lister Well Road (a walled lane).
- 4 Turn left on Lister Well Road and stay with it for about a mile until it meets Gisburn Old Road. Go left and walk on past the farm (Peel's House) and pond on the right, to follow a footpath sign to the right. Over a stile, go left and walk on with the wall, and soon trees, on your left to cross another stile. Keep ahead to another stile, just beyond a waymark post near the left-hand corner of a large field, with Blacko Tower a couple of hundred yards away to the right over a wall.

Look out for...

The tower that was too short

Blacko Tower (properly Stansfield Tower) was built in 1890 by local grocer and landowner Jonathan Stansfield, so he could see into the Ribble Valley. 'I've never drunk nor smoked in my life, so I am making this my hobby,' he said. Sadly it wasn't tall enough.



- 5 Go over this stile and turn right, soon leaving the wall to follow a waymark and treeline downhill. Before the left-most farm building, go sharp left to a sturdy wooden stile and keep ahead to another stile. Keep ahead to a wooden gate into a car park in front of the cottages.

Look out for...

Old Demdike's country

This is Pendle witch country. Malkin Tower was the home of Elizabeth Southernns, 'Old Demdike'; friends of her family met there on Good Friday 1612, and ten people were later hanged after the Lancaster trials. The 2013 article places a holiday cottage near here on its site, though historians say nobody knows exactly where it stood.



- 6 Cross the access track and go through the gate into the field. Keep ahead to another (tricky) stile; over it, head diagonally right down the field to pass the end of the treeline, and continue to a stile in the wall on the left. Again go diagonally down the field, heading to the immediate left of the cottages.



- 7 Cross the road with care and climb the stile opposite. Walk down the left of the field with the hedge on your left for about 100 yards, then go left down steps, cross a stream and climb the other side to a road. Cross and walk in front of the houses into a field. Keep ahead with a wall on your right, through a gateway and across the next field to a stile. Over it, bear right to another stile.
- 8 Pass the house, then turn left through the stile into a tree-lined path. Follow it until it comes out on the driveway of Holly Bush Farm. Continue ahead, passing the entrance to Ball House on the left, until the drive meets the road. Dogleg left to walk up the drive to the sailing club, passing the clubhouse on your right, and join the paved footpath around Foulridge Lower Reservoir.
- 9 Where the footpath eventually narrows, go left over the stile and walk up the field side with a hedge on your left, crossing via a stile so the fence is on your right. Go through the gate just beyond a modern house into a green lane and walk on into a yard. Turn right in the yard, then immediately left to follow a track to the road. Turn right, then left at the junction to return to Foulridge Canal Wharf.

*Look out for...**Lake Burwain*

The paved path follows the shore of Foulridge Lower Reservoir, built in 1793 to feed the canal. The car park lime kiln is said to date from the canal's building.



The source article dates from 2013. Paths, stiles and pubs can change, so carry OS Explorer OL21 and follow the waymarks.

**Fuel stop**

- Fanny Grey: on the route at step 3.
- Foulridge: the Hole in the Wall by the wharf, and the Hare & Hounds on Skipton Old Road (breakfast served every day).

**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.

Craven Herald, 'Legging it around Foulridge' (2013): <https://www.cravenherald.co.uk/daleslife/walking/10874413.legging-it-around-foulridge/>

Wikipedia, Foulridge Tunnel: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foulridge_Tunnel

Canal & River Trust, History of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal: <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/canals-and-rivers/leeds-and-liverpool-canal/history-of-the-leeds-and-liverpool-canal>

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

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