



'Lets Walk'



Walk three Sabden Pendle Sabden

**There are 6 walks in total around
Pendle and Barnoldswick**

in this series:

- 1. Higham - Pendle - Higham**
- 2. Downham - Pendle - Downham**
- 3. Sabden - Pendle - Sabden**
- 4. Trawden Circular via Coldwell (and Boulsworth)**
- 5. Earby Bus Station - Pinhaw Beacon**
- 6. Barnoldswick - Weets Hill - Barnoldswick**

Walk length - 9.5 miles
Walk duration - 6 to 7 hours.

THE WALK starts in Sabden village, (SD779375)

- 1 From the cross roads in the centre of the village, (1) (SD779375) walk up Wesley Street, note the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on your right, built in 1844. At the junction, (2) turn left, up Stubbins Lane, passing St. Nicholas Church, Heyhouses, on your right, with its fine steeple. Heyhouses was the original name for this part of the Sabden valley, prior to the village of Sabden, (named after the bridge and river), being built in the 1800's due to water power being available for the new textile factories and easy connections on existing pack-horse and coach roads in the area. St. Nicholas Church was built with a bequest from Le-Gendre Starkie of Huntroyd Hall, near Padiham.
- 2 Go up Stubbins Lane, past cottages on left, then farm buildings on right, turn left at Cockshoots Farm (2) (SD780377) (associated with waterfalls). Up the hill, passing "Badger Well Cottages". Formerly Crow Trees Row, built by Nicholas Grimshaw, one of the "founders" of the new village of Sabden. The original cottages in this area were mentioned in the Harrison Ainsworth novel 'The Lancashire Witches', The "Badger" was the tinkers, traders or vagrants, who used the water to refresh themselves and their animals on the old pack-horse routes through the valley and over the passes to Clitheroe or Padiham. Not the black and white nocturnal animals one would naturally think of first.
- 3 Continue up the lane, which is now a wide gravel track to the right of Badger Well Cottages, with Churn Clough ravine on your right. Through a small gate, (3) (SD780378) onto an open field. Straight on, up the field, through more gates and fields, now with Badger Well Water on your right. At the junction with a wide level farm track and moorland, turn right. Through a metal farm gate (4) (SD779385) then bear left following the old farm track into a small valley, crossing Badger Well Water and up to the right, passing the remains of Craggs Farm. Craggs, was the earliest recorded "Vaccaries", or Crow-keepers farms, in the valley, being established around the 1300's by the Norman Lords of Clitheroe Castle. The farm did not have any modern services, such as gas, electricity or water laid on, and the last occupants left in the 1940's, when fell into ruin and demolished. The remains, left as can be seen to the present day. The reservoir to the right is Churn Clough.
- 4 Follow the track round to the back of Churn Clough Plantation, down to, and cross over the stream and follow the path up through bracken and peat by the side of a ravine. Climb up, heading to the left of the rock face. This is Deerstones, a boulder-strewn hollow. Legend has it that the Devil, having a disagreement with the people of the Ribble Valley, threw stones at them, knocking a large hole in Clitheroe Castle. He threw with such force, he left large footprints below Deerstones Craggs, which can be seen to this day. He also left stones which he dropped out of his apron, onto the Pendle hillside, now known as Apronful Hill, just above Deerstones.
- 5 Continue past the crags, bearing slightly left, and up to the ladder-stile over the wall, (5) (SD785394) goint straight across the rough ground, ignoring the main path which bears left. Notice the straight parallel grooves as you cross them. These are not drainage ditches, but Tank tracks. This area of Pendle was used as a tank training ground during the 1939-45 war era, and old Churchill Tanks left deep ruts during exercises. Many old, rusting tanks were left in many of the old quarries in the Nick-o'-Pendle area, including shells, some of which were found still live, till the whole area was cleared by the army.
- 6 On reaching the broad track, (6) (SD784397) turn right, on Badger Wells Hill, Apronful Hill is to the left, with the deep ravine of Ashendean Clough dropping down in front. Follow this track, over Black Hill plateau, with another deep ravine on your right. This is Ogden Clough, which splits the broad expanse of Pendle Hill into two areas. This is a good viewpoint, to look down the Clough, where it drops down to Barley. The views are spectacular. Continue on the track, northwards, past small cairns, to where it becomes a narrow footpath above the upper reaches of Ogden Clough.
- 7 Where a broken wall is reached, (7) (SD789404) turn left, following this wall across the peat hags, (in poor visibility, be careful, as some flat areas suddenly come to an end, with deep drops into peaty-wet areas. You may have to negotiate either side of remains of the wall, till you reach where a wall comes in from the left (8) (SD784407) and you are overlooking Clitheroe and the Ribble Valley.
- 8 Here, there are superb views along the Ribble Valley, Keffrey Hill, the Hodder Valley to the Bowland Fells above Whitewell and Dunsop Bridge, the hills above Slaidburn, Clitheroe in the foreground, and eastwards to Gisburn, with Whernside, Ingleborough and Penyghent in the distance, then coming back down to Downham, Worston and the limestone outcrop of Warsaw Hill. Turn right, onto the path following the escarpment over Pendle Moor, in the direction of the "Pile of Stones", printed on the OS map, but actually a reasonably tall structure. Again negotiate the boggy areas and the deep peat hags, crossing the deep cleft of the Infant Mearley Brook, joining a concessionary path coming up the side of the gully from Worston.

- 9** The "Pile of Stones", **(9)** (*SD789414*) is Scout Cairn, where inscribed tablets give the history of the cairn. Head in a north-easterly direction to a round shelter (not marked on the OS map), with seats, entrance to the east side to give shelter from the prevailing west wind. Continue straight on the district path through rough grass to the ladder stile over the next wall **(10)** (*SD795418*).
- 10** Over the stile, where you can either follow the concessionary route to your right, to a ladder-stile, **(11)** (*SD804417*) or follow the escarpment round on a narrow footpath to join another concessionary footpath coming up the steep north side of Pendle from the road from Downham. This joins the previous path at the ladder stile **(11)** (*SD804417*). If you wish to visit "Fox's Well", continue round to join another concessionary path coming up Pendle, join this path, go downhill for a short section, and look for a very bright green vegetation area, and a small stream running down to Pendle-Hill End Bridge. At this green area, you will find a metal cover, lift the cover, there is a metal jug, and clear water to drink, or fill a container. This is Fox's Well, (or Robin Hoods Well" for earlier history fanatics). George Fox had a 'great vision' here on Pendle, where he then went on to found the Quaker movement. Present-day Quakers (Society of Friends), come here from all over the world, especially America, to visit this spot, and other areas in north-west England, such as Quaker Bridge, near Brierfield and Ulverston in Cumbria, where Fox visited.
- 11** Make your way up to the wall and cross, either by the ladder-stile **(11)** (*SD804417*) or over the stone stile **(11A)** (*SD806418*), if visited Fox's Well, and make your way up to Pendle Hill summit at 557 metres (1827 feet) above sea level **(12)** (*SD804414*). Here the views have changed to overlooking the east side of Pendle, from West Hill and Black Moss reservoirs, to Wycoller, Colne, Nelson, Boulsworth Hill, and down to Barley and the lower Ogden Valley.
- 12** From the summit of Pendle, **(12)** (*SD804414*) make your way south, on the broad path on a gentle downward slope, past a large cairn to where the paths divide, one path turns left, to go down a broad zig-zag path to Pendle House Farm and Barley. Bear slightly right **(13)** (*SD804408*), and follow the other path (Pendle Way), down to Boar Clough, cross, and go down the right of Boar Clough, down the side of the ravine to where it meets Ogden Clough.
- 13** Do not go down into Ogden Clough (path washed way), but turn left at the wire fencing, **(14)** (*SD799398*) follow this, then go down to the gate in the wall above the sheepfold. Follow the path above Ogden Reservoir to the dam wall **(15)** (*SD806396*).
- 14** Cross the dam, good views up the valley over the reservoir, and down to the lower reservoir towards Barley, note the curved water chute on your left. Over the stile (*SD807395*) and take the path straight up Cock Dole to a cross path coming from the side of Fell Wood **(16)** (*SD808393*).
- 15** Here you have two alternatives
- 15a** **Spence Moor Route:** At the cross-path, turn right, continue to a marker-post at **(16A)** (*SD804391*), this route gives good views on left over to Colne, Nelson and Boulsworth Hill area, and right looking down into the steep-sided Ogden Valley. At the marker-post keep straight on, to a small stream crossing and a gate in a wall, **(16B)** (*SD802390*), where this route goes over Spence Moor and Deerstones back to Sabden. The views on a clear day can be very rewarding. However, the section above Wood House Dale, is very boggy, with rushes and no definitive path, and you need to negotiate the wetter sections, which means deviating off a straight line, and the wall-stile can be missed at the top. If weather conditions deteriorate, or at dusk, turn left at either the post **(16A)** (*SD804391*) or stream, **(16B)** (*SD802390*), passing a derelict barn, to go downhill with Cock Clough Wood on right, to Sabden Fold Farm **(19)** (*SD807384*), and follow the valley route back. BUT, in good conditions: Carry straight on to the small stream above an old barn, and a gate in the wall, **(16B)** (*SD802390*) then cross upwards above Wood House Dole, aiming for a ladder-stile in the wall **(16C)** (*SD796392*). On reaching Spence Moor summit the Irish Sea, Ribble and Wyre estuary's, Snowdonia and the Lakeland Fells can be seen, together with Heysham Nuclear Power Station, Blackpool Tower and most of the Lancashire Plan. The path over Spence Moor then gently drops down to another ladder-site **(16D)** (*SD791393*) go straight on to where it again drops down to a small stream (find best way to cross), then up steep slope to above Deerstones crags, (look for the 'Giant's footprints', below) walk along the top to join the path at (*SD785393*), which you came up with earlier. Go left, down the path, over the stream by the little bridge, past Craggs Farm ruin. Along the track, back through the farm gate, over Badger Well Water, and turn left, at **(4)** (*SD779385*) following Badger Wells Water down through the fields and stiles to Badger Wells Cottages to St. Nicholas Church, Heyhouses, and back to Sabden at **(1)** (*SD779375*).
- 15b** **Valley Route:** At the cross-path **(16)** (*SD808993*) go straight on, down Driver Height, to Drivers, (large house on left) at gate at Well Head Road **(17)** (*SD811388*) turn right, down road to t-junction in Lower Sabden Fold **(18)** (*SD807383*). Turn right at t-junction, and follow road round to Sabden Fold Farm **(19)** (*SD807383*). Go past farm on road, (look for the Peacocks). Where road turns left, turn right, up to gate, through gate, turn left **(20)** (*SD806384*), on track

to right of wall, follow path past a barn and down to a small bridge over Wood House Brook, and up to the stile at Stainscome (21) (SD797382). Stainscome, an Elizabethan house, in it's original condition. It was also used by two gentlemen many years ago, known as coony's, who made hats out of rabbit skins (Cony, another name for a rabbit). It fell into ruin and now restored. Follow the lane up, and past some old Vaccary walls (From "Vacher" – French for cattle).

The land on your left, belonged to Norman Lords. The rough ground on your right, called Doles, (Stainscome Dole, Cock Dole, Woodhouse Dole, Craggs Dole), where the common people used the land for their animals, hence 'life on the Dole'. Continue straight on the tarmac road through Ratten Clough and New York Farms. Turn right at Cockshotts Farm a (2) (SD780377), left and down, passing St. Nicholas Church, Heyhouses, and back into Sabden at (1) (SD779375).

Norman Mitchell, January 2009

SABDEN - PENDLE

Walking group above Roughlee, Pendle in background



KEY	
	Walk
	Checkpoints
	Gates, Stiles & Bridge
	Canal, Lakes & Reservoirs
	Places