

## THE WALK

**B**oundary Mill has a deserved reputation as one of Lancashire's top attractions for shopping. Tough luck then if your partner has insisted on taking you there for a trip. But all is not lost if walking is your bag. As this route shows you can quickly escape to the countryside and spend a couple of happy hours there while the other half spends the money.

**Start:** Boundary Mill. From the M6 Junction join the M65. Boundary Mill is at the end of the motorway. You cannot miss it.

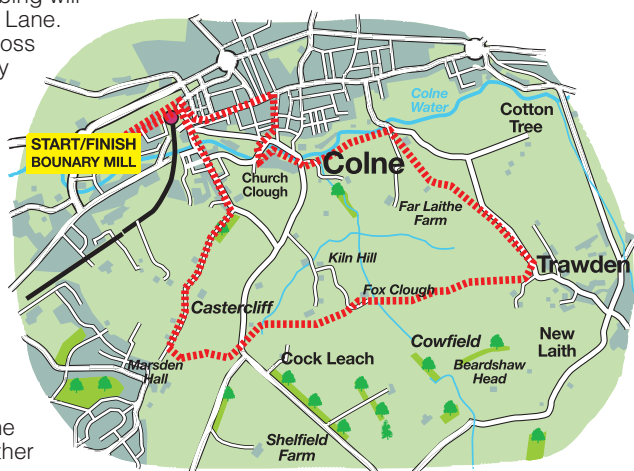
**Directions:** From the car park walk towards the main store and continue alongside the right side of the building. On the right at the rear there is a pedestrian exit. Take it and keep ahead to join a cycle path that leads behind Colne railway station (another possible starting point) and then Colne Leisure Centre. On reaching the A56 Primet Hill go straight across into Bridge Street. This dips down past a playground to cross Colne Water before rising up to climb quite steeply through a residential area. 500m from the bridge take a public footpath on the right. Now on a farm track the views begin to open up immediately with Pendle Hill prominent to the north west. On reaching Higher Knotts keep ahead to take a footpath leading past a wooden shed on the left that drops to a footbridge. After crossing a pasture the path descends to a gully and then bears left through shrubs to briefly join a track. Once in the open bear right with Height Side on the right. After crossing a stile continue to the next wall where there is a junction of footpaths. Turn left with a wall on your right. Ten minutes of steady climbing will bring you to Southfield Lane. The way ahead is to cross to a footpath diagonally opposite. However we recommend you turn sharply left over a stile and finish off the ascent of Castercliff – a modest hill of 279m but one commanding a superb view.

Returning to the lane cross to the footpath and bear right from the wall to reach a stile behind Hill End farm. Follow the path as it leads to another stile and then across a large field to a squeeze stile in a wall. After crossing a farm track leading to Sweet Clough on your left, the path enters a plantation. This leads down to the tarmac drive of Fox Clough. After crossing a cattle grid walk towards the house and then take a rough grassy track to the right. This leads across (eventually) to Hill Top on the edge of Trawden – 1100m away. The track is well waymarked throughout – and there are no junctions with other paths to confuse the issue. When you reach the lane turn left. Now on Mire Ridge walk back towards Colne passing a burial ground on your left.



Pendle Hill from above Colne

# Different shops trip



400m after the cemetery where the road bends right keep ahead on a footpath. This descends through pastures to reach a track. Turn right. Where the track bends to the right keep ahead on a footpath that will bring you out by Carry Bridge on Colne Water. Do not cross but take a footpath leading along the left bank of the river. At the next bridge keep ahead on a public footpath that weaves its way through the yards of a factory. Once through this you may wish to continue along Green Road which will put you on Bridge Street

## FACTFILE

**Distance:** 10k 6 miles  
**Time:** 2 ½ - 3 ½ hours  
**Summary:** Terrain: Mainly easy walking across farmland.  
**Map:** OS Outdoor Leisure 21 South Pennines

where you can turn right and return to Boundary Mill. However a short diversion into Colne centre is recommended. Cross the river following Spring Gardens Road around below a playground. Here turn left onto Exchange Street. On reaching Church Street in front of an impressively built town hall cross the road and turn left. Soon you will come to the memorial of Wallace Hartley the Bandmaster on the Titanic, who with his fellow musicians selflessly played on during the last hour when the ship sank in 1912. After a moment or two of reflection continue down hill to the leisure centre or station.

Walk devised by John Griffiths and Bob Clare. Hit [www.lancashirewalks.com](http://www.lancashirewalks.com) for more walks exploring the diversity of the Lancashire countryside.



## NATUREWATCH

with Kate Humble

**S**o another Springwatch is over! I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did and let's hope all the chicks we followed are flourishing in the big, bad world on their own. Once again the show has enthused even more people to get outdoors and here's a few things I'll be doing this month. We had some glorious weather at the start of the month and if we're lucky enough to get more our plants and flowers will get very thirsty. Try and use collected rainwater or wastewater from the kitchen where possible and it's never too late to install a water butt. When the heavens do open you'll be surprised how much it collects and how far it goes.

If you're having problems with unwanted bugs trying to munch your way through your plants, please use non-chemical controls. Things like bark chip, gravel and porridge oats are a good way to keep slugs and snails at bay. Try to set a few areas of grass aside to grow long through the rest of summer and winter. As much or as little as you're prepared to let run wild will make a difference and lets be honest, any reduction in lawn mowing is always welcome, especially in the heat of summer! It's so important for insects, including some moths and butterflies as well as a safe place for bumblebees to nest in the matted grass underneath.

There will still be plenty of bird activity this month with some species raising their second or third brood. Remember, the kindest thing to do to help baby birds, is nothing. Mother knows best and will be close by but she will be grateful for some help with feeding. Summer migrants will be around for a while yet so listen out for the screaming swift parties and the whizzing round of house martins. Sadly, initial results from the RSPB's summer wildlife survey, Make Your Nature Count, have revealed some worrying results among summer migrant birds in its first few days with house martin numbers surprisingly low. Both birds rely heavily on humans with their nest sites almost exclusively on houses so spare them a thought if you need to do repair work and delay until later in the summer where possible. Another job saved! To take part in the RSPB's swift survey visit [www.rspb.org.uk/helpswifts](http://www.rspb.org.uk/helpswifts)

