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Bolton by Bowland

Winter weather can be very restricting - especially for those who enjoy walking on the high fells. Here's a walk that will give you sublime views across the Ribble Valley towards Pendle Hill, without a great deal of ascent. Moreover it starts in one of Lancashire's most beautiful villages - which is a bonus; providing you can get there of course.

Start: Information Centre and car park Bolton by Bowland.



From Junction 31 M6 follow the A59 towards Clitheroe. After passing the town take a left turn to Sawley. At Sawley cross the River Ribble and turn right. Bolton by Bowland is 2 ½ miles further along. The car park is on the right as you enter the village.

Factfile: Distance: 8k 5 miles

Time: 2 - 3 hours

Summary: Mainly easy. At this time of year some sections will be very muddy. There is an ascent of 100m (300ft) in the middle section of the walk

Map: OS OL 41 The Forest of Bowland

Map by kind permission of the Blackpool Gazette

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Directions: From the car park turn left over Skirden Bridge and then immediately right onto a footpath besides Kirk Beck.



At first the path keeps close to the stream, but after 600m it begins to climb away from the bank.

- Entwistle
- Farleton Fell
- Goosnargh
- Hareden
- Hodder at Stonyhurst
- Hoghton and Samesbury Bottoms
- Holme Chapel to Todmorden
- Hornby
- Hurst Green and Stonyhurst
- Hurst Green & Longridge Fell
- Hutton
- Lancaster
- The Lancaster Canal
- Leck
- Little Bowland
- Longridge Fell & Stonyhurst
- The Corporation Arms walk
- Longridge - Corporation Arms
- Longton
- Marsden Park
- Mellor
- Newton in Bowland
- Pendle - direct



After 15 minutes cross a stile close to a garden centre.



Its drive leads out onto a lane. Turn left. Walk along the lane for 400m and then turn right



onto the drive of a substantial farm house.

Pendle from the Nick

Pendle sunrise

Pendleton and Worston

Penwortham

Preston - Avenham Park

Preston - Brockholes

Ramsbottom

Rivington Reservoirs

Rufford

Salesbury

Sawley

Silverdale and Leighton Moss

Silverdale & Arnside Knott

Scottish Bowland

Spitlers Edge

A circuit of Stocks Reservoir

Thornley - The Derby Arms

Turton Tower

Waddington-Slaidburn

Weets Hill

Whalley

Wheelton

Widdop

Witton Park

Witton Country Park

The Reelers Trail

Worden Park

Worsthorne & Black Hameldon



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Keep ahead through the yard and after a kissing gate, drop down to a substantial footbridge.



After crossing this bear right and go through a kissing gate leading onto a track.



Turn right. Keep on the track for 300m as it passes through a metal gate and approaches the impressive properties at Hungrill.



The route now switches back by turning left through a metal gate at a wall end. The path is far from clear but initially follows a brook on the right before crossing it. Now on a roughly parallel course to the track that led to Hungrill keep ahead to a stile 500m after entering the field.



Walk ahead with the hedge on the left and as you near the lane go left through a gate into the adjoining field and walk ahead to a stone squeeze stile in the corner. Take great care as you descend to the lane.



Turn left. As you walk into the hamlet of Holden turn right



and then left again onto a farm track.



There are two footpaths here - keep ahead towards the farm house. As the track nears the buildings take a footpath that passes to the right of them, leading to a wooden gate.



Keep ahead across the next field and after crossing a track by means of a pair of stone stiles



bear left aiming towards a large tree on the skyline.



From this point there is a long steady climb to Rodhill Lane. Beyond the tree a path leads into the next field.



Cross this to a squeeze stile followed by a stile over an electrified fence.



Keep ahead to you arrive at a stone barn.



By now you should be admiring the views towards Pendle. From the barn cross the next field to a metal gate below the well named farm of Higher Heights. And then cross to large fields bearing slightly right. After a stile into the second field



aim for another on the skyline to the right.



Crossing this and turning left will place you on a sunken bridleway named Rodhill Lane.



"Sunken" is apt - in winter this by-way is a boggy morass that is best avoided. After wet weather it may be best not to cross the stile but follow the fence down to reach the lower reaches of the lane.



This leads onto a farm road.



Keep ahead but as you pass Rodhill Gate bear left across fields heading to a large farm called Hague.



As you near the farm complex bear right through a metal gate and cross the field to another.



After this turn left to walk through the farm yard following waymark signs that will lead to a pair of metal gates at the far end of the farm.



After these bear right to cross the next field to a footbridge



and then continue to reach a lane.



Continuing across the lane the footpath will lead you back to Bolton by Bowland but necessitates crossing a ford which in winter can be impassable. Instead turn left and then opposite Bolton Peel



turn right onto a footpath and cross a footbridge.



Bear right to a stile up a rise and then cross to a kissing gate.



After passing the remains of an ancient cross



drop to a tarmac drive leading back to the village.

