



Lidgett & Beyond (“L&B”) Charity

Annual Review 2025/26

We were delighted when the Upper Rough was finally made a Local Green Space in the Pendle Local Plan, having initially been proposed in the Colne Neighbourhood Plan with significant supporting evidence base. We played our part by attending significant sessions across several days around housing, employment, land allocations, green spaces and general policies at the Pendle Plan Examination and bringing to life the value of the countryside around Colne and its ecological value, esp our treasured red-listed Curlews (who are now back in ever larger numbers).



Noted that the owner of the Upper Rough, having invested a fortune in failed applications, has now decided to fence in all the footpaths, presumably trying to reduce its “special amenity value” to residents and visitors, but in actual fact it’s making the environment more secure for the Curlews and other wildlife. Having monitored it through the Winter, we’ve noted that fences are too narrow in certain places, especially where it’s very boggy. **Action for 2026/27 is to report this to the Footpath Officer.**

Our other local Green Space, the Lidgett Triangle, is now in private hands and residents have carried out work on invasive weeds and walling. Its future as a valuable green space is assured and it is thriving after a history of being under threat of development for decades.



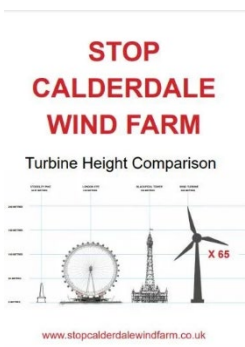
L&B’s East Colne Way footpath (<http://www.lidgettandbeyond.org/the-east-colne-way.html>) continues to be popular and well-used. It a circular, moderate walk of ~5miles and passes through not only lovely countryside, but areas of historical interest.

L&B has also developed the Colne Boundary Walk, see handout, (<https://colnetowncouncil.org.uk/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Colne-Boundary-Walk.pdf>), a more ambitious 13.5mile circular walk which starts and finishes at Ball Grove nature reserve and follows as close as possible the modern town boundary of Colne, using public rights of way and alongside some of the roads linking Colne to neighbouring towns. There are stunning views of the local area and the route takes you through farmyards and across green open spaces including Gib Hill Nature Reserve. Along the route you pass



through thousands of years of local history; walk across the Iron Age Castercliff hillfort, alongside the Leeds-Liverpool Canal built in the 1800s, and close to the 17th century former coalmines in Church Clough and Fox Clough.

Action for 2026/27 is to commission and then mount our information boards at strategic points with help from LCC / PBC / CTC, then widen our promotional activities.



The big blot on the horizon, quite literally, is the spectre of the UK’s largest onshore wind farm being proposed for the peatland-rich, curlew-rich and heritage-rich Walshaw Moor to the south-east of Colne. The 34 turbines have 80m blades and are taller than Blackpool Tower and will be visible across much of East Lancashire. Construction would involve 62,000 HGV journeys transporting granite (as the on-site stone is not suitable for use) and the nacelle/blade components from the M65, through Colne & Laneshaw Bridge, and then across the moor on newly constructed roads. This is not clean energy for a 35 year project lifespan, this is a decimation of our area forever.



Action for next few weeks is to respond to the latest consultation before the 10th June deadline.