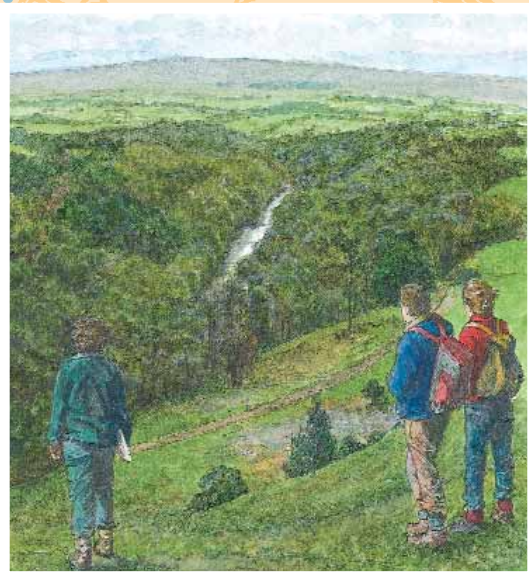
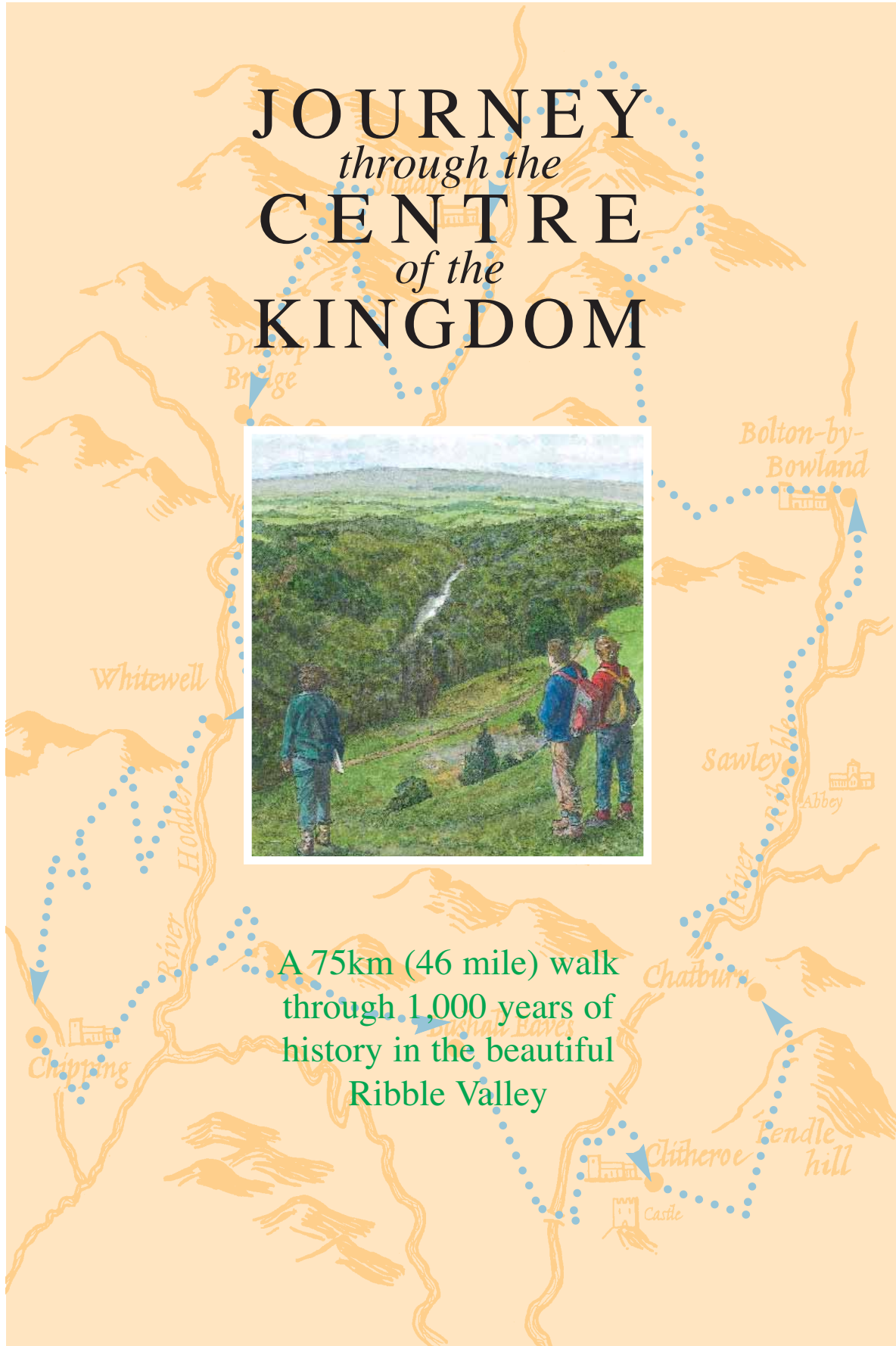


# JOURNEY *through the* CENTRE *of the* KINGDOM



A 75km (46 mile) walk  
through 1,000 years of  
history in the beautiful  
Ribble Valley



# Section 1

## Clitheroe to Chatburn

- 1** Start from the gates of **Clitheroe Castle**. From here, walk down Castle Street to the Tourist Information Office (on your right) and turn right, into Wellgate. Walk down to the bottom of the road, going straight across the triangular junction, until you come to the A671 Waterloo Road.
- 2** Cross this road at the pedestrian crossing and pass Shawbridge onto Pendle Road, passing the Bridge Inn. Continue along Pendle Road for approximately 1 mile until you come to the end of the residential area. On your right, between two large trees, there is a metal gate and kissing gate.
- 3** Pass through the kissing gate and take the footpath across the field, heading for the old barn. Climb over the stile here into the next field. Keep to the left, which takes you onto the road. Cross the road, turn right and walk about 300 metres along the road to the stile and footpath on the left. Follow this path across the field, cross the bridge into the next field and then head towards the gate on to the main A59 road. Cross the road with care and take the footpath on the left, which takes you to Pendleton.
- 4** Go through **Pendleton**, passing the Swan with Two Necks pub, the school and the church, heading towards Sabden. When you arrive at the 'T' junction, you will see a farm building directly ahead of you. This is Pendleton Hall. Go through the farm and follow the bridleway. This is part of the old **King's Highway**, which went from Clitheroe to Colne. Follow the footpath to **Mearley Hall**, then past Lane Side and



19th Century engraving of the bay window at Little Mearley Hall.



onwards. You will see **Little Mearley Hall** on your right.

- 5** You will come off the footpath here and onto some tarmac. Follow this along, until you find a public footpath marked on your right. Cross the stile and take the footpath across the field, staying close to the right hand side. Cross the stile into the next field and continue. This will take you to a footbridge, leading on to the road. Follow the road around to the right.
- 6** At the junction follow the road around to the left, towards Downham. Follow the road around the bend and pick up the second public footpath on the left. This is a wide farm track that leads to Worsaw End Farm. As you approach the farm, from the right, go through the gate at the top right hand corner of the field. Take the footpath to the left, by the wall. This path takes you between Worsaw Hill (believed to be the site of a Roman signal station) on your right and **Warren Hill** on your left. Continue along the path, which leaves the wall and goes up and over the brow between the hills.
- 7** Descend the path (take care - it is rather steep) crossing over two fields and stiles, keeping to the right hand side of the fields. You will cross the line of the Roman Road from Ribchester to Elslack. A bridge crosses the river at the top right hand corner of the field. Follow the footpath that runs behind the bridge. You can now see the A59.
- 8** Cross the A59 (carefully) following the footpath by the river into Chatburn. Turn left into Victoria Avenue and carry on, following the road to the right, passing the Methodist Church. At the end of the road, turn left and follow the road around. At the T junction, turn right. The school is on the left hand side, next to the church.

# Sights of Interest

## Clitheroe Castle

There may have been a wooden castle upon this site in 1102, erected shortly after the Norman conquest. The construction dates of the stone castle are debatable, but it may have been built by the de Lacy family around 1150 AD. At this time, Clitheroe was an administrative centre for their lands in the Ribble Valley and the castle acted as a temporary home, prison and business centre.



19th Century engraving of Clitheroe Castle.

By 1602, the stone castle had been neglected and was described as 'very ruinous'. Nevertheless, the Lancashire Militia, protesting over non-payment of wages from the Civil War, held the castle against Parliament in 1649, eventually leaving when they were offered money. Soon afterwards, Parliament ordered that the castle should be destroyed. Only the keep now remains.

## Pendleton

Pendleton is an ancient village; a burial urn recently discovered suggests that it was occupied as early as the Bronze Age (2500-500 BC). It was one of only five villages in the Blackburn area mentioned in the Domesday Book.

## King's Highway

The 'King's Highways' were the main routes of the medieval period. The Highway that passes through Pendleton Hall connected the settlements of Whalley, Pendleton, Great and Little Mearley and Downham, which were not served by the Roman Road. The old Highway is now mainly used as a bridleway, although in places it has diminished to a footpath.

## Mearley Hall.

The present Hall was built in Victorian times after a fire destroyed the original hall. Parts of the gardens are 16th and 17th century and there is a medieval fish pond site. As you pass through Mearley Hall you can see humps in the field on the left-hand side of the track. This is the site of 12 medieval farm cottages that belonged to the hall

## Little Mearley Hall

Little Mearley Hall was built in 1590. The most outstanding feature of this hall is the huge early 16th century bay window, which is thought to have been taken from Sawley Abbey after its Dissolution in 1537.

## Warren Hill

In the 13th century, Warren Hill was used as a breeding ground for rabbits, which the Normans introduced to Britain as a source of meat and fur. Soil around the hill was stripped down to the limestone rock underneath and the area fenced off so that the rabbits could not escape. The soil was then piled up so that the rabbits could burrow into it.

Section 1

9 km (5½ miles)

# Clitheroe to Chatburn



Starting at the site of a Civil War rebellion, this route passes through one of the oldest villages in Lancashire and takes us, via an ancient highway, past an ancient rabbit breeding ground.

# Section 2

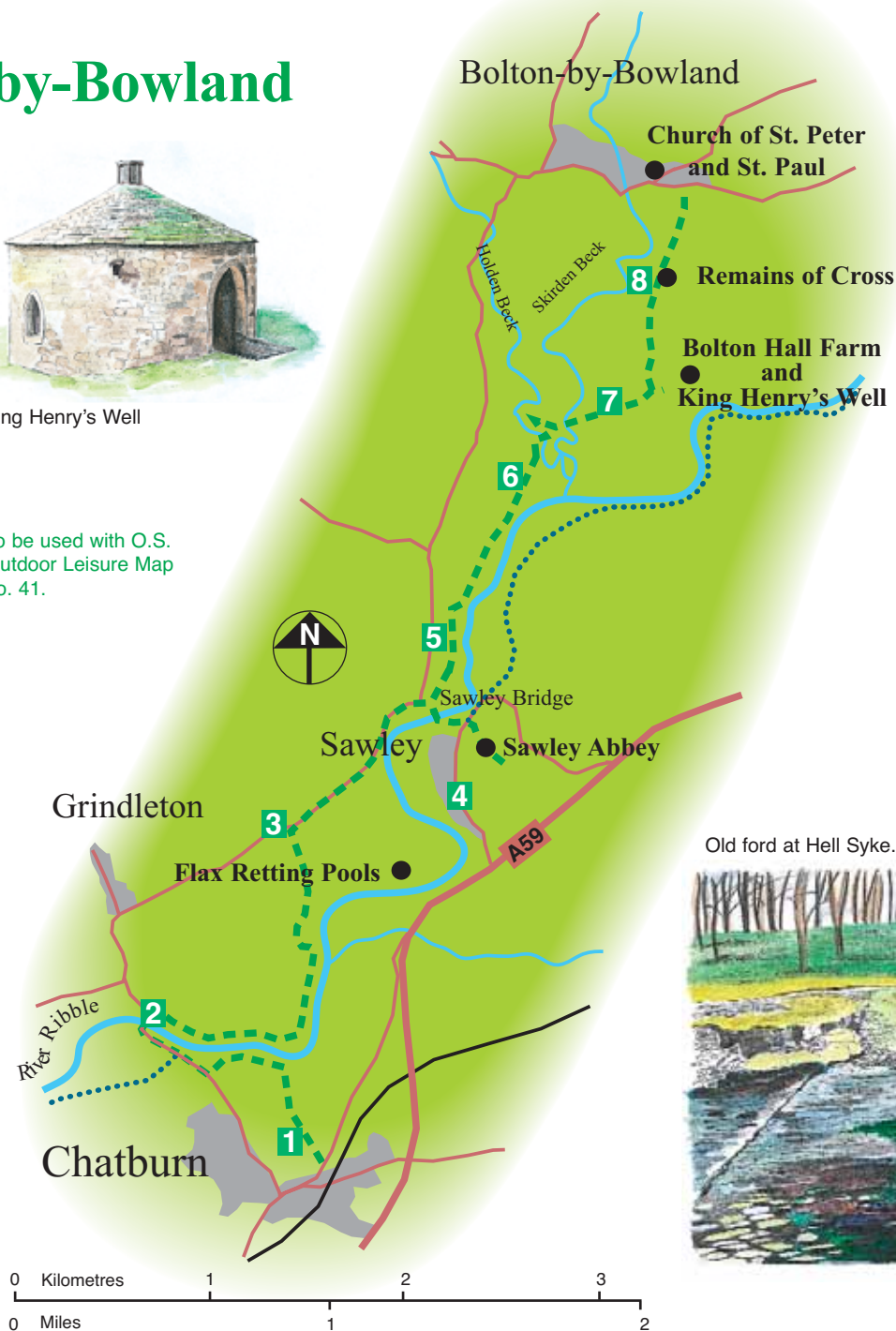
## Chatburn to Bolton-by-Bowland

- 1 Starting from Chatburn School, take the path through the school playing field, keeping to the right. At the end of the fields, turn towards the right, passing the treatment works to your left, and proceed to the River Ribble. The ground here is very boggy. Turn left along the river, crossing the footbridge and following the track until it joins the road. Turn right and follow the road along the river to the bridge.
- 2 Cross the bridge and turn right. Here you join the Ribble Way in the direction of Sawley for a short stretch. Follow the footpath along the river. As you walk past the fields on your left, you can see the banks that surrounded **Flax Retting Pools**, dating back to the 15th century.
- 3 After about 700m, the path leaves the river and goes uphill to Sawley Road. Follow the road to the right, down to Sawley Bridge, passing fine views of the river and Pendle Hill in the background.
- 4 Cross the bridge and follow the road to your left, then around the bend to the right, past the Spread Eagle Inn. You can see the ruins of **Sawley Abbey** on your left. 'Sawley' means 'willow clearing'. When you have visited the Abbey, return to the bridge.
- 5 Cross the bridge and go through the gate on your right. Follow this footpath, which meets the riverside. If you look across the river to the fields on the other side, you may be able to see that they are rutted. This is called 'ridge and furrow' and dates back to when workers from Sawley Abbey tended the land in the 11th century.



King Henry's Well

To be used with O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.



- 6 Follow the footpath as it moves away from the river and towards Hell Syke Bridge. Cross Holden Beck by the footbridge provided. Follow the beck around to the left until you can cross the larger footbridge over the Skirden Beck.
- 7 Follow the farm track up the hill, keeping to the right hand side of the field, near the fence. At the top of the hill, turn right over the cattle grid and take the road that runs to the left of King Henry's Mews. Follow this road to **Bolton Hall Farm**. The circular building in the gardens is **King Henry's Well**.
- 8 Retrace your steps, cross the cattle grid and then walk straight ahead, along the road past Bolton Park and the remains of a cross. This splendid drive takes you to the village of Bolton-by-Bowland. At the end of the drive, turn left and walk down the main street towards Clitheroe. On the right hand side is the Church of St Peter and St Paul, which contains many reminders of the Pudsays of Bolton Hall. The Church is usually open and you can buy guide leaflets inside. There are toilets available at the car park, which also houses a small information centre.

Old ford at Hell Syke.



*A circular walk is available, beginning and ending at Sawley. For more information ring the Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 425566.*

# Sights of Interest

## Flax retting pools

Flax has been used used to make Linen fabric since Roman times. The stalk of the plant is tough and woody, which makes it difficult to extract the fibres. In order to free the fibres, which can be woven into cloth, the stalks were submerged in foul-smelling 'retting pools' of muddy water until the stalks rotted away. The bank at Chatburn is undoubtedly there to stop the river flooding, but could also have been constructed to stop the river washing the valuable partially-retted flax downstream.

## Sawley Abbey

The Abbey was founded in 1147 by a group of Cistercian monks who had travelled from Northumberland to Sawley, where William de Percy had provided land and a timber building. Work on the stone Abbey commenced in the 1150s using sandstone from nearby quarries. The monks almost left the Abbey in about 1200 AD because the poorly-drained soil led to crop failures, but Matilda de Percy, William's daughter, granted them further lands and income.

When Henry VIII established the Church of England, the Abbey was dissolved. Monks from Sawley joined the Pilgrimage of Grace in 1536 to protest against the dissolution. After invading the nearby Whalley Abbey, they were turned back by the forces of the Earl of Derby, who promised them immunity from prosecution. This promise was not kept and two monks from the Abbey were executed for their part in the revolt. The building

was demolished soon afterwards to prevent it becoming a focus for resistance, and the stones were re-used in other construction work. You can see some of these stones in buildings in the village today.

## Bolton Hall and King Henry's Well

The first mention of a hall Bolton-by-Bowland is a record of the conveyance of a 'messuage' (an area used as a dwelling place) to Richard of Bolton in 1229. By 1464 the Hall was the property of Sir Ralph Pudsay, a follower of King Henry VI during the 'Wars of the Roses'. Following his defeat at the Battle of Hexham in that year, the King retreated to Bolton Hall, where he was hidden for almost a year. Local tradition has it that the well in the grounds was discovered by the King through water-divining, and that he ordered it to be dug and shaped so he could use it as a spa bath. The original Bolton Hall was demolished in 1960 after it was declared unsafe and too costly to repair; the well, stables and out-buildings are all that remain.



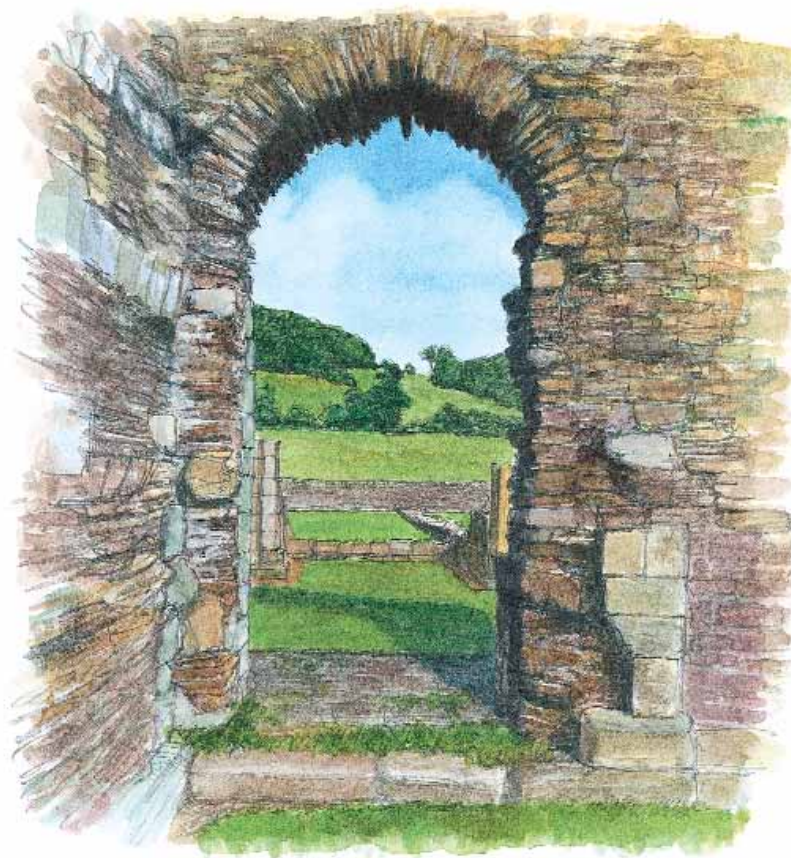
Bolton Hall before it was demolished.

Photograph from Lancashire Library.

Section 2

8 km (5 miles)

# Chatburn to Bolton-by-Bowland



From the pretty village of Chatburn, we walk along the River Ribble, visiting an Abbey destroyed in the Dissolution of the Monasteries and the hideaway of King Henry VI.

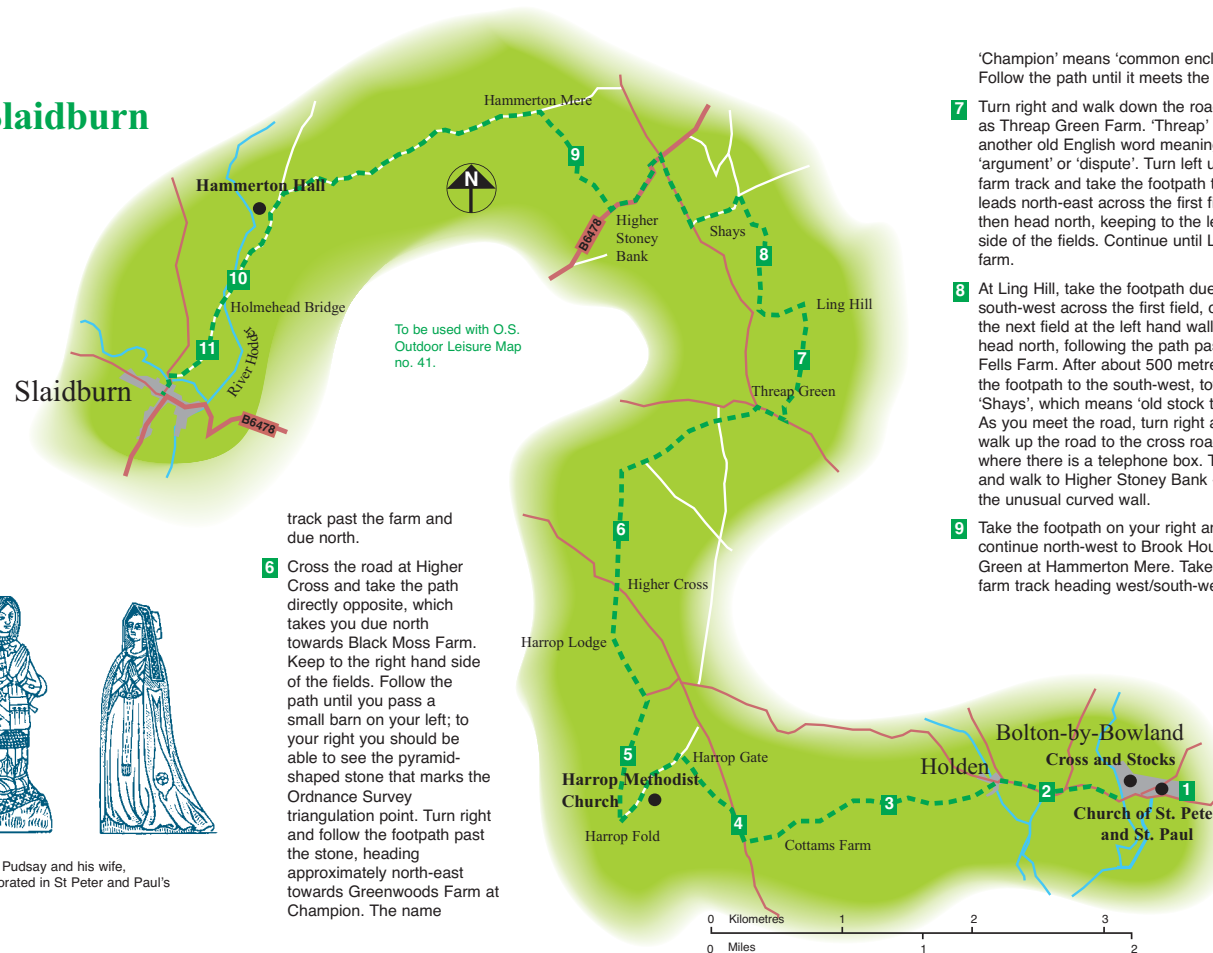
## Section 3

### Bolton-by-Bowland to Slaidburn

- 1 Start at the **Church of St Peter and St Paul** at Bolton-by-Bowland. With your back to the church, turn right and follow the road, passing the remains of a **cross** and the **village stocks**.
- 2 Cross Skirden Bridge and continue until you reach the Copy Nook Hotel. Take the road on your right, signposted to Holden, until it branches, then take the road on the left.
- 3 Cross the river near the bridge and telephone kiosk, passing Fat Hill Farm on your left and Priest Biggins Farm on your right. Keep on the path, passing White Stones on your left and then downhill past the 17th century Cottams Farm.
- 4 At the road, turn right and walk for about 300 metres. Take the footpath on your left heading north-west to Harrop Gate Farm. Take the path that leads through this farm in a south-westerly direction towards **Harrop Methodist Church**, a very early example of its type.
- 5 Continue to the village of Harrop Fold, a former vaccary. From the centre of Harrop Fold, take the path that heads north until you reach Cockleth House. Cross the next field in a north/north-easterly direction, towards the sheep pens at the top right hand corner of the field. Cross the lane and head north-west to Harrop Lodge, which is situated on the edge of the Forest of Bowland. The stile between the buildings and the fence marks the footpath; this takes you around the back of the farm. Follow the



Sir Ralph Pudsay and his wife, commemorated in St Peter and Paul's Church.



track past the farm and due north.

- 6 Cross the road at Higher Cross and take the path directly opposite, which takes you due north towards Black Moss Farm. Keep to the right hand side of the fields. Follow the path until you pass a small barn on your left; to your right you should be able to see the pyramid-shaped stone that marks the Ordnance Survey triangulation point. Turn right and follow the footpath past the stone, heading approximately north-east towards Greenwoods Farm at Champion. The name

'Champion' means 'common enclosure'. Follow the path until it meets the road.

- 7 Turn right and walk down the road as far as Threap Green Farm. 'Threap' is another old English word meaning 'argument' or 'dispute'. Turn left up the farm track and take the footpath that leads north-east across the first field, then head north, keeping to the left hand side of the fields. Continue until Ling Hill farm.
- 8 At Ling Hill, take the footpath due west/south-west across the first field, cross the next field at the left hand wall, then head north, following the path passing Fells Farm. After about 500 metres, take the footpath to the south-west, towards 'Shays', which means 'old stock track'. As you meet the road, turn right and walk up the road to the cross roads, where there is a telephone box. Turn left and walk to Higher Stoney Bank - note the unusual curved wall.
- 9 Take the footpath on your right and continue north-west to Brook House Green at Hammerton Mere. Take the farm track heading west/south-west,

pass the farm at Rain Gill and continue west/south-west until you arrive at **Hammerton Hall**.

- 10 Following the path onwards, you pass the old footbridge on your right. Cross the ford and carry on down to Holmehead Bridge. This is believed to



Cross and Stocks in Bolton-by-Bowland.

have been built before Slaidburn and was the original access into the village until the present 'New Bridge' was built in the 15th century.

- 11 Just past Holmehead Bridge is the farm track called the 'Skaithe'. This was a 10th century horse racing track and is now an ancient road. Leave the track and follow the footpath along the right hand side of the field, then across the field towards the new bridge. Walk up the street to the War Memorial.

## Sights of Interest

### Church of St Peter and St Paul

There was a church in Bolton-by-Bowland as early as 1190, probably on this site. The earliest parts of the present church are the 13th century lancet window, priest's doorway and the stones that have been re-used in the main south doorway. The Pudseys were benefactors of the church for centuries; you can see the family arms on the church font as well as the tomb of Sir Ralph Pudsey in the 16th century Pudsey chapel. The 15th century tower may have been inspired by Henry VI, who was sheltering with the Pudseys at the time it was designed. Guidebooks and leaflets are available in the church, which is well worth a visit.

### Cross and stocks

Stocks were used in medieval times as a flexible punishment for a variety of crimes. The prisoner's legs and ankles were locked into the stocks and local people could hurl missiles as they saw fit. This must have been a frightening experience for the victim. The practice eventually died out in the 19th century.

Market crosses were often established so monks from nearby monasteries could preach to farmers on market days. They were also a place where the farmers could pay any debts owed to the monastery. The cross here may be connected to Sawley Abbey.

### Harrop Methodist church

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, often preached in the North during the 1700s. Early Methodist meetings were held in houses, and meetings in Harrop Fold were probably held at a farmhouse called Baygate. The present Methodist chapel at Harrop Fold dates from 1819.



Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bolton-by-Bowland

### Hammerton Hall

The Hall, commissioned in the mid-15th century, was the residence of the Hammertons. They were a wealthy family and it was said they could ride all the way from Bowland to York on their own land. This changed in 1536, when Sir Stephen Hammerton sided with the rebels in the 'Pilgrimage of Grace'. He was hanged and beheaded for his 'crime' in 1537. This was a relatively lenient punishment due to his high status; others were hanged, drawn and quartered. His widow and son died shortly afterwards and his property in Bowland passed to the King.

The house has been rebuilt since Sir Stephen lived here and much of the present building dates from the late 17th century. Note the typical 'ogee' mullion windows in the gables which were a common feature of this time.



Hammerton Hall

*A circular walk is available, beginning and ending at Bolton-by-Bowland. For more information ring the Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 425566*

Section 3

17 km (10½ miles)

## Bolton-by-Bowland to Slaidburn



Leaving the beautiful church of St Peter and St Paul in Bolton-by-Bowland, we pass through peaceful moorland and the home of a 16th century rebel, to the picturesque village of Slaidburn.

# Section 4

## Slaidburn to Dunsop Bridge

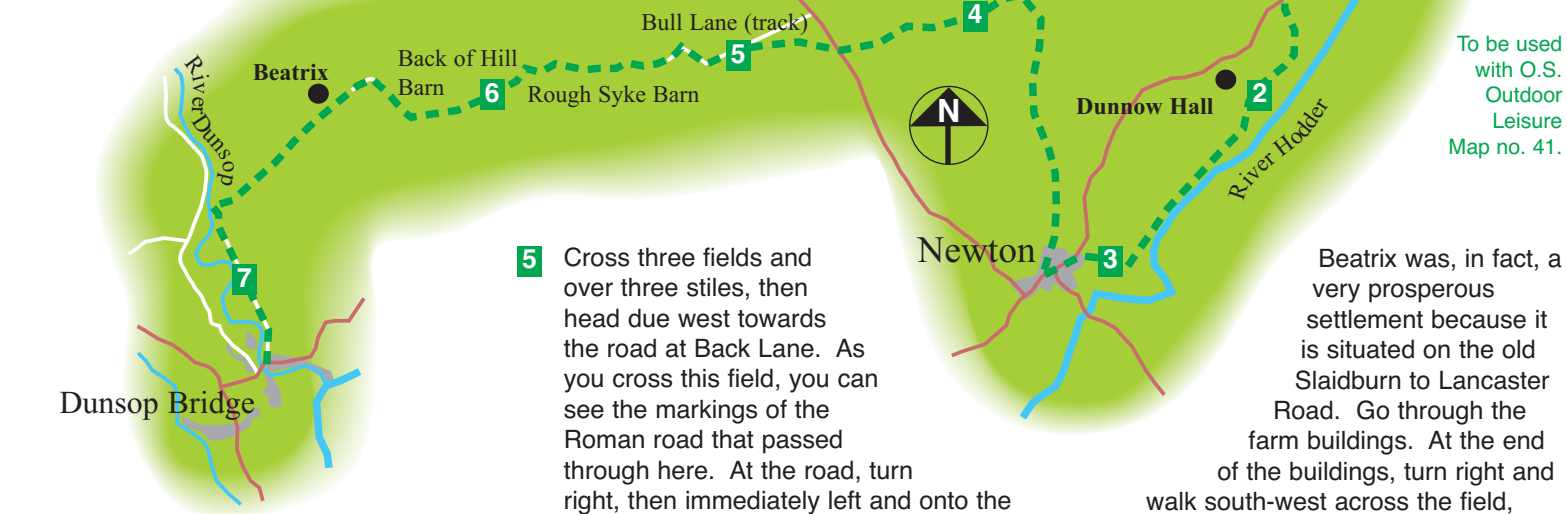
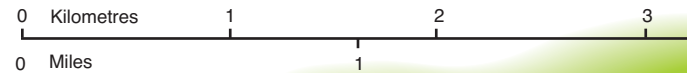
**1** The name 'Slaidburn' means 'stream by the sheep pasture'. Start from the War Memorial and take the road heading south-west towards Newton. On your left, you will pass the **Slaidburn Heritage Centre**. Entrance to the Centre is free and a village trail is available. From the Centre, continue along the road, passing **Brennard's Endowed School** and the **Church of Saint Andrew** on your left. Note the 'Lynchet' formation on the fields above Slaidburn.

**2** About 500 metres past the church, the road heads uphill. At this point there are a set of gates on your left hand side, pass through these and follow the stream on your left. Leave the stream and walk around the woodland at the foot of the hill, passing **Dunnow Hall** on your right. Continue walking south-west alongside the woodland, passing through a kissing gate and stile at the foot of Great Dunnow. Looking along the river, you can see that it has been canalised, or made straight. This was done to provide employment for out-of-work weavers during the cotton famine in the mid-19th century.

**3** Where the woodland ends, carry on south-west across a couple of fields until you see farm buildings on your right-hand side. Pass through the gate and carry on through the farm buildings until you meet the road at Newton. The village has many fine 17th century houses and 'The Parkers Arms' pub is a late Georgian house with a Venetian window. At the road, turn left and continue until you see a phone box on the right. Take the



Brennard's Endowed School, Slaidburn.



To be used with O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.

footpath on the right, signposted to Pain Hill, which leads up the hill towards the house. To avoid nuisance to the owners, please walk past the left-hand side of the house, then turn right and walk around the back of the house to cross the stile. Continue along the footpath, heading north.

**4** At the end of the fourth field, climb over another stile and cross the field diagonally heading north/north-west. Go through the gate and cross the field keeping to the left-hand side. Cross the stile and continue to the north/north-eastern corner of the field. Cross the stile and head north/north-west past the trees to the bottom of the field, then follow the stone wall around to the right. There is a stile in the middle of this wall. Cross this stile and head west/south-west, passing the copse around the small reservoir. The formations in the land marked ancient field boundaries.

**5** Cross three fields and over three stiles, then head due west towards the road at Back Lane. As you cross this field, you can see the markings of the Roman road that passed through here. At the road, turn right, then immediately left and onto the footpath. Cross the field, heading west, cross the stile, head west again to the corner of the next field and cross the next stile onto the Bull Lane track.

**6** Turn left along the track and follow it along. Before the gate, follow the wall around to the right then cross the stile and follow the footpath downhill past Rough Syke Barn. Cross the stream

and stile, then follow upstream on the right hand side for a short distance before heading south-west to Back of Hill Barn. Walk behind the barn and continue uphill along the farm track, then downhill to **Beatrix**. Here there used to be an old smithy, a linen weaving shed and a public house.

Beatrix was, in fact, a very prosperous settlement because it is situated on the old Slaidburn to Lancaster Road. Go through the farm buildings. At the end of the buildings, turn right and walk south-west across the field, using the poles as a guide.

**7** Cross the stile and go down to the River Dunsop. Take the bridleway to the left and follow it down to Dunsop Bridge. Dunsop Bridge was built in the 19th century and is the nearest village to the Centre of the British Isles. When the bridleway meets the road, turn left and walk to the car park.



# Sights of Interest

## Slaidburn Heritage Centre

The two storeyed building dates from the 17th century and was originally a farmhouse, probably incorporating part of the house to the right. It has been altered and extended many times, with the three storeyed portion on the left the last to be added in the late 19th century. At this time, part of the original farmhouse was used as a stable for the horse of the local doctor - the stalls have been retained as part of the exhibitions.

## Brennand's Endowed School

The school was founded in 1717 to educate young boys of the Parish, using money left in the will of John Brennand. It was run by a priest and a deacon from the nearby church, with a small charge levied for certain subjects. The school is still in use for juniors and infants, with new classrooms added to the rear of the original building.

## St Andrew's Parish Church

St Andrew's stands on an ancient religious site, with evidence of Christian worship here since at least the 10th century. The tower of the present church dates from about 1150, but the rest of the building was badly damaged by Scots raiders in the early 1300s and most of the church was rebuilt around 1450. St Andrew's Church is the resting place of Lady



St. Andrew's Parish Church.

Hammerton, wife of Sir Stephen who was executed for his part in the Pilgrimage of Grace.

## Dunnow Hall

Dunnow Hall was built in the 19th century by Leonard Wilkinson, a solicitor in Blackburn, who owned land in Slaidburn. Through an alliance by marriage of the Wilkinsons and the King family of Whiteholme, the name of the Squires became King-Wilkinson. The Slaidburn Estate is still owned by the King-Wilkinson family.

## Beatrix

Beatrix was originally spelt 'Batrix' and is derived from the Norse words meaning 'Bothvar's cattle farm'. Other Scandinavian placenames in the valley include *Brungilmore*, *Battersby*, and *Smelfthwaite*. They indicate that the area was widely settled by Norse people who came from Ireland in the 10th century and moved inland along the Ribble and Hodder valleys.

***A circular walk is available, beginning and ending at Slaidburn. For more information ring the Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 425566.***

Section 4

10 km (6 miles)

# Slaidburn to Dunsop Bridge



After following the River Hodder to Newton, we cross a Roman road on our route to the heart of the British Isles.

# Section 5

## Dunsop Bridge to Whitewell

**1** From the car park, follow the road due east for a short distance, until you see a set of gates on your right. Go through these and walk up the drive towards Thorneyholme Hall. 'Thorneyholm' means 'land by the river' and Thorneyholme was a 'vaccary' or cow farm. Cross the bridge, there is a small metal gate on the right hand side. Go through this gate and follow the line of the River Hodder, heading south/south-west.



Footbridge over the River Hodder.

**2** As the river bends towards the aqueduct, head south/south-west across the field, then south/south-east across the next, heading for the buildings at Burholme. Here the path splits; to the left is the old route to Newton before today's road was built (we will not be taking this route). Cross the footbridge that leads to the buildings and walk through them. Follow the track south-west to Burholme Bridge.

**3** Walk southwards along the road. On the right hand side there is a stile leading to a discretionary footpath which allows you to enjoy this route from the safety of a neighbouring field. Follow this along until it takes you back onto the road and continue to the Inn at Whitewell.



To be used with O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.

*A circular walk is available, beginning and ending at Dunsop Bridge. For more information ring the Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 425566.*

Section 5

5 km (3 miles)

## Dunsop Bridge to Whitewell



From the centre of the British Isles, we pass a former vaccary and follow the winding banks of the River Hodder to Whitewell.

# Section 6

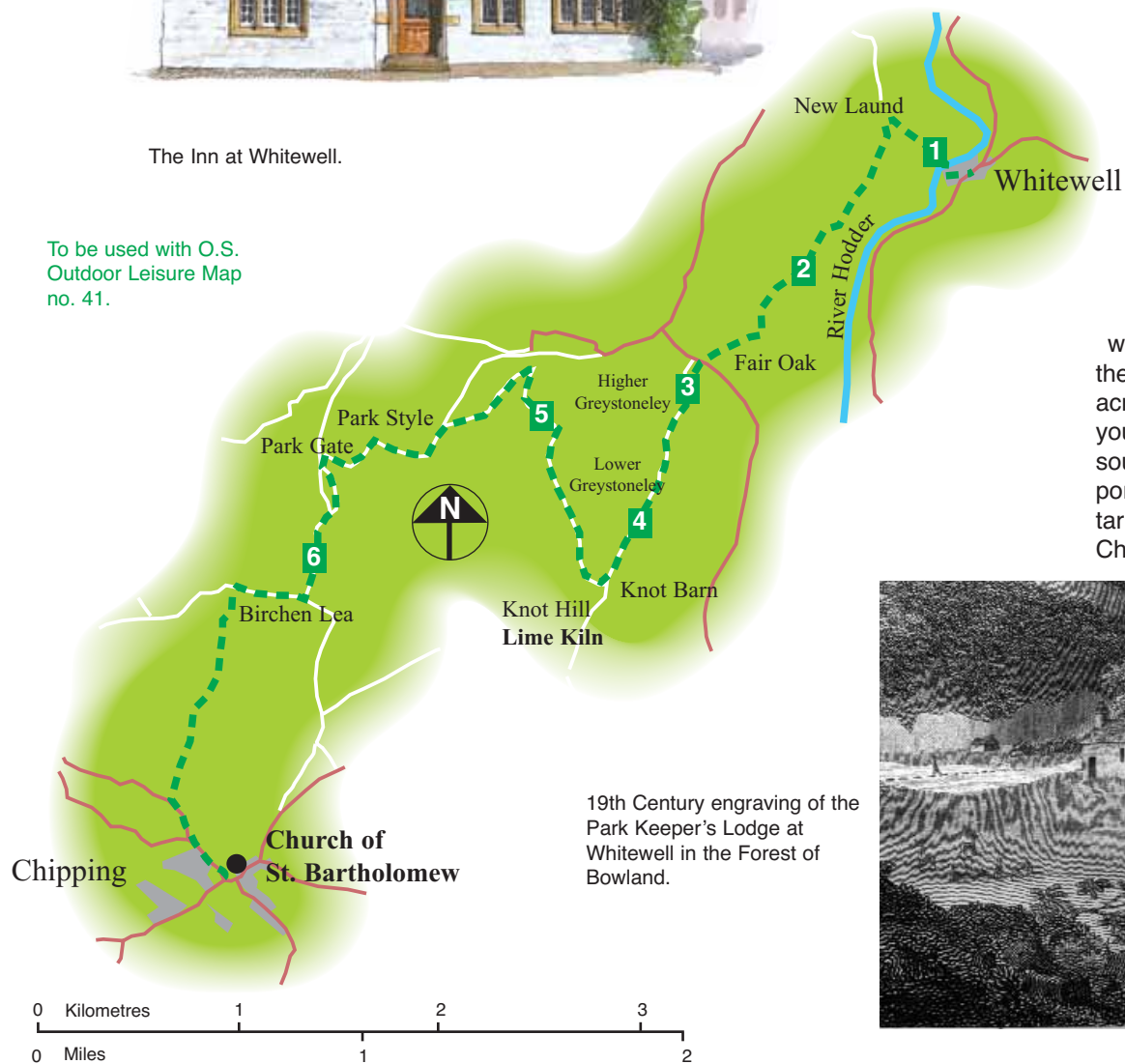
## Whitewell to Chipping

- 1 From the **Inn at Whitewell** and the **Church of St. Michael** walk westwards through the car park and past the house on the left-hand side. Cross the stile and head for the River Hodder. Cross the stepping stones and walk uphill towards the farm buildings at **New Laund**. A laund was a clearing in the forest where deer came to feed; this made them easier to hunt.
- 2 Go through the farm gate and carry on. Between the buildings on your left there is a gate to a path that leads uphill. Take this path, heading south-west. Pass the next gate and carry on until you cross a stile into a field. Walk along the right hand side of this field, then take the track to Fair Oak Farm, which was a **vaccary**.
- 3 Follow the signs through Fair Oak Farm and cross the stile into the field. Walk west/south-west across the field, cross the road and take the footpath opposite, heading towards Higher Greystoneley Farm. Cross the stile in the western corner of the field and walk through the farm. Follow the track, crossing the ford.
- 4 Continue to follow the track through the buildings of Lower Greystoneley Farm and on to Knot Barn. Shortly after the cattle grid, take the footpath to the right; note the **Lime Kiln** built into Knot Hill on your left.
- 5 Follow the footpath to the right, around the reservoir, and take the footpath north/north-west. Follow the track all the way to Lickhurst Farm. Pass the first building on your right hand side and take

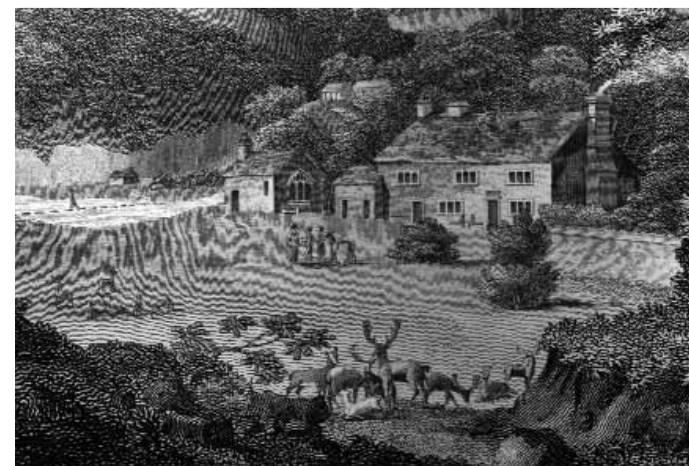


The Inn at Whitewell.

To be used with O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.



19th Century engraving of the Park Keeper's Lodge at Whitewell in the Forest of Bowland.



the path through the first gate on your left, walking south-west towards the oak tree. Cross the stile and head west/south-west to the next stile. Turn left along the track, passing the ruined barn at **Park Style** and the farm at **Park Gate**. As their names suggest, these were entrances to the Leagram Park Estate, an area of the Forest of Bowland reserved for hunting.

- 6 At the water, take the path left and follow the farm track until it ends near Chipping Lawn Farm. Turn right and walk along the surfaced track. Carry on past Birchen Lea Farm, which was a birch clearing in the wood, probably to provide cover for animals. Take the footpath on your left, which follows a stream on your right hand side. Cross the stream on your left and walk across the field, due south. Cross the stile and head south/south-west across the next field, turning south when you see the waymarkers. Continue southwards, the path leads you to the pond at Chipping. Turn left along the tarmac and walk into the village of Chipping.

# Sights of Interest

## The Forest of Bowland

Today, the word 'forest' denotes a heavily wooded ground, but in medieval times it was used to describe an otherwise barren area set aside as hunting ground for the nobility. The de Lacy family, owners of Clitheroe Castle, declared the Forest of Bowland a private chase in the 12th century. In the 13th century, they divided it into enclosed 'vaccaries' for raising cattle and 'parks' for deer, thus gaining more value from the land. The term 'laund' described an area of land where trees had been cleared to attract deer. In 1311 the Forest passed to the Earl of Lancaster, thence to the Crown in 1399. It remained under the control of the nobles until 1507, when Henry VII abolished the forest laws relating to the Forest of Bowland, making it available for development.

## The Inn at Whitewell

The Inn at Whitewell was formerly a manor house built in around 1400 by Walter Urswyck, who was then the Chief Forester of Bowland Forest. It was used as a courthouse for the Swainmote Court, which met three times each year to manage the Crown's forest. By 1652, the manor house was occupied by the Keeper of the Fallow Deer. The present Inn was built in 1836 in a 17th century style. The forecourt was once the district market place.

## The Church of St Michael

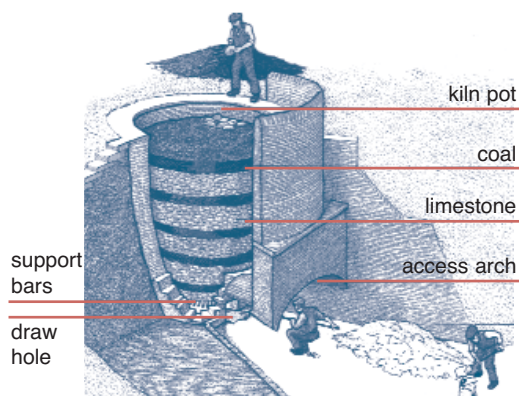
Walter Urswyck built a chapel here at the same time as the manor house. St Michael's Chapel at Clitheroe Castle was destroyed during the Reformation and its dedication and revenue were subsequently transferred to the chapel

at Whitewell. The datestone over the porch marks the enlargement of the church in 1817.

## Lime Kilns

Pockets and knolls of limestone were deposited in this area during the carboniferous period (around 350 million years ago), when sea levels were high enough to cover much of Britain. Many kilns were built in this area to exploit this abundance of limestone.

Inside the kiln, workers created alternating layers of limestone and coal or charcoal, then set fire to the coal. As the fire burned, the limestone turned into quick lime and dropped to the bottom of the kiln, where it could be extracted. The lime served two purposes; it could either be applied to farmland to improve soil quality or used in building work for mortar, plasterwork and lime wash.



Cut-away drawing of a lime kiln.

**A circular walk is available, beginning and ending at Whitewell. For more information ring the Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 425566.**

# Whitewell to Chipping



The walk takes us from the former hunting grounds of Whitewell to the old market town of Chipping, passing a disused lime kiln and ancient forest boundaries.

# Section 7

## Chipping to Bashall Eaves

**1** Start from the main gate of the **Church of St Bartholomew** in Chipping, facing towards the Sun Inn. Turn left and then turn right at Windy Street. Walk down the street, passing **John Brabin's old school**, former almshouses and the church of St Mary. Walk along this road towards Town End until it curves away to the right with an old footbridge on the left.

**2** Cross the footbridge and take the footpath diagonally across the field on the right (due south/south-west). Follow along the left hand field boundary for the next three fields, passing Startifants and the sewage works on your right. As you walk the path, you will notice a large ditch with a line of trees on top. This is the old boundary belonging to Leagram Deer Park.

On the fourth field, follow the left hand boundary most of the way, then head for the gate in the middle of the hedge. Go through the gate and towards Pale Farm.

**3** Go through the gate at Pale Farm. Between the buildings on your right, there is a stile leading to a footpath. Take this path, following the trees along the left-hand boundary of the long field. Go through the pen on the far side into the next field. Keep to the left-hand side of the next four fields, heading north-east and crossing a couple of streams

until you reach the gate at Gibbon Bridge. Carry on through the buildings of the Gibbon Bridge Hotel until you reach the road.

**4** Take the footpath directly opposite (you do not need to cross the bridge) and walk on until you cross a concrete footbridge over a stream. From here, head uphill due north, cross the stile and walk north-east towards

and take the path heading roughly south down to the River Hodder. Cross the stepping stones near the buildings here and turn left along the riverbank, following the farm road which takes you past Stakes Farm. 'Stakes' gets its name from the time when the owners used to stake out fishing nets across the river to catch salmon.

**6** At the farm, take the track on the left and pass the trees on the left hand side. Where the track stops, carry on ahead roughly



Plaque above John Brabin's school.

Greenlands Farm. Turn left immediately before the last farm building and go between the buildings, then turn right towards the farm road. Take the farm road due north, then follow the farm track heading north-east across two fields until you meet the main road.

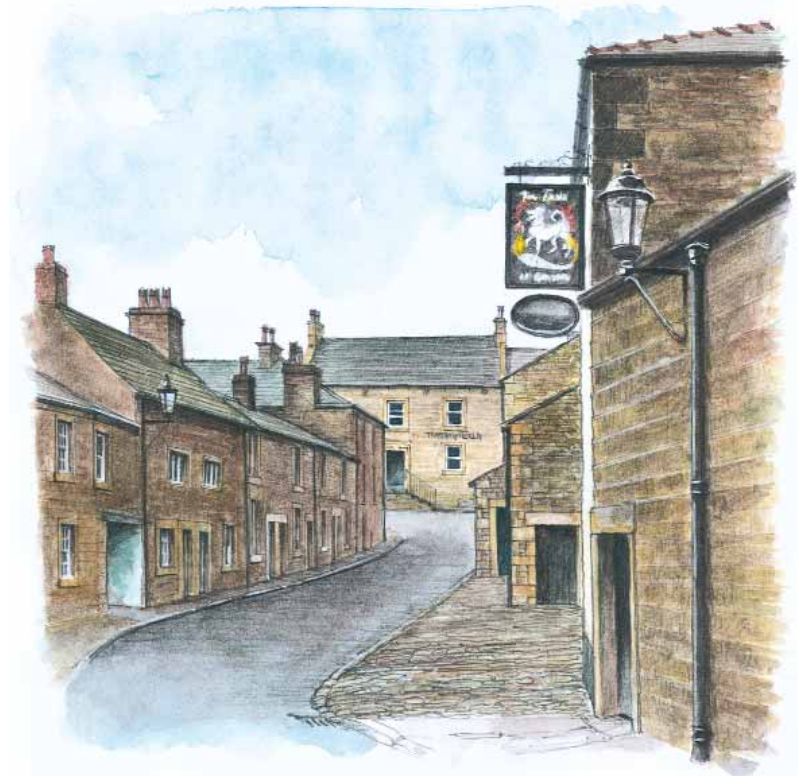
**5** Turn left at the road and follow it as it curves around the River Hodder. Just before you reach Wardsley Farm there is a white gate and a footbridge on your right hand side. Cross the footbridge

north-east across the first field, keep to the left hand side of the next field and take the track that runs to the left hand side of the next field. Turn right for a short distance along the surfaced track from Lower Lees Farm, then left up the track towards the farm buildings. Walk around the buildings and head north-east towards Middle Lees, keeping to the left hand side of the field. Lees is mentioned in the Domesday Book and was also a vaccary. At the end of the field, take the diverted footpath past the garden and onto the main road.

*(Route description continues over page)*

To be used with O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.

# Chipping to Bashall Eaves



Follow the footsteps of Roman soldiers on this route, which takes you from the 17th century buildings of Chipping to the village of Bashall Eaves.

## Sights of Interest

### Church of St Bartholomew

A Saxon stone basin, found here in 1873, suggests this site has been used as a place of worship since the 10th century. The interior has a 13th century piscina (for washing communion vessels). The font, carved with decorated shields, was donated by a local family in 1520. Most of the exterior is early 16th century, apart from the tower, which was built in the mid 15th century and heavily restored in the 19th century. John Wesley was attacked by a local mob in the aisle of the church in 1753.



Church of St. Bartholomew.

### John Brabin's Old School

John Brabin (or Brabbin) was a local cloth merchant and dyer whose will left provision for his trustees to build and maintain this school for poor children. Land was purchased in 1684 and the first schoolmaster was appointed the same year. The latin phrase inscribed upon the plaque above the door translates as 'teach, learn or cut your stick'. The initials are those of the school's first trustees.

**7** Turn to your left - there is a road on the right hand side, signposted to Clitheroe. Walk along this road until it bends sharply to the left. Take the track on the right, heading roughly south-east. This follows the course of the old Roman Road connecting forts at Ribchester and Elslack. Follow the track until you see a footpath marked on the left hand side. Walk straight across the field, cross the ditch and stile and walk west across the next field, heading slightly to the left of the trees in front of you. Cross the stile, pass the trees and walk east/south-east across the next field, cross the stile and head roughly east across the next field. Head east/ south-east across the next field, towards Limes Wood, so named because of the Lime Kilns in the area.

**8** Follow the footpath through the wood, cross the bridge and footbridge and take the footpath that heads southeast. Follow the footpath east through Paper Mill Wood and continue eastwards, heading slightly to the right of the farm at Buck Thorn, which refers to the deer in Bashall Park. Follow the path along the right hand boundary of the field in front of the farm, cross the stile and carry on through the trees to Aigden farm.

**9** Follow the track straight on through the farm and take the track heading north-east. Half way across the field, turn east towards the stile. Walk east to the corner of the next field, crossing over the farm track. Head north-east across the next field, cross into the next field and follow the path on the left-hand side to the end of the field. Cross the next field heading east, go between the farm buildings at the end and take the farm track down to the road at Bashall Eaves. Bashall means 'Back Ridge' or 'Back Shelf'. Turn right at the road and walk to the Red Pump Inn.

# Section 8

## Bashall Eaves to Clitheroe

**1** From the 'Red Pump' inn at Bashall Eaves, take the road northwards. About 100 metres past the post office, take the footpath on the right hand side, crossing the stile.

Keeping to the right, cross two fields, go through the gate, then follow the road to the right. Go down the road a short distance; as it turns sharply to the right you can see a footpath on the left. Take this footpath, keeping to the right hand side of the field, pass through the wooden kissing gate and turn right.

**2** Follow the path, passing through the farm gate near Rugglesmere (please keep to the public footpath on the left hand side as you proceed up the farm drive). Just before you reach the farm buildings, the path veers off to the left, towards Saddle Bridge, which was rebuilt in the 1930s. Cross the footbridge, turn right and follow the footpath, keeping to the right hand side of the field. As the trees end, there is a stile on your right, which leads through to the next field.

**3** Cross this stile and walk across the field, keeping to the left hand side, until you get to the farm at Cow Hey. Go through the farm gate, pass the buildings on

your left and walk to the wooden-paved bridge. Follow the footpath, passing Bashall Wood on your right, up to **Bashall Hall**.

**4** Keep on the path that passes to the left of the hall. At the field gate on

your left, take the footpath diagonally across the field, heading uphill to the road. Cross the road and take the path straight ahead and downhill, crossing the fields and the stream. The path heads uphill towards the farm at Cheetall.

**5** Keep to the right of the farm buildings, cross the drive and walk into the field

ahead. Walk to the top right hand corner of this field and into the next field. Keep to the left until you pass a group of trees, then head for the stile at the top right hand corner. Cross the stile (be careful, this leads directly onto the road) and turn left down the road. At the junction, turn left again and walk to **Edisford Bridge**, passing the pub on the left hand side. **St Nicholas' Leper Hospital** was near this site in the 13th century.

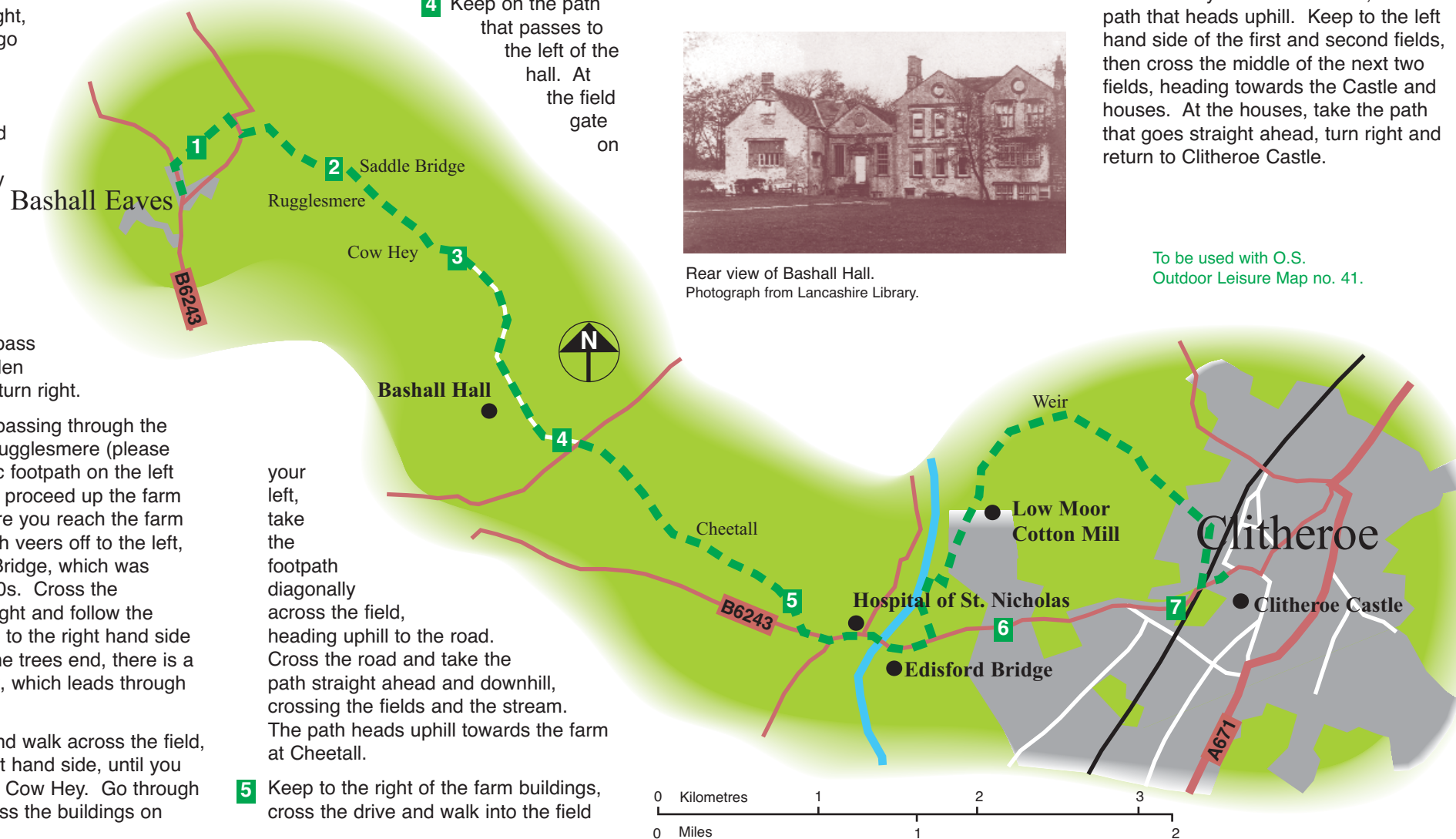


Rear view of Bashall Hall.  
Photograph from Lancashire Library.

**6** Cross the bridge and follow the road ahead, keeping to the left hand side, until you reach the leisure centre. Now turn left, following the Ribble Way along the river. As you approach the houses at Low Moor, move away from the river and go through the estate, parallel to the river. This was the site of the former **Low Moor Cotton Mill**.

**7** Follow the footpath past the smallholdings and towards the weir. Just before you reach the weir, take the path that heads uphill. Keep to the left hand side of the first and second fields, then cross the middle of the next two fields, heading towards the Castle and houses. At the houses, take the path that goes straight ahead, turn right and return to Clitheroe Castle.

To be used with O.S.  
Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.



# Sights of Interest

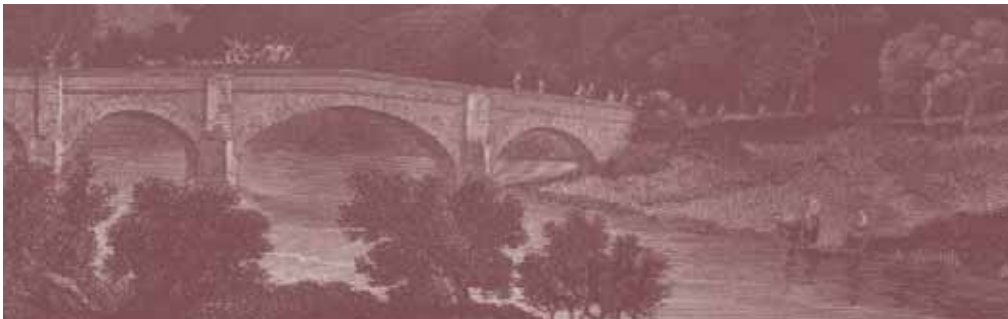
## Bashall Hall

In 1464, Bashall Hall was the home of the Talbot family, who, like the Pudseys of Bolton Hall, were involved in the Wars of the Roses. The Talbots discovered that the Lancastrian King Henry VI was hiding in the nearby hall of Waddington and betrayed him to the Yorkist King Edward IV. Edward paid the Talbots well for their treachery, but legend says that Henry cursed them that the Talbot family would last for only 9 generations, with one wise heir and one foolish one alternating until the line died out. In fact, the male line disappeared after 5 generations.

## Edisford Bridge

Lancashire was frequently subjected to attacks by the Scottish Kings, and Clitheroe was no exception. Scottish troops attacked this area in 1138 and defeated a Norman army by the bridge. It was said the river below ran red with Norman blood. In 1339, the King gave permission for users to be charged a toll for two years so the money raised could be used to repair the bridge after flood damage. The bridge was rebuilt in the 18th century but the original medieval ribs can be seen under the central arch.

19th Century engraving of Edisford Bridge.



*A circular walk is available, beginning and ending at Bashall Eaves. For more information ring the Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 425566.*

## Hospital of St Nicholas

The Hospital was built in the 13th century to treat leprosy, which was thought to have been brought to England by soldiers returning from the Crusades. The fact that a leper hospital was built in Edisford, despite the relatively sparse population in the area, suggests that this disease must have spread quickly amongst local people, although other skin disorders may have been confused with the disease.

## Low Moor Cotton Mill

The first Edisford Mill was built in 1782 for spinning cotton; at that time the weavers worked from home. In 1826, the owners, Horsfall and Garnett, were the first in the area to install power looms, which could weave more quickly. Fearing for their livelihoods, a mob of weavers collected to destroy the new looms, but were turned back by troops from Burnley. The owners subsequently cut a moat around the mill in 1829 so that it could be defended from riots. At its peak, the mill employed 750 people, and its estate included 200 houses for the operators, a church and reading room provided for the betterment of the workers. The mill was eventually closed in 1928 and demolished at the end of the 1960s.

Section 8

7 km (4½ miles)

# Bashall Eaves to Clitheroe



Enjoy a spectacular view of Pendle Hill during your walk, which passes a traitor's home, the site of a medieval battle and a reminder of Lancashire's industrial heritage.