

# Section 6

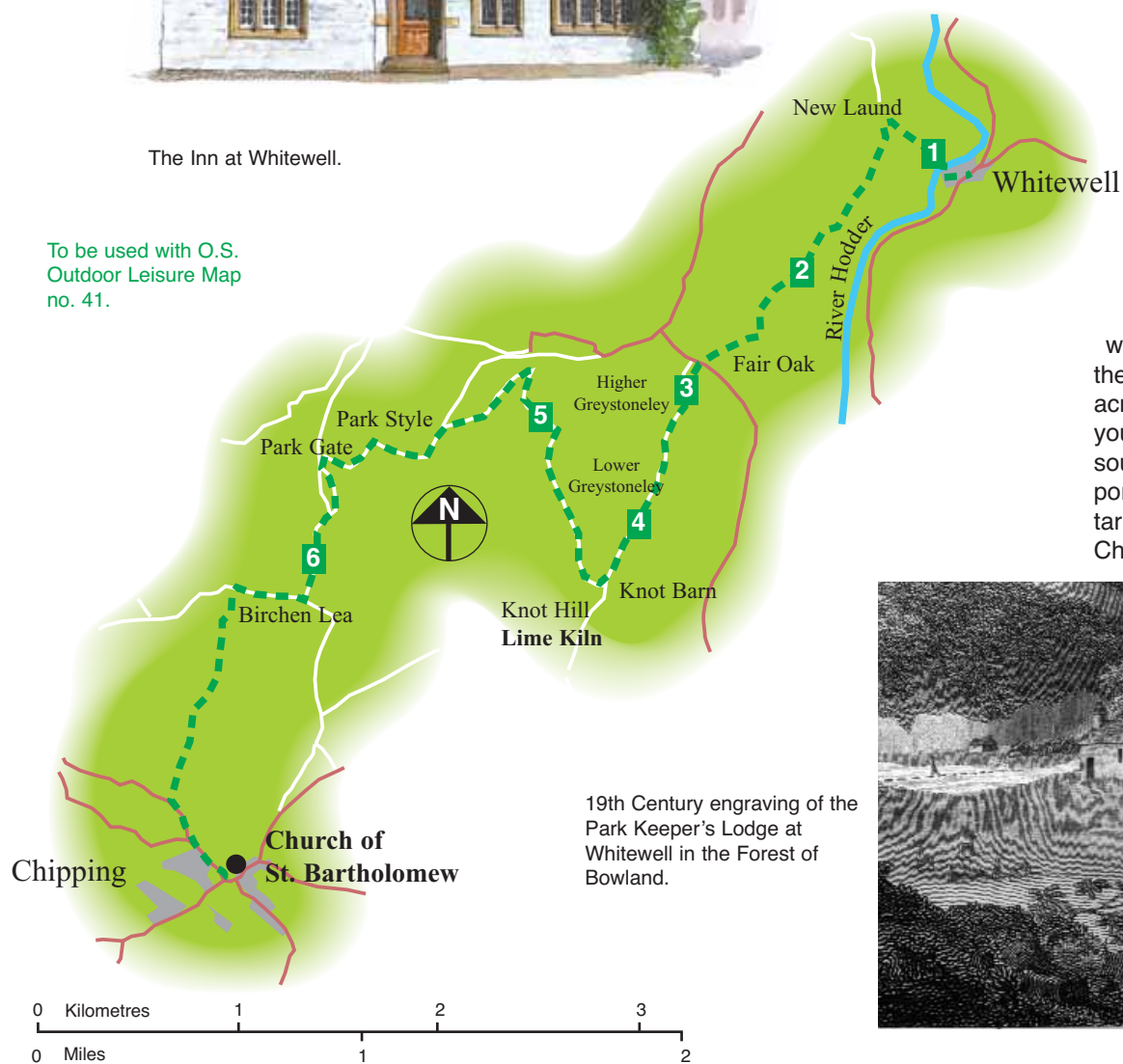
## Whitewell to Chipping

- 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.

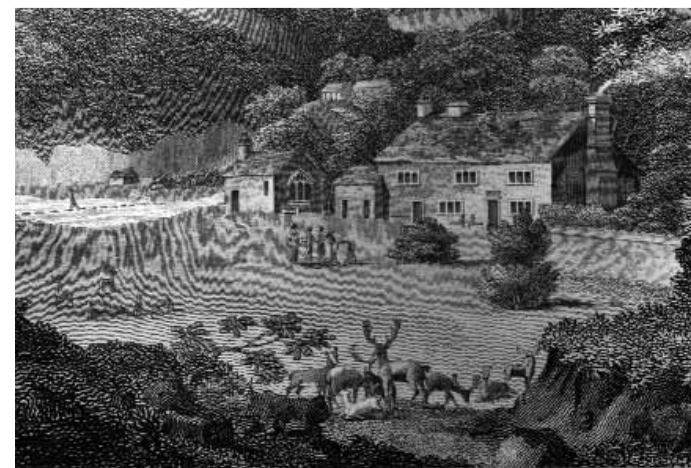
To be used with O.S. Outdoor Leisure Map no. 41.



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

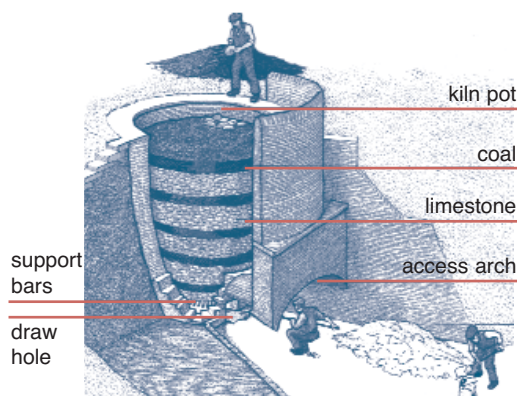
Walter Urswyck built a chapel here at the same time as the manor house. St Michael's Chapel at Clitheroe Castle was destroyed during the Reformation and its dedication and revenue were subsequently transferred to the chapel

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.**

Section 6

8 km (5 miles)

## 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.

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.

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

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

**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.

**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

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)



Plaque above John Brabin's school.

**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.

## 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.

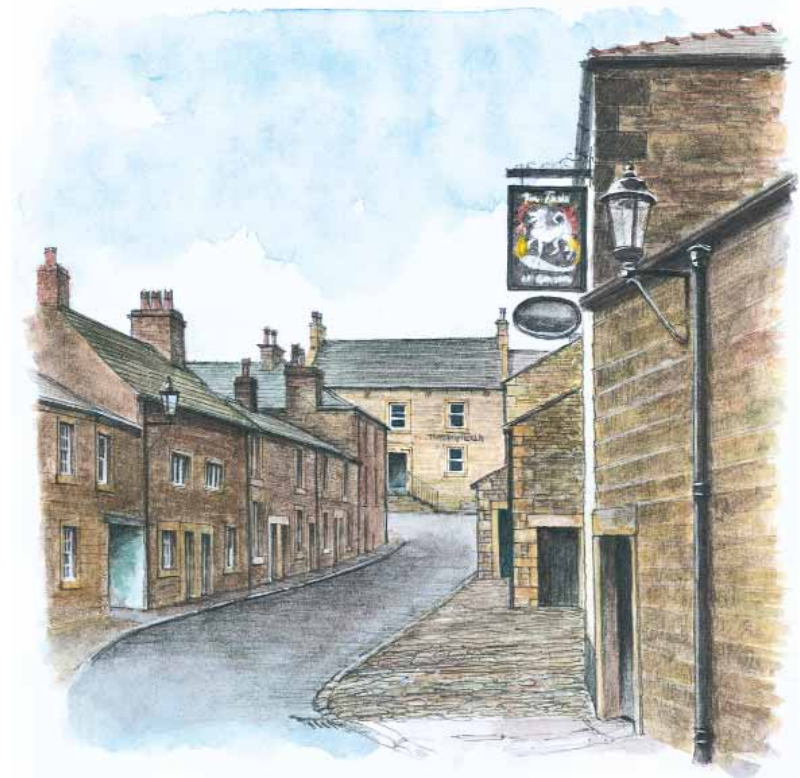
### John Brabin's Old School

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.

Section 7

11 km (7 miles)

## 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.

# 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.

Bashall Eaves

Rugglesmere

Cow Hey

Bashall Hall

Cheetall

Weir

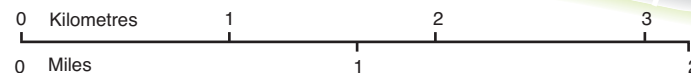
Low Moor  
Cotton Mill

Hospital of St. Nicholas

Edisford Bridge

Clitheroe

Clitheroe Castle





# Sights of Interest

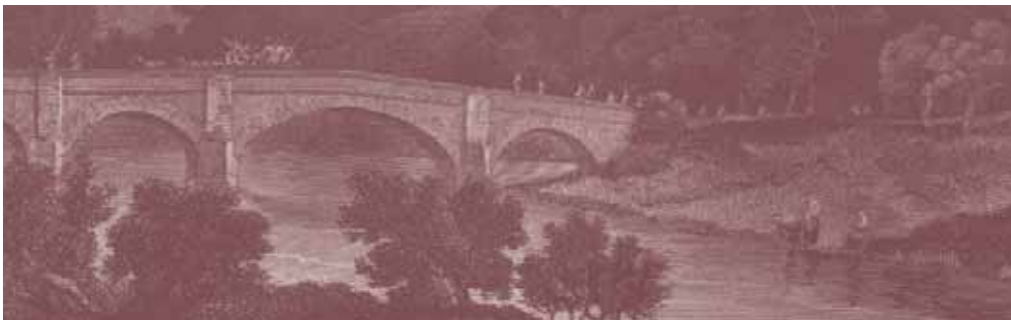
## Bashall Hall

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.



## 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.

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