

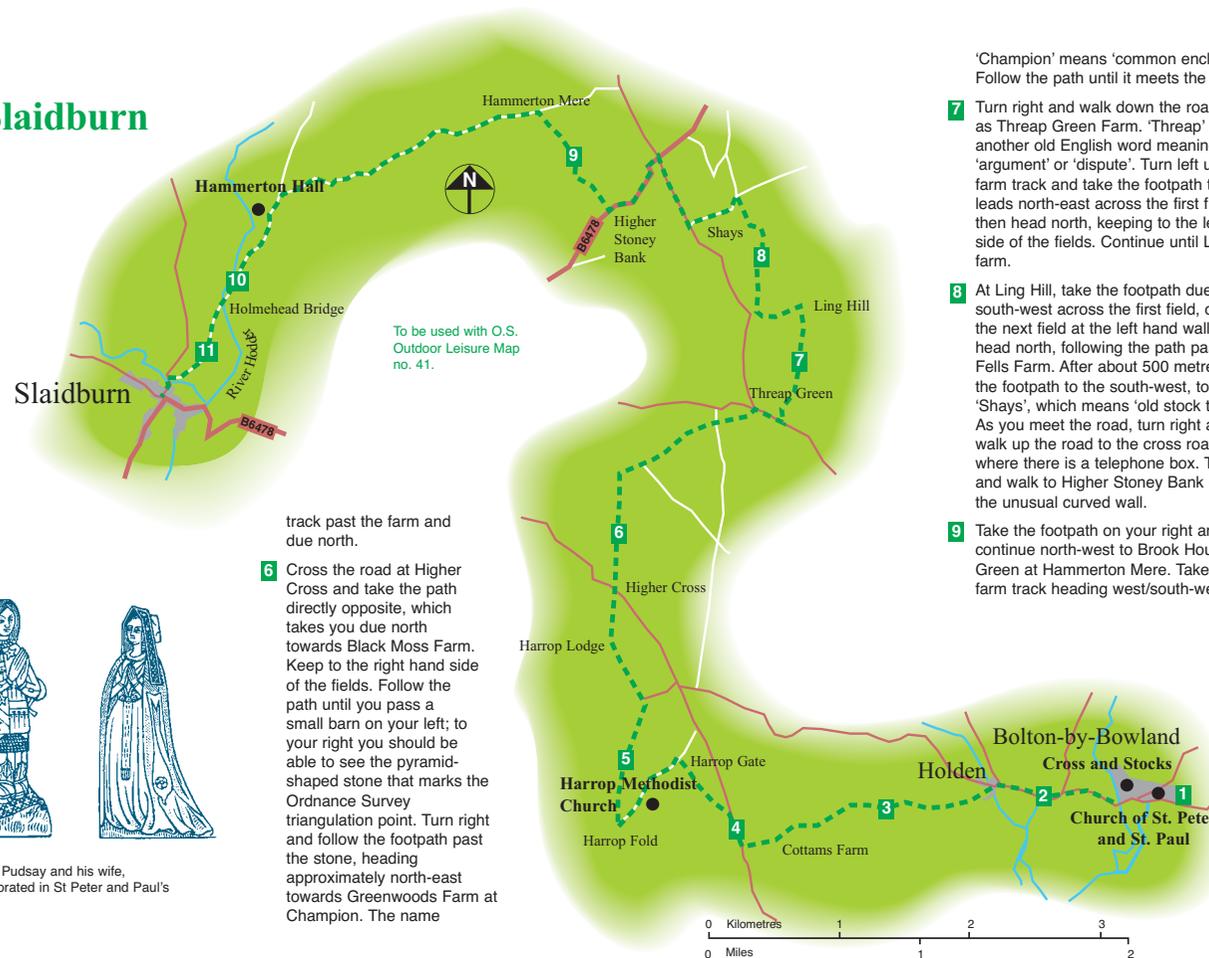
## Section 3

### 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.

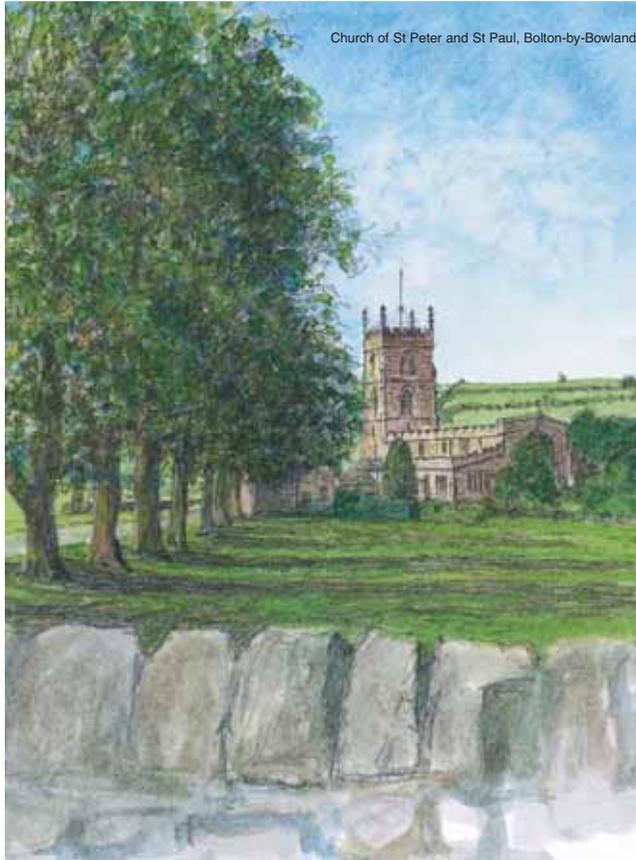
### Cross and stocks

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.

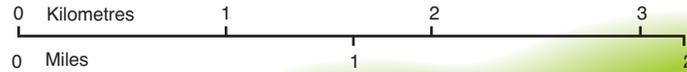
# Section 4

## 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.



Brennard's Endowed School, 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

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.

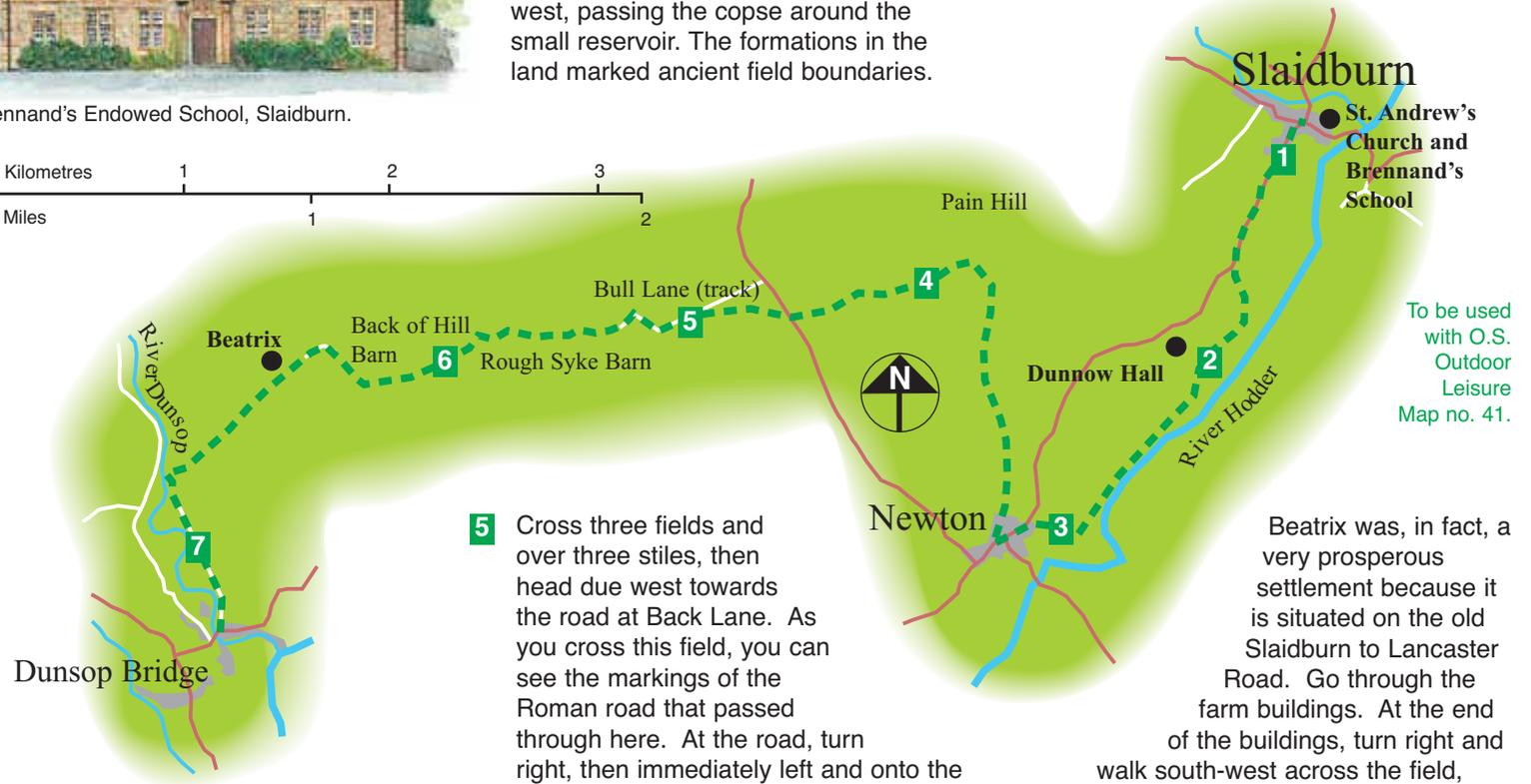
**5** Cross three fields and over three stiles, then head due west towards the road at Back Lane. As you cross this field, you can see the markings of the Roman road that passed through here. At the road, turn right, then immediately left and onto the footpath. Cross the field, heading west, cross the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

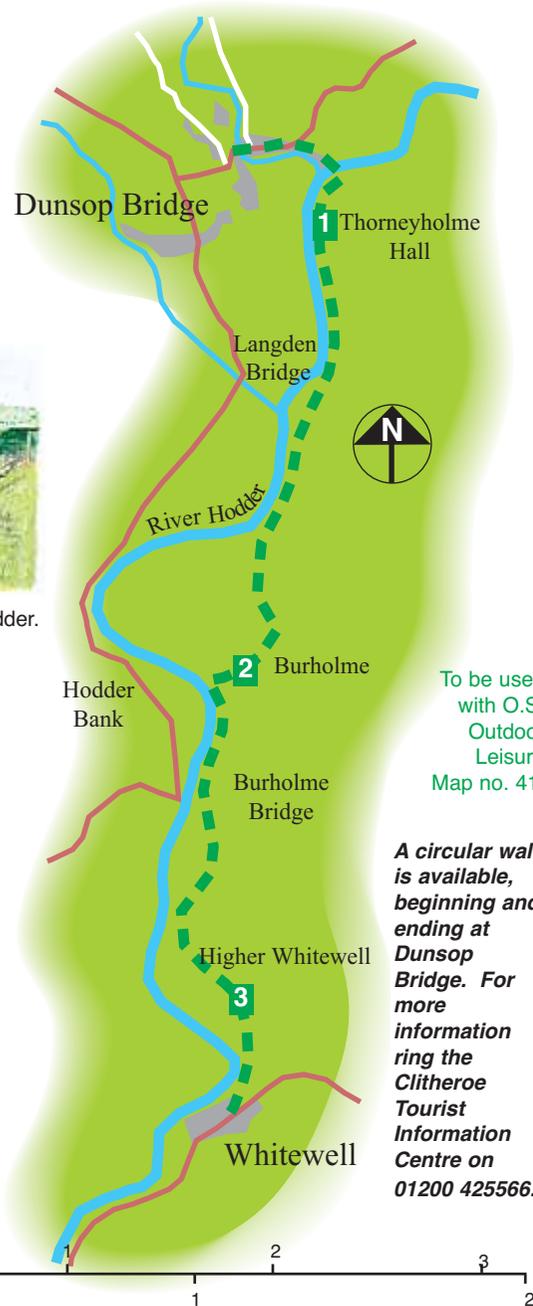
**1** From the car park, follow the road due east for a short distance, until you see a set of gates on your right. Go through these and walk up the drive towards Thorneyholme Hall. 'Thorneyholm' means 'land by the river' and Thorneyholme was a 'vaccary' or cow farm. Cross the bridge, there is a small 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.