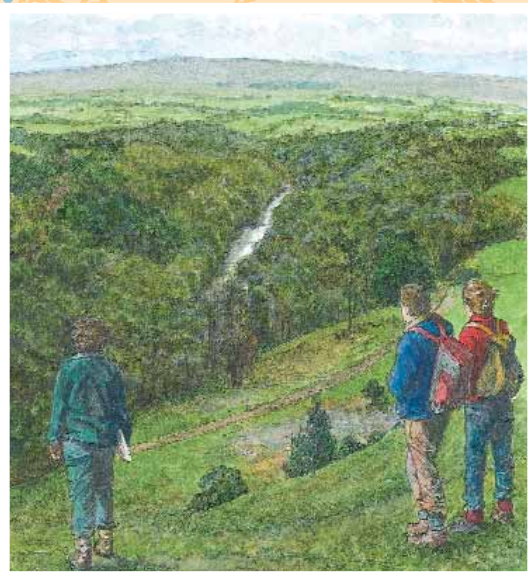
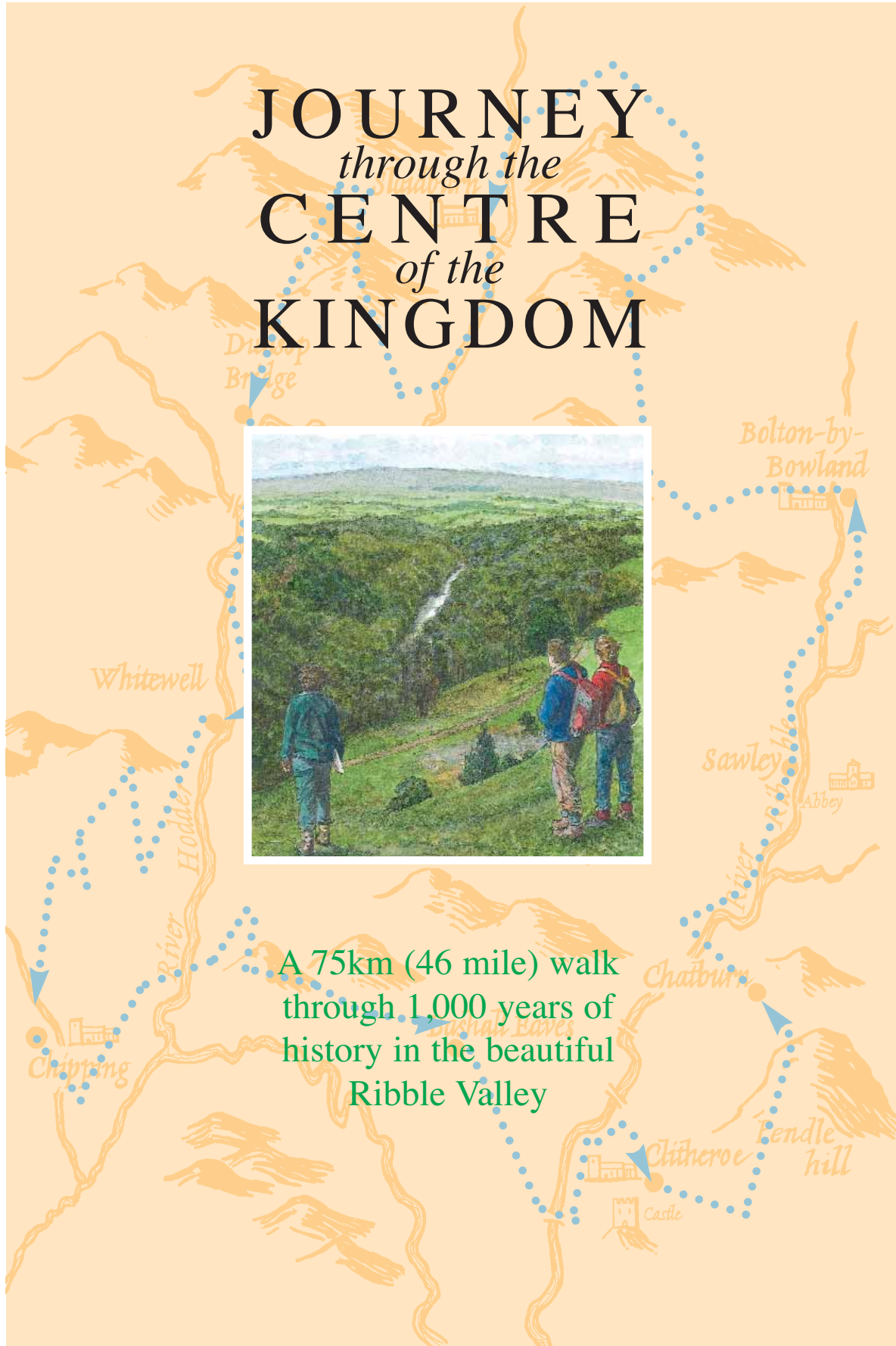


JOURNEY through the CENTRE of the KINGDOM



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 brideway. 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.



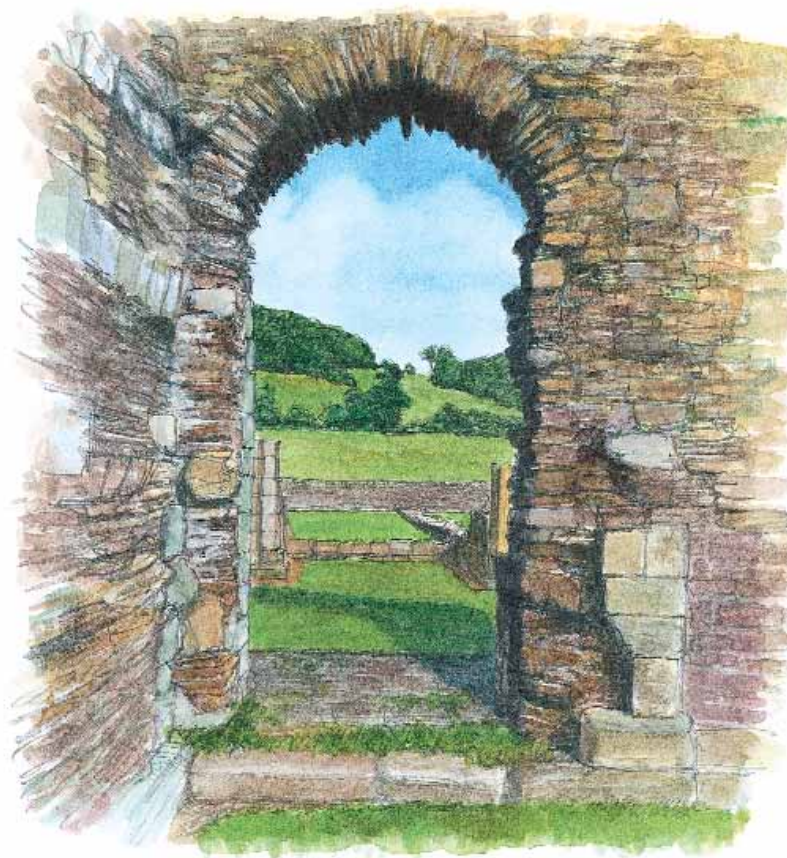
Bolton Hall before it was demolished.

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.