

SUGGESTED START: Chipping car park, off Church Raikie (SD 6211 4335)

DISTANCE: 5.7 km / 3.6 miles

TIME: 2 hrs (plus sightseeing)

TERRAIN: Mostly farmland and well maintained paths. Some on-road sections.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

OS MAP: OS Explorer OL41

 4 (Preston - Longridge)
5 (Clitheroe - Chipping)
645 (Clitheroe - Chipping)

 Chipping car park (pay and display)

 Chipping car park

 Brabin's Shop & Gallery, Chipping Farm Shop

 The Sun Inn, Tillotsons Arms

 Brabin's Shop, The Cobbled Corner Café

THE RIVERS: Chipping Brook and its tributaries join the River Loud south of Chipping. The Loud then winds its way to the River Hodder, which continues to meander its way through the Forest of Bowland AONB, before joining the Ribble at Mitton.

This part of the Ribble Catchment features predominantly agricultural land and is known for spectacular scenery.

The River Loud is home to grayling, eels, chub and stoneloach. An unusual feature of the Loud is that it flows inland before joining the Hodder. It is likely that an alternative outlet was cut off during the last ice age, forcing the river to carve itself a new route.

 **WILDLIFE:** The upland fields lend themselves to spotting wildlife such as hares and buzzards. Deer are also frequently spotted along this route. In the open fields, keep an eye out for lapwings, this once common farmland bird has suffered significant declines in recent decades and is now a Red List species. However, sympathetic management of farmland helps the Forest of Bowland AONB support the highest density of breeding lapwings and curlews in England (see overleaf under **River Loud**



Lapwing

Facilitation Fund for more information).



Swift

In Chipping village itself, swifts can be spotted in summer making use of the old buildings.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Starting in Chipping, this scenic route heads out of the village towards Wolf Fell. The route then winds through farmland towards the Leagram Estate before returning into the village. Fantastic views can be enjoyed from much of the walk. There are numerous stiles on this route and there are some moderate climbs; it is therefore best suited to walkers with good mobility. Terrain underfoot is generally good and includes a mixture of fields, farm tracks and roads. Please be aware of traffic when walking on the road. Livestock are present in some of the fields on this route. Please keep dogs on a lead. If cattle get too close or become excitable, let the dog off the lead.

 **LOOK OUT FOR:** (see points on the map)

1. Kirk Mill - there has been a mill on this site since the 1400s, when it would have been a corn mill. The current building is possibly the last remaining Arkwright-style mill and was built for cotton spinning. In more recent times, the site was home to Berry's Chairworks. The Berry family established a very successful business and, during its peak, Berry's employed nearly 150 people. The recession of the 1980s, competition from abroad, rising costs and reduced demand affected Berry's profits, causing the company to fold in 2010. (Image courtesy of Kirk Mill Heritage Hub).



'Rush-bottoming' at Berry's

2. Wolfen Hall is an ancient manor farm, once owned by the Sherburne family. Formerly known as 'Wolf House', the property has changed appearance over the centuries and it changed hands at various times during the 17th century, eventually becoming a tenanted property until the late 20th century. Nearby Wolfen Mill began as a corn mill for the Wolfen Estate and later became a blacksmith's business, then a cheese dairy. The properties are now used as holiday accommodation.



Wolfen Hall

3. The Leagram Estate is a medieval deer park, created in the early 1300s. The boundary of the park is called the 'pale', some of which can still be seen. The pale is over 10 km long and once stretched from Leagram Hall to Stanley, Knott Hill and Loud Mythom. The Leagram Estate has been held by the Weld family since the early 1800s. The current hall was rebuilt in 1955.



Leagram Estate

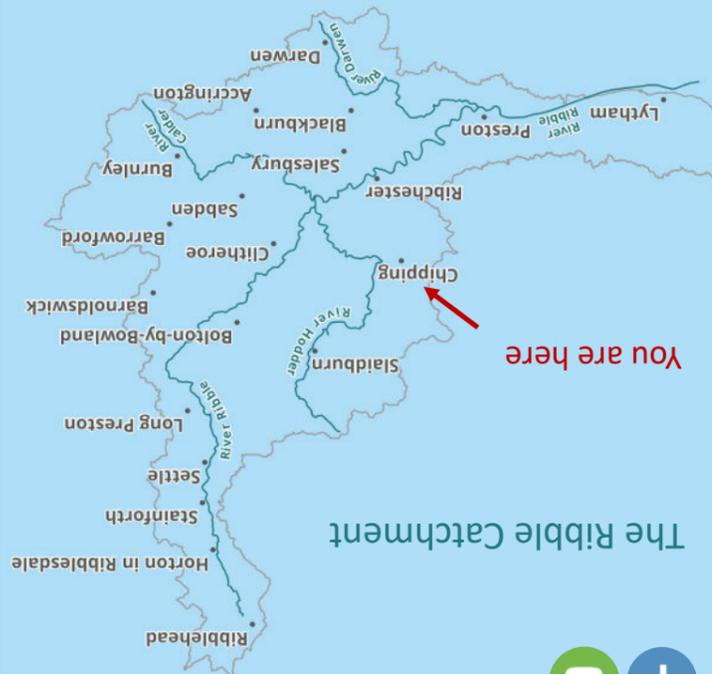
4. Brabin's Endowed School was gifted to the village in the will of John Brabin. Brabin was a dyer and cloth dealer in the village and made a living by providing yarn to handloom weavers and then dyeing the woven cloth. On his death in 1683, Brabin left provisions for a school, uniforms for pupils, an almshouse and apprenticeships for local boys. The school was rebuilt in 1880, however the door lintel of the former school building still bears the initials of the original trustees and the inscription 'Doce Disce Vel Discede' which translates as 'Teach, learn or leave'.



Brabin's old school inscription

5. The Sun Inn pub is much older than its door lintel of 1758 suggests. It was mentioned in a will in 1636 as 'Top House' and is still referred to by this name. The oldest part of the building overlooks the churchyard. The property is said to be haunted by the ghost of Lizzie Dean, a jilted scullery maid.

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River Walks Chipping

This route highlights the industrial and agricultural heritage of the village of Chipping, part of the Forest of Bowland AONB. The watercourses in and around Chipping allowed industry to thrive here from the 1700s, making it the village we see today.

The name Chipping derives from Old English 'ceping' meaning 'market'. Trading of goods has long provided an important source of income for farming households. Goods traded in the village include; cheese, leather, textiles, wool and wood.

Distance: 5.7 km / 3.6 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

This walk has been created by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of a series of circular routes for the Ribble Life Together project. To find all the River Walk routes, visit: www.ribbonetrust.org.uk

- Follow the Countryside Code: consider wildlife and other users
- Carry spare food and drinks
- Take a charged mobile phone, first aid kit, map and compass
- Wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for forecast conditions

Enjoy safely

- Chipping Village History Walk
- Leap in the Park: Leagram Short Circular

Nearby trails

Ribble Life Together is working to create a healthier river system by 2020 for people and wildlife. The project celebrates the heritage of the rivers, improving access and using the river to inspire and educate. Through practical environmental action, based on science, we aim to leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Thank you!

To the National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting Ribble Life Together and to Chipping Local History Society, Muriel Lord and the Forest of Bowland AONB for their support in developing and trialling the route.

Photography: H. Smith and Kirk Mill Heritage Hub.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

A. To Kirk Mill

From the car park, with the toilet building behind you, head to the top right-hand corner of the car park and join Kirklands, turning right. Turn left onto the adjoining road (Church Raike). At the fork in the road, bear right, downhill towards Kirk Mill.



Kirk Mill

B. To Wolfen Hall

Continue along the road, passing the millpond and carry on following the road as it heads uphill. Take care on the road as traffic can be fast moving. Turn left down Fish Lane. Follow the road over a bridge then



Mill pond

round to the right, following the wooden fingerpost. Carry straight on and over the cattle grid as the track joins open fields. Enjoy fantastic views of Parlick and Wolf Fell.



Parlick and Wolf Fell

C. Crossing Chipping Brook

Just before the gate to Wolfen Hall, head right across the field to a stile next to a metal gate. Go over the stile and head diagonally right, just to the left of the telegraph pole.

Go over the stile and head for the wooden gate up the field, keeping the fence line on your left. Once over the stile, head downhill, keeping the brook to your left. Cross over the footbridge and use the plank to step over the brook. Follow the path uphill to the stile at the top. Once over the stile, head to the stile straight ahead. Once over this stile, follow the wooden posts in the field (in a 2 o'clock direction) and use the stile in the top far corner of the field (ignoring the stile off to the right). Once over the stile, keep the fence line to your left until the fence goes off at an angle. At this point, continue straight to the stile ahead.



Chipping Brook

D. To Birchen Lee

Turn right onto the concrete track. Follow the track until you come to a crossing in the road, then head straight on, through a gateway into a field. Follow the track straight on through two dwellings (at Windy Hills Farm).



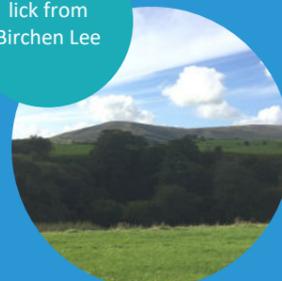
Views of Longridge Fell

Continue to follow the track until you reach the next farm, Birchen Lee. Go through the farmyard, but do not go as far as the farmhouse. Look out for a metal gate set back from the track on your right-hand side, just after crossing over the stream (the stream runs under the farm track).

E. Return to Chipping Village

Once through the gate, follow the left-hand fence until the field opens out, then head straight towards a small wooden gate in the fence ahead. Head straight down the field, keeping to the left of the large hollow in the ground. Come to a wooden stile at the far end and go over it. Walk along the left-hand fence line. Follow the fence

Views of Parlick from Birchen Lee



through two more fields (no gates or stiles present) until it brings you to a stile opposite the millpond. Turn left onto the road (please be aware of traffic) and follow the road back through Kirk Mill. As you join Church Raike, bear left back into the village and follow the road back to the car park.



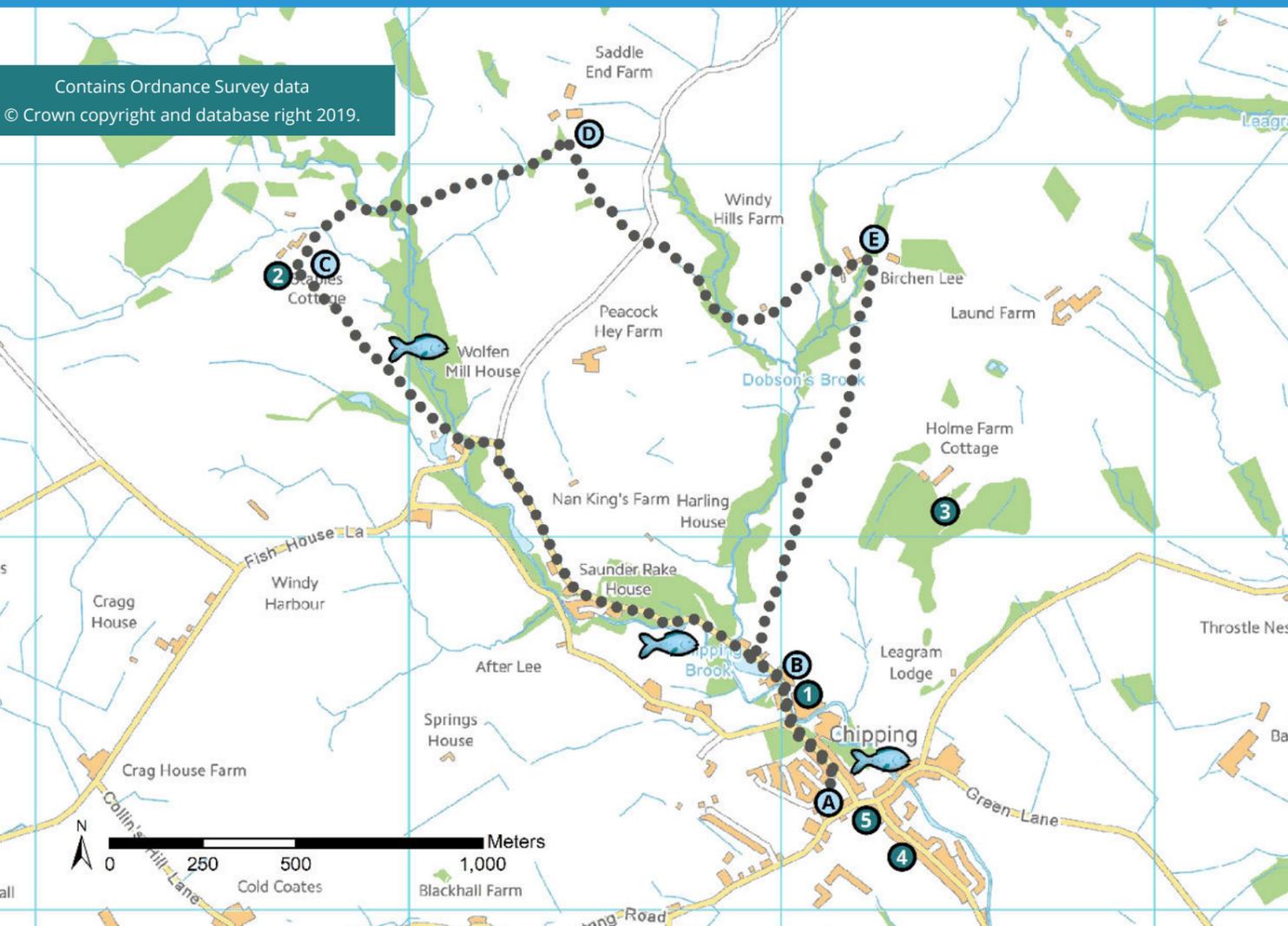
Chipping car park

Ribble Rivers Trust Projects (see points on map)

 In 2012, two fish and eel passage projects were completed on two weirs along Chipping Brook by Ribble Rivers Trust. The weirs were remnants of Chipping's industrial past and had been redundant for many decades. Together the fish passes have opened up 11.4 km of watercourses to migratory species such as trout and the critically endangered European eel.



 In 2014 a rock ramp fish pass was installed on a weir on Chipping Brook on the Wolfen Hall estate. Large rocks were positioned in front of the weir to create a deeper pool below it, allowing fish to make the leap required to jump over the weir. The project has improved access to a further 2.6 km of brook upstream.



River Loud Facilitation Fund

In 2015 Natural England's Facilitation Fund was launched. The initiative aims to organise events and training for farmers so that they can manage their land, with conservation in mind, to a high standard by working together on a landscape scale rather than working alone as individuals.

Ribble Rivers Trust have been working with 29 farms in the River Loud catchment to provide advisory farm visits, training events and site visits with the aim of increasing natural flood management measures and reducing water pollution from farms.

Workshops and demonstrations have included: soil management, wetland and woodland creation, pesticide use and guidance on Countryside Stewardship applications.



Ribble Life App

To see a time-lapse video of one of the fish passage projects on Chipping Brook, download the Ribble Life app which accompanies these River Walk guides. Open the 'Chipping 2' map.

Available on iOS and Android, the app features additional points of interest, further information and video and audio clips.



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