Chipping

This circular walk should be followed using a suitable ordnance survey map for example OL41 Forest of Bowland and Ribblesdale. Robust footwear is recommended. The walk will take approximately 2 hours. Other local walks are shown in the book ‘Ten Circular Walks around Chipping’ which is on sale in the Chipping Post Office - proceeds are given to the North West Air Ambulance.

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The History of Chipping

The name Chipping is derived from the Old English ceping which means market. The market developed near the bridge over Chipping Beck at the entrance to the vast Royal Forest of Bowland east of the village. This Forest was an area of ancient cattle farms, or ‘vaccaries’, owned by the Crown after the Norman Conquest and managed by state officials. Timber and the royal deer were frequently gathered in the Forest. In 1447, adjacent to Chipping a medieval deer park was created. The area passed into private ownership up to the mid-16th century onwards. To the west of Chipping outside forest control, the land was divided into private manors, more populated and more diverse.

History continued

As the Forest was a valuable local source of rare, extra income in the farming households – for example, cheesemaking, wool and leather working and especially tallow. Spinning and household weaving of wool and flax became increasingly important in the late 17th and 18th centuries. Some wool was available from local full wool sheep, but dealers brought in supplies and sold them on the Forest road. One of these cloth merchants, John Brasen, with his shop in the centre of the village, became the local landowner, founding a school and charity to his son’s desire. Chipping flourished immediately when the waterpower of the district was fully developed. By the mid-19th century there were 7 water-powered mills on Chipping Beck: some above and some below the village. There were two cotton spinning mills, and works producing specie, flax and flaxers for spinning machines, an iron and rope foundry, a corn mill, a naval works and a ship works. Two former mills were used for cheese-making in the 20th century. One waterwheel still can be seen in the village and Chipping is still well known for its cheese.

The haunting tale of Lizzie Dean

Lizzie Dean was a young serving girl who worked at the Sun Inn. One day, she heard the bridegroom from the church across the street. Looking out of the window she saw her fiancé arriving to be married to another. Lizzie was heartbroken and hanged herself. Her suicide note stated that she wished to be buried beneath the church path, so that every time her fiancé went to church he would hear her voice over his grave. The local wishes were not carried out that the locals claim that her spirit still haunts the Sun Inn to this day.

The Church of St Bartholomew

The church of St Bartholomew’s has a number of heads carved on a pillar in the north aisle. They appear to be pulling faces and are thought to have been carved in the 14th century. Also inside the church can be found a 12th century piscina in the chancel and a plaque stone. A local tradition has it that when a wedding has taken place in the church local children tie the church gates shut. The wedding couple must then throw money to the children in order to get them re-opened.

Birds of Bowland

The RSPB in Bowland

Bowland is a wonderful area for a number of special and rare bird species. The RSPB works closely with organisations such as Natural England and Longridge United to help protect the rare hen harrier, merlin and ring ouzel, and also advises landowners and farmers to help protect the nationally important populations of wading birds such as lapwings, snipes, curlews and redshanks that nest on the in-bye grazing pasture each spring. The RSPB is the UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and other wildlife, helping to create a better world for us all. The RSPB’s work ranges from campaigning to halting the effects of climate change to protecting the decline in farmland birds such as house sparrows and song thrushes and organising the Big Garden Birdwatch. This event has now seen one of the 460,000 people that took part in 2006! For further information on the RSPB, visit www.rspb.org.uk or call on 01484 861148.

Trees

The North Lancashire Bridleway

The North Lancashire Bridleway, designed for walkers, horse riders, cyclists and walkers it runs through some of the most breathtaking scenery in the country. In 1990, the Lancashire County Council became the owners of the North Lancashire Bridleway. The Bridleway provides a sustainable form of recreation linked with business opportunities for local enterprises and landowners in the form of bed and breakfast establishments, leisure provision and local food products. Work is currently underway to complete the loops and provide links to the Pennine Bridleway and to local cycle and bridleway networks within Lancashire.

Blanket bog - a Bowland speciality

Blanket bog is confined to cool, wet climates and the UK is one of the best places in the world to find this type of habitat. The formation of peat is a response to the very slow rate at which plant material (mostly sphagnum mosses) decomposes under conditions of waterlogging. However it can form on quite steep slopes and effectively close whole landscapes. The RSPB in Bowland lays claim to some of the best blanket bog in England and this supports a range of scarce and unusual plant and animal species. Perhaps one of the most is bog rosemary which can be found in abundance in some areas of the Bowland.

History

The Forest of Bowland

The Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is a nationally protected landscape and internationally important for its heather moorland, blanket bog and rare birds. It is the first protected area in England to be awarded the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas. The Charter approach ensures that organisations local people and businesses are working together to protect the area, whilst at the same time increasing opportunities for visitors to discover and enjoy its special qualities. Sustainable tourism aims to make a lesser impact on the environment and local culture, while encouraging better employment and management of the very landscape upon which our tourism is based. For more information regarding the Forest of Bowland, visit the website at www.forestdofbowland.com or ring 01722 334709 for an information leaflet. The businesses involved are part of the local economy which supports this special landscape and they would welcome your support with their services and enjoyment.

How to find us

Public Transport

Chipping is served by the Number 4 bus from Longridge to Preston. How to find us

Further management work included nest-boxing of the site to produce quality conditions and a short-term swing ideal for breeding wading birds. Establishment of such conditions has for example seen the lapwing population rise from one pair in 2003 to 10 or 11 pairs in 2006. Relatively small-scale works such as the creation of shallow wader waders and reprofiling of steep raked slopes provide shallow muddy edges for wading birds to feed. Grazing by nature, Hartfell cattle ensure that rush is kept under control.

Land management continued

The most recent phase of work has involved the planting of more wader waders and shallow edges, banking up parts of the footpath across the site and installation of crossing points for farm machinery and stock. All the work has been undertaken by local contractors and farmers. In 2003, prior to the management work, there was a dense rush cover over much of the site. Cutting and the rush leaving the clipped areas had not been successful with farmers and landowners for over three years to try and establish sympathetic management of land for the benefit of these birds.

Waders

In spring, Bowland’s farmland and moorland attracts over 6,000 pairs of wading birds. They mainly breed on enclosed farmland next to the moor and wetland areas, which are rich in wetland birds and grassy edges. Wading bird species include the lapwing, curlew and redshank.

Chipping is still well known for its cheese and cheese-making, an iron and brass foundry, a corn mill, a nail mill and a chip shop. By the mid-19th century there were 7 water-powered mills on Chipping Beck: some above and some below the village. There were two cotton spinning mills, and works producing specie, flax and flaxers for spinning machines, an iron and rope foundry, a corn mill, a naval works and a ship works. Two former mills were used for cheese-making in the 20th century. One waterwheel still can be seen in the village and Chipping is still well known for its cheese.

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