

Chatburn

Chatburn, at the very foot of Pendle, takes its name from one of the most distinguished characters of Anglo-Saxon times St. Chad or St. Ceadda. Chatburn itself occupies a beautiful position in a hollow between two ridges.

The village stands some 400 feet above sea-level, and there are excellent views around it. Smithies Bridge and Grindleton Bridge - both a mile from the village centre - link Lancashire with Yorkshire and the river scenery hereabouts is most attractive. There is a Roman Road alongside the village which was built over 2000 years ago.

The four cottages numbers 3, 5, 7 and 9 Ribble Lane - built as workers' cottages by Robinsons, of Clitheroe Castle for workers at Bold Venture Lime Works in the year 1860 for £275 each. Number 5 sold in October 1988 for the sum of £55,000.

The village suffered very severely by a bomb incident on the 30th October 1940 during the 1939-45 World War. Three people were killed.

Chatburn Bridge in the middle of the village was first mentioned in the year 1684, but must have been built at a much earlier date.

Chatburn is a place of medieval origin, the derivation of its name being from Ceadd's Stream (Ings Beck). Its pleasantly grouped houses and cottages, some

of which are quite old, are mainly built of local limestone. The village has its own shops and inns, playing fields, school, church and chapel.

On the 17th December 1778, some workmen, employed in widening the road between Chatburn and Worston found an urn, containing about 1000 silver Denarii - Roman coins - all in fine preservation, of the Higher Empire, the earliest being of Augustus. There was also a bronze lamp found.

Christ Church

Constructed in 1838 in the Romanesque style, with a tower and spire at the west end, it was the first Victorian church to be built in Britain.



Swanside Bridge

The bridge was built by the Sawley monks in the 16th century on land purchased from a man called Swain. It stood on what was called Monks' Road, an old pack-horse road between Sawley Abbey, Clitheroe and Whalley Abbey, and was used by the Whalley monks on their way to meetings at Monubent (Bolton-by-Bowland). Mr James Fishwick from Chatburn started a fund in 1927 to repair the bridge and the response was so great the subscription had to be limited to six pence per person. Mr Charlie Slinger rebuilt the bridge in 1928.

FOREST OF
BOWLAND
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Chatburn Circular Walk

Approximately 4 miles. Allow 2 to 2½ hours



Pixie Rocks



Swanside Bridge

Shackletons
— HOME & GARDEN —



The Route

Approximately 4 miles. Allow 2 to 2½ hours

1 From the centre of Chatburn, take the Downham road and, on crossing the railway bridge, take the public footpath signed to the right past the village hall. On joining Victoria Avenue, bear left and walk to the end where you turn right onto an unmade lane. On meeting the small stream, turn right and follow the well marked path up to the A59. Taking great care, cross the bypass and head straight through a kissing gate on the well-trodden path towards the right hand side of the wood ahead.

2 Cross the stile in the wall corner ahead and follow the obvious path up onto the side of Worsaw Hill. (Take care on the exposed limestone, which can be very slippery in wet weather.) Cross another stile and follow the clear path around the hill, passing Worsaw End House down below on your right.

3 Keep to the path above the wall which, after a short while, bears to the left uphill and passes through a kissing gate. Carry straight on to pass through another kissing gate or adjacent stone squeeze stile. Keep the hedge on your left and as you reach the open field bear slightly right to pass the end of another hedgerow ahead. Carry straight on in the same direction to pass along the right hand side of Langland Hall Wood and into Downham village via two more squeeze stiles.



4 Turn left and climb up to the top of the village, turning, right past the Assheton Arms to follow the public footpath past the bungalow. Turn left through the small gate and head uphill through the stone squeeze stile to the crest of Downham Green (the route of the old Roman road). On passing through a group of mature trees, bear half right to pick up the path which descends diagonally towards the obvious limestone knolls, known locally as "Fairy Rocks". On reaching the outcrops, turn left and head down to pass through the gate onto the lane and then walk left for a short way to meet the Rimmington Road.

5 Cross the road and follow the path down the side of the wood and pass under the railway. At the next old gateway, a short diversion to the right will take you to the picturesque packhorse bridge across Swanside Beck. Retrace your steps from the stone stile and bear right across the field to cross the footbridge.

6 On crossing the wooden footbridge, bear left uphill and continue ahead across another stile to meet an old stone "outbarn". Pass to the left hand side of the barn and then re-cross the hedge by the gates and follow this hedge up to the bridge over the railway. Follow the well-defined path through a number of gates to return to Downham Road at the bypass bridge and back to Chatburn village.



Some paths may be muddy in wet weather so suitable footwear is advised