

Leap in the Park: Leagram Short

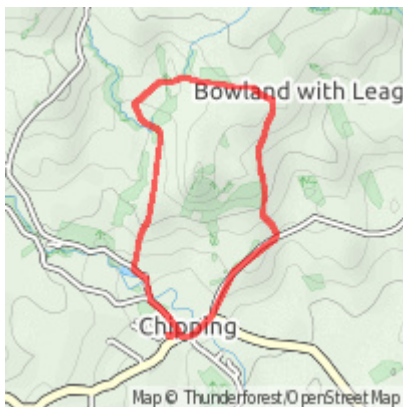
Circular



Route Summary

Roads, tracks, fields and some stiles. Can get muddy/boggy in parts. Take care on un-paved road sections. Expect livestock and keep dogs under close, effective control. "Walking safely" information available at www.forestofbowland.com Walkers are advised to carry OS Explorer map OL41.

Route Overview



Category: Walking
Length: 4.080 km / 2.55 mi
Last Modified: 11th July 2018
Difficulty: Medium
Rating: Unrated
Surface: Undefined
Date Published: 3rd July 2018

Description

The walk starts and finishes in Chipping, a picturesque village on the slopes above the River Loud. This is a conservation area with stone-built cottages, 17th century school and almshouses endowed by John Brabin, dryer and cloth merchant. The village has a number of shops and eating places. Brabin's shop, gallery and tearoom is the oldest continuously trading shop in Britain, established in 1668.

Kirk Mill was originally a water-powered corn mill and there are documents showing that the mill dates back to the 1400s. It was converted into a cotton spinning mill in 1785 by a company using building plans and water powered machines based on Sir Richard Arkwright's designs. The water wheel is still in place and it measures 6m in diameter and 1.5 wide. Cotton spinning ended here in 1866, when supplies of raw cotton ran short during the American Civil War. In the late 19th Century Berry's established a joinery and chair making business in the mill, but the old buildings have been little altered. Berry's closed in 2011 and Kirk Mill remains as the last Arkwright-style mill in Lancashire.

Leagram Hall was originally the Deer Park Lodge which acted as an occasional home to the park owner, and as a hunting lodge for visiting noblemen and the park keeper. It was built in an 'H' shape, probably of timber and plaster and with a rush thatch roof. This lodge was later replaced with stone structures between the 1770s and 1860s by father and son, Thomas and George Weld, who inherited the estate from the Shireburn family. The current Leagram Hall

was built in 1965 and is still owned by the Weld-Blundell family.

The Pale, or deer park boundary, consisted of earthworks constructed in the middle of the 14th century. At Leagram the pale is over 10km long and stretched from here up to Stanley common, round to Knot Hill and Loud Mythom, then along the river to Gibbon Bridge and Pale, before returning to Chipping. A ditch 2.4m wide and 1.2m deep was dug, with an embankment on the outside and a palesbord or timber fence on top. Thorn bushes would also be planted on the inside of the bank to keep deer away from the fence. The pale encircled the park to keep fallow deer in and poachers out. This is one of the best remaining sections of the pale that you will see on the walk. For further information about the "A leap in the Park Project" visit: www.forestofbowland.com/aleapinthepark

Waypoints

1 Start SD 6215 4330

(53.88442; -2.57763)

Start from Chipping Village car park. Leave the car park by walking towards the church to meet the road called Church Rake. Turn left and continue ahead, away from the village, passing Kirk Cottages on your left, until you meet a fork in the road.

2 SD 6203 4348

(53.88618; -2.57914)

Take a right here and continue ahead, passing Grove Row on your left go over the bridge, and then pass Kirk Mill on your left. Continue uphill passing Mill Pond House on the right, and then take a right into the next driveway where you go over the wooden stile on the right.

3 SD 61944368

(53.88787; -2.58071)

Go Uphill, keeping to the right fence edge. It can get very muddy towards the top of the hill, especially after bad weather. Once you reach the brow of the hill take a moment to soak up the lovely views around the Forest of Bowland - look right for views back to Chipping, Longridge Fell and Pendle Hill and look left to see Parlick.

Continue ahead to reach a wooden stile in the right hand corner. The ditch on your right here marks the boundary of the deer park. It is called the pale. Continue ahead to the left of the telegraph poles and then begin to head diagonally left, slightly downhill towards a wooden kissing gate. The Ledge you've been walking along here is the pale boundary.

4 SD 6208 4434

(53.89441; -2.57840)

Keep ahead on the well walked path which will soon bear left into a wooded area and cross over a wooden footbridge.

Turn right at the other end of the bridge and then continue uphill keeping to the right fence edge of the field. Aim for the left side of Windy Hills farm house where you go through a wooden gate and turn right into the farmyard.

5 SD 6195 4459

(53.89614; -2.58063)

Continue straight ahead along the lane. Passing through some farm buildings keep ahead until you reach Birchin Lee on your left. Continue ahead along this well laid track. When you reach the cattle grid, take a moment to look diagonally left and over to where you can see Radholme Deer Park. Continue ahead once again to see New Laund Farm ahead, but bear right on the lane before you actually enter the farmyard.

6 SD 6271 4459

(53.89635; -2.56872)

Keep going down the lane, you will see Leagram Hall on your right. You will soon reach the road where you need to turn right.

7 SD 6275 4385

(53.88957; -2.56838)

Take an immediate right to join the concessionary bridleway, through a wooden gate. Continue along here until the end where you will then re-join the road (see Leagram Lodge on your right) and follow the road down to a T-junction.

8 SD 6238 4339

(53.88545; -2.57397)

Turn right and follow the road back into the village

