

Route Description: Visiting the farmsteads at Whitendale and Brennand from Dunsop Bridge

1. There's a car park in Dunsop Bridge village (SD66077 50125). Leave the village along the bridleway at the side of the Post Office, past the playing fields to reach the row of four stone cottages. Continue on the path alongside the River Dunsop, then cross it using the footbridge. Turn R and head along the road leading up the valley, soon passing Bishops House. The forest shown on the map on the lower slopes of Beatrix Fell (on the R) has been harvested recently, leaving the fellside bare, ready for new growth. Continue along the road to reach the bridge crossing the river close to the water works buildings.
2. Climb the short hill and take the R turn at the road junction for Whitendale, follow the road as it swings to the E side of Middle Knoll heading for Whitendale Farm. Continue along the road to reach Whitendale Farm, incidentally, the footpath on the E bank of Whitendale River was closed recently due to exuberant birds protecting their young.
3. Opposite Whitendale Farm, on the L leaving the road is a small bridge (SD65716 55041), it's the bridlepath to Brennand, here we cross the bridge and immediately climb the steep fellside on a grassy path. It gives great views over the farm complex and surrounding fells. Continue ascending to a gate, it's now a short ascent to the highest ground (SD65497 54918) where a small tarn comes into view. The ground near the tarn is very wet underfoot, so keep making progress towards the ladder stile over the wall (SD65221 54881). Follow the good track skirting around the walls of an old building to reach a fence-stile (SD64862 54665). Cross the farm track and descend the gentle slope towards the plantation, at the lower part of the plantation, bear L avoiding the clough and stream to a stile (SD64609 54467) and a gate. Descend the farm track to reach the bridge by Brennand Farm.
4. Cross the river and head through Brennand Farm farmyard to reach the road. Continue S from Brennand Farm to reach Lower Brennand Farm (on your L), ascend the short rise to reach the junction in the road where we turned earlier for Whitendale. Keep R heading down the valley, the bridge across the river and the small water works buildings are passed. Continue down the valley, pass Bishops House then take the footbridge across the River Dunsop, turn R to return to Dunsop Bridge village.