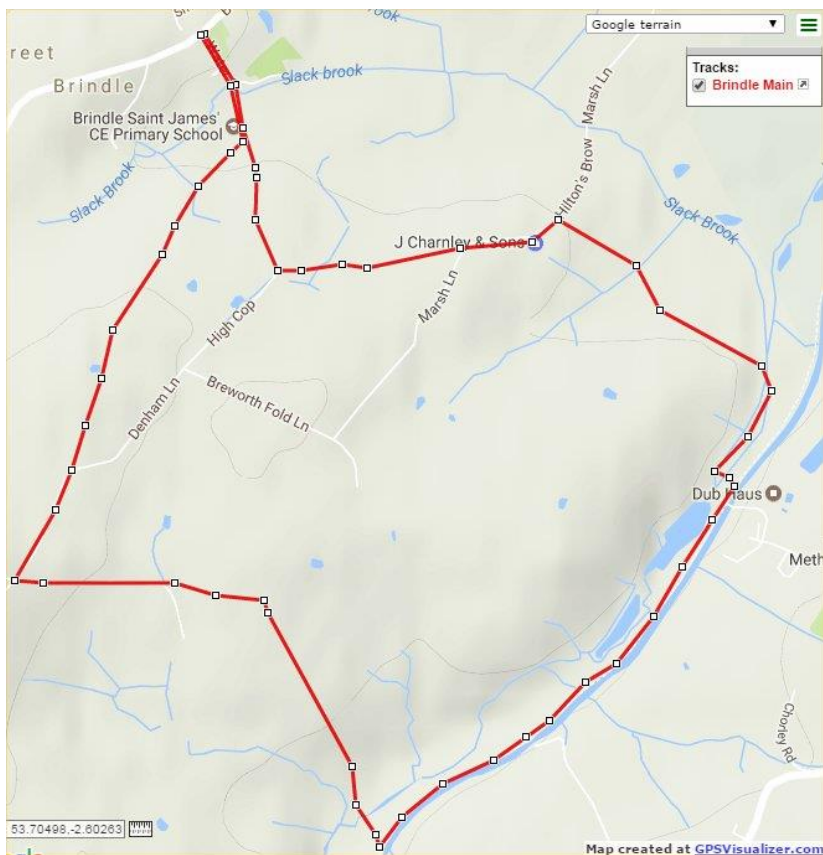


Brindle to Withnell Fold

This is a fairly short (3.8 mile)) countryside walk over fields, canal and a little quiet road, with the option of exploring Withnell Fold and encountering a nature reserve. The village was built to house paper mill workers. The walk can be started from the car park of the Brindle Village Community Hall SD600241 PR6 8NH. This walk is based on one proposed by the late John Islip Chairman of Chorley Ramblers for 10 years.

(NOTE: The path from the canal at point 9 can, in very wet weather) be difficult to handle. 2/3rds of the way between point 8 and 9 at SD606226 is an alternative route that it is worth looking at on the way past)



It is important to always be appropriately dressed for the conditions and carry, and know how to use, a suitable map for the walk.

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1: SD600241 Leave the Community Hall car park and turn left to follow the road as it slowly climbs. A short distance on the right there is a gate which is your return path but continue upwards until the road bends right.



2: SD600237 Bby a corner sign, find a style on the left. Cross and go straight ahead (due East). Note the views towards Blackburn. Follow the hedge on your right to cross a footbridge in the field. Continue in the same direction with another hedge on your right.



3: SD602237 When you reach the corner of this field there is another style which you cross. The way ahead is slightly left with the hedge now on your left. (if you went more right it would take you down another shorter route to the canal.)



4: SD604238 At the end of the field, cross the style onto a quiet road. Continue left along this road which will curve a little left and pass a farm on the right. Notice the wooden owl in the entrance to lower Hilton's farm. Just beyond the farm is a farm track on the right.

5: SD607238 Continue down this track ignoring a footpath on the right. After about 400 m (1/3rd mile) you reach a farm.



6: SD610236 Pass through the farm over a stile by a gate to continue in the same direction through a field with a hedge on your left. At the end of the field a stile takes you onto an earth (mud!) path bearing to the right. Shortly this reaches a footbridge.



7: SD612234 On crossing the bridge turn right ignoring the paths leading uphill. After a short distance you continue on a slab path with a handrail. At the end of this path a set of steps take you up onto the canal bank.



8: SD611232 Join the canal bank and turn right. Shortly a bridge leads to Withnell Fold. To explore Withnell Fold and the canal side nature reserve, cross here to the village. Return to the canal bank and continue in the original direction (south west) for about 1000m (2/3rds mile).
(see note in introduction about wet weather)





9: SD603224 Just before bridge 85 there is a style. Cross into to a fenced path that bears right and then away from the canal. (Possibly muddy). A style / footbridge at the end of the path leads into a field. Continue a little left to head for footbridge partly hidden in a dip near a set of trees.



10: SD602225 Cross the footbridge and bear left up the slope to a nearby style. Cross the style and walk up the slope of the field more or less West (right angles to the style) with a fence on the left. Continue until you come to a style in a fence.



11: SD598225 This style, and another 65m away, lead you across the corner of the field to another field. Turn right and head for a style 125m along the fence. (The formal path goes up to farm and back again to this style.)(you could also directly head for point 13:)



12: SD597226 Cross the style and head straight forward (a little north of East). After 160m you reach a farm track. Turn left on the track and go through a gate. Follow the track through the farm yard and continue along the drive of the farm which turns left and in due course meets a local road.

13: SD594230 Optionally you can cross the road and go up the bridlepath to find a view across the Lancashire plain. (Return to the road). Turn right and walk through Top o' The Lane village to pass a noticeboard on the left as you exit the village. The road turns right with a style on the left.



14: SD596233 Cross the style and continue directly ahead with the hedge/fence on your left and in due course passing through a style/gate to another field with the fence now on your right. At the end of the fields there is a footbridge and a style.



15: SD599239 Cross the style and turn left to follow the hedge on your left but heading to the right hand corner of the building across the field where there is a style by a gate.



16: SD600240 Cross the style and follow a short fenced path leading to a gate onto a road. (notice the interesting play area on the right of the fenced path. Turn left and a short distance you are back at the car park.



The End

Eric Crichton 18-03-2017