

SUGGESTED START: Sabden car park, off Padiham Road, opposite White Hart pub, BB7 9EB. (SD 7793 3737)







DISTANCE: 9.2 km / 5.7 miles

TIME: 2 hrs 30 mins (plus sightseeing)

TERRAIN: Mostly farmland and well maintained paths. Some steep climbs.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate

OS MAP: OS Landranger Map 103

-  64 (Burnley - Clitheroe)
-  Sabden car park (pay and display)
-  Sabden car park
-  Shippeys Stores, Village News, Sabden Post Office, Lyden-Braund
-  The White Hart, Pendle Witch
-  Sanwiches


THE RIVERS: Sabden Brook has been an important part of Sabden’s history, enabling the textile industry in the village. Sabden weir was an old stone-built weir on Sabden Brook which originally supplied water for the Sabden Printworks. It may also have provided water to an earlier cotton mill in the late 18th century. Sabden Brook feeds into the River Calder, which then feeds into the Ribble. The Calder Catchment is characterised by mill towns such as Burnley, Nelson, Colne and Accrington, which were at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. Rivers were crucial for supplying water to the various industries and as a result, became heavily modified with the construction of weirs, sluices and mill races. The industries have since declined and most mills have been demolished, but the in-river structures that have been left behind continue to damage the riverine ecology. The fish passage project on Sabden brook has opened up new habitat for migrating fish upstream of Sabden, meaning that salmon could return to Pendle Hill in years to come.


**WILDLIFE:** The upland fields lend themselves to spotting wildlife such as hares and buzzards. Numerous species of bird can be seen around Churn Clough reservoir. The wetland habitat near The Old House supports a variety of wildlife such as snipe, teal and mallards and many seasonal visitors. Keep an eye out for lapwings near Dean Farm; this once common farmland bird has suffered significant declines in recent decades and is now a Red List species. Once back in Sabden, look out for dippers on the brook.

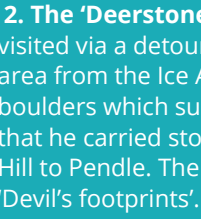






WHAT TO EXPECT: Starting in Sabden, this scenic route heads uphill out of the village towards Churn Clough reservoir and Ratten Clough. The route then winds through farmland to return into Sabden. Fantastic views can be enjoyed from much of the route due to the elevated situation. There are numerous stiles on this route, it is therefore best suited to walkers with good mobility. Terrain underfoot is generally good and includes a mixture of fields, farm tracks and quiet lanes. Expect some uphill walking on leaving Sabden village. Please be aware of traffic on the sections of country lanes. Livestock are present in some of the fields on this route. Please keep dogs on a lead. If cattle get too close or become excitable, let the dog off the lead.


**LOOK OUT FOR:** (see points on the map)

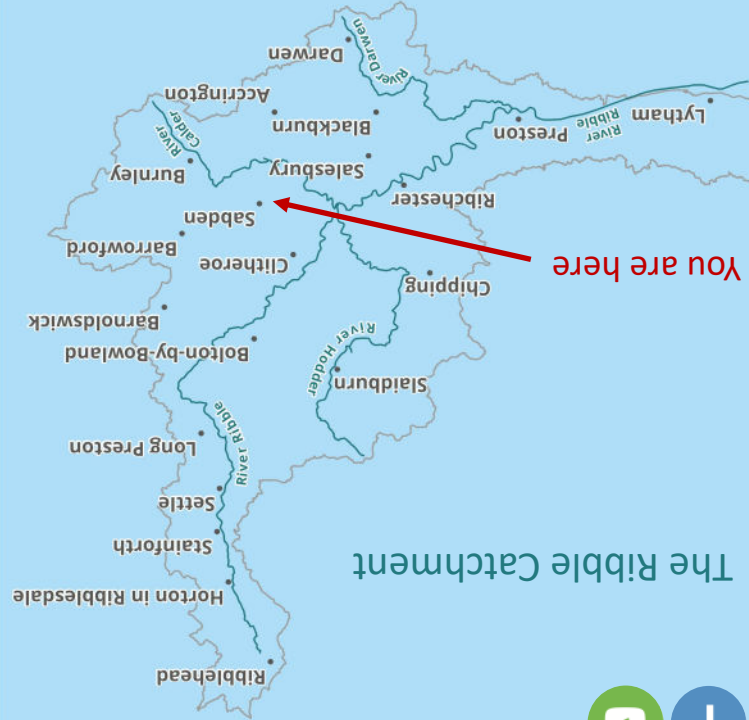
**1. Fish pass on Sabden Brook,** installed by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of the Ribble Life Together programme. The weir predates the neighbouring Victoria Mill, and was built for Lower Sabden Printworks, opposite Spring Lodge on Whalley Road. Having been redundant for a number of decades, the weir was restricting the natural migration of fish species such as salmon and trout. Boulders have been set into the existing flat face of the weir to funnel the flow of water into a zig-zag channel, creating a greater depth of water for fish to swim up. The works have given Sabden Brook’s fish access to a further 7km of habitat upstream of the old weir.

**2. The ‘Deerstones’** are not visible on this route, but can be visited via a detour at Churn Clough Reservoir. This frost-affected area from the Ice Age is home to numerous large millstone grit boulders which supposedly show the Devil’s footprints. It is said that he carried stones in his apron as he leapt from Hambledon Hill to Pendle. The feature is known locally as the ‘Devil’s footprints’.





**3. Churn Clough Reservoir** was constructed in 1892 to supply the growing population of East Lancashire. Before this time, mains water was supplied to Sabden from a reservoir fed by a spring located just below Black Hill.

**4.** On leaving Ratten Clough Farm, you will pass a section of **vaccary wall**, a feature quite common to this area. Some of the walls are thought to date back to the 13th century. Vaccaries were islands of cultivated land enclosed by flat stones to keep cattle in, within the extensive open hunting forest of Pendle. ‘Vacca’ comes from the Latin name for cow.

**5. Dean Farm** is one of Sabden’s original vaccaries (*see point 4*). The farm was built in 1574 and belonged to the family of Sir Jonas Moore. Esteemed mathematician, astronomer and cartographer, Sir Jonas Moore was nicknamed the ‘Father of Time’ and was crucial in establishing Greenwich Mean Time and the Greenwich Meridian. The Latin inscription carved above the mullion windows at Dean Farm means: *“This house was builded by Hugh More son of Chrestover More eldest brother son of Leis Hugh wife in the year of our Lord 1574.”* Hugh More was the grandfather of Jonas Moore.



The Ribble Catchment

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River Walks Sabden

This route celebrates the agricultural and industrial heritage of the village of Sabden, part of the detached Forest of Pendle section of the Forest of Bowland AONB. Sabden was a successful farming community from the 13th century and supplied meat, wool and milk to the nearby settlements. The introduction of mills to the village in the late 1700s meant that fabric printing and cotton weaving took over as the prominent industries. By 1806 the Sabden textile industry employed almost 2000 workers. Sabden Brook played an important role in enabling industry in the village.

Distance: 9.2 km / 5.7 miles
Difficulty: Moderate

Ribble Life Together is working to create a healthier river system by 2020 for people and wildlife. The project celebrates the heritage of the rivers, improving access and using the river to inspire and educate. Through practical environmental action, based on science, we aim to leave a positive legacy for future generations.

Nearby trails

- Sabden Valley Family Trail (Forest of Bowland AONB)
- Lancashire County Council 'Let's Walk': Sabden-Pendle-Sabden

Enjoy safely

- Wear sturdy boots and clothing suitable for forecast conditions
- Take a charged mobile phone, first aid kit, map and compass
- Carry spare food and drinks
- Follow the Countryside Code: consider wildlife and other users

This walk has been created by Ribble Rivers Trust as part of a series of circular routes for the Ribble Life Together project. To find all the River Walk routes, visit: www.ribbletrust.org.uk

Thank you!

To the National Lottery Heritage Fund for supporting Ribble Life Together and to Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership, Sabden Parish Council, Ian Cartwright, Duncan Armstrong and United Utilities for support in developing and trialling the route.

Photography: M. Tierney, J. Siddall, H. Thompson.

ROUTE DIRECTIONS

A. Alongside Sabden Brook

Head to the south-west corner of the car park (near recycling bins) and take the small gravel path. At the bottom of the steps, turn left onto the path and follow the brook. Take the footbridge over the brook and turn right, keeping the brook on your right. The path will bring you out on Watt Street. Carefully cross straight over towards the bus shelter and walk across the grassed area towards the stone bench. Here you can view the fish pass installed by Ribble Rivers Trust. Once you have seen the fish pass, head back towards the bus shelter. Carefully cross over Whalley Road and turn right, heading towards the centre of Sabden Village. At the top of Whalley Road, carefully cross over onto Wesley Street. At the top of Wesley Street take the left-hand path signposted 'Badger Wells Cottages'.



Sabden Brook

B. Towards Calf Hill

Directly after the barn on the left, take the path round to the left, and over the bridge. Follow the track up to the right, then up the right-hand side of the row of houses. When you come to a metal gate, go through, and then take the path directly ahead of you through the field.



Calf Hill

At the top right-hand corner of the field, go through the wooden kissing gate. Continue straight uphill between the dry stone wall and fence until you reach the metal gate. Walk straight towards the next gate and go through the wooden kissing gate. Continue heading uphill, following the well-trodden path until you reach the wooden fingerpost.



Churn Clough Reservoir

C. Churn Clough Reservoir

At the fingerpost, bear right and go through the metal kissing gate. Immediately after the gate, take the track to the right and continue straight. Go through the metal gate or over the stone stile. Once approaching the reservoir, take the left-hand kissing gate and follow the path round the reservoir, keeping the water on your right. Continue to follow the path as it curves right, down the side of the reservoir. After the green shelter, look out for the wooden kissing gate uphill to the left.



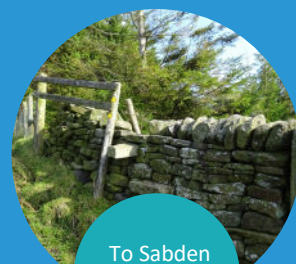
Views from Ratten Clough

D. Towards Ratten Clough

Once through the gate, keep the house by the reservoir on your right and go through the wooden kissing gate ahead. Follow the dry stone wall ahead, keeping the wall on your right. Go through the gateway into the next field. Turn left onto the tarmac track and follow it up to Ratten Clough Farm. Go through the farmyard, bear left to head round the farmhouse, then bear right and continue straight through the yard.

E. Vaccary Walls

Once out of the farmyard, follow the track, crossing over a cattle grid. You will see the vaccary walls on your right (see point 4). Follow the track until you reach a house (Stainscomb) and on the sharp right-hand bend, bear left down the field, along the fence line. Take the small wooden gate in the fence. Head right on the trodden path which will lead you down to a stile by a wooden cabin. Once over the stile, step across the stream. Once out of the woodland, keep to the left of the left-hand line of trees ahead and turn right at the dry stone wall. Follow the wall and use the steps in the wall to enter the next field.



To Sabden Fold Farm

F. To Sabden Fold Farm

Head over the crest of the hill in a roughly 1 o'clock direction, looking out for a stone stile with a little wooden gate in the wall. Once over the wall, follow the path, keeping the dry stone wall on your right. Climb over the stone stile at the bottom of the path. Turn right and follow the path down through the farmyard.



Views from The Old House

G. Towards The Old House

Turn right onto the lane. On a right-hand bend, take the track off to the left, following the wooden fingerpost. Follow the track down to Old House.

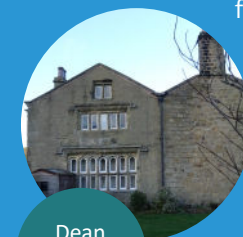
Go through the wooden gate into the field straight ahead and then head towards the footbridge. Follow the hedge and fence line on your right towards a small wooden gate.



To Dean Farm

H. Towards Dean Farm

Once through the gate, head straight across the field to the gate with a black and white post. Keep the fence to your right and head towards the stone stile in the fence ahead. Head diagonally left across the field, looking out for a wooden finger post on your right, follow the curve of the field downhill to the left. **Do not** go through the metal gate ahead, at the gate, take the path to your right across the field, which will eventually lead you to a metal gate straight ahead. Once through the gate, head diagonally left across the field towards a metal gate with a stone stile to the left of it. Once over the stile, head right, keeping the wall on your right until you reach a small wooden kissing gate. Go through into the farmyard.



Dean Farm



Track in to Sabden

I. Back into Sabden

Turn left and follow the track until you arrive back in Sabden village. At the end of the road turn left onto Stubbins Lane. At the bottom of the lane, turn right. The car park is on your left.



Bench at Sabden Brook

A stone bench was installed in 2018 at Sabden Brook on the completion of the fish passage. The bench is regularly enjoyed by the public as it's a peaceful place to sit and observe the brook. A poem by local resident, A. Haworth was inscribed into the bench.

*As you sit think if you will
Of the folk who worked the mill
Powered by the brook, built on its banks
Listening to the water, we should give thanks;
The brook, the mill, the folk, remember this,
They made this village what it is,
Our home.*



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