

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**a Finsthwaite Church** was built in 1874 and designed by Paley and Austin. The interior is a Victorian splendour with ceiling paintings and some interesting stained glass. In the graveyard, on the south side of the church you will find a cross erected in the 20th century to mark the 1771 grave of Clementina Douglas, the so called 'Finsthwaite Princess'. **Finsthwaite and Lakeside Village Hall** was built at the same time as the church and was the village school until 1969.



**b Great Knott Wood** occupies a significant knoll on the south west shore of Lake Windermere. You can read something of its long and fascinating industrial history by the Bobbin Sculpture. It is an ancient woodland. In the 1950s the central area was felled for conifer planting. The Woodland Trust is in the process of restoring the original species. You will pass areas of new planting.



**c Trees and flora** to look out for include the unusual multi-stem coppiced beech just above the Bobbin Sculpture, and many veteran yew trees. Look out for woodland plants including mosses and ferns, wood sorrel, bluebell, wild garlic, dog's mercury, wood anemone, foxglove, wood rush, lesser celandine, violet, greater stitchwort, honeysuckle, opposite leaved golden saxifrage and in autumn, a variety of interesting fungi.



## Woodland Flora to look for...

## KEY INFORMATION

**Start points:** the start and parking is from Finsthwaite Church car park (Sat Nav LA12 8BJ), unless the car park signage indicates otherwise.

Alternatively you can use the top car park at Stott Park Bobbin Mill (Sat Nav LA12 8AX), or the Lake District National Park car park at High Dam.

This walk leads to Finsthwaite Tower through the woodlands of Great Knott and Summer House Knott at Finsthwaite. It follows woodland paths and fields and appropriate footwear is recommended. Check the weather forecast before starting, and when you have finished check yourself, and your dog for ticks.

**Refreshments** are often available in the village from Dam' Fine Ices.

**Toilets and refreshments** are also available at the Bobbin Mill between April and Oct on Wed to Sun (10am - 5pm) and between July and Aug seven days a week (10am - 5pm). Alternative refreshments are available at The Swan Hotel or Lakeside Pier.

### Length and duration of walk

5.6km 3.5 miles 1½ - 2 hours

This is one of a series of Greenwood Trails signed with a special waymarker. Please look out for these along the route.



**d Charcoal man sculpture** commemorates the charcoal burning that has been carried out in the wood since the building of Furness Abbey in the 12th century. Charcoal was a vital component in the iron smelting process. The sculpture sits within the remains of a bark peeler's hut. Bark, particularly oak, has been used for centuries in leather tanning. Bark peelers constructed teepee like huts on a circular stone wall with a chimney at the back.

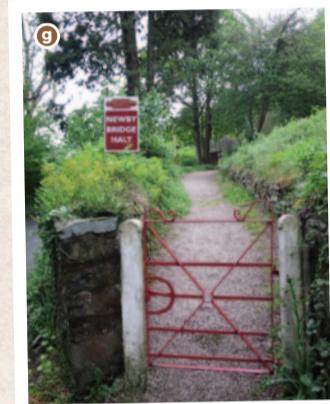


**e Finsthwaite Tower** was erected by the owner of Finsthwaite House in 1799 to mark four significant naval victories, commemorating the 'matchless conduct and irresistible valour' of the men of the Royal Navy. The tower used to have an extra storey of height, until the early 20th century when it was shortened for safety reasons. Look out for the majestic Scots pine and yews nearby.



WI Scrapbook

**f Newby Bridge** and the weir mark the end of Windermere and the start of the River Leven which flows from here to Morecambe Bay. The bridge was named as the New Bridge on maps of 1577, but may also have an association with the local Newby family. The bridge replaced several ford crossings further north by Lakeside and Fell Foot.



**g Newby Bridge Halt** is a preserved little station that was originally the end of the line and passengers would then take a boat up Windermere from The Swan Hotel. The line was extended to Lakeside when larger boats were needed as tourism developed. To explore further, take a train to Haverthwaite or Lakeside (check train times locally) then return here to finish the walk.

**h The bridlepath** has for centuries been the shortest route from Finsthwaite House to Newby Bridge.

**i The Tower Fields** are named as they are linked to the Tower. You may see sheep and lambs in spring, hay and grass growing in summer and perhaps cattle. Please remember this is working farmland and keep your dog on a lead.



## GREENWOOD TRAILS

### Finsthwaite Tower and The Knott



If you want to find out more about the area go to

[www.ruslandhorizons.org](http://www.ruslandhorizons.org)



A short walk through ancient woodland over the Knott

## WALK 7

# Finsthwaite Tower and The Knott

### Directions for the walk

#### Start Finsthwaite Church

- 1 Walk past the Village Hall and follow the track and footpath across two fields towards Great Knott Wood.
- \* Look left in 2nd field - Looking in the distance towards the fells around Troutbeck and Kentmere.*
- 2 Climb the stone stile into Great Knott Wood and follow the track straight ahead for a short distance and then take the right fork up through the woodland passing the "Bobbin Sculpture". Continue along the main track curving left uphill, until you come to the "See The Difference" frame on your left.
- 3 The track continues upwards through the woods. On reaching a T-junction, turn right and follow the track uphill. Remain on this track as it swings left and ignore the track going ahead. The track then swings back right and continues uphill passing through an old wall.
- 4 The track becomes less steep here. At the crest of the hill, the path leading to Finsthwaite Tower goes off right through a wall. For a short excursion to see the "Charcoal Burner Sculpture" continue downhill along the track.
- 5 Where the main track swings sharply left, continue ahead for 70m downhill on a grassy track to point **d** marked on the map where a wooden charcoal burner sits in the ruins of an old hut. Return to the main track and retrace your steps back to the crest of the hill at point 6.
- 6 Leave the main track and go up steeply through the gap in the wall and then continue along a small woodland path. The path joins a track coming in from the right and they continue together up hill until the track swings off left and the small path goes off right. Follow this woodland path to the top of the hill and up to the tower on the left.
- 7 Leaving the tower, take the path downhill towards Newby Bridge.
- \* If you wish to see the views towards Gummer's How, Bigland, Morecambe Bay & Kirkby Moor, take a small path off to the left which leads through a gap in a wall and a grove of trees to a viewpoint at the crest of a steep slope (view strongly recommended).*
- 8 Return to the main path then down a short section of steps and zig-zags through the steep woodland and eventually reaching a gate.
- 9 Go through the gate, and continue down some steps until you reach a track.
- 10 Turn left onto the track, and then right over the railway bridge. **Be careful of traffic when crossing the bridge.** Once over the bridge turn right down the road.
- 11 Follow the road and call in to see the information in the platform shelter at Newby Bridge Halt. There is also the opportunity to get the train to Lakeside, or to Haverthwaite (check locally for train times).
- 12 Continue along the road over the railway bridge, and take the bridlepath immediately on the right through the gate that goes into the wood.
- 13 Follow the track up through the wood, until reaching a marker post indicating a path off to the right. Continue along this path through the wood leading to a stile into the fields.
- 14 Follow the line of the path straight ahead through four fields heading towards Finsthwaite Church and the car park where you started.



To enjoy your visit and help look after this special place please follow the Country code:

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Please keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



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