

Stock Ghyll and High Sweden Bridge from Ambleside - February 2014.



John and I started the walk from our holiday cottage in Ambleside; the sky was very grey not a patch of blue to be seen, but this might be as good as it gets so of we went. It is quite a plod up to Stock Ghyll Force and we chatted to a couple who seemed to be finding it a little like hard work too. Luckily it's not a long way and we soon got the camera out to take photos of the impressive waterfall.

The paths were very slippy in places and trees have come down over the winter. We followed the path upwards until we came to a path leading back down towards a metal gate but we saw a short cut through a broken down wall. John insisted we go that way so I blame him that it was very muddy!! We came out onto a road that we followed for a short while before turning onto a field track that led us down to the river and crossing a bridge that came out onto a farm track.



After trying to miss the mud and standing water we came out onto the road known as The Struggle, it was back then towards Ambleside to find our path back up to High Sweden Bridge.



Picture left is Ambleside from our road back towards town. We needed to go on the outskirts to turn once again upwards to reach our high point of the walk. The weather was still very overcast and grey but no rain as yet.

By the time we had turned and plodded up the steep metaled track just part of the way to the bridge I called a food stop; I was worn out by then. We put our backs to the wall and enjoyed a rest as well as a coffee and sandwich.





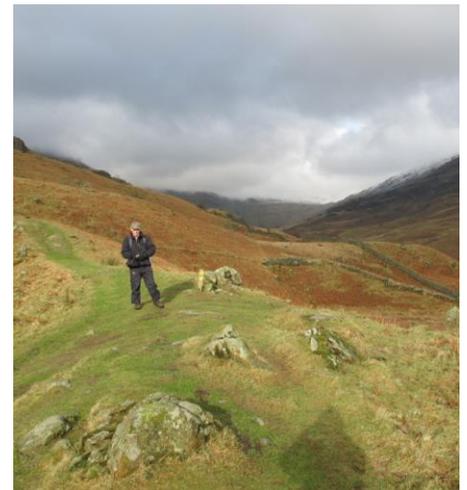
Yes that's me stopping yet again to catch my breath, it does not look much of a steep road but I was not a fit person on that day. We have done this walk at least three times before but I always forget how hard it seems considering the height.



At last, there it is High Sweden Bridge, we sat there for a while taking in the view and quietly celebrating the fact that we had made it. John has been ill for some while and we were not sure if we would get in a walk at all on this visit to the Lakes so this was a treat for us.



Past the bridge we took the path up the fell and reached the high point of our walk, it seemed less grey and there was even a glimmer of sunlight breaking through the clouds as I took the photo. We saw two people coming off the fell from the right in the distance below us, we have not seen many out today.



Looking back the sky looked different again, very threatening. Time to make our way back down to the town I think, the sooner the better.



Water flowing under Low Sweden Bridge, we were lucky still no rain.

We did not stop at all on the way back until we reached the middle of Ambleside, then I spotted the seats above the busy main road. We must have looked strange to some as we sat there with cups of coffee and biscuits, some Japanese even stopped to take our photo, we obliged by smiling for the camera.



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