

A short walk on Holme Fell from Hodge Close Cottages near Coniston.



We started the walk from our rented holiday cottage Foxgloves; it was an overcast day with low cloud so a small fell was just right for our last walk of the week. There were small patches of ice and snow left on the paths and a good covering of snow still on the higher tops.

Hodge Close Quarry was deserted, neither divers entering the murky depths of the flooded workings nor any climbers abseiling down the steep sides; we turned off to take a boggy path across to a gate that led us right onto the fell itself.



A rather large muddy patch of ground met us as we passed through the gate on to the fell path. John pictured filming the signpost with the Fell name on. (Yes we are getting to the age were a little visual help comes in handy.)

The path led us uphill to a disused frozen reservoir, our map told us to pass to the left of it but there was no sign of a path that way. Soon found one to the right of the water and after making our way through more boggy bits we trekked our way steadily upwards.





Photo stop, you can see the reservoir down below; the weather seemed to be heading for rain and the views were just not going to be a feature on this walk so you have got me instead (sorry).

It has occurred to me that the cairn on top of Holme Fell may not be the highest point but we did not see a trig point so we took it for the high spot. We had the place to ourselves, no one seemed to want to venture out on this little bit of Lakeland and it was quite nice too.



The photo shows the view from the summit looking over Coniston water, as you can see the weather looked even more threatening.

We wondered about a little on the decent, always finding some view to try to capture despite the poor light, you may just be able to see John on this photo.



Then we followed what looked like a good path but it petered out and we found ourselves in a gully, after a lot of detours around the boggy bits we went through a patch of trees and even under one to come out just below the path we should have come down on.



Before we went through the gate to take us back to the quarry we turned left to walk up a lane and take a photo of the cottages we were staying in, the small row were once the homes of former quarry workers.



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