

Short Walk from Monk Coniston car park nr Coniston to Tarn Hows, in the Lake District. August 2010

After crossing the road to take a path signposted to Tarn Hows via Monk Coniston estate we soon reached the gate into the gardens of Monk Coniston but not before turning to take in the views of Coniston Water opening up below us.

The last time we had been on this walk the view was very different, bare trees and a sheen of frost lay all about. It was Christmas 2007 and we were with Dave and our late brother Clive.



The walled garden was now laid out and lots of fruit and vegetables are growing in it. I was tempted to pick a plum or two but managed just to resist.

What a great spot for an allotment (would you ever get any work done?) the view was lovely.

After following the signed path round the outer estate we left it by a gate and crossed a small but busy road to enter the woods and once again trekked uphill on the pleasant wide track through the woods.

I must confess to having a little grumble about the steepness of the walk, in places there are steps to help you along the way, this being our first walk in the lakes for some time it has made me realise how unfit I have become.



We reached a dam of sorts with a bridge across it, I have not found out what it was for but it may well have something to do with the estate. There was very little water behind it and it has not been maintained in any way except for the bridge.

On reaching the car park at Torn Hows the first thing we saw was the ice-cream van, we deserved a treat after all that uphill walking. The weather had been kind to us, warm and for the most part bright, we sat for a while just taking in the view and people watched to, lots around today.



Tarn Hows was below us but so were all the crowds that had come to enjoy it, so we decided to walk around to a view point above it all, to eat our lunch in peace.

Lunch stop with a view thrown in what more could you want.



The stile that we remembered again from a previous walk was about half a mile around the right hand side of the lake. It led us across a field and up to a grassy hillock and it was there that we had a bite to eat and a rest. The views from this small top was far reaching and it just proves you do not have to aim very high here in the Lakes to be rewarded with picture postcards views.

We retraced our route back to the car and yes it was downhill all the way. (Thank goodness, says she.)