

(Listed in "Walks Around Ambleside by Tom Bowker")

After parking the car just below the church in Troutbeck we found our way to the enclosed stony bridgeway to start our walk proper. It twists and turns until you reach an unmarked gate on the right with a stone stile. The weather as you can see from the photo was none to promising but we came to the Lakes to walk and walk we shall. There are four of us on this day, John, Dave, Josie and myself Kath.



As we crossed fields the sun chose to shine for us; low cloud and blue sky made a lovely change from all the grey and dark damp we had climbed up through. We all stopped to admire the view across the valley and tried to capture it on camera. There was a frost on the pastures and some ice on the stone walls, the ladder stile we went over was covered with ice too, great care was needed whilst crossing it.



We continued to follow yellow way markers across fields to an old tumbledown wall; we climbed left alongside the wall all the way to a stone stile, at this point of the walk I decided to find my own way onto Longmire Road as the stile looked lethal, sheet ice on the stone. I walked around the outside edge of the wall until I came to gate. A large stone prevented me from opening the gate fully but by that time the others had found a way of overcoming the ice stile and were shouting in answer to my calls. John was not best pleased that I had gone off on my own into the freezing mist which had by then enveloped us and I was soon rescued by Dave who kindly held the gate open wide enough for me to pass through and join them in the lane. The lane had plenty of wet muddy places for us to enjoy; one of us enjoyed them more than most. (Dave your boot looked disgusting).



Following this rough path leads you into Longmire road; turn right and on to a minor road linking Ings with Troutbeck. Our next objective should have been Allen Knott summit with its superb view over Windermere but alas this was not to be, no use wasting our energy climbing to the summit on a day such as this. Bypassing the fell after some debate about the route we found the lane between two walls and made our way down to a signpost leading us to a stile between a barn and a farmhouse.

There was some confusion again and we did go the wrong way for a very short time, had to retrace through the farmyard and back onto the right path. That did not suit me at all because we were followed by two barking sheep dogs, anyone who knows me should be aware that most dogs and me don't mix well. This leads on to a wide terraced path on which is a stone seat, just the spot to rest and be thankful I had survived the walk so far; plus of course it was time for a bite to eat and a hot drink. We should I think have had some sort of view from the seat but it was still very cold and misty. Ice had been dropping from the trees as we went past them on this walk.



From our seat the path leads down to a gate and out onto the A592, after crossing with care carry on along the roadside path to a public bridleway sign pointing left. Pass through the gate and down the field to a further gate and on to two footbridges over Trout Beck. We crossed them and soon emerged onto a minor road that leads back into Troutbeck, on the way you pass Town End barn with its obvious "spinning gallery". We soon arrived back onto the A592 and our car, I think this walk would be better done in clearer weather but I enjoyed most of it.

