

Trip Diary UK October 1995

Sunday 8 October 1995. Agnes & I went into Kirkby to have a look around. I walked down to Frank's Bridge where my walk will begin. Lovely little bridge crossing the River Eden. Bought a Sunday *Observer* and stuck my head into the church. They have a bell ringing loft with glass between it & the sanctuary so one can see the ringers pulling the ropes.

A beautiful clear blue day.

Back to Carol's and off to the Lake District sometime before noon. Went through Walcop—a nice nearby village—then Appleby which seemed very quaint worth a return visit. Through the back roads & lanes (very narrow) to near Penrith, then over to Ulswater—a very pretty lake. Down the westside. Tall hills all around. Over a pass and stopped at the 3rd highest pub in England where we had a drink and a sandwich. On over to Wordsworth's Dove Cottage, which we only looked at from the outside, then into nearby Grasmere. Very touristy but of a high style. Nice shops, narrow meandering man street, From Grasmere to Keswick (I think, check) then over to Hill Top, Beatrix Potter's home. Wanted to see it but £3.50 seemed high. Up to a ferry on the west side of Windermere which we took to the eastside. Back to Kirkby via Kendal. Spaghetti for dinner.

Monday 9 October 1995. Another nice morning. With Agnes & Carol to Penrith where they picked up a rental car. I followed them back in Carol's car and then they took me into Kirkby and left me at the market square. According to Wainwright this is ca. mile 82-1/2 from St. Bees. Warm & lovely through with clouds in the west. I head out across Frank's Bridge past the cricket pitch and up into Hartley, a little village, then along a road, climbing all the time Past the Hartley Quarries then at about mile 85 onto a bridle path, also upward. Farther up a sign for 9 Standards appeared and I followed it going up, I think, Faraday Gill, a diversion from the Wainwright path. Getting cloudier and quite windy. Reach 9 Standards at about 12:30, 2 hours after starting. Had half a cheese sandwich and half a chocolate bar and some water. Nine Standards are 9 cairns of ancient origin on top of the ridge above Kirkby. You can see them from Carol's. Looking towards Tan Hill I decided not to make a beeline as there was no path and the ground is boggy in places. Followed the "C to C" signs for awhile and before reaching White Mossy Hill came to a sign that said the C to C path had been relocated. Followed the new path which goes generally eastward—marked by a post every few hundred yards. Getting grayer. Then a mist started which turned to light but wind-driven rain. Came to Whitsundale Beck which I followed down quite a way. Ground wet & muddy in places. Finally come to Ravenseat, a farm, arriving at 3:15. Then had to decide whether to continue on the C to C to Keld, then up the road to Tan Hill, or cut across on a footpath shown on the map. Talked to 2 farmers at Ravenseat and they said the path was fine. So I chose that route. Not bad at all. An initial climb and a climb at the end but mostly fairly level. Not nearly as wet or muddy as earlier. Rain stopped and at the end it was sunny and at the end it was sunny at times. Arrived at Tan Hill, England's highest pub, at 4:45. Went to my room, cleaned up a bit and went downstairs for a beer and to set up some of my wet things to dry by the fire. At a bit after 7 I returned to the pub and had a dinner of

sausage & chips & 2 pints of bitter. Following a hot shower and a read I went to bed and slept well.

Tuesday 10 October 1995. Sunny morning with high clouds. Up around 8 and down for a full English breakfast and updating this diary. Accommodation at Tan Hill was £25. On the way at 9:30, down the Pennine Way to Keld. Easy walking. Some nice views across to my route yesterday. Arrived Keld about 11:30 then headed off east to Crackpot Ha;; then up to Swinnergill Mines, then up to high moors. Met a couple on this stretch with 2 dogs. Flat, high & mostly bracken. Then down to Blakethwaite Smelt Mill which was interesting. This was all lead mining country. From there, headed up again and on to a long stretch of pretty leak moorland, mostly mined by quarrying. Down again along a gravel track past the Old Gang Smelt Mill, eventually to Surrender Bridge where a blacktop road crosses. Across that and past several enclosed fields & farms, down a long lane (walls on each side, lots of vegetation) then a field & behind a school then on to a road and into Reeth. Stayed at the Black Bull on the Common. £16.

Wednesday 11 October 1995. Sunny start. Breakfast including finnan haddie. Left Reeth at 9:30, walking beside the road and hear the river. By Marrick Priory. In and out of the fields. Marske is a nice small village. Visited the small church and had a pipe at noon. An easy walk. Arrived in Richmond at 3 pm. Had a beer and met David Fogle at Mary's Tea Room at 4:00. Went back to Kiplin stopping at the ruins of Easeby Abbey on the way. Save has a nice set-up here—living quarters are in the old stable, very nocely renovated. Once settled we had drinks, dinner and to be not too late.

Thursday 12 October 1995. A nice morning. Up and off after breakfast to Whitby via Helmsley. Got to the latter and looked around. All tarterd up but still a nice village. David wanted to check out the local churchyard about some Calvert connection. No luck. On our way again but a couple of miles out of Helmsley a water hose went. The RAC came eventually and a hose was found in Helmsley but it took close to 3 hours so going to Whitby is out for the day. We then went back to Helmsley, had a late lunch then headed back to Kiplin. That evening went to Osmotherley, to a pub that David knew about. 3 pubs in this small village. I had salmon & broccoli mornay; very nice. Back to Kiplin and to bed.

Friday 13 October 1995. Off