

Walk description:

A taste of the real Lake District Fells within a few minutes' drive of the M6; an easy walk with a bit of a climb to gain height and views across the Lake District.

The walk takes you past Sleddale Hall, the filming location for 'Crow Cragg' in cult sixties-set comedy 'Withnail and I'. The film, released in 1987, starred Richard E Grant, Paul McGann, Richard Griffiths, Ralph Brown and Michael Elphick. The hall was still in desperate need of renovation when we last visited (in 2005), a situation regretted by many of the film's fans.

Just before reaching the hall you cross the ancient stone bridge where Withnail memorably attempted fishing with a shotgun.

The views from 'Crow Cragg' were shot elsewhere, but those from the real Sleddale Hall over the Wet Sleddale Reservoir are superb. The reservoir was created to supply water to Manchester.

Access information:

From M6 Junction 39 turn off to Shap. At the T-junction turn right and then first left to the Wet Sleddale Reservoir. Follow the road round to the right by the weather station to the car park.

Additional info:

You can get lots of details on the film from its Wikipedia entry:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Withnail_&_I

Start grid ref: NY555114**OS map:** Explorer OL 5**Walk length:** 4.35 miles**Duration:** 120 minutes**Height gain:** 170 metres**Contributor:** David and Chris Stewart**Weathercall:** Get a local forecast for this walk.

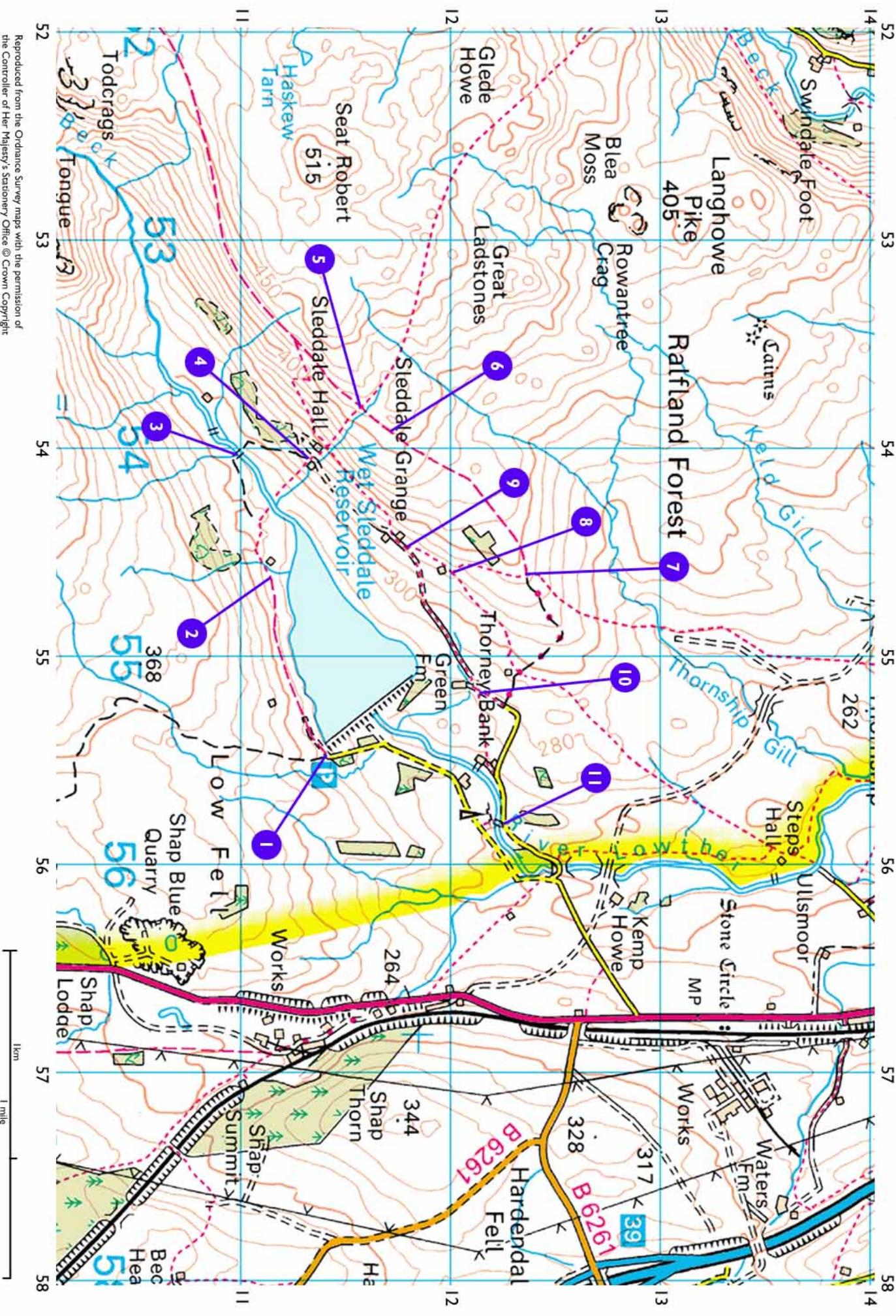
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Features:

- Hills or Fells
- Great Views

1:50 000 (x2)

Wet Sleddale



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- 1**  From the car park take the track alongside the reservoir. (Grid ref: 555114)
- 2**  When you reach a ruined stone barn, keep following the path through the left-hand of two gates. From here to the bridge the path is clearly marked with wooden markers painted white. (Grid ref: 545111)
- 3**  Cross the bridge used by Withnail for shotgun fishing and take the grassy path directly up the hillside opposite (as in this picture). Cross a couple of stiles to reach a track by a stone barn. (Grid ref: 540110)
- 4**  The path goes directly upwards opposite the stone barn, between the dry-stone wall and the stream. Sleddale Hall is the imposing building above you to the left. Note: the path is on the right-hand side of the hall and the stream as you look uphill, not the left as marked on the map. Cross a couple of stiles. When you reach a gate in the dry-stone wall, cross the stream and continue following it upwards until you reach a track. (Grid ref: 540114)
- 5**  Turn right and climb over the stile. Continue straight ahead to the top of the ridge. (Grid ref: 538116)
- 6**  As you reach the top of the ridge you get great views across the Eden Valley. The fell has a number of quad bike tracks, all going in roughly the right direction. You need to keep reasonably close to the dry-stone wall on your right, but following a track about 100 metres away tends to be drier. You are heading for a kink in the wall just to left of the clump of trees. When you reach this kink, continue following the track alongside the wall. (Grid ref: 540119)
- 7**  Look out for this gate in the wall just after you pass the clump of trees. The path goes back under the trees and drops down to a stone barn. (Grid ref: 546124)
- 8**  Go through the gate on the right-hand side of the barn and follow the track down to the road, by a farmhouse. (Grid ref: 546120)
- 9**  Turn left onto the road and follow it down to the next farmhouse on your right. (Grid ref: 544117)

10  Just at the point where a track forks off to the farmhouse itself, you need to cut across the field on your right. Head for the tree in the centre of this picture, where there is a stile into the next field. Cross this field to the far corner, next to another house. Climb the stile onto the road and follow the road for a short distance. (Grid ref: 552121)

11  Cut down to this footbridge (easily seen from the road), cross it and join the road on the other side. Turn right and follow the road, past the Met Office weather station, back to the car park. (Grid ref: 558123)