

Wainwright Country

Programme One - Eastern Fells

Welcome to *Wainwright Country*, a series of seven programmes with Fred Talbot following in the footsteps of the great fell walker Alfred Wainwright.

Each week Fred takes us on one walk from Wainwright's wonderful series of guidebooks, "A Pictorial Guide To The Lakeland Fells".



SIGN REFERENCES (signs used in the maps and diagrams)

Good footpath (sufficiently distinct to be followed in mist)

Intermittent footpath (difficult to follow in mist)

Route recommended but no path (if recommended one way only, arrow indicates direction)

Wall Broken wall

Fence Broken fence

Marshy ground Trees

Crags Boulders

Stream or River (arrow indicates direction of flow)

Waterfall Bridge

Buildings Unenclosed road

Contours (at 100' intervals)

Summit-cairn Other (prominent) cairns

Alfred Wainwright

Within our weekly fact sheets you'll find the map and route description for each walk Fred takes, plus more about Alfred Wainwright and his work.

Wainwright Country

Before setting out ensure you are prepared and check the forecast!

The Eastern Fells - Stybarrow Dodd

From the small car park in Stanah the path goes straight up the lane towards the fell and over a ladder stile. After a short climb it passes through a gate and turns left to cross the channel of the leat* that carries water from the northern streams into Thirlmere.

Then after a second short climb a wicket gate leads to the bridge that crosses Stanah Gill. Bear left up the hill to a finger post. Continue straight up the zig-zag path that follows the line of Stanah Gill on the left.

At the top of the steep climb the path bears right away from Stanah Gill, passing a broken sheepfold. The climb eases and the top of Sticks Pass is reached, having passed the source of Sticks Gill, at a very distinct cross-roads.

Straight on is the way into Patterdale passing the source of the other Sticks Gill. Our route, however, turns left and climbs up Stybarrow Dodd. The cairn on the path marks the best viewpoint but the true summit is further on and slightly off to the right. (Marked by a distinct slab of slate arranged vertically). Lower, and off to the left, is the summit of Watson's Dodd - the next goal. This is soon reached after an easy walk along a distinct path.



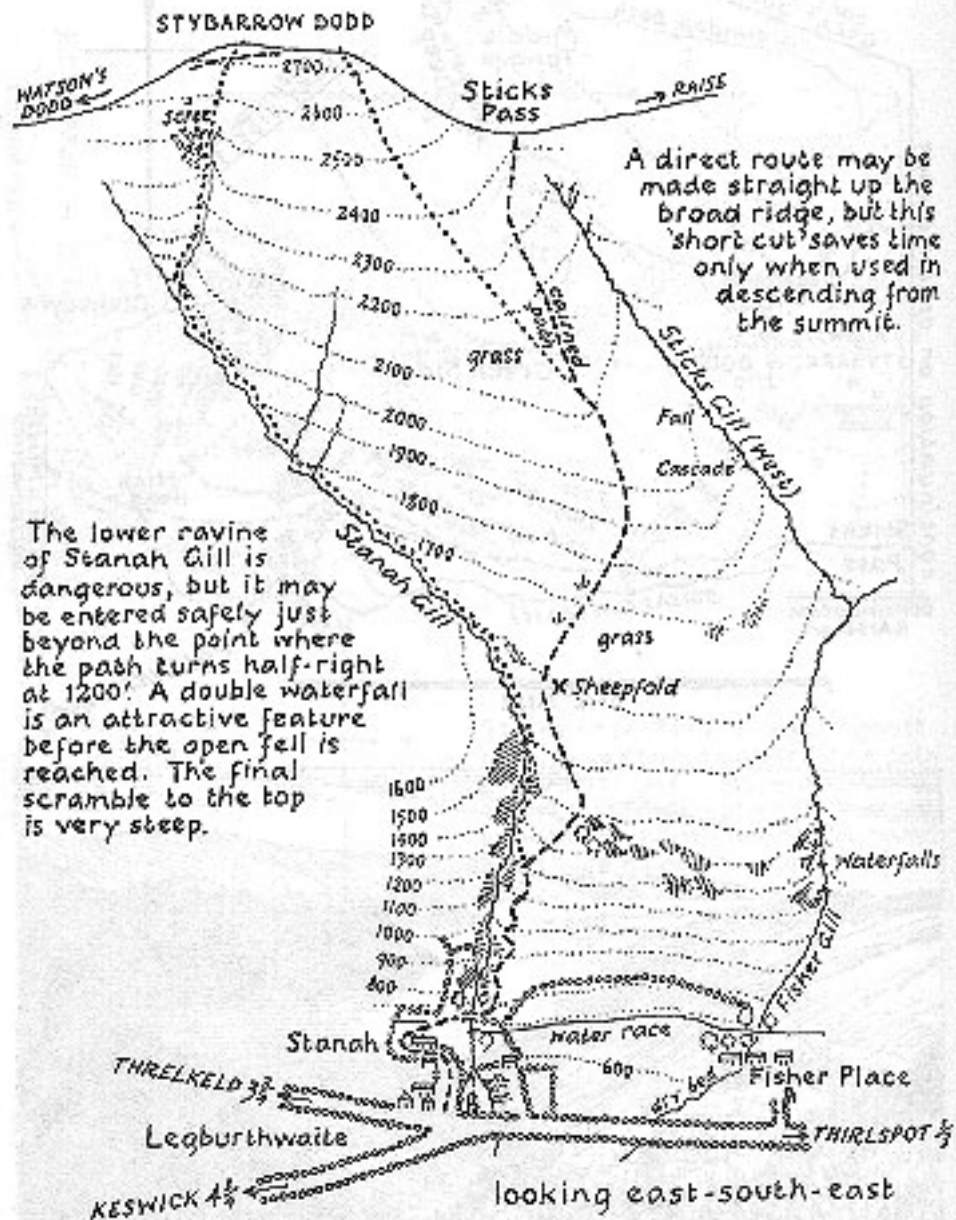
The descent is straight off the top down towards the valley. Although Wainwright describes this as his route, up Watson's Dodd from Legburthwaite, there is no actual path. As the descent progresses the distinct dome top of Castle Rock is seen. The route passes to the right, but avoids Mill Gill, down to a fence in the corner of a wall. Climb over the fence and pass through a small band of trees to a footbridge over the leat and then bear left down towards the fence and steps that lead down to the road. It is then a short walk to the left along the road to the start. *A leat is an open watercourse.

Maps and Transport Information: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL5 The English Lakes North Eastern Area.

Start and finish: Stanah NY317189. Distance: 5 miles. There is a bus service along the main A591 road from both Keswick to the north and Windermere to the south.

Stybarrow Dodd 5

ASCENT FROM STANAH
2300 feet of ascent : 2½ miles



Conveniently, the path to Sticks Pass climbs the slopes of Stybarrow Dodd, the summit being easily gained from the top of the pass. Stanah Gill is a rough alternative, affording some relief from the dull grassiness of the path.

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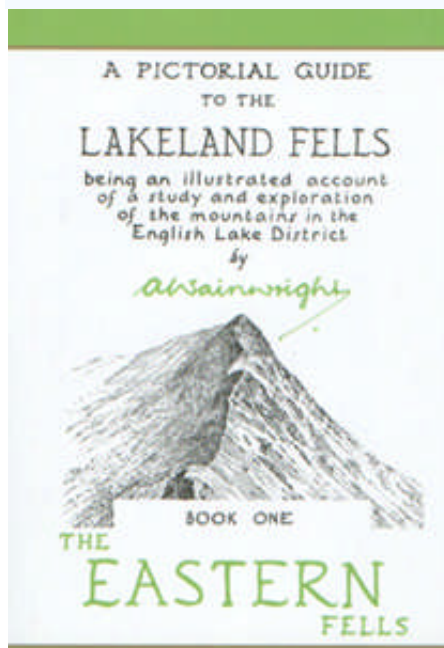
Alfred Wainwright MBE (1907-1991)

Known for his wonderful series of books, the “Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells”, these handwritten, hand-drawn works of devotion have been the source of inspiration and enjoyment to many fell walkers over the last forty years and for which Alfred was awarded the MBE.

Born in Blackburn, Lancashire, Alfred had always walked, reputedly up to 20 miles a day even as a child, and also loved to draw; fascinated with the countryside Alfred made his own maps.



In 1930, aged 23, Alfred took a walking holiday in the Lake District and, climbing Orrest Head near Windermere, took in his first view of the Lakeland Fells, sparking a love affair that would last his whole life.



On the 9th November, 1952, Alfred began work on his Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells, planning the content of the seven books right from the beginning and devoting the next 13 years to their accomplishment. At one page an evening, they were purely for his own interest and enjoyment, but ultimately would come to mean a lot more to a great many others discovering and enjoying Alfred’s beloved Fells.

Alfred collaborated on many television series and was Chairman of Animal Rescue, Cumbria. He also created the Coast to Coast walk from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood’s Bay in Yorkshire, 190 miles from the West Coast to the East and now one of the most popular walks in the country.

When Alfred died of a heart attack in 1991, his widow, Betty, took his ashes up Haystacks, his favourite mountain. A memorial stone to Alfred can be found within the church yard at Buttermere.

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“AW’s stock in trade was communication. He communicated better than any guidebook writer before or since the essence of the Lakeland landscape, the visceral attachment of man to place, the spiritual power of weathered rock and angry sky. He was priest and poet in his own blunt way.”

Eric Robson – Chairman of the Wainwright Society.

The Wainwright Society was formed in 2002 to keep alive the things that Alfred Wainwright promoted through his guidebooks and many other publications. Find out more about Alfred, his work and a wealth of useful fellwalking resources and links at www.wainwright.org.uk

“A Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells”

Alfred Wainwright

- Book 1: The Eastern Fells (1955)
- Book 2: The Far Eastern Fells (1957)
- Book 3: The Central Fells (1958)
- Book 4: The Southern Fells (1960)
- Book 5: The Northern Fells (1962)
- Book 6: The North Western Fells (1964)
- Book 7: The Western Fells (1966)



Fred Talbot with Eric Robson

For availability of Alfred Wainwright material - books and box sets visit: www.stridingedge.com

Other Wainwright publications:

Pennine Way Companion (1968)

Walks on the Howgill Fells (1972)

The Outlying Fells of Lakeland (1974)

Walks in Limestone Country (1970)

A Coast to Coast Walk (1973)

Walks from Ratty (1978)

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While every effort is made to ensure that walks are accessible and are rights of way, ITV plc cannot guarantee that fields, paths (or pubs) will be open. Some of these walks are more difficult than others, so make sure you are properly equipped and use the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps as indicated.

Enjoy your walking but please remember the **Countryside Code**.

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risks of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Keep to public footpaths across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take your litter home.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise



Fred - following in the footsteps of AW

For further information on walks in your area, what to do, see and enjoy visit
www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk

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With thanks to Karen Bentley, David Powell-Thompson, Annette Robson

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Stybarrow Dodd – Alfred Wainwright

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