



Transcribed from Bob Pendlebury's "Record of Walks Undertaken" started in 1969

- Thanks are due to Joy Thompson (Bob's daughter) for allowing us access to this fascinating collection of walk descriptions.

"9th November 1985 - A memorable day...

... when the Inspector, Sir Stephen Berthon, on the AONB Inquiry decided that he wanted to walk from Cauldron Snout to Dufton - a distance of nine and three quarter miles - via the bad weather route. As it happened the minibus got us to Birkdale and we left the vehicle at 12.15pm. There had been one and a half inches of rain overnight and the route turned out to be fairly wet with the streams full. The day was cold with some sunshine to the west.

The walk across was uneventful, apart from the bog hopping, until we reached the footbridge when the low cloud wrapped itself around us. As we approached the edge of High Cup Gill we all expressed disappointment that all was shrouded in cloud. We walked to the right of the Nick and moved around to the head of the Gill. I suggested we wait a wee while – just in hope – without any great expectations, when slowly, but progressively the cloud cleared and the sun shone through as though on cue and to order.

From a complete grey impenetrable blanket there appeared a twisting, short silver thread – the river – which just as quickly disappeared. Once again it appeared and lengthened, the river was starting to show. The sun, invisible from where we were was shining on the waterway. The sides of the Gill could just be seen – dark and forbidding - the valley still unclear and dark. Slowly the colours changed as the curtain lifted – at first imperceptibly and then with the colours changing from grey to dark green, through the shades, finally ending with the sun shining brilliantly and the view extending to the Lakeland hills.

The dark clouds remained as a canopy just above the high ground on either side. Suddenly the remaining clouds were whipped up past our heads and the panorama was laid out – breath-taking and beautiful. I had never seen the Gill display its dramatic beauty in such a way. The Inspector and everyone else were most impressed and the whole day's walk was justified. What luck! A great day. 8.5 miles. 4hrs"

- Members of the party: The Inspector – Sir Stephen Berthon; Michael Rich QC for the Countryside Commission; Graham Baggins – Regional Director for the Countryside Commission; Dr John Hopkins – Nature Conservancy Council Board Member; Ian Findlay – Warden for the Nature Conservancy Council in Teesdale since 1973; Planning Officer for Eden Valley District Council; Sandy Clarke – Raby Estates Manager; Mr Kenyan – British Mountaineering Council; and Eddy Hibbert – Ramblers' Association (Lancaster).