

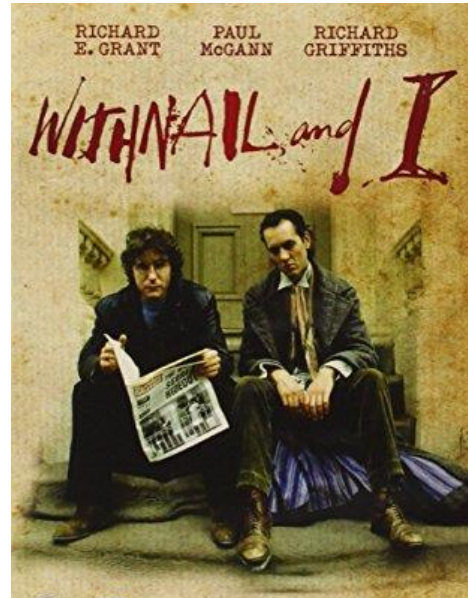
'Withnail and I' - locations, 30 years on

Bruce Robinson's *Withnail & I* (1987) is one of the defining British films of the 1980s. It is celebrated for its much quoted screenplay and the exuberant elicitation of the debauchery of two down-on-their-luck actors (Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann) in the late 1960s.

It is also a film about the clash between city and country. The city is represented by the crumbling north London in which we are first introduced to the pair, but the scene later moves to the wild, towering landscapes of the Lake District, where they take an impromptu holiday to escape "the fear".



NEW ING LODGE



Location 1

The bridge over the Lowther. This is where Withnail attempts to get the pair some food, fishing with a shotgun.

Park at Wet Sleddale Reservoir car park (555 114). From car park take track along reservoir. After ½ mile reach ruined stone barn; follow path through left of two gates. Path to famous stone bridge (1/3 mile) is clearly marked with white wooden markers.



Location 2 (continuing the walk...)

Sleddale Hall (Crow Crag in the film) is one of the most famous and visited of British film locations, being both little changed since Robinson filmed here and open to wander around.

Cross two stiles to reach track by stone barn. Path goes upwards opposite barn, between drystone wall and stream. Sleddale Hall is above you on left.



“We’ve gone on holiday by mistake.” But, alongside the gas canisters and restored windows, there’s a wonderful wealth of Withnail-themed graffiti, my favourite being the entirety of Hamlet’s “What a piece of work is a man” soliloquy that Withnail performs in the film’s final scenes.



Location 3

The pathway into Scarside Farm (in fact a public bridleway). Trudging up the muddy path eventually led to the gate and walls where Marwood faces off against the randy bull, with little help from Withnail of course: “He wants to get down there and have sex with those cows.”

Park at 536183 and it is a 5 minute walk up the track.



Location 4

Further into Bampton village is another pivotal location, the phone box where Withnail’s woes with his agent continue. It sits on Wideworth Farm Road and again hasn’t changed. “Where’s my cigar commercial?! What happened to my agent?! Bastard must have died!”



Location 5

The final stop of the trip was effectively to reconnect back with Crow Crag in terms of the film, but several miles away in reality. In the film, Haweswater Reservoir, a beautiful man-made waterway that actually housed England’s last golden eagle until recently, is conjoined with Sleddale Reservoir through a clever bit of editing. The island jutting out is where Withnail pronounces with tragic irony: “I’m gonna be a star!”



Picnic Cinema

There are 4 ‘outdoor’ screenings of Withnail & I (15) at Sleddale Hall a.k.a Crow Crag or Uncle Monty’s Cottage, where the classic was filmed near Shap, Cumbria just over 30 years ago- on 13th & 14th and 20th & 21st July. [The link for tickets is here](#), but expect high demand, last year they sold out in 20 minutes...