"Finally Berwick Law" - 4 June 2024

A Tired Morning

Before a hike, a good night's rest is recommended, so that's exactly what I didn't do. When my alarm went off at 7:45, I was tempted to text Otis to postpone our meeting. But, I did not. Fortunately (as I would later learn)!

Finally, past 8, I got out of bed (not my fault ~~at all~~, I was distracted texting, forced, not by my own volition). Approximately 10 minutes before my meeting with Otis, I was standing in my kitchen with my untouched breakfast, wearing my glasses & pyjamas, altogether unprepared for a hike.

[breakfast photo]

Somehow I got everything together by 8:50, met Otis, took some random bus, and managed to make it to the XE with time to spare!

At the bus stop, it started to rain. This was quite worrying. Fortunately, the stop had an awning.

Once on the bus, I was hit with such a wave of sleepiness that I fell asleep.

North Berwick

My only other time in North Berwick involved running late to get to Onno's for a wine potluck thing. Leaving North Berwick is not the crispest of memories. Thus, this was my first time actually seeing (definitely exploring) the place.

The early (in quotes) morning had left me with no time to prepare lunch, which was definitely not my fault. As proof: Otis also had not had

time to prepare lunch. We decided to have a true hiking lunch (bread, cheese, tomatoes, things). I also was on the hunt for a banana. Our first stop was coop. ~~[illegible]~~ ~~left empty handed~~. Realizing the town was nice, we were on holiday, etc., we decided to find a better option. We left empty handed.

Our first stop was Why Not, sorry, whynot? Here, I spied a cheese counter! My favourite! We bought nothing. At this point, it was cloudy and I was a bit cold. I figured I'd warm up once walking constantly (up a hill). Otis and I talked about North Berwick being a posh place, which would suggest nice things in the charity shops. I wanted to hurry on to the bakery I'd found for bread, but we stopped at Cancer Research and I relented. I then bought a jumper (now my point about the cold is relevant). This resulted in me being the <u>perfect</u> temperature (for a while). I was chuffed.

On our walk to the bakery, I saw several puffin postcards (actually one of these was in whynot?) and the other was in our <u>real</u> first stop, or the first stop after the coop: an art and nice things shop which we entered for the highly advertised cafe, which turned out to no longer exist, permanently it seemed) (we were looking for a cafe at first for some reason, I no longer

remember why, but it was <u>not</u> for coffee, that comes later, spoiler!).

[puffin postcard one]

[puffin postcard two]

I've just realized the first puffin postcard isn't from that shop. – these are the postcards from that shop:

[houses postcard]

[beach postcard]

I'm not sure if I'm right about that actually. Anyway, back to whynot?, outside, on the glass window, they'd painted pretty flowers, which I (not very well) photographed:

[window flowers]

So, back to outside Cancer Research! I'd bought the jumper. I was happy! We still needed to get our lunch things. We also wanted to buy coffee. On the way to the bakery we stopped in a few shops. Bought nothing. We arrived at the bakery! I realized I'd actually found this bakery months ago online and had added it to a lot of places I want to go to! So I was very happy to be ticking it off my list accidentally.

There was delicious bread, we bought a loaf.

[bread]

And incredible looking pastries and things.

[pastries]
We bought a pistachio raspberry croffin (mine) and a kouign amann (Otis's, on my recommendation). The inside of this shop was very aesthetic, as you can imagine from the bread photo. Unfortunately I didn't take more photos, but you can check online.

As we'd come on this hike quite unprepared (actually Otis had tomatoes, so there was <u>some</u> food), we needed to get our loaf sliced. Otis was sure they would slice it for us. They would not. Well, they did. But originally they would not. Let me explain. I asked them to slice it. The person working there said they weren't allowed to. We must've looked sad when we said "oh" in response. I think we also explained we were going on a hike & had no knife (I know, I know, unprepared). They looked around and then said "ok, how many slices?" And then even though we said four was enough, they sliced a few more! This was so very kind of them! I felt heart-warmed. Though I do wonder why they aren't allowed to cut bread.

Upon leaving the shop, Otis and I excitedly pulled out a slice of bread to share. It was <u>amazing</u>. So incredibly good. Not painful to eat. Not super sour. Delicious crumb texture. It was glorious. Otis believes it is the best sourdough he's ever tried.

We ambled back towards Whynot? to get some cheese (having decided they had the best of the cheese counters).

[painting]

[cheeses]

We decided to make our final stop at a pretty coloured cafe for some flat whites. (If you've been following, you will notice that we really zigzagged our way along this street, very efficient.)

Now finally laden with food and supplies, we headed south towards Berwick Law. Here, finally, I remembered that I had my camera in my possession, and my photographs should better in the remainder of this post.

[houses]

Berwick Law

[3797]

[3800]

The day was starting to look up. Behind us were some blue skies, the temperature was nice, up ahead approached the hill.

We had decided to walk without checking the maps, a new like of mine I really recommend (as you already know + have experienced + have influenced).

We stumbled across some red apples. The first I'd seen this year! I'm sure I squealed. My camera unfortunately was unable to pick up the colour of them (vibrant), and the wind (though

quite gentle), pushed the flowers around to no end. The result:

[3807]
[3809]

Next to this section of housing was a patch of trees with a beautiful path going through.

[3812]
[3813]

Otis even took photos of me!

[3814]

The path led us to a house (actually many, but one in particular) which had its very own wildflower bee meadow! Made for me!

[3817]
[3819]

Having not yet bought a banana, I was happy to know that Otis knew (from a previous map search) of an Aldi nearby. On our way in the direction we hoped it would be, I took this photo:

[3822]

(Actually it was after the Aldi.)

So we got to Aldi! But their bananas were all very green. We left. Otis called a Tesco nearby! On the way I took that photo. And more!

[3828]
[3830]

With bananas aquired (Tesco pulled through), we could finally make our way to Berwick Law. But look! A funny sign!

[3831]
We walked along a road for a few minutes, first approaching the hill, and slowly surprising it on its eastern side. ~~[illegible]~~
[3835]
[3836]
As the clouds dissipated, the day grew warmer, we shed our clothes.
[3838]
Fortunately, a nice breeze kept us at a very good temperature. This breeze also waved around the long grass, rippling endlessly. It was beautiful.
[grass waving video]
Here we caught our first glance of Bass Rock glinting brightly in the sun.
[3842]
I'm sure you will be tired of seeing this rock by the time you've finished reading this.
[3843]
Also visible was the Isle of May!
[3844]
It's incredible how quickly the day had turned to a beautiful one, but, that's Scotland for you!
[3848]
Over the rippling field could be seen, if I'm correct, Tantallon Castle (which is also on my list of places to go to).
[3860]
At this point, I discovered I'd been shouting in night

mode, and from now on, my photos should be much brighter.

The road had crested its hill and on turning west, we passed by some houses, now walking on pavement! One of the houses had a nice gate.

[3867]

Across from which, I presume, were its sheep.

[3869]

[3870]

At the end of these houses, the road turned south once more. Seeing an opening in the stone wall, we decided to turn onto a field and head straight for Berwick Law. Fortunately, this was the right move, as this field had another opening onto the next, with a clear path leading to the hill.

Along this path were some pretty square-shaped trees. An informative sign said nothing much of interest, see below:

[3877]

But, the trees were pretty.

[3879]

As we reached the point of inflection, we realised it was time for lunch. So, having found quite a nice area, we sat down.

[3881]

[view from under tree]

[3882]

Surprize! I told the story wrong! We both had other food! Not sure what this is, but looks

like butter beans & rice (and I remember it had olives, yum).
[3883]
I had left over pad thai, cold, not super delicious.
[3886]
As we ate, the sky clouded over again, and it started to rain lightly.
[3884]
This did not stop Otis from climbing up the tree.
[tree climb]
I prefered to spend my post lunch time taking photos of the snails.
[3887]
[3888]
Our stomachs sufficiently satisfied, we picked up and continued on our way. The options were, go straight up the side (very steep)
[steep hill]
or take the windy way up.
[side path]
We chose the latter.
On our way up, we passed the trees I'd seen from a distance that looked funny & spindly.
[tall trees]
As well as other trees.
[tree blocking path]
[tree again]
Now on the south side of the hill, we found ourselves in even increasing wind. And also, lots of

cool rocks!
[very rectangular rocks]
[cool colour rocks]
[rock edge]
[rock landscape view]
[rocks with windy grass]
But back to the wind. It was really, very windy. Hard to hear anything kind of wind. Get very close to the ground and lean forwards when stepping up kind of wind. It was fun! And beautiful!
[view down]
[rounder rocks]
Well, we kept climbing up, at the end mostly on the less windy eastern side, and once up, sheltered behind some rocks so as to not be blown away (literally, unfortunately the monument at the top is ugly and won't figuratively blow anyone away).
[3892]
From our shelter, we looked out at the view and tried to figure out how far we could see (not that far it turns out).
[3891]
I ate my second banana.
[banana]
And Otis ate his kouign amann (it was very good)
[kouign amann]
After our snacks, we decided it necessary to officially touch the summit (and also see views from other sides. Here you can see my sheltering still blew my

hair everywhere.
[hair]
At the very top I took some nice photos.
[3898]
[3899]
[3900]
And attempted to show how windy it was.
[3903]
These attempts are perhaps more effective.
[wind video]
[wind leg video]
On the northern side, slightly farther down than the whale bone obelisk (not real whale bones), there were some war lookout buildings (if I recall correctly), definitely some building structures of some sort. Unfortunately left unphotographed (but perhaps a reason to return).
Also, it was really a bit too windy. We had had our fun flying on the wind a bit. We now wanted to return to the town.
[view at start of downward track]
Remember we had two options going up the hill? Well, we decided to take the steep path down. This was may be not the best of ideas, as going downhill is not the time to pick the steep path. Spoiler alert: no one died!
[ohio going down]
I saw the cool spindly trees again.
[view]
And pretty flowers.
[thistle]
[wildflowers]

[purple flowers]
I was very happy to safely make it to the bottom.
[me, happy]
It was still very windy.
[me holding Bass Rock]
We were once again at the point of inflection, this time with practically no clouds.
[clear skies]
Here, we met an old lady with whom we talked for a while. She told us about the ponies in the area. She was very sweet & offered to take some photos of us. Unfortunately, she videod instead) I then had otis film me going over the many fences ~~[illegible]~~ needing passing.
[video]
We went down the rest of the hill, now a more gentle descent. At the edge of the parking lot, we exited via gap in stones.
[gap]
[otis going through]
Back on a road, we ambled our way towards the town centre.
[red flowers]
[colourful flowers]
We decided to have our second half of lunch, the food we'd bought. So, we stopped in a park with picnic tables to eat.
[park]
[food]
As we ate, we had a nice view of some high school students. They weren't actually all that

interesting. There was, however, a play park with a climbing wall where the holds were, we think, green lobsters. Let me know what you think.
[said lobsters]
Stomachs once again full, we continued on our way. Now, by walking through a graveyard. This graveyard's church was clearly no longer in use, but the building was very cool. It was full of openings to the sky.
[arch]
[me on arch]
[me with banana on arch]
[sun through window]
[window with flowers]
Once out of the graveyard, we spotted a sign for a garden centre / tools shop. They were selling tomatoes! We were very tempted to buy for ferma culture.
[tomatoes for sale]
What seemed like a small shop
[outside]
turned out to be very large (and crammed full!).
[inside]
[inside]
They were selling a wide variety of seeds, including poppies
[poppies]
and cat grass
[cat grass]
and poached eggs

[poached egg plant]
...plants.
They also had paint samples. I had fun picking four to put on my wall.
However, we had to leave! Duty called! So, on we went.
Finally back in town, we stopped to refill our bottles. A Scottish water tap had excitingly been rated with "quality".
[qr code]
Or they'd chosen that spot carefully.
[road sign]
On the way to the water, I saw this cute sign:
[bike sign]
and many cute houses
[houses]
[address number]
as well as some pretty artwork in a window.
[art]
[art]
[art]
Now, finally, we'd made it to the beach! Unfortunately, the bus we wanted to take was leaving in 15 minutes, so we could only walk through quickly. Still, it was a wonderful day and a beautiful beach and I enjoyed it immensely.
[beach]
[houses]
[stairs]
[Craigleith]
[boats]

[view from bus stop]
At the bus stop, we noticed no signage for our bus. Worried, we hurried down the road to the next stop. This one did have a notice for our bus. As we had some time to wait still, I took out my book (The Crying of Lot 49) to read. This was theoretically very enjoyable, but not in practice (because I don't like the book).

Suddenly, we noticed the bus approach, and turn right before our stop! Again, worried, we hurried to the next stop. Though hurrying, I did stop to take photos of the flowers.
[red flowers]
[pink flowers]
[house]
[green eaves]
At the third bus stop, it smelled terribly. Fortunately, it was a short wait.

Once on the bus, I read for a while. I had been invited to Portobello for a bonfire for Adela's birthday and had yet not decided whether I'd go. I wanted to, but I was tired, had work later, and my phone was low on battery. Once reading on bus, I realized just how tired I was, and decided to go straight home.
[bus window shot]

Making A Website

While on Berwick Law, I'd decided I really wanted to respond to your blog posts on my own website (and had also decided I wanted to write my own). So! With help from Otis to set up the Github, I made my own personal website!

I also ate my croffin.

[croffin]

[bitten]

It was ~~so~~ incredible. I let otis try and he said he regretted his purchase.

But back to the website. I spent the entire rest of the day (about 8 hours), sitting writing up my first response and finally sharing it with you! (I was supposed to have work, but right before leaving, Elkid texted to say I wasn't needed. This was great!)

Closing Thoughts

This was an <u>incredible</u> day. Even now, almost two weeks later, I still cherish it so much. Berwick Law was better than I expected! And North Berwick is so cute. There was much left to explore. I hope very much to return later this summer, hopefully with you. ♡

Deciding to build my own website, learn html & CSS, was such a good decision! I'm so happy with it! I feel really proud of it. I remember the excitement of sharing it so well, and it continues to do so. I'm really just super happy & super proud.

Much love!

isabella! ♡