

7.6 Pillar 14

Images from the walk to the waymarker tree.



Descending southwards beyond Scarth Gap Pass, come to the rocky knoll, with its waymarker tree – where, as seen here, the path to Pillar splits right over a grassy shoulder (then descends to the River Liza) leaving the track to Black Sail Hut and beyond following down to the left. The great bulk of Pillar, with its immense rock, rough crags, shadowy coves and tumbled scree forms an imposing backdrop worthy of contemplation and study.



The rowan is passing, handing over its waymarking duties to a new sapling standing almost directly at its base. With imagination, it's possible to 'see' the former, leafy, vibrant tree AW indicated in his sketch – and to acknowledge it is now fading, soon to be replaced by its own progeny.



Left: a life well-lived – the rowan is now in its final years – with a healthy new recruit emerging from the rockface almost immediately below-left of the original; and *right:* the old rowan's trunk is a blend of live and dead wood, partly covered by the cream-white crusts of the saprophytic fungi bleeding broadleaf crust (*Stereum rugosum*).