In the summer of 1773, lawyer and antiquarian William Hutchinson set out from his home in County Durham on a tour of the English Lake District. Accompanied by his brother, George Allan, he travelled by horseback from Bowes to Penrith and Keswick, down through Grasmere and Ambleside to Kendal, and back via Kirkby Stephen to County Durham. When he returned home he wrote what may be the first guidebook to the Lakes. Written in a pre-Romantic era when English writers were just beginning to discover the delights of the scenic view, Hutchinson’s account vividly describes a district that would soon be the haunt of literary giants such as Wordsworth, Southey, Matthew Arnold and Harriett Martineau.

These recordings were made ‘on site’ as I followed in Hutchinson’s footsteps during the cold and wet early spring of 2018. - Summary by Phil Benson

Read by Phil Benson. Total running time: 02:26:16

This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org.

Cover picture PD photos of trip by Phil Benson. Copyright expired in U.S., Canada, EU and all countries with author’s life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Annise. This design is in the public domain.