

Woodland Cottage

watercolour on 140lb (300gsm) not paper

Notes as promised on this watercolour.
story so far

Step 1

After the initial drawing, lay in the first washes. As there is no sky paint loose washes for the tree foliage & other vegetation & a light wash on the bridge. Avoid dark tones at this stage.

Trees : Raw Umber for light tones.
Viridian + B.Sienna mix for mid tones & a stronger, less green, mix for the deeper tones.

Grass: Cadmium Yellow + Viridian for the sunny area. Add a little ultramarine for the shadow.

Bridge: Raw Umber. Use a little purple mix (Alizarin Crimson + Ultramarine) for the shadow. Keep it light.

Step 2

Lay in the background woodland darks. Use a mix of Viridian + B.Sienna, as before, adding in a wash of same strength Ultramarine blue, allowing it mix together on the paper. The blue gives the trees 'distance'. Apply the mix in & around the tree foliage. Don't be afraid to leave white paper here & there. Let this dry

Step 3

A light wash of Cobalt Blue was applied to the roof tops. Keep it light against the woodland darks.

(you could use Ultramarine here – it doesn't really matter.)

Darken under the bridge with a strong mix of Ultramarine + B.Sienna.
'Negative' paint the grasses along the bottom edge as you go.



Step 4

Using a mix of B.Sienna and Ultramarine paint the tree trunks & branches. Note the 'lost & found' brush marks suggesting leaves are in front of & behind the branches. On the nearest tree use a stronger mix adding shadows on the trunk.

Apply a light Raw Umber wash on the cottage, leaving the windows white. Let this dry.



Step 5

Time to add a little detail. Mix a shadow tone for the cottage - B.Sienna + Ultramarine. Float in a little 'neat' Ultramarine to add distance and interest. Apply a little of this 'shadow' mix under the eaves & don't forget the chimney. Use a stronger mix to paint in the windows & a little detailing in the bridge. Using a bluer version of the same mix darken the area under the bridge leaving a little light to the right.

A stronger, greener, mix of Viridian + B.Sienna is used to apply the foreground shadows and darken the foliage in front of the Bridge.

At this stage the cottage colours/tones are the same as the bridge – this needs attention.



Step 6

Use two transparent 'glazing' washes. For the cottage I simply used a light wash of Ultramarine painted over the entire cottage and roof. Make sure your painting is dry before you attempt this.

The wash for the bridge is Cadmium Yellow + Alizarin Crimson.

Colours Used

Cadmium Yellow
Raw Umber
Burnt Sienna
Alizarin Crimson
French Ultramarine
Cobalt Blue (optional)
Viridian..

