

Upper Calder 13 Trigs – 14/15 December 2012

Following a number of winter challenge outings in the northern Peak District it was time for a change. A route listed on the GoFar website first completed by Tony Wimbush in October 2011 caught my attention. A circuit of 13 moorland trigs above the Upper Calder valley of the South Pennines covering a route of some 45 miles and 8000 feet looked like a good option and not too far away. I also knew none of the team would be familiar with the area so it would represent a good challenge both navigationally and terrain wise on a dark winters night.

A team of seven agreed to take on the challenge: Robin and Amanda Carter, Bryan Carr, Jon Kinder, Andy Swift, Mark Fowell and Keith Covell. Steve Leach (who was injured at the time) provided the car support at checkpoints around the circuit.

Starting from Mythrolmroyd Community Centre at around 9pm on a dark, wet and freezing cold evening the runners disappeared into a thick gloom.

What happened next on the first three trigs is best summed up by Andy Swift.

Having conquered the first summit and whilst enjoying, sorry, enduring a relatively flat section on the tops, JK asked if I was OK. I replied "of course, great fun this, must give up the Friday night drinking and do this more often!!" Shortly after, somewhere in the vicinity of Dog Hill (says it all), tragedy struck as Swifties right foot penetrated a sheet of ice, twisted it over by at least 90 degrees and the ensuing skid down Dog Hill on his arse along a sheet of ice covered in freezing water was arrested only by a substantial outcrop of Pennine rockery. He hobbled to the roadside checkpoint and got in the nice warm car, game over, with a "multiple broken ankle"!

After Andy's retirement the rest carried on but at some later stage, can't remember where, Amanda also decided to call it a night and retired to the back seat of my car to hibernate under an enormous pile of sleeping bags and down jackets.

Robin did a great job navigating the team around unknown terrain in very challenging conditions (darkness and thick, freezing clag) and dawn finally broke to reveal another grey winters day.

Total elapsed time including stops to cover the 48.6 miles recorded by Mark's GPS was 15:36, actual running time was 14:07.

At the finish the team all agreed it had been a great challenge on a winters evening and well worth a revisit in better spring or summer conditions.

Steve Leach –December 2012



Robin Carter was the team leader and navigator for the challenge.



The team at the finish. Left to right is Keith Covell, Jon Kinder, Mark Fowell, Bryan Carr, Robin Carter, Andy Swift, Amanda Carter. Steve Leach took the photo.

Actual times recorded.

Trig	Description	OS Grid Ref	Height (m)	Height (feet)	Distance	Act Time	Split Times	Cumulative Time
	Mytholmroyd Community Centre - start	SE 011 260			0.0	21:09		
1	Crow Hill	SE 019 229	383	1,257	2.4	21:56	0:47	0:47
2	Manshead End	SD 998 198	404	1,326	5.1	22:41	0:45	1:32
3	Dog Hill	SD 003 171	435	1,427	7.7	23:51	1:10	2:42
4	White Hill	SD 991 132	466	1,529	10.9	01:09	1:18	4:00
5	Blackstone Edge	SD 972 164	472	1,549	13.5	01:52	0:43	4:43
6	Little Holder stones	SD 969 214	420	1,378	17.6	03:23	1:31	6:14
7	Trough Edge End	SD 905 219	454	1,490	22.0	05:05	1:42	7:56
8	Great Bride Stones	SD 267 933	437	1,434	27.6	07:19	2:14	10:10
9	Hoof Stones Height	SD 914 291	479	1,572	29.9	08:03	0:44	10:54
10	Standing Stone Hill	SD 951 303	398	1,306	32.7	08:53	0:50	11:44
11	High Brown Knoll	SD 009 304	443	1,453	37.5	10:33	1:40	13:24
12	Nab Hill	SE 037 323	451	1,480	40.3	11:13	0:40	14:04
13	Sheep Stones Edge	SE 015 278	401	1,316	44.3	12:19	1:06	15:10
	Mytholmroyd Community Centre - finish	SE 011 260			45.6	12:45	0:26	15:36
	Total ascent/descent = 2,424m (7,953 feet)							
Support points & times		Stop time (minutes)				Total Cumulative Time		15:36
1	A58 road crossing	12				Total Stop Time		1:29
2	White House	16				Actual Running Time		14:07
3	Walsden	17						
4	A646 road crossing	20				Actual Distance (Mark GPS) - miles		48.6
5	Long Causeway	6						
6	Blake Dean	14				Average Pace (m.p.h)		3.4
7	A6033 road crossing	4						
8	Near Nab Hill	0				Pace including stops (m.p.h)		3.1
	Total Stop Time	89		01:29				