

Wyresdale Skyline Traverse.
Thursday 15 Dec2005.
Andy Verden.

Set off from Quernmore Post Office at 8.45 after very kindly being dropped off by Caroline on her way to work. No schedule other than I thought it would be nice to get round in around 5 hours.

Winter and solo unsupported to me means carrying enough gear to survive a mishap so the sac was around 4-5kg.

Weather was overcast and quite cool with a cold wind on the ridge.

Underfoot conditions were fairly heavy but not unusual for Bowland.

One thing which made me smile early on was the Christmas tree on Grit Fell. Someone had very nicely decorated it with a star, borbles and beads. It just needs the lights now to finish it off.

Nice steady run over Wards Stone, out to Wolfhole. Feeling my lack of Bowland miles by Whins Brow.

Pretty cold heading into the wind over the Hawthn't ridge. Felt like hard work but went as fast as I could manage through the bog and heather.

Reaching Hawthn't Trig faster than I thought I would and realizing that I might make 5 hours or just over was nice. Hitting the heather on the ridge down to Grazedale Head and Harrisend was frustrating as it slowed the pace too much for my liking. Eventually picked up the "mowed" path which speeded travel enormously.

Was pretty tired by the time I got to Nicky Nook and on the descent saw my first people of the day.

Would have been nicer to finish there as I found the final road section into Scorton a bit of an anti climax but using the post offices as definite start/ finish points makes sense.

5hr13 min was acceptable in my present state of fitness but going more lightweight and in warmer weather would knock a sizable chunk off. Sub 4.30!!

AV.