

Bowland Northern Traverse – A Variation.

By Mike Johnson

As I have become a Bowland member recently, moving over from a very short period with Lancs & Morecambe, thought I'd report an outing that seems to fit the profile of 'Dig the Peat'.

When we moved to Lancaster mid 2004, I was able to get back into fell adventures and it struck me after a few outings that getting the train to Clapham or Giggleswick and running home along the Northern Ridge of Bowland would be a worthy outing. Much later I came across the Bowland website with the Dig the Peat section and that confirmed the idea. I intended to have a go but rail engineering put a stop to the idea for a while, no train on a Saturday morning, the only possible time I could have a go.

One Saturday (21/1/06) I was thinking about the cross country at Lancs Uni, when checking some train times for my partner, Deb, I popped in Lancaster-Giggleswick and there was a train just before 11am. It was a fine day, the late start would add a bit of pressure re daylight, go for it! So I did, ran to the station, train to Giggleswick, then the dilemma, thought I remembered reading about post office start/finishes, check map, better run from station to Giggleswick PO, then back and up to first summit Big Hill, then on ridge to Bowland Knotts, Raven Castle, White Hill, Wolfhole Crag, Ward Stone, Grit Fell and finally Clougha, then a quick rattle down to Quernmore PO. Just getting dark! Perfect timing, though I still had to get home. PO to PO time 4:56:30.

I know you are suggesting Jubilee tower to Great stone of Fourstones - cant find it (GR?) I'm a Bowland novice! - as a standard route but it seems to me PO to PO fits in very well too!

I had a great unexpected day out, it was quite wet in places but as I had never been on the Eastern Moors I wasnt sure how bad it might be, and had clear views until Ward Stone when some cloud rolled in, low visibility until Clougha, which was no problem, home turf and all that.