

# Running the Pennines

As I've mentioned to a number of people in the pub, I'm just starting work on a new book, which is following the line of the main Pennine watershed from the Dark Peak to Hadrians Wall, and which (all being well & provided I actually manage to write the damn thing) should end up a coffee table-type book in the shops sometime in the autumn of 2007.

The book involves walking/running about 210m, fortunately not all in one go. As in the past, therefore, I'm on the look out for other Toddlies who fancy doing a leg or two with me. This is a chance for a day out, probably exploring a part of the Pennines you've not been over before (the line of the watershed is by no means an obvious one). Some of the northern legs in particular are nicely rugged.

Here is what's on offer:

Leg 1. Mam Tor – Kinder – Snake Pass. Too late, I've done it already.

Leg 2. Snake Road – Bleaklow – Holme Moss. Lovely bleak Bleaklow, and some of the countryside you all love so much from the Holme Moss fell race. About 15m.

Leg 3. Holme Moss – Blackstone Edge (or probably in practice home). 17m plus the last bit. Probably getting to Holme Moss by public transport.

Leg 4. Blackstone Edge – Trough Edge End – Cliviger. 13m. Done..

Leg 5. Cliviger – Watersheddles via Boulsworth. 12m. Also fairly familiar. Includes Black Hameldon. Section beyond Crow Hill may be a new one for you. Need two cars, probably

Leg 6. Watersheddles – Earby. Only 10 miles, over some moorland but also field paths near Cowling. May need two cars.

Leg 7. Earby – Hellifield. This is about 13m, and is the most pastoral part of the whole route. Goes across the Leeds & Liverpool canal near Bar'l'ick. Could possibly manage this by public transport, though one or two cars more likely.

Leg 8. Hellifield – Penyghent. This is about 20m, and will be probably done via the Settle-Carlisle railway, picking up the train back from Horton. Into the Dales.

Leg 9. Penyghent – Dent. Another leg using the S-C railway, which makes it a full day out of about 22 miles. Limestone country.

Leg 10. Dent – Aisgill. Shortish section over Great Knoutberry Hill (the name comes from the cloudberry). 11 miles. Two cars probably.

Leg 11. Aisgill – Nine Standards Rigg – High Greygits. 15m. From Mallerstang up on to the edge of the hills, including the impressive 9 Standards Rigg cairns, ending up v close to Tan Hill pub (highest pub in England). Will need cars.

Leg 12. High Greygits to B6276. 15m Don't know this area at all, but suspect it will be pretty hard going. Access land bashing. Will need 2 cars.

Leg 13. B6276 to Murton. This is over the army firing ranges, so will only be on an open day when the ranges are available to the public (ie a weekend or by permission). 13m. Unwalked moors.

Leg 14. Murton – Kirkland. High Cup Nick, Cross Fell and Great Dun Fell. Will be great in good weather. Partly following Pennine Way at this point, so somewhat less bog bashing. But 18m. 2 cars.

Leg 15. Kirkland – A686. 10m. From hereon it's the great unknown, unmapped areas where no human has ever set foot before. Could be hard work.

Leg 16. A686 – Croglin. Ditto. This is the heart of the North Pennines AONB, hen harrier country. 14m

Leg 17. Croglin – A689. 13m. More ditto. Not sure I'm looking forward to this.

Leg 18. A689 – Hadrians Wall. Slightly easier last section (11m). Emperor Hadrian will be there to welcome us at fort 47A and reward us with a few denarii and a free pint of Imperial Stout.

Some of the longer legs may be broken down into two shorter sections (though sometimes this isn't possible).

If possible, and provided I bear up, I am planning to try to get about half of this done during August, with the remaining legs later in the Autumn. I will be going out normally on weekdays, not weekends. If you are up for it, particularly if you have time during the week, please let me know. Email or phone 01422 845799 (days), 844026 (evenings). I will also be signing up conscripts on Wed evenings.

- Andrew Bibby