

THE PENNINES



ROUGH STUFF — A FEW NOTES

Compared to the Lake District, passes are longer but easier; many have boggy stretches. As in other mountain areas of the British Isles, the best weather tends to be during April, May and June. Several of the more northern routes are quite long, wild and lonely, not recommended in poor weather when the cloud base is low; it is easy to get lost on them.

The routes are given two ratings: (1) V.A.D. (difficulty); E = Easy; M = Moderate; D = Difficult – involving some carrying, and (2) stars; based mainly on scenic value in fine weather. Times quoted are hopefully generous in good conditions. There are many shorter routes not given here, particularly in the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales.

The 1:50,000 O.S. Landranger maps are highly recommended: No. 80 for the Cheviots; No. 91 for the Northern Pennines; No. 98 for the Yorkshire Dales; and Nos. 110 and 119 for the Peak District. The Outdoor Leisure maps (OLM's) at 1:25,000 are superbly detailed and cover many of the routes: No. 31 for the Northern Pennines, Nos. 2, 10 and 30 for the Yorkshire Dales, and Nos. 1 and 24 for the Peak District. The later numbers, 24, 30 and 31 are double sided. Barts. are not recommended in this type of country; some routes are not shown, contours are at 100m. intervals and grid references cannot be used.

The initials before each route are for identification on the key maps. A x on these key maps indicates the highest point of the route. No high road routes are given for the Cheviots or Peak District as nearly all are A roads. Hopefully the seemingly illogical paging will make use of the key maps easier. Abbreviations: R.S.J. = Rough Stuff Journal; OLM = Outdoor Leisure Map.

This guide was written in 1992 by E D Clements with substantial use of information from Rough Stuff Journals.

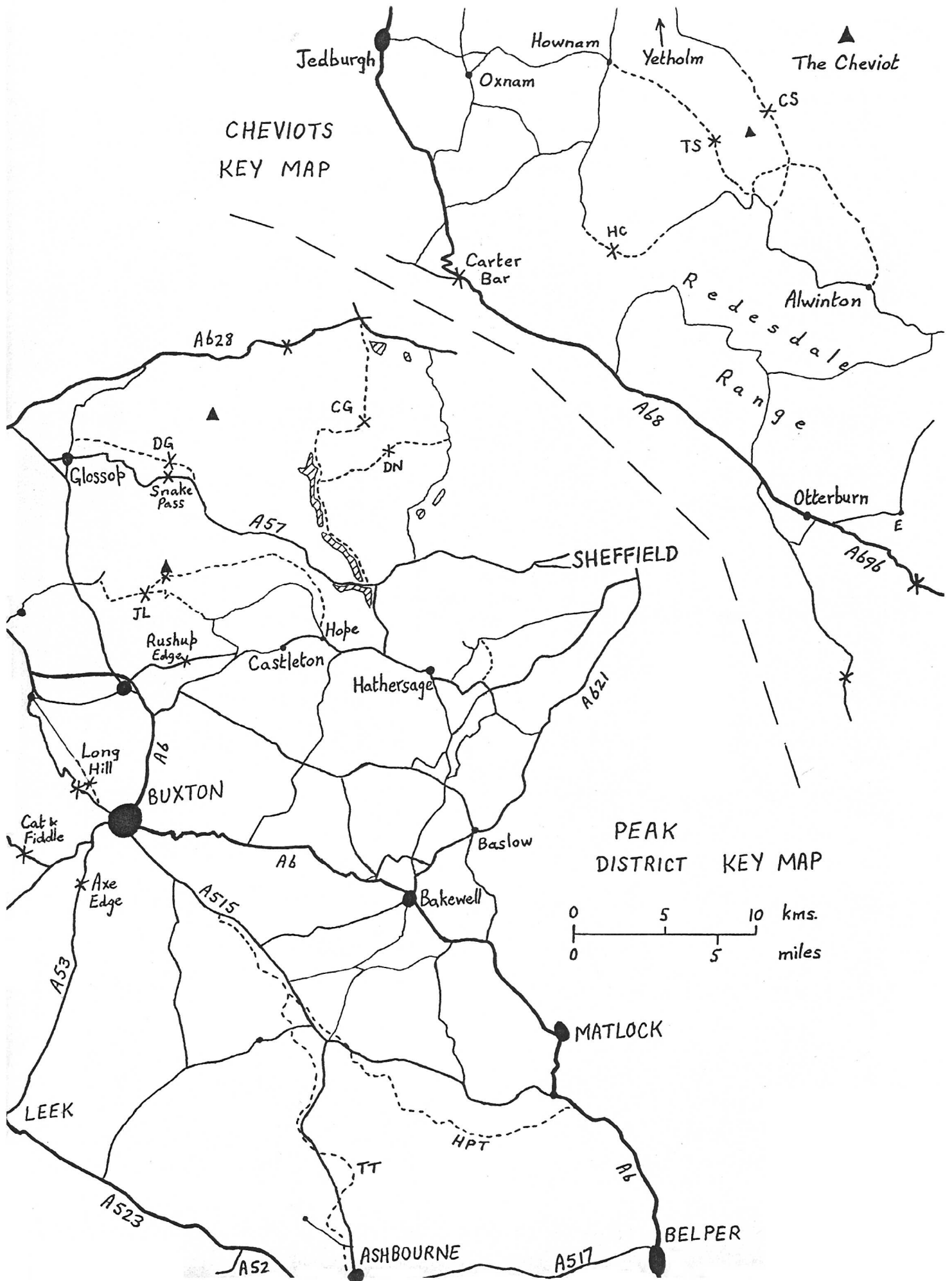
Any comments, amendments or additional useful routes will be welcomed by the RSF librarians, Jill & Chris Bolton (rsf@jillbolton.co.uk).

HIGH ROAD ROUTES

NORTH PENNINES			YORKSHIRE DALES		
No.		Rd. No. Ht.(m)	No.		Rd.No. Ht.(m)
1	Willyshaw Rigg	A686 471	16	Tan Hill	u 536
2	Horseshoe Hill	u 499	17	Lamps Moss	B6270 518
3	Cuthbert's Hill	u 508	18	The Stang	u 511
4	Scarsike Head	u 539	19	Buttertubs	u 526
5	Rookhope Head	u 536	20	Askrigg Common (Oxnop)	u 498
6	Stangend Currick	B6295 a570	21	The Fleak	u 544
7	Killhope	A689 627	23	Whiteshaw Moss	u 473
8	Black Hill (Nenthead)	u 609	22	Greets Moss	u 463
9	Nunnery Hill	u a600	24	Shaking Moss	u 537
10	Hartside	A686 580	25	Newby Head	B6255 437
11	Yad Moss	B6277 598	26	Fleet Moss	u 589
12	Harthope Head	u 631	27	Kidstones	B6160 424
13	Swinhope Head	u 607	28	Rainscar	u 436
14	Bollihope Common	B6278 511	29	Park Rash	u 504
15	Shot Moss	B6276 482	30	Black Hill (Malham)	u 446

ROUGH ROUTES

Code		VAD * Page	Code		VAD * Page
CHEVIOTS			YORKS DALES (CONTD.)		
CS	Clennell Street	M 3 2	St.M	Stake Moss	E 3 5
TS	The Street	M 3 2	SF	Starbottan Fell	E/M 3 5
HC	Hindhope-Coquetdale	E 3 2	HS	Horsehouse-Scar Ho. Rest.	E/M 2 5
NORTH PENNINES			KF	Kirkby Fell (Stockdale La.)	E 2 5
CF	Cross Fell	M 3(4) 6	ML	Mastiles Lane	E 2 5
MW	Maiden Way	M 3 6	AS	Arncliffe Cote-Street Gate	E/M 2 5
GK	Garrigill - Knock	M 3 6	PEAK DISTRICT		
CE	Coldberry End	E 3 6	DG	Doctor's Gate	E/M 2 3
HCN	High Cup Nick	M 4 6	CG	Cut Gate	M 2 3
SC	Stainmore Common	M 2 6	DN	Duke of Norfolk's Road	E/M 3 3
YORKSHIRE DALES			JL	Jacob's Ladder	E 2(4) 3
SM	Sleightholme Moor	E 2 4	HPT	High Peak Trail	E 2 3
HO	Hawes - Outhgill	M 2 4	TT	Tissington Trail	E 2 3
GSF	Great Shunner Fell	M 3 4	BOWLAND		
A	Apedale	M 2 4	SF(B)	Salter Fell	E 2 3
CW	Craven Way	M 2 4			
CFR	Cam Fell Roman Road	E 3 5			
SN	Sulber Nick	E 2 5			
HB	Horton - Beckermonds	E 2 5			



CHEVIOT HILLS

CLENNELL STREET Alwinton to Cocklawfoot 542m.

O.S. 80 NT 922063 - 854186 Barts. 41 25 L. 10 miles R.S.

This is a grassy track for the most part, presumably rideable on the forestry roads at least, where these are not too steep. The climb northwards up Hazely Law is rough going, but the track distinct, as it is throughout. There is a bridge over the Usway Burn at 876136, not shown on O.S. 80. Fine waterfall hereabouts. After crossing the border fence at 871160, a mostly rideable green road descends the ridge to Cocklawfoot. See R.S.J.'s Vol. 25 No. 1 p. 8, Vol. 23 No. 4 p. 89, & Vol. 22 No. 5 p. 103. 4 or 5 hrs.

THE STREET Coquetdale to Hownam 510m. (few details of direct route)

O.S. 80 NT 859115 - 779191 Barts. 41 24m. 8½ miles R.S.

No details of the ascent to the border fence, but the route is shown as a double dotted track on the pathfinder map, so is probably easy to follow. An alternative route to the border is to turn off Coquetdale 1km. earlier at Barrowburn, past the old school at 868107 up a rough stony track; this soon descends again to the river, with further climbs to follow to the junction of six tracks at 875137, near the Usway burn footbridge. A long plod up the track leading N.W. takes one to Russell's Cairn on Windy Gyle, 619m., where one follows the border fence (and Pennine Way) westwards for a mile or so.

'The Street' continues N.W. wards from 836155 as a distinctive green track. A little way along this, a path forks right, at 835156 on pathfinder, but a bit later on O.S. 80, 'a very much tractorised track, clarty !? and with about six fords to negotiate,' to the farm at Calroust, for Yetholm etc. (See R.S.J. Vol. 25 No. 1 p. 9). A little further along 'the Street', another path forks left, at 831160, to drop down to the Heatherhope Burn (no details) and an easy valley track to Hownam. Suggest allow 4 hours for (The Street)

HINDHOPE - CHEW GREEN - COQUETDALE 450m. at Coquethead.

O.S. 80 NT 765104 - 803093 Barts. 41 22n, or 42 b13 4 miles R.S.

The easiest of the main Cheviot crossings, best done in this direction for the freewheel down Coquetdale. Near Nether Hindhope farm, a green track leads past a walled plantation (Corse Slack, mostly felled 1979) and up on to the hills. Once the gradient eases, the track becomes mostly rideable, and descends past the Roman Camps at Chew Green, to Makendon where the tarmac begins. Note that the South side of Coquetdale lies within the Redesdale artillery ranges. These are often open; if in doubt ring Range control on Otterburn 20474 and give intended route, there are several army roads, also Dere Street.

Another grassy track ascends from Tow Ford 761133; this is longer, but also becomes mostly rideable after the initial climbs. See R.S.J. Vol. 25 No. 1 p. 9.

Choose fine weather for these hills, it is easy to get lost when misty.

PEAK DISTRICT (ETC.)

DOCTORS GATE Glossop to A57 east of Snake Pass

O.S. 110 SK 046948 - 096929 (also on OLM 1) Barts. 29 9g 4 miles R.S.

There is a rideable track for a fair way from Old Glossop along the North side of Shelf Brook. After crossing this (footbridge) it becomes steep and rocky in places, and narrow up the final climb with occasional rocks, then a fairly easy zig-zag section near the top. A rock path, part of the old Roman road, continues for a short way, but ends in a boggy bit before crossing a small stream and up to A57. See R.S.J. Vol. 34 No. 3 p. 62.

CUT GATE Langsett to Derwent reservoir 530m.

O.S. 110 SE 201011 - SK 196864 (also on OLM 1) Barts. 29 12g 12 miles R.S.

The first half mile is easy going before a steep track climbs southwards, easing off higher up, then going along the top of Mickleden Edge. The real moorland section over Margery Hill is a typical peat grough area. After a dry spell some of the way down is rideable, but the last part into Cranberry Clough is very steep. Footbridge at the bottom, giving access to the good rideable forestry road along the east side of the reservoirs to Ashopton. Allow 5 or 6 hours. See R.S.J. Vol. 33 No. 4 p. 106 or Vol. 30 No. 4 p. 95.

DUKE OF NORFOLK'S ROAD Smallfield to Derwent reservoir 480m.

O.S. 110 SK 246945 - 171920 & 196864 Barts. 29 (not shown) 9 miles R.S.

Leave Smallfield up a well defined stony track along the ridge to west. Descend along the south side of Abbey Brook, a fine rugged gorge. The route is less boggy and more scenic than nearby Cut Gate, much rideable when dry. Allow 4 hours.

JACOBS LADDER ETC. Edale to Hayfield 541m.

O.S. 110 SK 103853 - 041867 (also on OLM 1) Barts. 29 8j 5 miles R.S.

A good, wide, but steep path throughout, and very popular. From the top, a good but narrower path follows the extreme southern edge of the Kinder Scout plateau past Edale Head, Crowden Tower, Ringing Roger and Crookstone Hill, to pick up the Roman road down to Hope, at 168845. This is a superb route, 12 miles of R.S. from Hayfield to Hope, with extensive views along the top; choose a fine day.

HIGH PEAK TRAIL Pomeroy to High Peak junction (nr. Matlock) 380m. at start

O.S. 119 SK 110673 - 313560 (also on OLM 24) Barts 29 10p miles R.S.

A specially laid bridleway on the old railway, meeting next route.

TISSINGTON TRAIL Ashbourne to Parsley Hay 340m. at end

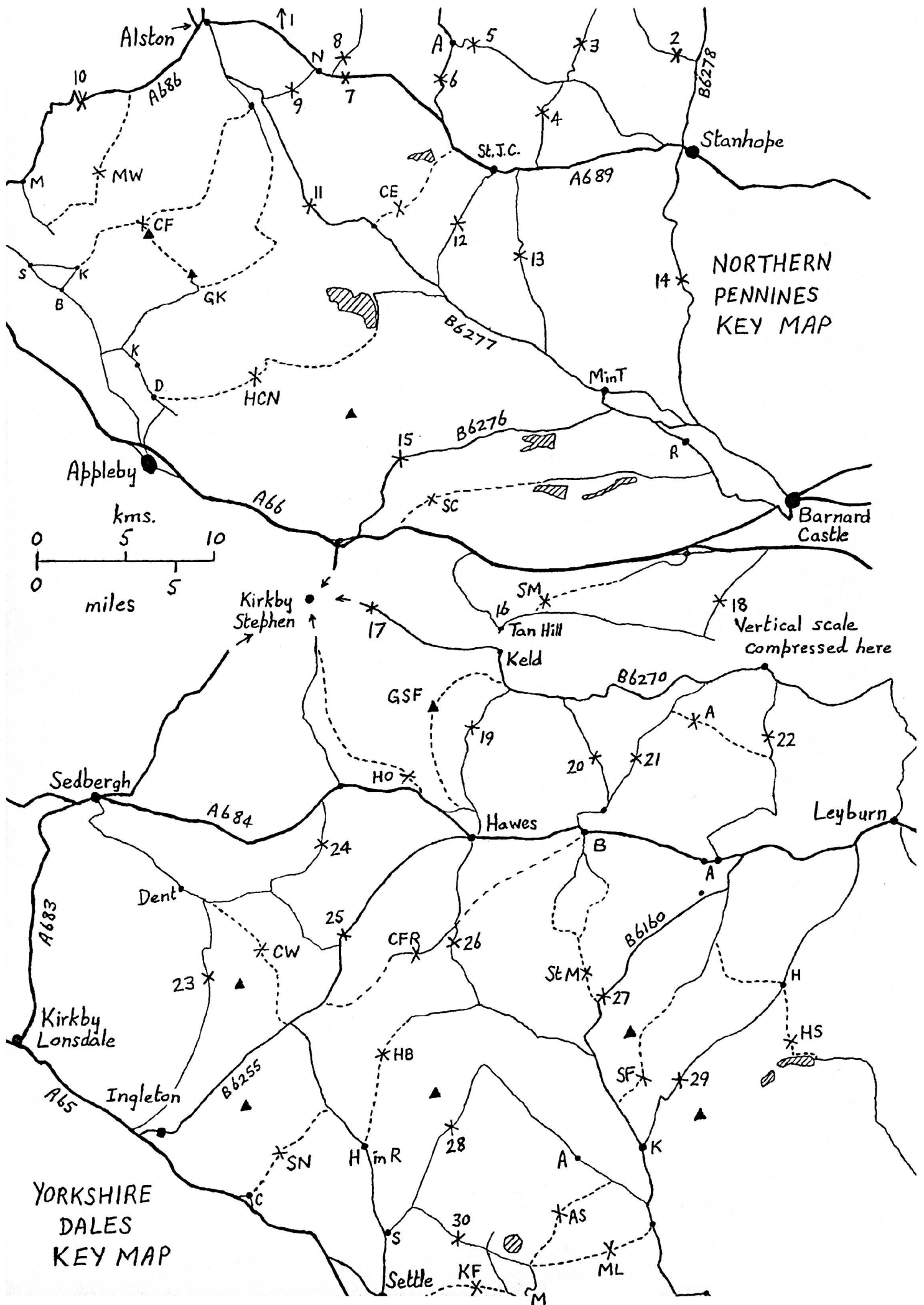
O.S. 119 SK 175469 - 147633 (also on OLM 24) Barts 29 10q miles R.S.

Another specially laid bridleway on another old railway, meeting previous route. The Manifold light railway has also been turned into a metalled path, with a 150m. long tunnel on the short section of public road involved (SK 102593 - 091501).

SALTER FELL (FOREST OF BOWLAND) Slaidburn to Hornby 410m.

O.S. 103 and 97 SD 686560 - 606627 Barts. 31 20f 7 miles R.S.

A very well defined and easy track. Allow 2 hours.



YORKSHIRE DALES

SLEIGHTHOLME MOOR Tan Hill to Bowes 465m.(at start)

O.S. 91 (or 92) NY 929075-955101 (on OLM 30) Barts. 35 10g 2½ miles R.S.

A very easy mostly rideable track (all rideable in the downhill direction) and useful short cut. Allow ½ hour down, 1 hour up. See R.S.T. Vol. 33 No. 2 p. 48 and Vol. 32 No. 5 p. 126

HAWES TO OUTHGILL 500m.

O.S. 98 SD 842921 - NY 783004 Barts. 35 6l 7 miles R.S.

A steep hard slog takes one up to Colter End, with an occasional boggy bit, then a fair track, mostly downhill and sometimes rideable, muddy and wet near High Hall, and with several streams across the path to Hell Gill; good for a while thereafter, but rough and boggy in places on the final descent to B6259. Allow 3 hours. See R.S.T. Vol. 31 No. 5 p. 12

GREAT SHUNNER FELL Hardraw to Thwaite 8 miles R.S. 716m.

O.S. 98 SD 866912 - 890984 (also on OLM 30) Barts. 35 7k (little rideable)

The walled lane leading up to Black Hill Moss is exceedingly rough and stony, but once on the open moor there is a good track, grassy then peaty, but without any deep groughs. Eventually one joins another walled lane on the descent, also rough loose and stony, just rideable in places. The way over the top is easy to follow in mist due to the passage of many feet, but once lost, the path may be difficult to find again. Allow 5 hrs.

APEDALE Castle Bolton to Gunnerside 550m.

O.S. 98 SE 042941 - SD 983964 (also on OLM 30) Barts 35 12l 4½ miles R.S.

The track is rideable for a couple of miles or so until it becomes too steep and rough, particularly down the N.W. side to Swaledale. There are lots of mineworkings and heaps near the start. It is possible to start straight up a track from Castle Bolton, meeting the East-West track at 030942. Allow 2 to 2½ hours. See R.S.T. Vol. 32 No. 5 p. 126

There is a good track along the S. side of River Swale from 003982 to Gunnerside, 949974, and a fine continuation up river from Calvert Hos. 926982 to 886016 near Keld.

CRAVEN WAY Dent to Ribbleshead viaduct 542m.

O.S. 98 SD 722859 - 764792 (also on OLM 2) Barts. 35 5o 6½ miles R.S.

A good green road, rough in places on the ascent and rather boggy in places higher up over Great Wold, becomes rougher again on the descent and especially stony and rough where it runs close to the railway, but joining a good rideable farm road from Winterseales to Gunnerfleet etc. Allow 3 hours. See R.S.T. Vol. 29 No. 3 p. 66.

R.S.T. Vol 10 No. 3 p. 48 indicates that parts of the initial ascent were boggy and churned up, but higher up on the limestone the track became good and mostly rideable to the ruin of an old shooting lodge at 751837. From here a very indistinct path continued SSE, boggy to the head of Force Gill, then down beside a fence.

YORKSHIRE DALES.

CAM FELL ROMAN ROAD Ribbleshead to Bainbridge 587m. (586 on R.S.)
O.S. 98 SD 785803-925895 (also on O.L.M.'s 2+30) Barts 35 8n 8 miles R.S.

There is a rough and stony climb to Cam End, where the Pennine Way, a rough and wet green road, comes up from Horton in Ribblesdale. At 822828 the Roman Road becomes metalled for a while where the farm road from Cam Houses comes up. (There is a very rough track down the valley from Cam Houses to Oughtershaw). The Roman road leaves the metalled road over Fleet Moss at the top of the steep descent to Hawes, and continues as a mostly rideable track over Wether Fell (or Drumaldrace) and down to Bainbridge.

Fine views. Allow 3 hours. See R.S.J. Vol. 31 No. 6 p. 149 or Vol. 20 No. 3 p. 71 (195)

The Pennine Way from SD 830834 to Hawes is a good green road along the level top, but rather rough and stony on the descent to Hawes. See Vol. 29 No. 3 p. 65
Cam End to Horton is a fine green road according to this latter R.S.J.

SULBER NICK Clapham or Austwick to Selside 390m.

O.S. 98 SD 746694 or 770690-788746 (also on OLM 2) Barts 32 4b 5 miles R.S.

A rough stony track starts just east of Clapham Church, between walls, up Long Lane to Trow Gill, a gorge just left of the path. Bear right at the gate here along a grassy track. Just past the top fork right at a cairn (768720) along the fainter grass track. (From Austwick, turn left at a gate just before Crummack Farm). The two routes meet at another cairn (772725). After Sulber Gate, 776732, grassy and sometimes rideable to Borrins Farm. Land B6479.

HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE TO BECKERMONDS 401m.

O.S. 98 SD 807727-837797 (also on OLM 2) Barts 35 6q 5 miles R.S.

This part of the Pennine Way starts as a rough track between stone walls from the sharp bend in B6479 in Horton. Higher up it becomes rideable at times, and eventually enters a newish block of forestry before reaching its highest point and the metalled road to Beckermunds. See R.S.J. Vol. 20 No. 2 p. 44.

The parallel track further south-east over Foxup Moor is very boggy and dreary - not recommended at all.

If doing the Beckermunds track in reverse, one can descend from Birkwith Moor to Old Ing, with a good switchback freewheel into Horton. N. of Old Ing is the Pennine Way to Cam End, good or wet and rough going depending on which R.S.J. is read.

STAKE MOSS Stalling Busk to Buckden 560m.

O.S. 98 SD 919861-943804 (also on OLM 30) Barts. 35 10 p 5 miles R.S.

This is a fine green road (one can also start from Carpley Green 944871), rough on the ascent near the top, and on the descent, but easily rideable along the level top. It is rather boulder strewn on the Buckden side.

STARBOTTON FELL West Burton to Starbotton 660m.

O.S. 98 SD 987807 - 953749 (also on OLM.30) Barts 35 10q 5 miles R.S.

From Walden Head farm, the track follows the NW. bank of the stream, a little muddy in places, to a fork stream. A clearly marked path climbs the hillside between them, steep at first, gradually easier, for about 1,000 ft. to round the south end of Buckden Pike; there is a gate in the boundary wall here. The path is good enough to ride down, but beware of a sharp right turn to avoid an unfenced quarry just above Starbotton.

HORSEHOUSE TO SCAR HOUSE RESERVOIR 485m.

O.S. 98 SE 045808 - 066771 (also on OLM 30) Barts. 35 13p 4 miles R.S.

There is a steep climb out of Coverdale on a fairly good track, rideable higher up. The descent to Scar House Reservoir in Nidderdale is rough and stony. A good track runs along the north side of the reservoir, then a smooth path over the dam, and a surfaced toll road down the valley. Allow 2 hours. See R.S.J. Vol. 29 No. 6 p. 159.

There is a very steep stony ascent west from Horsehouse, becoming an easy grass track along the top, and with a very easy descent on the old mine road to Waldendale. Wet on top. Alt. 450m. 3½ miles R.S. See R.S.J. Vol. 29 No. 3 p. 65.

The alternative path up from Braidley 033800 is virtually non-existent.

KIRKBY FELL Settle to Malham Cove 520m. (STOCKDALE LANE)

O.S. 98 SD 836630 - 892640 (also on OLM 10) Barts. 32 7d 4 miles R.S.

A good track throughout, clearly marked, but rather wet and muddy near the start. There is a covered mine shaft at 875640. Ignore any tracks to left or right.

MASTILES LANE Kilnsey to Malham Tarn 422m.

O.S. 98 SD 975678 - 904656 (also on OLM. 10) Barts. 32 9d 5 miles R.S.

There is a fairly good surface on the long climb out of Kilnsey, but a bit rougher after the top, and there is a boggy stretch near where another track goes off towards Grassington, possibly useful if going from the Malham end. (This is a grassy track with a wall on its south side) Mostly rideable thereafter to Street Gate. Allow 2 hours.

(Further West, Stockdale Lane from 892640 near Malham, to 836630 above Settle) is a good green lane, mostly rideable where not too steep. See R.S.J. Vol. 29 No. 6 p. 160.

ARNCLIFFE COTE TO STREET GATE (NR. MALHAM) 510m.

O.S. 98 SD 947705 - 904657 (also on OLM 10) Barts. 32 8c 4½ miles R.S.

From Arncliffe Cote bear right up the zig-zag after the first gate (the path ahead ends in the very steep Cote Gill); the main path keeps high above the gill and becomes fainter, passing through a series of gateways in the walls. There is a marshy area as one approaches Street Gate. Allow 2 hours. See R.S.J. Vol. 27 No. 3 p. 52.

In this general area, the track from 884691 - 857672 has several wall stiles.

NORTH PENNINES

CROSS FELL CORPSE ROAD Kirkland to Garrigill 785 m.
O.S. 91 NY 650326 - 746412 (part on OLM 31) Barts 39 4n 10 miles R.S.

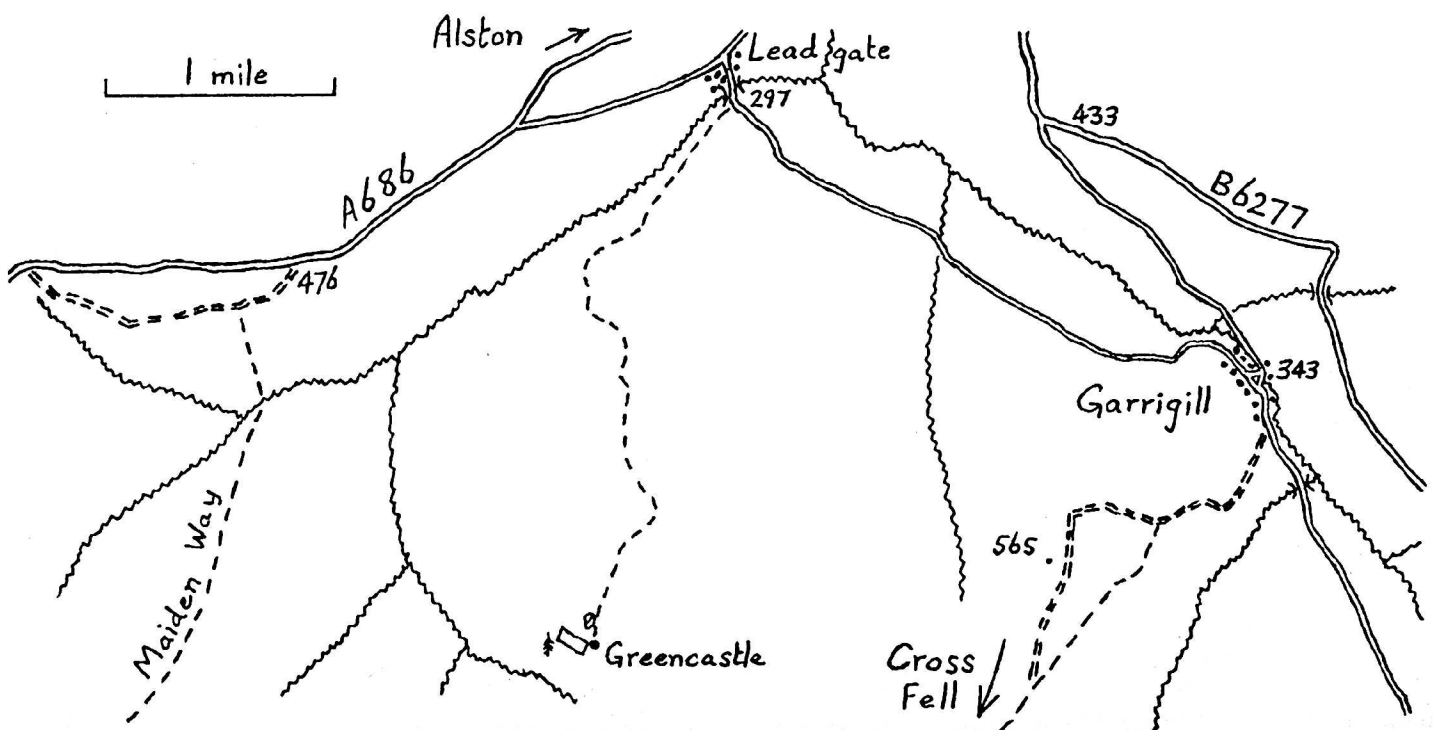
A fairly good track, steep but mostly rideable downhill, climbs up on to the moors, becoming rough and stony and much less distinct over the top, and marked by a line of cairns here. Much of the way down from Greg's hut (bothy) can also be ridden downhill, but some of it is rather boggy. In good weather a fine route from Dufton hostel is to leave the corpse road path just beyond the top and make for the gap in the low cliffs surrounding Cross Fell (grassy and boulder strewn at the gap) and reach the flat summit, continuing over the grassy Dun Fells, and a long freewheel down the metalled road to Knock. Fine views of the Lake District hills throughout this circuit.

An alternative track up Cross Fell starts at Blencarn 640311; it is a good grassy bridleway winding its way up Grumphy Hill and Wild Boar Scar, very steep here. Higher up this track becomes much less distinct, but cairns can be followed. The continuation after Tees Head is poor; it is better and more rewarding to find the break in this S.E. side of the Cross Fell cliffs, and cross the flat top (893m.) to pick up the Corpse road half a mile West of Greg's Hut. Allow 5 or 6 hours. See R.S.J.'s Vol. 36 No. 3 p. 74, Vol. 35 No. 3 p. 69 or Vol. 32 No. 3 p. 65.

THE MAIDEN WAY Row or Townhead to Meathaw Hill 670 m.
O.S. 91 NY 628347 or 635340 - 677424 Barts 39 3m 7 miles R.S.

There are fairly good tracks up from either Row or Townhead, meeting at 654358, then a pleasant green track, with fine views to the top. The descent is rougher and stonier and less distinct: one fords the Rowgill burn at 674413.

Allow 3 or 4 hours; see R.S.J.'s Vol. 35 No. 3 p. 69 or Vol. 29 No. 5 p. 130.



GARRIGILL TO KNOCK 755m.

O.S. 91 NY 757384-716316 (also on OLM 31) Barts 39 50 7 miles R.S.

There is a good rideable track from the Garrigill road end over Tyne Head to the River Tees (bridge), then a grass track up the Trout Beck. The track fords the stream twice, but it is possible to follow a sort of path across the steep slope to avoid these. The track worsens and becomes rather boggy as it heads West for the last mile to the top, where one meets the metalled road coming down from the Radio station on Great Dun Fell. Allow 3 hours. See R.S.J.'s Vol. 35 No. 3 p. 69, Vol. 32 No. 6 p. 155, or Vol. 30 No. 6 p. 156.

COLDBERRY END Langdon Beck to Weardale 675m.

O.S. 91 NY 813351-849384 (also on OLM 31) Barts. 39 8n 3 miles R.S.

A very easy track, rideable when not too steep. Beware of kerb stones set across the track (tarmac for a short way here) a little before the gate at the end. Reported to be rough and rocky over the top and down the Teesdale side, but mostly rideable on the Weardale side. See R.S.J. Vol. 32 No. 5 p. 127. 1 hour.

HIGH CUP NICK Cow Green reservoir to Dufton 585m.

O.S. 91 NY 816291-694248 (also on OLM 31) Barts. 35 4c or 39 5g, 10 miles R.S.

There is a rideable track to Birkdale, then a rather boggy path after fording the Grain Beck, and well trodden across the Peaty moor to the old ford at 767268. There are cairns here both sides of the Maize Beck, and a finger post 'to footbridge at grid. ref. 749270.' The newer path along the north side of the beck is very boggy, through long rough grass, and the footbridge spans a miniature gorge. Thence it is dry going but a bit hummocky till the old smooth track is met. On reaching the 'Nick,' this track becomes rough and stony around the rim of the escarpment, and a little awkward where a stream cascades off the moor. Leaving the scarp, the track improves and is rideable down to Dufton. Allow 5 hours. See R.S.J.'s Vol. 35 No. 3 p. 68 or Vol. 32 No. 3 p. 65.

STAINMORE COMMON North Stainmore to Baldersdale 460m.

O.S. 91 NY 835160-909189 Barts. 35 7e 6 miles R.S.

A rough track climbs up to the watershed, then nothing! From the top, one simply follows the Balder Beck down from its source. There is a gate in the county fence a little south of the stream; it is boggy hereabouts. A track of sorts appears now and again on the 'ridge' between Black Beck and Balder Beck, with a dilapidated bridge at the confluence. After this bridge, climb up the fellside and make for a gate into the track that starts near the reservoir and leads to the tarmac road. Allow at least 3 hours, very little is rideable. See R.S.J. Vol. 30 No. 2 p. 39.

There is a faint track over Lune Moor from Wythes Hill 922229 to Holwick. Then good to B6277 at 889284; 5 miles R.S. Highest point 510m.