

## Kielder catchment watershed route.

47 miles, 6000 feet. (ish)

I devised this route a few years ago to celebrate English forests remaining in public hands. The route takes in all the tops of the hills around the catchment watershed of Kielder water, however it does not follow the watershed religiously when going through the forest. Its very rough with no real paths on the tops and only two support points. It does not have a lot of climb but the terrain more that make up for this.

I started at the dam and went anti-clockwise, this way there are a few paths early on but once past Black Belling the going gets rough. Once you clear the treeline at Earl's seat there are a few indistinct paths along the fenceline but once past Monkside your on your own. I found a few very old 4x4 tracks in places but they disappeared as soon as I looked at my map. If you were to do this route supported Blackhope Nick would be your first support point. The route north of here crosses the Scottish border for a few miles before following it over Peel Fell and down to Deadwater (second support point). Interestingly there is a large stone monument at the source of the river North Tyne here, and consequently a source of water.

The southern section is also pretty rough with no real path most of the time. In common with all watershed routes there is very little running water but I took water from the stream on the way to Scotch Knowe (I have a fliter bottle). After here its back up through the forest to the tops. Navigation on this section is as easy as following a fence line until the approach to Black Knowe. From Black Knowe you have a choice, you can go into the forest to follow the watershed religiouly via Rushy Knowe (good luck) or do as I did and drop south to pick up logging tracks at a disused quarry (NY 649798) and follow them back to the dam.

I stayed the night after at Tarsset Tor hostel, only a 15 min drive and well worth it. If you intend to give this route a go drop me an email for route advice [johnnietboyATyahoo.com](mailto:johnnietboyATyahoo.com)

Johnnie Watson (Calder Valley Fell Runners)

### Northern Section

NY 706 882	Hawkhope Carpark
NY 699 896	Black Belling
NY 711 925	Earl's Seat
NY 684 949	Monkside
NY 712 983	Blackhope Nick
NY 718 996	Woolmeath Edge
NY 701 998	Woolmeath
NY 705 015	Girdle Fell
NT 671 034	Carter Fell
NT 651 025	Knox Knowe
NT 638 030	Scrathy Holes
NT 630 254	Carlin Tooth
NY 625 997	Peel Fell
NY 603 973	Deadwater

### Southern section

NY 603 973	Deadwater
NY 589 984	Thorlieshope Pike
NY 568 920	Larriston Fells
NY 557 907	Hurklewinter Knowe
NY 561 885	Scotch Knowe
NY 568 863	Glendhu Hill
NY 595 819	Burnt Tom Crags
NY 641 811	Black Knowe
NY 677 817	Rushy Knowe
NY 706 882	Hawkhope Carpark