

## Upper Swaledale watershed route.

31 miles, 3800 feet.

The version of this route that I did was clockwise from Tan Hill Inn, crossing the river Swale at Iveletbridge. I tried to stick as closely as possible to the watershed. There are a few different versions including a 60 mile one by the Swale Outdoor Club, but this doesn't follow the watershed. The one below gives you the best of the wild high ground in a relatively easy day out. If you do want to extend this eastwards you need to be careful of the military firing ranges closer to Richmond. In common with all watershed routes, drinking water is a problem. I have a filter bottle and just dropped down off the watershed to find streams. Finishing and staying the night at the Tan Hill Inn is highly recommended.

Starting at Tan Hill the route is on road initially before heading for Nine Standards Rigg via CocklakeRigg and Brownber edge. The going here is very rough if you don't stick to the highest ground. From Nine Standards Rigg you descend to the B 6270 on only slightly better ground. After the sharp climb up to High Pike, its glorious running all the way down to Hugh Seat. After which the fence line is followed across the featureless section to Great Shunner Fell. This section can be very wet. The best line down to the buttertubs pass is via Little Shunner Fell and the fence line. It's a short climb up to Lovely Seat but the roughest ground of all stretches between there and Oxnop Beacon. The decent down to Ivelet Bridge goes through Low Oxnop farm which can be a little difficult to navigate. My intention from Gunnerside lodge was to go north to Black hill and Moss dam but the estate was burning heather on Gunnerside Pasture so I ended up taking the estate road which runs along the western edge of Ivelet moor and joins up with the coast to coast route just north of moss dam before heading north to Rogans Seat. Then the ground gets rough again towards Water Crag and the homewards stretch back to Tan Hill Inn.

Tan Hill Inn	NY 897 067
Brownber Edge	NY 844 068
Nine Standards Rigg	NY 825 061
High Pike Hill	NY 803 032
High Seat	NY 801 012
Hugh Seat	SD 808 990
Great Shunner Fell	SD 848 072
Cattle Grid on Buttertubs pass	SD 968 955
Lovely Seat	SD 878 950
Oxnop Beacon	SD 924 950
Ivelet Bridge	SD 933 977
Rogans Seat	NY 919 030
Water Crag	NY 928 046
Tan Hill Inn	NY 897 067

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