

Helm Hill Fell Run

26 March 2008

Borrowdale

Conditions, as we headed up the A6 towards Borrowdale, were not particularly inspiring; this concerned me a little given that I was leading the run and the terrain was much more indistinct than had been on previous outings.

This was definitely to be one of the more adventurous winter fell runs and the route seemed much less obvious than it did a couple of weekends previous when Chris and I had recce'd the route. However, undeterred, six of us (Chris, Garry, Russ, Dave Till, Lindsey and I) set-off into the mist for the summit of Combs Hollow.

A faint trod leads along the Whinfell ridge which is to the south of Borrowdale. This could just about be followed and the footprints through the remaining patches of snow helped reassure us that we were heading in the right direction. Across Mabbins Crag and then through the wet forested section brought us out of the mist and to the foot of Whinfell Beacon. It was decided to climb this fell and then use the wall systems heading north to the valley bottom as 'handrails' for accurate navigation.

In true fell racing style, Russ suggested that wading through Borrow Beck was more preferable than a detour down the valley to the bridge; this proved to be the case and more gentle running led us back up the Borrowdale valley to the A6.

In total, we covered around 6.25 miles and just less than 2000 feet of climbing. This area does offer very good fell running terrain and, perhaps, we should put this on the list for the summer fell run series (in the hope that we might actually see where we are going!).

Details of the summer fell runs to appear on the website soon.

David White
27 March 2008