

## Great Shunner Fell, Yorkshire Dales 2018

During late Jan and early Feb, I'd been watching the weather cycle for the Yorkshire Dales - snow/wind/thaw/rain then repeat. Making the trip in winter requires a fine balance of at least three variables - clear road access, suitable snow cover, and a lack of strong winds.

Road conditions can be viewed online with web cams on the A684 near Leyburn, and Penny Garth café in Hawes. Some idea of the tops can be seen on the Ingleborough and Swaledale web cams. Swaledale Weather Station and Shunner Fell weather site give a comprehensive 6 day forecast. It can still be a challenge to plan the trip more than a few days in advance though, as the weather on the tops is often unsettled, and too much snow can shut the access roads.

I had a day free on Mon 5<sup>th</sup> February, and as the forecast looked possible, I decided to make the trip. The drive of 121mils from North Lincs, to the cattle grid/parking on Buttertubs Pass, took 2 and half hours, and was well worth the effort.



The snow cover was good, but due to the length of the underlying grass, care had to be taken to avoid snagging on the descent. I used the the section immediately above the car park, and along the fence line which runs all the way to the summit of Great Shunner Fell at 716m.

Roy Clements