From Summer 1994 Dark Peak news – Mike Browell's route "Myers' Ladder to the stars. I'd always known this route as the Heart of Darkness. Although, I have also seen Grinah Stones described as The Heart of Darkness, for its central location in the Dark Peak.

FEATURES

MYERS' LADDER TO THE STARS

From the edge of darkness to the most remote place in the Dark Peak

Start where the limestone meets the gritstone at the car park below Winnats - at the edge of darkness.

Climb up the north ridge heading to lucky gridline 13, then follow it as faithfully as possible. take in the Iron Age fort on mam Tor, down into Edale, up to Druid's Stone and the trig point on Kinder.

Tumble into the Upper Ashop and attack the hill leading to Cowms Rocks. A discreet trespass is in order but their are legitimate paths only a few metres to the east for the nervous.

Skirt the head of Swift Clough and descend into Upper Alport Dale, then straight up to Alport trig. Now into upper Westend and, approaching journey's end, up to Grinah Stones, a mystic and remote place at the very heart of Dark Peak.

Enjoying your isolation, take one grid kilometre jump east to grid line 14 and Round Hill. Only one grid square removed but a totally different world awaits you!

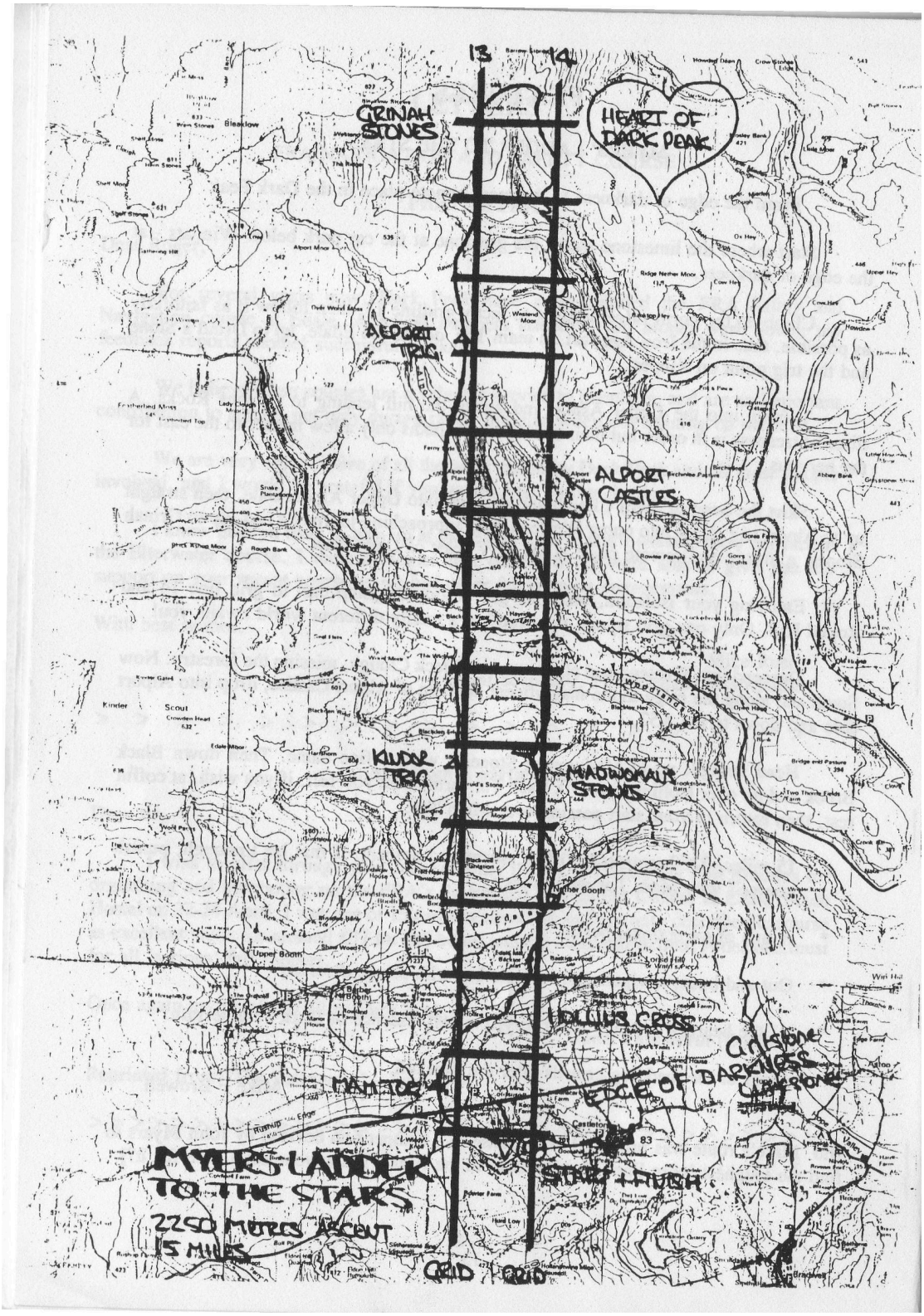
Descend into Westend and climb up over Black Clough, missing the forestry. Now South and along the ridge to the magnificent landslip of Alport Castles, drop into Alport dale and down to the A57.

Head straight up to Madwoman Stones - what a fine name. Then down Black Brook and up over Hollins cross via Back Tor farm. Rest yourself, if you wish, at coffin rest, then return to your start passing over Mam Tor.

* 15 miles, 2250 metres/7500 feet ascent and descent. If that isn't enough, punish yourself with Mam Tor repetitions.
* A line of exceptional purity.
* Out and back, navigationally simple but with scenic diversity.
* At the heart of the club's territory; the very essence of Dark Peak terrain.
* Clear of the madding crowds after the first hill.

Mike F Browell

[Ed. Mike's route was produced in response to a competition devised by John Myers to find the toughest 'pure line' 15 mile route in the Peak - has anyone set a time for it?]


13
14
GRINAH STONES
HEART OF DARK PEAK
ALPORT TRIG
ALPORT CASTLES
KINDER TRIG
MARDWOMAN STONES
HOLLINS CROSS
EDGE OF DARKNESS
MAM TOR
MYERS LADDER TO THE STARS
2250 METRES ASCENT
15 MILES
START + FINISH
GRID