

Ulster Mountain Pursuit Challenge  
18th – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013  
Mourne Mountains, Co. Down



Map: Mourne Activity Map OSNI  
Scale: 1:25,000

### Introduction

How to get there, from The North - Newcastle, travel south along the coast road to the junction at J374 211. The road is signed "quarter road". The junction is beside a petrol station. Follow this road all the way to Carrick Little Car park J345 219. From the South - Travel north from Annalong on the A2. Turn Left at the junction J374211. The road is signed "quarter road". The junction is beside a petrol station. Follow this road all the way to Carrick Little Car park J345 219.

The Mourne are granite outcrops, laid down in three different stages. They are found in County Down in the South East of Northern Ireland. The highest peak is Slieve Donard at 853mtr. The Mourne is an area of outstanding beauty. The area is partly owned by the National Trust. The Mourne (historically spelt Morne) is derived from the name of the Gaelic Clann called the Mughdhorna. The practise of "booleying" was carried out in these mountains until recently.

The route this weekend can be best described as the Inner or Annalong Horseshoe. However this route is very much subject to such things as weather conditions, staffing etc. The scale of this map is 1:25,000 as opposed to the 1:50,000 used in the rest of the country. The scale and distance may throw you off this weekend just remember that each grid square is still 1km square. Also you should remember that the number of daylight hours will be quite short, given the time of year. Therefore the route can change and this should be borne in mind by all participants.

A lot of the route is on paths, this does not make navigation any easier. The skill of path aspect is needed to ensure that you are on the correct course. As always don't leave the navigator on his / her own, there should always be someone else doing the same in reserve. Please walk in the path so as not to spread the erosion.

### Friday Night

Check in is at the Carrick Little car park (J345219) from 9pm – 11.30pm. Each patrol will be checked for equipment such as raingear, boots, First aid kits, bivvy bags, hat and gloves. Bring at least 2 compasses and ideally 2 maps.

The route will take you in a northerly direction up the path, you will cross the Mourne wall at J344228. Continue along the path hand railing the Annalong forest., until you reach the path junction J334244. Continue on the North East path for 700mtr until you reach another junction J336250. Continue in an East direction towards the ANNALONG RIVER. The Friday low camp is on the banks of this river. The route will be flagged. Pitch your tent and get ready for the next day.

### Saturday

J339250 - J321256: The Patrol Leader should inform the checkout staff that they are ready to go on Saturday Morning. These Staff will confirm that your campsite conforms to the principles of leave no trace. Once this is done, retrace your route to the junction at J334244 and follow the path in a north-west direction, past the BLUE LOUGH until you reach the junction at J321256.

J321256 – SLIEVELAMAGAN (J328260): From the junction at J321256 your target is the summit of SLIEVELAMAGAN. Whilst the map shows a path to the top it disappears after a little while. Be aware the natural inclination is to arrive at the southern side of the summit. During your climb please take time to enjoy the view of the Ben Crom Reservoir.

J328260 – J331267: Follow the path descending in a northerly direction from SLIEVELAMAGAN until you reach the col between SLIEVELAMAGAN and COVE MOUNTAIN

J331267 – J336274: From the col you may continue on the path which will take you in an anticlockwise arch until you meet the stream at J336274. Care must be taken when walking so close to cliffs. Please ensure that you make the turn at J337269 to a more northerly direction. The path is defined at the turning point.

J333274 – Devil's Coach Road (J340276): From the stream to the top of the Gully where the path makes an abrupt change of direction to a north-west course. In high winds do not get too close to the edge of the gully. When wind is compressed it will increase in speed.

J340276 – J343279: Devil’s Coach road Gully to Path Junction

J343279 – J350279: Path junction to Stile in the Mourne wall. On the col between SLIEVE DONARD and SLIEVE COMMEDAGH. This leg will take you under THE CASTLES, these features are labeled Tors. Stay on the path. At the stile, depending on time your next leg is to follow the wall to the summit of SLIEVE DONARD. You may leave rucksacks here, but one rucksack with all essential gear must be taken by the patrol where ever they go. It is hoped that the majority will be able to make it to the summit. On reaching the summit, return by the same direction. Collect your rucksacks and continue

J350279 – J354268: From the stile, follow the BRANDY PAD to the Mourne wall, where there is a stile. This area is called BOG OF DONARD.

J354268 – J352256: Follow the wall in a southerly direction from BOG OF DONARD towards ROCKY MOUNTAIN. The wall will change direction at the corner and this is where you stop hand railing it.

J352256 - J345 256: The Glory or Gory leg! Strike out from the wall over open ground. The last point cannot be seen yet, you will be walking on a compass bearing. You will have to gain height in order to walk over the Rocky Mountain Spur. Be careful when crossing the river. Do not let the paths take you away from your objective. In the event of darkness, use torches and have everyone navigating. The Saturday High camp is at HARES CASTLE.

### **Sunday**

J345 256 - J344251: Locate the path from High camp to the wall corner at J344251

J344251 – J340251: Follow the wall in a west direction towards the river. You will be able to pick out a route to cross to reach the path you were on Friday night. Please follow staff guidelines if river is in spate.

J344251 - J334244: Follow the path to the junction,

J334244 – J345219: This is the same route out as you came in, so everything in reverse.

You have completed the 2013 Ulster MPC



**Well Done!**

**MPC t-shirts (€8) and sweat-shirts (€18) will be available to purchase at the car park.**