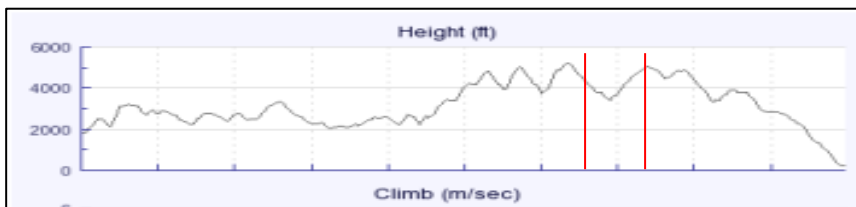


*A common trigger point for thermals if the wind is north of west.*

*Because of the orientation of the three valleys entering Wensleydale on the south side, the wind will tend to funnel down the valley's from the higher south end and any thermals are weaker and scare. If you are able to get high then it is worth considering the long transition to the north side of the valley.*

*With the thermal drift shown here and given a good sky/cloudbase over the BuckdenPike/Great Whernside area, then that would be the preferred way out of the Dales. This route follows the less daunting option before heading SE over the final moors.*



A good climb towards Penhill allowed an easy crossing of Coverdale, not an easy valley to hitch out of especially if you get stuck on the far side! It's worth getting every bit of height here, as the moors rise fairly shallow towards Masham Moor and are quite extensive with a big walk out possible. On this particular day my crossing was done high and easily. Rasp had correctly indicated high windspeeds in some areas and during the crossing my ground speed had increased to 60 – 70kph with a correspondingly good glide angle.

**The final stage** (getting it wrong): It was now late afternoon and ahead the Vale of York had closed down with little encouraging to head for in a uniformly grey sky, so it looked like a time to slow down and eke out the final weak bits of random lift. In retrospect my mistake at this point was to look at the time and try to push on – given the conditions on my last weak climb over Roundhills reservoir (below); on just clearing the moors I should have slowed down and hung on to the last of the day. Everything seems obvious afterwards but changing gear is something I need to be better at – and recognising when to do it.

