

The first two Winter Tanners, 1976 & 1977, had no route descriptions. Alan Blatchford, devised the event as a tough winter walk in its own right and also to survey the route for the Tanners Marathon the following summer. Alan led the walk from an OS map and although he did produce quite artistic sketch maps, its clear when you view these that they could only really be followed with the aid of an OS map.

The first Winter Tanners to have a route description was in 1978 - but all 30 miles description fitted onto one side of A4!!

For more details on these early events see John Westcott's report of 2002 which, by way of celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Winter Tanners, gives considerable detail of its history.