

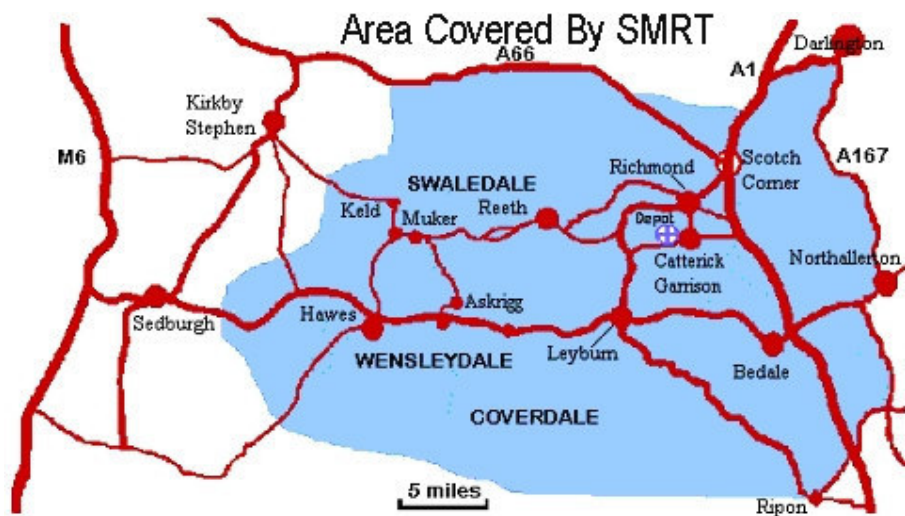


Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team

Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team (SMRT) is a registered charity (Charity Commission No. 501885) which provides a mountain and cave rescue service within the Swaledale and Wensleydale areas of North Yorkshire. The team is made up of a group of highly trained volunteers who are available to be called out for a variety of land based search and rescue operations, any time day or night. SMRT provide a 24 hours per day, 365 days per year service.

The team was formed in 1968 by 12 local people and has developed to the professional volunteer service of today that comprises around 30 members capable of reacting at short notice and so providing an invaluable asset to the local community.

SMRT moved to their current purpose built rescue headquarters on Catterick Garrison in 1999. The base has garages, storage, training and catering facilities and is located at an ideal point of access to both Swaledale and Wensleydale.



Working With Other Teams

SMRT is affiliated to the North East Search and Rescue Association (NESRA), Mountain Rescue – England and Wales, and the British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC). These bodies provide a regional and national forum to share training methods, standards and equipment and a voice for teams at a wider level.

Funding

Like other mountain and cave rescue teams in the UK receives no funding from central Government. The team is run entirely by volunteers and has no paid members of staff. The everyday funding of SMRT is by donations from the public. It costs about £20,000 per year to maintain the service that SMRT provides. This money comes from a variety of sources: collecting boxes throughout the area, kind donations from various groups, individuals or organisations, street collections; and fund raising events such as our winter slide shows.

The money raised is used to pay for insurance, maintenance and running of our two emergency vehicles, operating and up keep of our base, and the replacement of rescue and medical equipment (all of which has a finite life span or can suffer damage through wear and tear).

Team Members

The team is always keen for new members to join. There are a few basic requirements for a new member to have and training is given in most areas of skill and knowledge, particularly search and rescue work. New members need to be proficient navigators and competent hill walkers with the desire to learn by attending a significant amount of training with the team, *“the more you put into your learning experience the more you will gain”*. [Please note: It can take up to 18 months to complete probationary training, prior to being added to the full team members “callout list”.]

Being a team member is not a glamorous role; often it is cold, wet and tiring. Team members are unpaid and are on call 24 hours a day, though their attendance at an incident will depend on their own personal and work commitments. The team normally reacts to round twenty-five callouts per year. These callouts can occur at any time of day or night and are often spread randomly throughout the year.

Callouts and Rescues

Whilst the main purpose of the team is to assist those in difficulty in the upland areas or underground, SMRT is also called upon to rescue stranded animals, searches for missing persons, support to the NHS Ambulance and Fire and Rescue Services, or other Government agencies during adverse weather conditions, or major incidents. SMRT is also often called upon to assist or support other mountain or cave rescue teams across the North of England when required.

How You Can Help?

There are several ways you can help us: joining us as a team member, have a team collection box, make a donation or donate an item of equipment.

Please visit our website at: www.swaledalemrt.org.uk