

Goyt Valley Joe Brown's Numbers Geocross V33

No contact geocaching and crossword

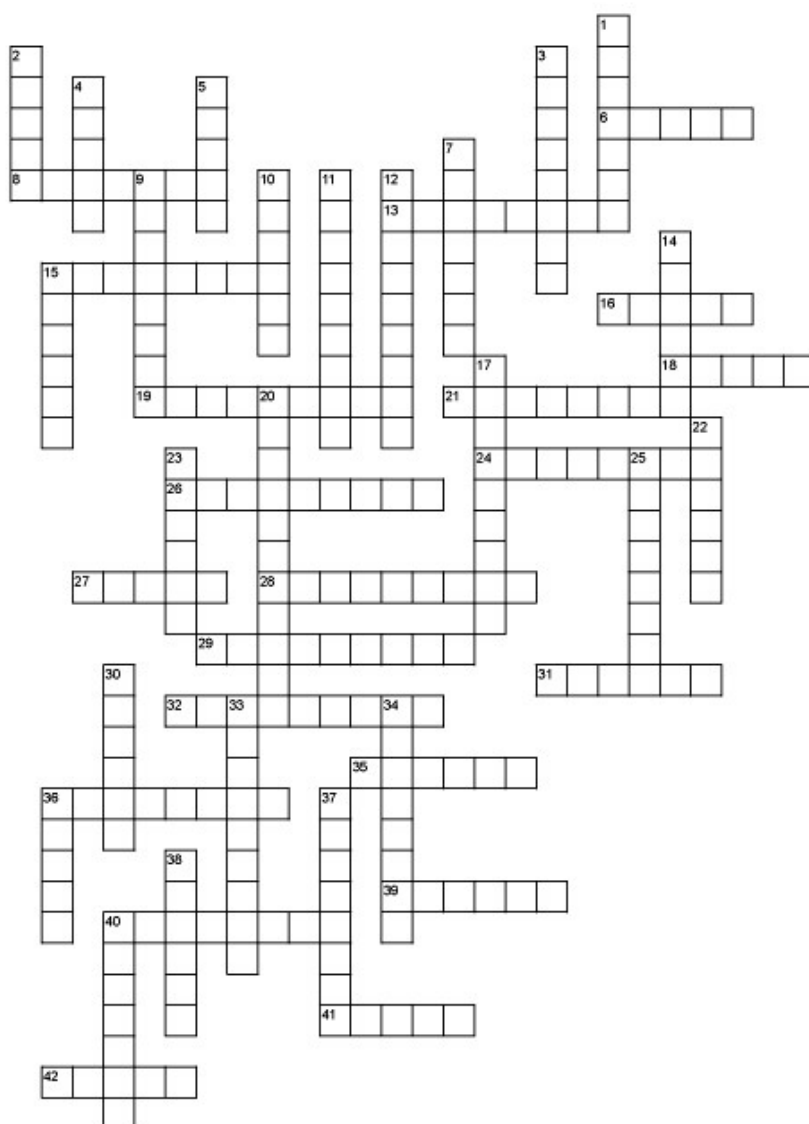
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Joe Brown was an exceptional climber who died on 15 April 2020, aged 89. He is best summed up by a quotation from Ken Wilson:-

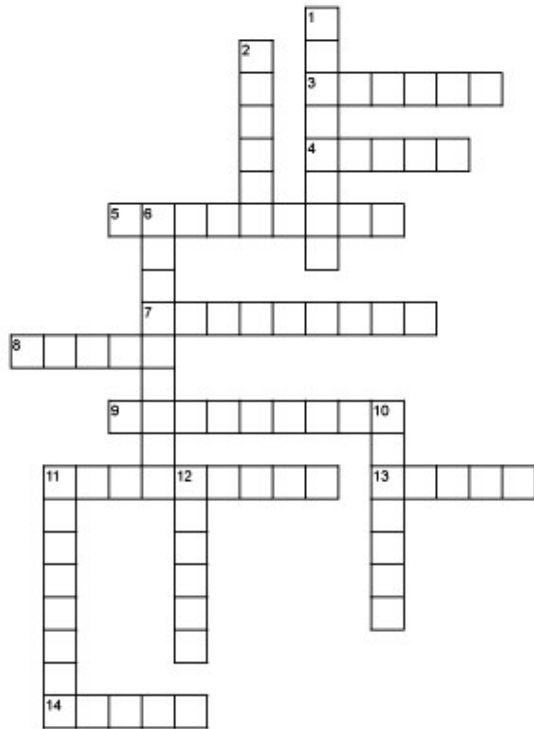
Joe Brown had a rare combination of attributes: keenness, patience, strength, technical ability, eye for a line, competitiveness and a mysterious charisma. He was a hard man.

I completed a circuit of Joe Brown's numbers in 2019. They are rarely done and the information needed to start the Joe Brown's Numbers challenge is hard to find. As my personal homage to Joe I am placing his original information in the form of a what3words (W3W) Geocross so that future generations can tackle his challenge.

Goyt Valley Crossword Puzzle - Numbers 1 to 15



Combs Moss Crossword Puzzle - Numbers 16 to 20



To solve these crossword puzzles you need to visit the 20 locations of the numbers carved in stone by Joe Brown.

You will need the what3words app (W3W) on your GPS device. Using your GPS device held over the main feature you then get the what3words address. You will probably have to move around to find the W3W square containing the 'word' provided.

Save all the words and eventually fit the words to the crossword grid.

There are just six crossword clues. Find these words first, then fit all the other words to the grid. There may be more than one solution.

Crossword One Clues

- 12 DOWN needed to travel abroad
- 21 ACROSS carrion eating birds
- 29 ACROSS not portrait
- 40 ACROSS round

Crossword Two Clues

- 5 ACROSS many
- 13 ACROSS desert waterhole

The GPS on mobile phones can be imprecise. This can mean that multiple devices very close to each other might show different 3 word addresses, not because the 3 word addresses of your actual location is different but because the devices each think they are in slightly different places. Each location is a grid square 3x3 metres.

In order to help you ensure that you obtain the correct three word (W3W) address, the first word in the W3W is provided as a clue. You may need to walk around the main feature into different 3 x 3 metre grid squares to find the correct W3W address.

E.g. Let's assume that you are at a location given by the W3W address thick.verge.commented and you are told the first word of the W3W address is the word "thick". You now know you have found the right one.

Number	OS grid reference	W3W		
		First word	Second word	Third word
Crossword One				
1	SK ??? ???	talent		
2	SK ??? ???	chainsaw		
3	SK ??? ???	swanky		
4	SK ??? ???	annotated		
5	SK ??? ???	crumb		
6	SK ??? ???	adopts		
7	SK ??? ???	aquatics		
8	SK ??? ???	landscape		
9	SK ??? ???	ignoring		
10	SK ??? ???	sometimes		
11	SK ??? ???	cooking		
12	SK ??? ???	different		
13	SK ??? ???	buzzards		
14	SK ??? ???	dairies		
Crossword Two				
15	SK ??? ???	dined		
16	SK ??? ???	point		
17	SK ??? ???	dance		
18	SK ??? ???	leader		
19	SK ??? ???	recipient		
20	SK ??? ???	heartache		

Each of the locations can be found on the route below. The locations are listed in order and sufficient background is included to help you triangulate your position to identify the location.

Joe Brown's Numbers

Joe Brown worked as an outdoor activities Instructor for a few years in the 1960s. He was already a well-known personality in rock climbing, having climbed some very hard 'test pieces' in Britain and the Alps. He was soon to become a television personality with the televised ascents of The Old Man of Hoy and Spiders Web. Joe was known as 'The Human Fly'. As his career progressed Joe was in demand for mountaineering expeditions and he had some flexibility to take long periods of leave.

Derbyshire County Council's White Hall Outdoor Education Centre opened in 1951. The centre, near Buxton, was the first of its kind in the country to be opened by a local authority. It marked the beginning of post-war outdoor activities for teenagers who attended a short course of instruction by experts. It is recognised as providing a blueprint for the development of outdoor education in the UK and worldwide.

In the early days there were very few experienced instructors, and White Hall found Joe Brown living close to their doorstep. They were fortunate to be able to employ a celebrity.

One of the activities was to teach mountain navigation skills of map and compass. The teenagers were arranged in small groups and given a 1 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map, a compass, and a sheet of descriptions. They set off from White Hall Centre without a route of the full course, just the knowledge that very few would complete the full 17 miles in a day.

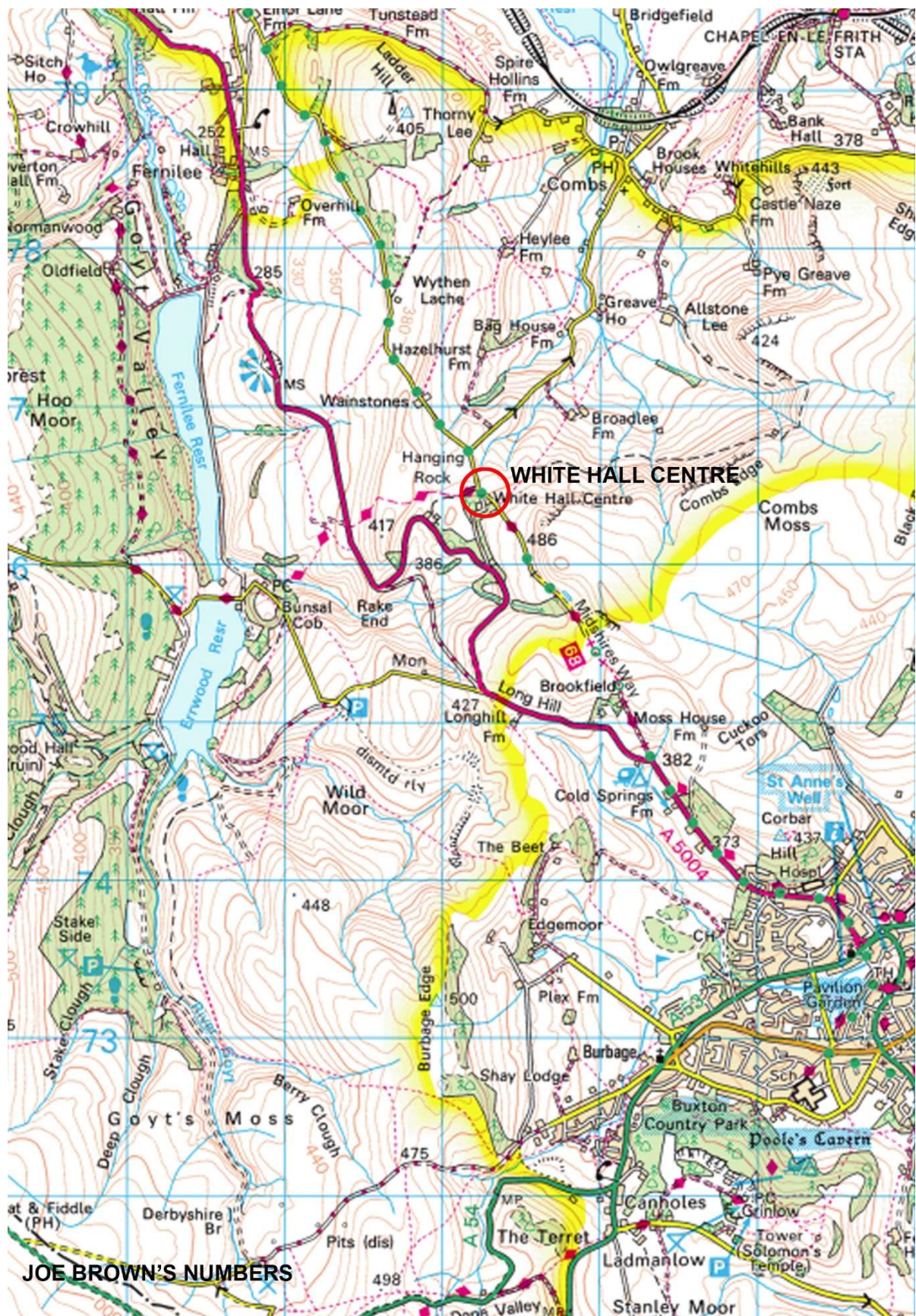
Joe had been a builder and plumber at the time he made his name as one of the best rock climbers in Britain. He knew how to use his hands and had the skill to carve accurate and neat numbers into rock. White Hall Centre had permission to do this on stone gate posts, bridges and walls.

White Hall no longer uses the numbers and after 60 years some are eroded and indistinct. The numbers are known to only a few walkers, fell runners and climbers in the Peak District. Enthusiasts have found the original descriptions given by Joe Brown and found the route, and added a few more words of description. In keeping with Joe's intention to make this a proper navigational course, full details of grid references are not in circulation.

Almost all the numbers are in their original locations. However, the number on the gate post at White Hall was changed to miss out the next location because it was not on land with a right of access. When the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW) was designated, the original number was on 'access land' and has been reinstated on an engraved metal plate.

Lyn Noble was Director of White Hall Outdoor Activities Centre in the 1970's. He recalls that the descriptions were updated when the OS 1:25000 map came out. In his time at White Hall the numbers were not used as originally intended. He believes the Joe's idea was for small groups to be sent out to complete part of the circuit.

Over the years other numbers have been discovered in the same area, at Shining Tor, Cats Tor and Windgather Rocks. They look similar to those carved by Joe Brown so may have been his work and part of a different navigation course.



Start on White Hall Centre rear gate. There is limited parking near the gate.

JOE BROWNS NUMBERS

No	Location	Description	Clue	GR
1	gate post at back of White Hall (GR)	gate pillar, access from old road, small plaque below original carving (267764 is wrong)	026 768	033 764
2	large boulder (GR)	Hanging Rock next to wooden ladder, in stone (on w side)		
3	pillar on the ground (GR)	by footpath right of small copse, wide grass track		
4	coping stone where stream enters culvert (GR)	below Erwood Dam. Stone in wall left of culvert entrance, high on left bank (not coping)		
5	West end of bridge under road (GR)	W end of footbridge under Goyt's Lane. On RHS of arch		
6	back of shrine (bearing/distance)	facing north (bearing/distance)		
7	piece of stone on path placed there by JB (bearing/distance)	underside stone (bearing/distance)		
8	West of iron door (GR)	RHS wall of bricked up railway tunnel entrance 3 feet above ground		
9	on wall facing trig point	Burbage Edge trig		
10	SE upstream wall of bridge (GR)	Derbyshire Bridge, facing west on flank wall		
11	under w side of footbridge (GR)	wooden footbridge foundation wall underneath		
12	rock by tree above gate (GR)	road/path junction, above metal gate on old horizontal gate post, original top face		
13	behind large gate pillar (GR)	Erwood Hall gate pillars, west of hall on n side by bank		
14	w end of culvert at bend in track (GR)	upstream end of culvert at bend in forest track, low down		
15	under e side of footbridge (GR)	under footbridge over River Goyt		
16	nine feet left of sheep gate at junction (GR)	9 feet L of sheep gate in wall		
17	on left of bridge as approaching (GR)	on south west end pillar of wall		
18	12 feet left of stile N side of road (GR)	below Castle Naze, N side of lane		
19	inside but (GR)	open shooting hut, smaller of two huts, inside and below N facing window		
20	s side over window (bearing/distance)	barn in the bog, lintel over ground floor window, weather worn. Metal plaque 2019. (b/d)		

Number 1 OS ref SK 032 764

White Hall rear gate

Contains "talent"



Gate pillar, access from old road. Clue for the next number is on small plaque below original carved letters (267764 is wrong)

Notes

These are numbers carved in stone and scattered in the Goyt and Combs area. They were carved in the 1960s by Joe Brown, a famous climber who was working as an instructor at White Hall Outdoor Centre near Buxton. He carved them to teach and test map reading skills.

The numbers can be found on bridges, gateposts and in walls. After 60 years of weathering some are very hard to read. They are about 2" high and represent either 6 figure grid reference (17 No) or a compass bearing and distance in yards (3 No).

Each clue denotes the location of the next marker. There are 20 in total over a distance of approximately 18 miles.

Clue 1 is located to the rear of the White Hall Centre, access from Old Road only (not Long Hill)

Highly recommended to run/walk as a pair/group, for both safety and to help search for the numbers.

Pen/pencil and paper needed unless you have a very good memory.

Route covers some high and remote ground, and can be very challenging in poor weather.

Do not underestimate the time needed to find some of the numbers. Check carefully that you're in the correct location.

Number 2 OS ref SK ??? ???

Large Boulder

Contains "chainsaw"

Use the 6 number clue you found at Number 1. This is a 6 figure OS Grid Reference.

Navigate to the location and search for the next clue.

Hanging Rock next to wooden ladder. Numbers carved in rock on west side

Number 3 OS ref SK ??? ???

Pillar on the ground

Contains "swanky"

By footpath right of small copse, wide grass track.

Number 4 OS ref SK ??? ???

Stone between curved arch and coping where stream enters culvert

Contains "annotated"

Below Errwood Dam a stream enters from the east. The clue is carved on a stone high up on the left bank, sometimes hidden by a small tree.

Number 5 OS ref SK ??? ???

West end of bridge under road

Contains "crumb"

This was a footpath tunnel beneath Goyts Lane. The clue is on the right hand side of the arch.

Number 6 OS ref SK ??? ???

Shrine – rear side

Contains "adopts"

The clue is on the north side. It gives a compass bearing/distance in yards.

Number 7 OS ref SK ??? ???

Piece of stone by path

Contains "aquatics"

Joe Brown carried this stone and placed it by the path. It gives bearing/distance.

Number 8 OS ref SK ??? ???

West of iron door in sealed tunnel entrance

Contains "landscape"

Right hand side wall of bricked up railway tunnel entrance three feet above ground.

Number 9 OS ref SK ??? ???

On wall facing trig point

Contains "ignoring"

Burbage Edge trig point

Number 10 OS ref SK ??? ???

SE upstream wall of bridge

Contains "sometimes"

Derbyshire Bridge.

Number 11 OS ref SK ??? ???

Under west side of footbridge

Contains "cooking"

Clue is on the wooden footbridge foundation wall. The clue should be ??? ??1 (not ??? ??3)

Number 12 OS ref SK ??? ???

Rock by tree above gate

Contains "different"

At road/footpath junction. Above metal gate is an old horizontal gate post. The clue is carved in the original top face.

Number 13 OS ref SK ??? ???

Behind large gate pillar

Contains "buzzards"

Errwood Hall gate pillars, west of hall on the north side by a bank.

Number 14 OS ref SK ??? ???

West end of culvert at bend in track

Contains "dairies"

Number 15 OS ref SK ??? ???

Under east side of footbridge

Contains "dined"

Footbridge over the River Goyt below Fernilee Reservoir

Number 16 OS ref SK ??? ???

Wall stone 9 feet left of sheep gate at junction

Contains "point"

Number 17 OS ref SK ??? ???

On left of bridge as approaching

Contains "dance"

Railway underpass bridge. On south west end pillar of wall.

Number 18 OS ref SK ??? ???

12 feet left of stile on north side of road

Contains "leader"

Below Castle Naze, north side of lane

Number 19 OS ref SK ??? ???

Inside hut

Contains “recipient”

Open shooting hut, smaller of the two huts, inside and below north facing window

Number 20 OS ref SK ??? ???

South side over window

Contains “heartache”

The Barn in the Bog.

Lintel over ground floor window, very weather worn carving. A metal plaque placed in 2019 gives the clue bearing/distance. This takes you to White Hall Centre rear gate.

Be careful to approach this on Access Land, and best to exit the same way. It's easy to stray onto private land.