

Beeley Moor Geocross V29

Beeley Moor – a scruffy moor

Beeley Moor is the back entrance to Chatsworth House. Workers and deliveries came over Beeley Moor, either into the moorland gate above Chatsworth House or to Beeley Village at the foot of Beeley Moor.

Coal from the Dukes coal mines in the Dukeries was one of the most frequent deliveries, and never more so than when Paxtons Great Conservatory needed to be heated to tropical temperatures from 1836 to 1920.

Beeley Moor is named on the OS map as one of three moors which make up Chatsworths East Moor. The other two are Gibbet Moor and Brampton East Moor.

Considering that Beeley Moor is owned by the Chatsworth Estate, it's a bit of a scruffy moor. There are many old abandoned quarries and the grouse butts are mainly dilapidated. Boundary walls are in a rough state of repair.

If you want the full Beeley Moor experience you will have to wade through waist-high unmanaged heather and head high bracken on little used footpaths to eventually reach the highlights of Harland Moor and Little Bumper Piece trig points.

On the positive side, you will be able to park your car and go for a walk. Unlike Curbar Gap where the very scarce car parking makes charges for the privilege.

Many people like this approach to the woods and moor above Chatsworth Gardens.

In recent years Beeley Moor has become less well connected to Chatsworth Estate.

In January 2021 there was a major disaster to the road which connects Beeley Village with its moor. In wet weather the road, which is locally called Hell Bank (ask a cyclist!), cracked down the middle and a 50 metre length of tarmac road slipped 2 metres down the hillside. It's not coming back.

Five years later it is still closed....



I walked past this sign recently. In the fifteen minutes I was there, 10 cars came past heading downhill towards Beeley. The same 10 cars then turned around and

returned uphill. One of the drivers apologised on behalf of her satnav... I wonder how she missed the big red sign?



Beeley Village is part of the Chatsworth Estate. You will notice the ubiquitous blue paint as used in Edensor Village.

I'm surprised that Derbyshire County Highways have not found it necessary to repair a road leading to part of Chatsworth. I wonder what the Duke of Devonshire has said about his workers not being able to use a local road for 5 years.

Sixty cyclists climbed it uphill while I was there. Its not called Hell Bank for nothing....

The original road climbed up the valley alongside Beeley Brook and up through Hell Bank Wood. This was the original Beeley Bar Lane.

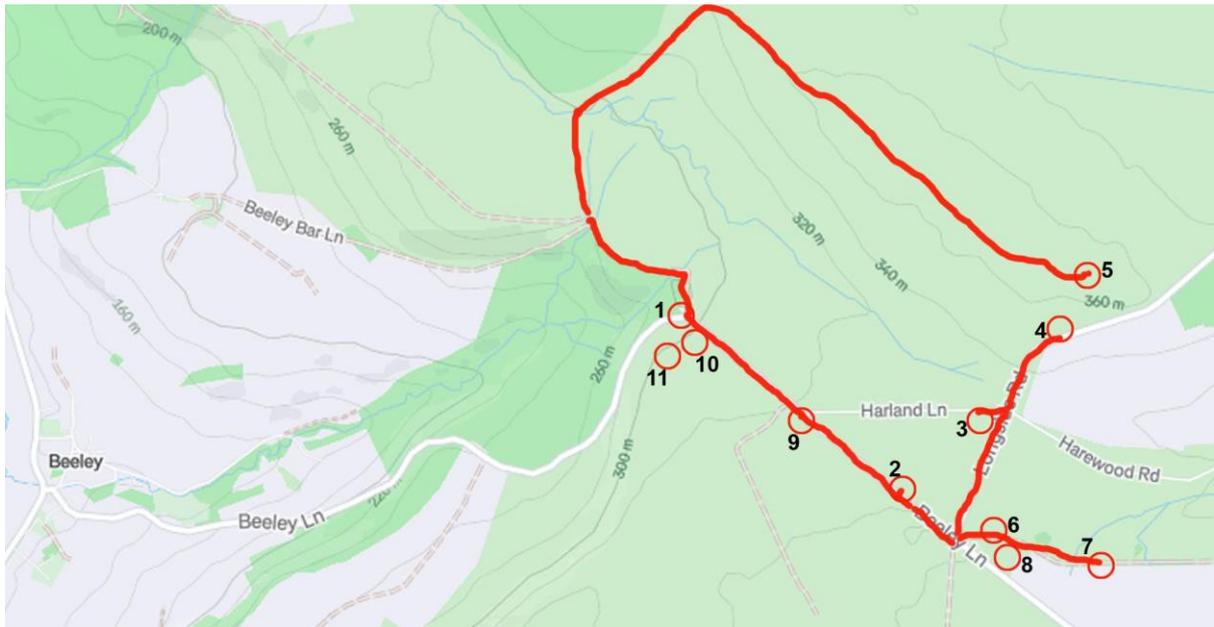
The Beeley Triangle



You may have heard of the Bermuda Triangle where things disappear.

The Beeley Triangle works much the same way with roads and historic guide posts. Three guide posts used to be positioned in this Triangle. A cross post set into a stone plinth has disappeared completely. A Companion Stone placed next to a stone guide stoop has toppled over. Other stone guide posts have found their future place in local walls. One ancient stone guide posts remains.

Each of the locations can be found on the route below



Start at east end of Hell Bank Plantation.

Beeley Moor is slightly depressed. The locations have a simple unifying identity.
'things left behind unmaintained and semi-derelict.'

Location 1 OS ref SK 29494 67396

Hell Bank road junction

W3W enjoy.poetry.event



Beeley Moor has always been the rear entrance to Chatsworth House. It is now even less well connected to Chatsworth Estate. In January 2021 there was a major disaster to the road which connects Beeley Village with its moor. In wet weather the road, which is locally called Hell Bank (ask a cyclist!), cracked down the middle and a 50 metre length of tarmac road slipped 2 metres down the hillside. Five years later it is still closed....

I walked past this sign recently. In the thirty minutes I was there 10 cars came past, ignoring the ROAD CLOSED sign and headed downhill towards Beeley. A little later the same 10 cars had turned around and returned uphill. One of the drivers apologised on behalf of her satnav...I wonder how she missed the big red sign?

Beeley Village is part of the Chatsworth Estate. You will notice the ubiquitous blue paint that is also used in Edensor Village.

I'm surprised that Derbyshire County Highways have not found it necessary to repair a road leading to part of the Chatsworth Estate. I wonder what the Duke of Devonshire has said to Derbyshire Highways? His visitors and workers have not been able to use a local road for 5 years.

The original Beeley Bar Lane climbed alongside Beeley Brook and up through Hell Bank Wood.

Location 2 OS ref SK 29494 67396

Guide stoop in the Beeley Triangle

W3W enjoy.poetry.event”



Beeley Triangle is formed by the coming together of a number of roads; six main ones and a number of connections to form the triangle.

Here a highly visible standing stone guidepost has helped many thousands of moorland travellers to find the correct onward road.

The same can't be said of the supine 'Companion Stones' which lie nearby. They have missed the point entirely, probably because modern Health and Safety considerations made their creators avoid erecting landmark 'standing' signs. Luckily the many traditional guidestones which remain in the Peak District were well set in deep pockets.

Location 3 OS ref SK 29681 67697

Beeley Triangle Cross base

W3W willpower.contained.maker



This is very hard to find! On the line of the old packhorse road, before the straight line triangle roads were made. It's a base stone with a rectangular hole for the base of the upright cross. No signs of the original cross which probably ended up as walling stone.

The earliest guide posts on the Peak District Moors were crosses, usually erected by abbeys and churches.

Location 4 OS ref SK 29890 67962

Harland South guide stoop

W3W routines.generals.dumps



Almost Inaccessible from the road and near to the also almost inaccessible Beeley Moor (Harland South) trig point. A long and rough heathery trek across Harland Edge is possible, or step over the wire fence behind a roadside tree..

This guide stoop spent many years lying flat behind the wall before being re-erected in 1995.

Location 5 OS ref SK 30088 68157

Beeley Moor trig point

W3W [organist.bleaker.twin](https://www.what3words.com/?one=W3W_organist.bleaker.twin)



Beeley Moor summit is on the Chatsworth Estate. This is often called Harland Edge trig point but it isn't on the highest point on Harland Edge. A long and rough trek across unmanaged heather on Harland Edge is possible. It is best attempted in winter.

Sometimes it is possible to reach Beeley Moor trig point by stepping over the wire fence behind a roadside tree near to the Harland South guide stoop.

Location 6 OS ref SK 29898 67257

Diamond Plantation Drive

W3W remix.willing.elders



The rough track across Harewood Moor once had 14 rectangular shaped copses, planted for the Duke of Devonshire by Head Gardener Joseph Paxton. This is the north-west copse.

I had always thought of them as a scenic 'Avenue' approach to the Chatsworth Estate for guests coming from Chesterfield Railway Station, but they are on top of a moor and five miles away from Chatsworth House. I have now realized what they are for. Driven game shooting.

Paxton was offered the post of Head Gardener at Chatsworth in 1826. The gardens were already considered to be one of the finest in Britain of the time and he immediately accepted. He took a coach to Derbyshire that evening, intending to arrive at Chatsworth early next morning. By the start of the working day, he had explored the gardens, re-organised the 80 garden staff, sat down to breakfast and met Sarah Brown, niece of the Chatsworth Housekeeper, whom he was to marry in 1827. By 9am he had completed his first morning's work.

Joseph Paxton probably came over Harewood Moor.

He worked as Head Gardener at Chatsworth from 1826 and masterminded an extensive redesign. Harewood Moor was one of his Moorland Drives. Not designed for admiring the fine scenery though. This was a Shooting Drive.

Guests would have been led by gamekeepers across Harewood Moor. The small copses would have been stocked with game birds and animals including pheasants, rabbits, hare and deer. The gamekeepers would have prepared the game for shooting by putting down feed in the days before a shoot.

Some of these copses are square, some triangular. They are typically 100 feet square and offer a choice of sun and shade, and wind shelter. The clever siting with a triangle pointing to the carriage drive minimises the feeling of being in a woodland tunnel.

The original Scots Pine and broadleaved trees are long gone and birch now dominates. They haven't been used for shooting for some years.

As wildlife habitat copses on a bleak moor they could be managed better. Replanting to Joseph Paxton's original mix of Scots Pine and mixed broadleaf trees would be appropriate and a good start.

Similar Shooting Drives can be found on other moorland in the Peak District, often with rhododendron thicket planting. Examples are Stanton Moor, Longshaw Estate, Sir William Hill. Most people think of these managed moors as 'wild pleasure gardens' and fine scenery.

Location 7 OS ref SK 30198 67199

Guide stoop gate post

W3W graceful.accordian.blaze



There were once many guide stoops along this drive over Harewood Moor. Some have been moved and re-used as walling stone and gate posts, This one is interesting because there is only one gate post here instead of the usual pair.

The field boundaries on Harewood Moor are not managed to the standards set by the neighbouring Chatsworth Estate.

Some-one has operated a 'make do or mend' policy

Location 8 OS ref SK 29929 67127

Shirle Forke boundary stone

W3W staining.lots.perkily



Shirle Forke stone is a medieval boundary stone, well off the current path across Harewood Moor. It has been standing there in a field for over 700 years, marking the edge of the parishes of Beeley, Ashover, Harewood and Darley. It is on private land. It has a prominent cross within a circle carving.

Location 9 OS ref SK 28933 67647

Ruined stone shooting butt

W3W [fruity.cashew.kilt](https://www.fruity.cashew.kilt)



There are a line of old shooting butts at the north of Beeley Moor, but they appear to be abandoned and very little sign of a connecting path.

A holloway leads north west from a path junction but you have to leave it to find the shooting butts.

Location 10 OS ref SK 28671 67735

Old stone shooting butt

W3W flask.ambushed.choppy



Provides shelter for sheep. Grassy floor, so the sheep definitely use it.

Location 11 OS ref SK 28533 67690

Fallinge Edge ring cairn

W3W playful.pencils.awestruck



Heathery with substantial piles of stone marking the Burial Ring Cairn.

There has been a recent episode of ring building to make this ancient landmark more visible.

It dates from Neolithic to Bronze Age. 8000 years ago it would have been much more prominent.

Fallinge Edge has many small quarries that once provided building stone to the farms and villages of the Derwent Valley. Most are now abandoned. The route along Fallinge Edge has seen little foot traffic and has disappeared into the heather. There are some old guide stones.