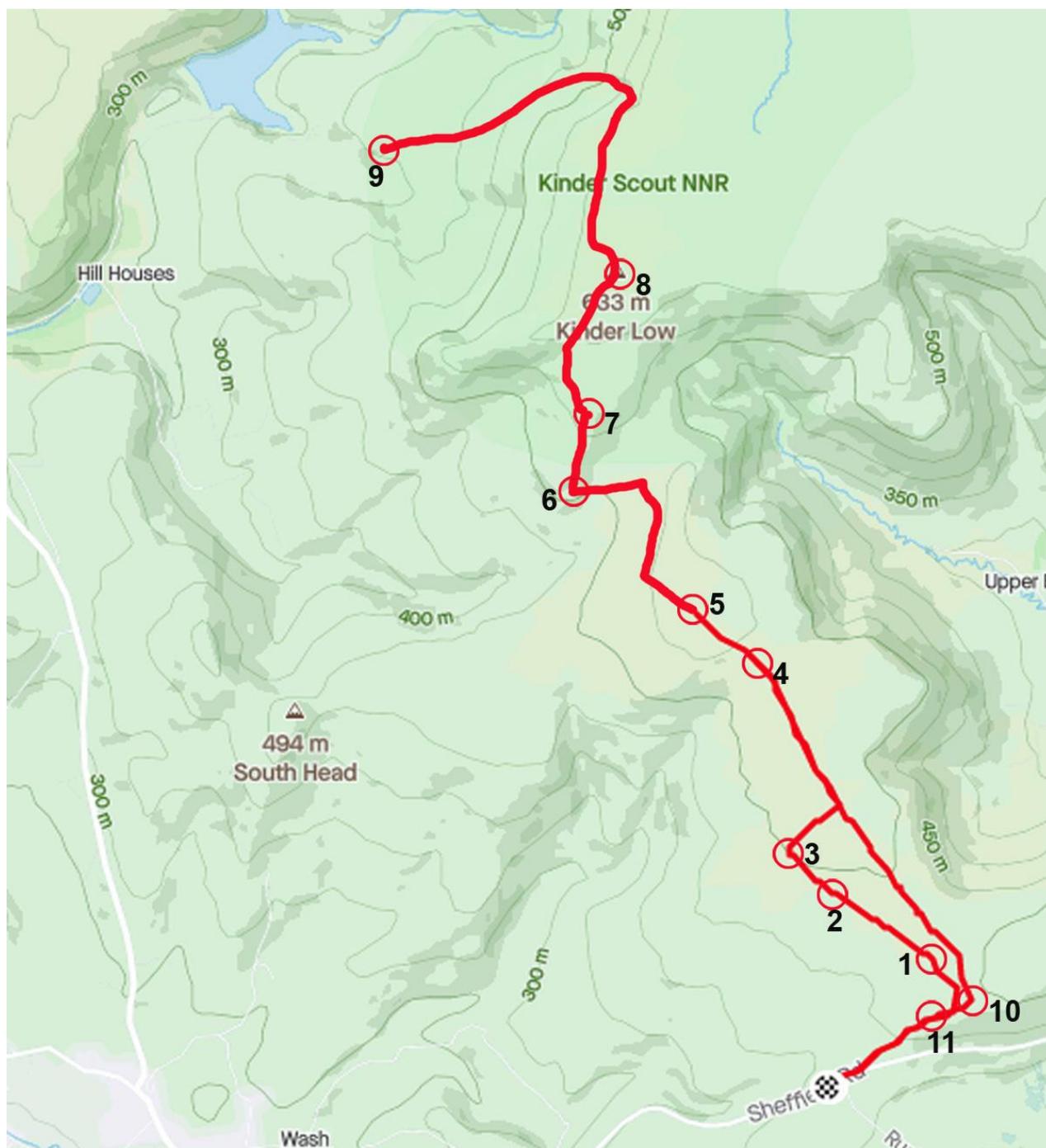


Brown Knoll Geocross V56

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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.



Start from lay by on Sheffield Road near the entrance to Chapel Gate.

Location 1 OS ref SK 07904 87061

Shepherds hut ruin

Contains "interlude"



Sheep are now excluded from Kinder plateau by stockproof fencing to allow native vegetation to redevelop and act as 'sponge-earth' to reduce run-off. There are still some sheep on Brown Knoll, but no shepherds for most of the time.

Location 2 OS ref SK 09122 83539

Beehive hut - door

Contains "frock"



Possibly the finest moorland shelter in the Peak District.

This has been skilfully rebuilt in an igloo style.

Location 3 OS ref SK 08886 83774
Cowburn Tunnel air shaft – east corner
Contains “prevented”



Built 125 years ago, the two mile Cowburn Tunnel links the Edale Valley to Chinley. The shaft is 241 metres deep and taller than Canary Wharf tower. Water from the moorland has been cascading into the shaft for years, and works carried out in 2021 have channeled this water into drains. Railway engineers call this shaft ‘The Cathedral’ because of the high quality stone lining.

Location 4 OS ref SK 08698 84856

Flagstone path – bridge centre

Contains “refuses”



The traditional bogtrot footpath over Brown Knoll used to be up to 50 metres wide and plenty of deep peat wallows to entrap walkers.

The placing of a single row of heavy flagstones has changed that, and the damaged areas have been revegetated.

Location 5 OS ref SK 08369 85131

Brown Knoll trig point

Contains "soccer"



Brown Knoll trig point has spent some of its time lying down. It had no proper foundations and a couple of strong men could push it over in its peat bog.

It now stands on a posh patio. It may have lost a bit of 'Brown Knoll' character.

Location 6 OS ref SK 07721 86094

Edale Cross

Contains “seagulls”



Edale Cross is a medieval wayside cross, thought to have been erected in this location in 1157 by Cistercian Monks from Basingwerk Abbey. The cross stands on the south boundary of land they received from King Henry II. Basingwerk is near Holywell in North Wales, so their lands were very extensive. Around 1540 a later monarch, Henry VIII seized back all the monastic lands and wealth to the crown.

Typically wayside crosses were placed to help travellers cross wild moorland terrain. There are around 350 known nationally, mainly in Cornwall and Devon and on the North York Moors.

Nearby Lady Cross on Bleaklow is 15km north. It is in very poor condition, just the socket base and a pillar laid flat remains.

Edale Cross was knocked down, possibly at the time of the Dissolution of Monasteries and became buried in peat. It was found later in 1810 by local farmers. Possibly 250 years of burial preserved the detailed stonework. The farmers re-erected the cross carved their initials and the date on the front! Its base socket is missing and one of the arms is damaged. The Edale Cross we see today is a freestanding cross carved from a single piece of stone. It is almost 1000 years old.

Location 7 OS ref SK 07723 86654

Hut ruin

Contains “fuses”



This is the ruin of a stone hut, with pieces of dressed gritstone clearly evident. It is too grand to be a shepherds hut, so possibly a shooting cabin built for shelter and refreshments.

This one is close to Edale Rocks. Further north are the remains of a larger stone hut known as the ‘Shooters Refectory’.

Location 8 OS ref SK 07904 87061

Kinder Low trig

Contains "actual"



One of the three Kinder Trigs, or one of the four if you include a fallen trig pillar. This one sees more visitors because it is on a busy junction between the west and south edges.

Location 9 OS ref SK 07239 87717

Dog Stone

Contains "spoke"



There is a huge boulderfield on the west slopes of Kinder Scout, above the Kinder Reservoir. It includes Cluther Rocks, and the triangular Dog Stone which is lower down. For centuries quern stones for grinding grain were produced here until the market for grindstones collapsed. Among the workings is this post-medieval carving of a dog and some runic text which has been translated:-

She may be small but she is of the best green stone

The characters are thought to be a cypher used by Freemasons, who used the Rosicrution and later Pigpen Cyphers. The final symbol is of an arrow linking square and circle. In modern language and culture, 'Squaring the Circle' has come to mean a vain or impossible activity. The mason who carved this gave it his best shot.

It is very difficult to find!

Location 10 OS ref SK 09919 82917

Footpath junction sign

Contains “whisker”



Where the Rushup Edge footpath meets Chapel Gate.

Chapel Gate was the historic old road connecting the Edale Valley with Chapel-en-le-Frith. Carts and packhorse trains used the road for centuries, but the arrival of all terrain four wheel drive vehicles caused a lot of damage. Four wheel drive enthusiasts lobbied for the bridleway to be upgraded to a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). Derbyshire County Council resisted this until a public enquiry in 2000 found that the bridleway did carry vehicular rights and for a time all users were allowed. This freedom was short-lived.

Chapel Gate was subsequently heavily used by legal 4WD vehicles, and trashed. It became impassable and Derbyshire County Council delayed in carrying out their duty to make repairs. Eventually a permanent Traffic Restriction Order was imposed, and 4WD were banned.

Location 11 OS ref SK 09749 82826

Bedrock in Chapel Gate holloway.

Contains “blanked”



Years of packhorse and cart use has cut Chapel Gate down to the gritstone bedrock. 4WD vehicles finished the job and exposed the bedrock. Some infilling of the worst potholes has improved the surface for mountain bikers.

This picture shows just how shallow the soil and peat layer on Kinder Scout is, typically 2 to 3 metres. Below that is frost shattered bedrock.