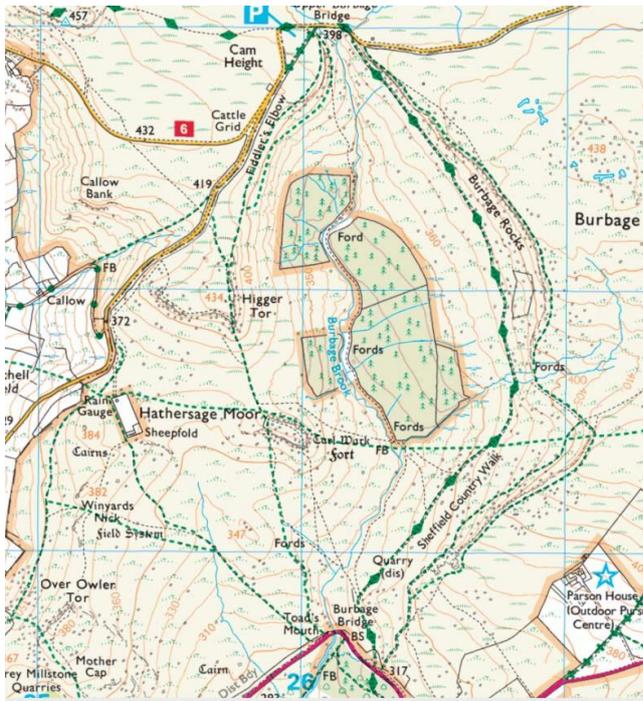


# Burbage South Geocross V1

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## BURBAGE VALLEY

The Burbage Valley might today be a reservoir for Sheffield. This was proposed in the 1950s



The Burbage Valley is eight miles west of Sheffield and close to the Fox House Inn. The land is part of Sheffield City and is leased to, and managed by, The National Trust, who own the Longshaw Estate immediately south.

These two huge tracts of land provide a unique countryside park, easily accessible and within a much larger recreational space, the Peak District National Park.

Burbage Valley has two characteristic plateau summits. Higger Tor to the north and Carl Wark in the valley centre. Carl Wark was a hill fort lived in by Iron Age hunter gatherers and is defended by a massive man-made stone wall. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Burbage Brook drains moorland to the north which is also owned by Sheffield City Council. In the 1950s Sheffield City Council drew up plans to flood the valley to create another reservoir, despite the Derwent Valley Reservoirs having only recently been completed.



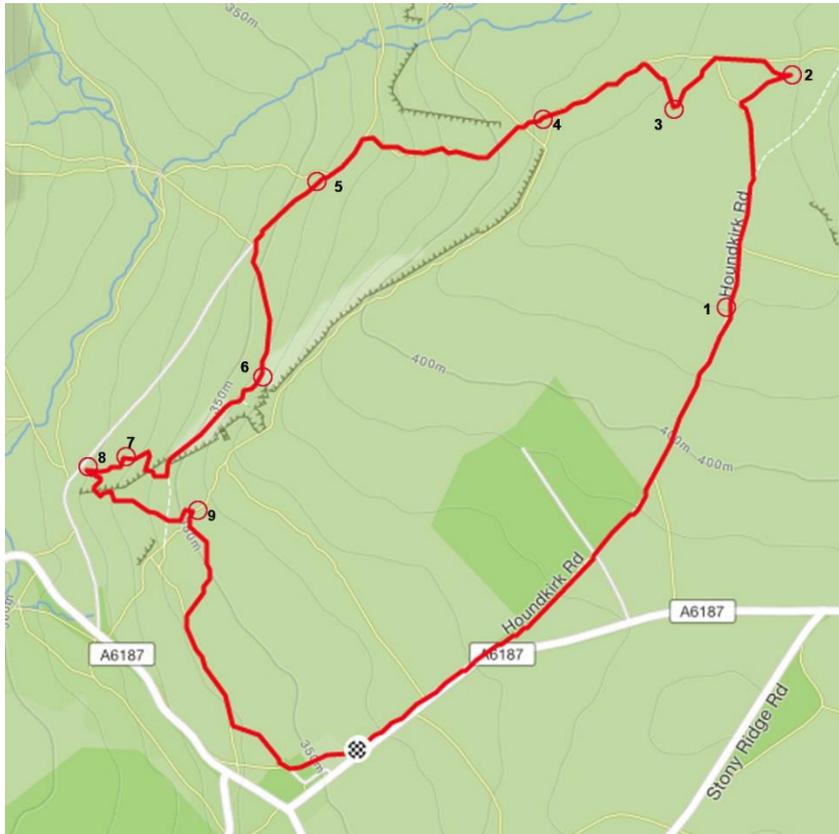
At the 'eleventh hour' and for geological reasons (?) the reservoir plans were scrapped and a conifer plantation was planted. This was laid out in the shape of a map of Great Britain but the SW peninsula was never planted due the risk of unexploded WWII ordnance being present.

The conifer plantations are now seen to have been a mistake and a major programme of Landscape Management is underway to improve the environmental quality of this popular and easily accessible part of the Peak District National Park.

The Burbage Valley is now one of the most popular countryside destinations for Sheffield people. There are many tracks of all standards with walks of every grade., rock climbing and scrambling, mountain biking and picnicing.

This is the first of four Geocross Trails around the Burbage Valley.

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 and finish by Fox House

Houndkirk Road Milepost

OS ref SK 27451 81182

W3W myself.porch.motor



Houndkirk Road is part of an ancient cattle drovers route taking the high ground along the Eastern Edges. It was upgraded to a turnpike in 1758. Payment was made for access at the tollgate round house in Ringinglow. The turnpike ran 4.5km southwest across Houndkirk Moor. It was paved with two rows of gritstone flagstones (causeys) 4ft 8½ half inches apart to prevent cart wheels sinking into the peaty soil. Milestones were compulsory to guide travellers, and to ensure they were not overcharged for the distance of a journey.

This one dates from 1768 and has a unique skull and crossbones below the mileage information. Like many others it was taken down during WW2 so as not to aid the enemy, and replaced after the war.

Houndkirk Road fell out of use after the Dore Enclosure Act of 1809 enabled a new turnpike to be built from Whirlow to the Fox House in 1812. The more sheltered Hathersage Road turnpike was easier going than the moorland route.

Ponslow Cross

OS ref SK 27561 81606

W3W porch.glaze.field



Ponslow Cross was an ancient signpost sited on a prominent high point overlooking Houndkirk Road, much older than the 1767 turnpike mileposts. It formed a guidestone at the crossroads of two important routes. The main shaft has been vandalised and only fragments remain.

Burbage Moor Shelter

OS ref SK 27342 81542

W3W peanut.brick.noses



This appears to be a man-made split rock, possibly by quarrymen breaking stone. It has been abandoned and adapted to form a simple shelter for a pre-enclosure moorland shepherd.

## Large Cairn

OS ref SK 27105 81520

W3W reap.sheets.solid



The 'Cairns' Path leads travellers across the moor between Dore and Hathersage. This is one of several large cairns. Not many other paths have so many and so large. It seems likely that passers by have added more stones over the centuries.

Bullet holes boulder

OS ref SK 26694 81411

W3W rate.stands.lost

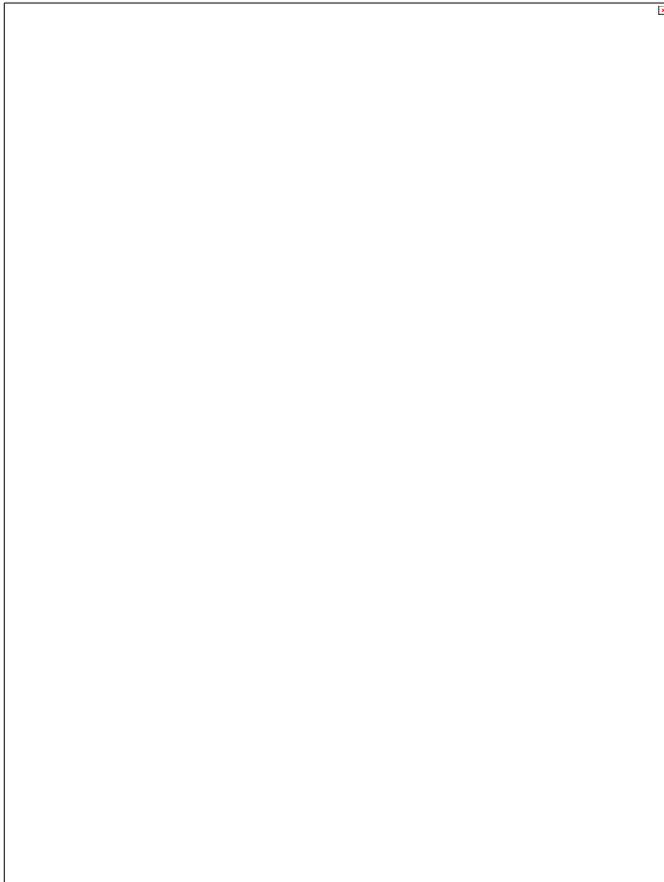
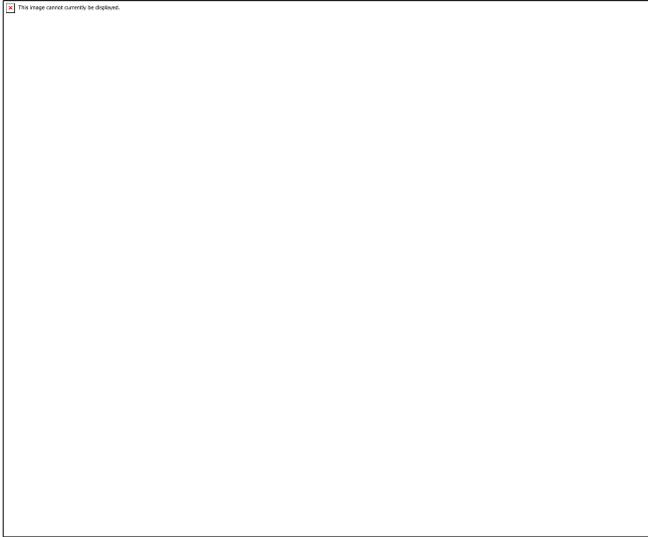


During World War 2 the Burbage Valley was used by the Ministry of Defence as a training ground for the Home Guard 'Dad's Army' and for Canadian infantry before D-Day. Tank-sized boulders were used as targets in preparation for the real thing. Today climbers use these for bouldering.

Quarry cannon slab

OS ref SK 26588 81033

W3W retire.dinner.final



Today the Burbage Valley is popular because of it's relatively quiet surroundings. In the days of quarrying there was constant noise of drilling and hammering, and of carts taking the stone away. On the Burbage South 'rock cannon' slab, quarrymen drilled holes of different sizes, primed them with blasting powder and fuses, and 'fired' the musical cannon to form a tune or salute on special occasions.

Millstone

OS ref SK 26331 80889

W3W circle.bake.junior



One of many abandoned millstones, this one is quite large. There is another one nearby and they probably formed part of a pair to be sold together. The buyer never arrived.

Round Trough

OS ref SK 26258 80859

W3W churn.depend.rested



A rare round trough, not quite finished.

Rectangular trough

OS ref SK 26452 80784

W3W lower.makes.brave



This rectangular animal drinking trough has been abandoned on a cart track.

A disaster for the mason, this block had been moved and fell apart under its' own weight as the inside was being chiselled out.