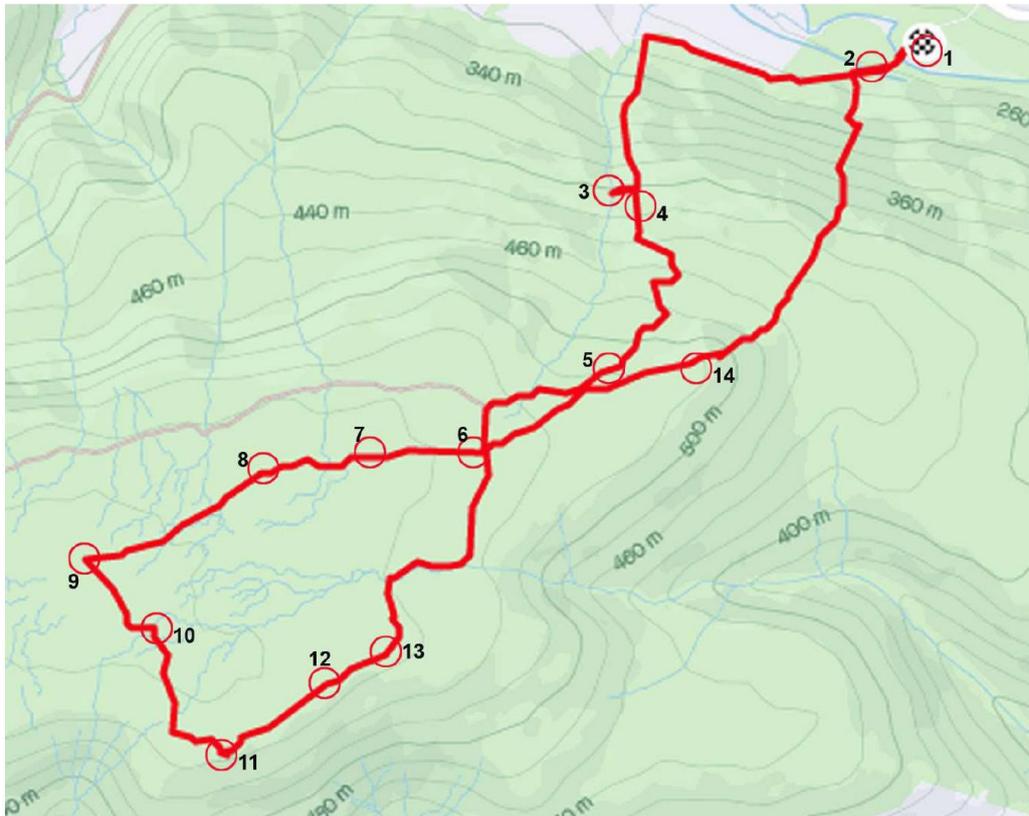


Crookstone Moor Geocross V69

Crookstone Moor is the east promontory of Kinder Scout which overlooks the Ladybower Reservoir. It has several interesting wind eroded rock features, often misidentified by visitors. The Crookstone Moor Geocross V69 locations will help those who struggle to find the true Madwoman's Stone and Druid Stone.



Location 1 OS ref SK 15025 89112

Rowlee Low Barn - gate

Location 2 OS ref SK 14890 89036

River Ashop capture aquaduct

Location 3 OS ref SK 14241 88724

Shooting cabin - north

Location 4 OS ref SK 14363 88459

Shooting butt 8

Location 5 OS ref SK 14180 88240
Kinder plateau access landrover track

Location 6 OS ref SK 13925 88083
Flat topped stones - south

Location 7 OS ref SK 13653 88071
Madwoman's Stones – north of toppled block

Location 8 OS ref SK 13389 88027
Not Madwoman's Stones

Location 9 OS ref SK 12928 87811
Edale Moor trig

Location 10 OS ref SK 13101 87625
Aircraft wreck site

Location 11 OS ref SK 13286 87317
Not the Druid Stone

Location 12 OS ref SK 13457 87434
Druid Stone

Location 13 OS ref SK 13640 87554
Wind sculpted smooth rock

Location 14 OS ref SK 14504 88325
Crookstone Knoll

Start at Rowlee Low Barn at Rowlee Bridge. Before it became a turnpike in 1818 the road over Snake Pass connecting Sheffield to Glossop was very rough. At Rowlee Bridge travellers split to go east to Sheffield or south to Hope.

2000 years ago the Romans crossed here to connect with their forts at Glossop and Brough.

Before the A57 road was improved as a turnpike toll road in 1818, this was an important crossing of the River Ashop taking pack horses and carts over Hope Cross and on to Hope.

Rowlee Low Barn belongs to Rowlee Farm, itself a very fine building rebuilt in 1849. These fine barns and stables were built to last.

The Derwent Valley Water Board was formed by Act of Parliament in 1899 to construct new reservoirs to supply the growing cities of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Sheffield. Howden Reservoir opened in 1912 and Derwent Reservoir in 1916. Water passed by pipeline to filtration works at Yorkshire Bridge, then by pipeline aqueduct to cities lower down the Derwent Valley.

The capture of water from the River Ashop was an important and clever engineering strategy of the Derwent Valley reservoirs project, and was completed in 1928. It significantly increases the catchment of the Derwent Reservoir, by adding water from the Ashop valleys, thereby providing more water for the cities long before the third and largest reservoir, the Ladybower, was built.

The River Ashop is 'captured' just above the junction with the River Alport; water follows in a concrete channel which drops down into a gravity fed siphon below the bed of the River Ashop and up the other side, then through a tunnel which discharges the captured water into the Derwent Reservoir, above Fairholmes. This height advantage gives the water additional pressure which allows it to flow under gravity to enter feeder reservoirs to the cities of Derby and Nottingham.

The remaining water of the River Ashop now flows into the Ladybower Reservoir, which was completed in 1945.

There is now no shooting allowed on the National Trust owned land of Kinder Scout plateau.

There are however, lines of shooting butts on the east and north facing slopes of Kinder. This shooting cabin is accessible by a rough landrover track which continues up to Kinder plateau.

Traditional shooting butt with drystone walls and turf top.

If ever you need to get a landrover onto Kinder plateau, and manage to get permission from the National Trust (which is highly unlikely), this is the top of the climb onto Crookstone Out Moor.

Between Crookstone Knoll and Edale Moor trigpoint there are three large rock features. The OS map names just one of them; Madwoman's Stones. The Harvey map shows these rocks more clearly.

Many people mistake either the first or the third as Madwoman's Stones, which they are not. But could be....

This one gives welcome shelter from the prevailing SW wind.

The second group of stones is named Madwoman's Stones on the OS map. The toppled block is possibly the fallen 'madwoman' with a flat cap..

This group of wind-worn sculptural rock is not named on the OS map. However, it is visually highly prominent and definitely worthy of a name. The angry bird shaped slanting rock with the prominent 'beak' could be an old woman with a bonnet. The rock immediately right in the picture could also be the face of a grumpy madwoman....

Recently paved and painted, Edale Moor trig sits at its correct height on a plinth of masonry, almost one metre higher than the surrounding ground level. Years of erosion have lowered the level of the peat.

Most people see the plaque and read 'Scout Unit', and assume it was placed in memory of some lost scouts who died on Kinder Moor. It was in fact placed for the Viking Venture Scout Unit which 'inspired more than a generation' between its formation in 1968 and closure in 2004. It was placed to commemorate a great success.

The crash site of a WW2 Handley Page Halifax bomber which took place on 5th October 1943, returning from a raid on Frankfurt.

The Peak District has 173 aircraft crash sites, including the most famous and most heavily visited B52 bomber which crashed on Bleaklow.

By contrast the Lake District has just 28, and the whole of Scotland 127.

There are two parallel footpaths traversing the moorland edge above Nether Booth. Walkers on the lower path will see this large rock and many mistake it for the Druid Stone.

The true Druid Stone is on the higher footpath. The dense bands of lower bedding are quite distinctive.

It might be called the Druid Stone because of the indentations of top, where offerings might be placed. However, bowls, basins and indentations are so common on Peak District wind-worn gritstone boulders that the druid population had plenty of choice. Not that there were many druids in the Peak District, except at Birchover.

A surprising jumble of smooth wind eroded rocks. This group of rocks couldn't be more different to the nearby Druid Stone.

Worthy of attention by any passing druid.

The eastern promontory of Crookstone Knoll juts out over the Ashop Valley.

The ascent of Crookstone Knoll from Rowlee Bridge, on to Edale Moor trig, and back by the same route is known to local fell runners as the Crookstone Crashout. It has been run in less than 30 minutes!