

Eyam Moor Geocross V20

Eyam Moor overlooks the Hope Valley and has skyline views to Win Hill, Derwent Edge, Stanage Edge, Higgar Tor, Froggatt and Curbar Edges.



Despite the views and plenty of free car-parking, it isn't very popular. It's a rugged moor with rough and rocky paths, tall heather and high bracken in summer.

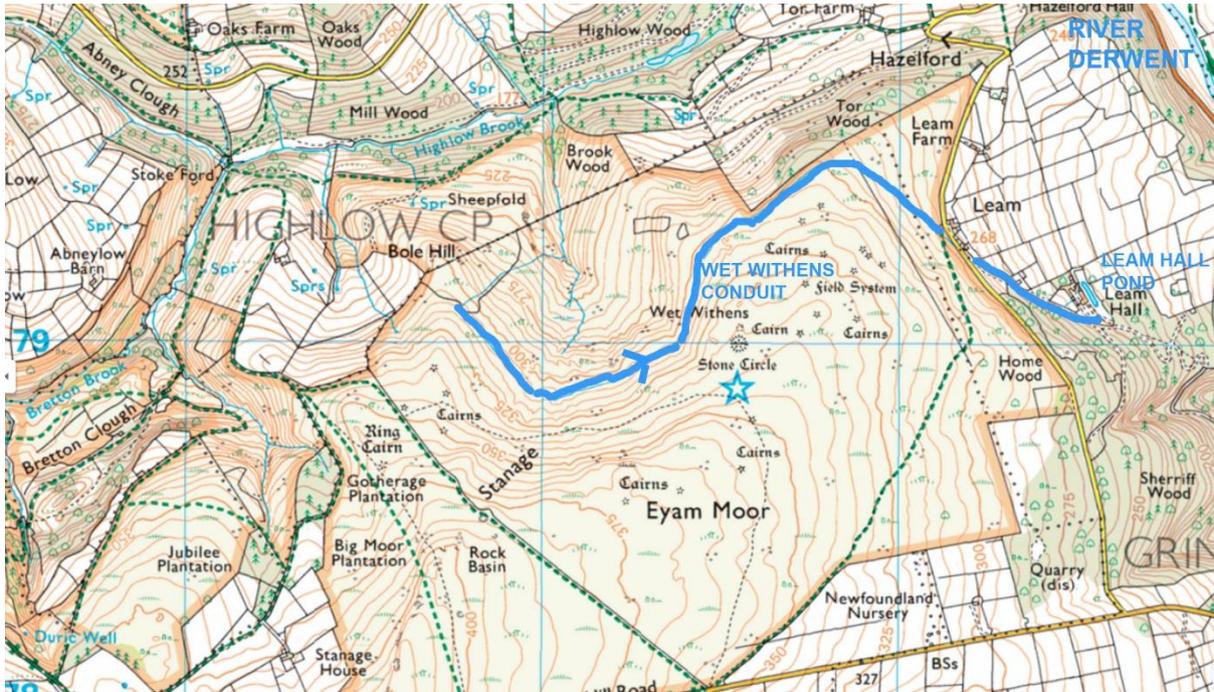
It does have a good stone circle but the footpaths leading to it are overgrown. Near the stone circle is a Barrow which is a Listed Ancient Monument.

Very close to the Stone Circle is an interesting example of 'river capture'.

Leam Hall overlooks the Derwent Valley.

In 1857 Leam Hall was a handsome mansion with tasteful pleasure grounds. From old OS maps it can be seen that the centrepiece of the garden was a large rectangular pond or canal. To deliver a reliable supply of water to this pond a substantial 2 kilometre long conduit was dug across the north slope of Eyam Moor, capturing the headwaters of Highlow Brook below. Highlow Brook enters the River Derwent at Leadmill.

The Highlow Brook water must be good quality because there is a Fish farm at Leadmill



In winter there is a path along the conduit but in summer it is very hard to find in the deep heather. The W3W location close to the Stone Circle is W3W sharpness.palms.duplicity.

The canal diggers have had to tunnel a few sections.

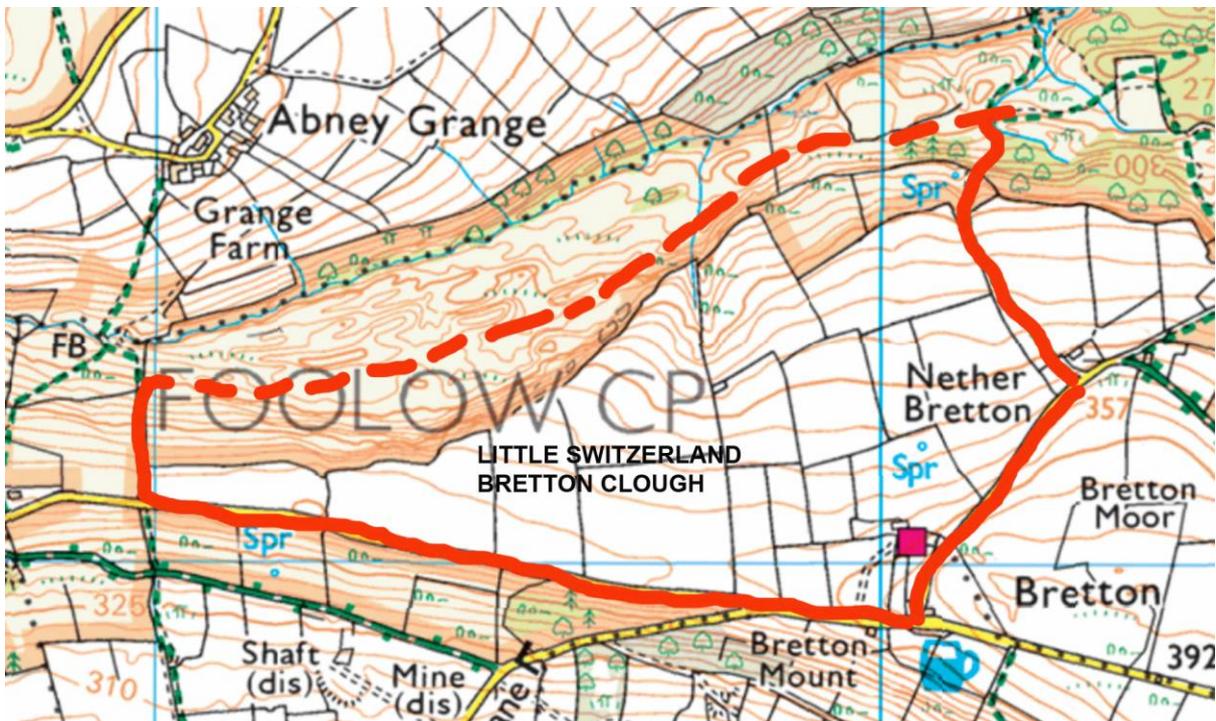
Higher up Highlow Brook is the dramatic landslip scenery of Bretton Clough. It is also known as Little Switzerland because there are many sharp summited 'mountain peaks' left behind by centuries of landslips. This is not part of the Eyam Moor Geocross but it is well worth a look.

It is not often visited except on orienteering events where the Course Planners can create map-reading chaos.

There are many tracks but no obvious footpath.



Typical Bretton Clough landslide mountain

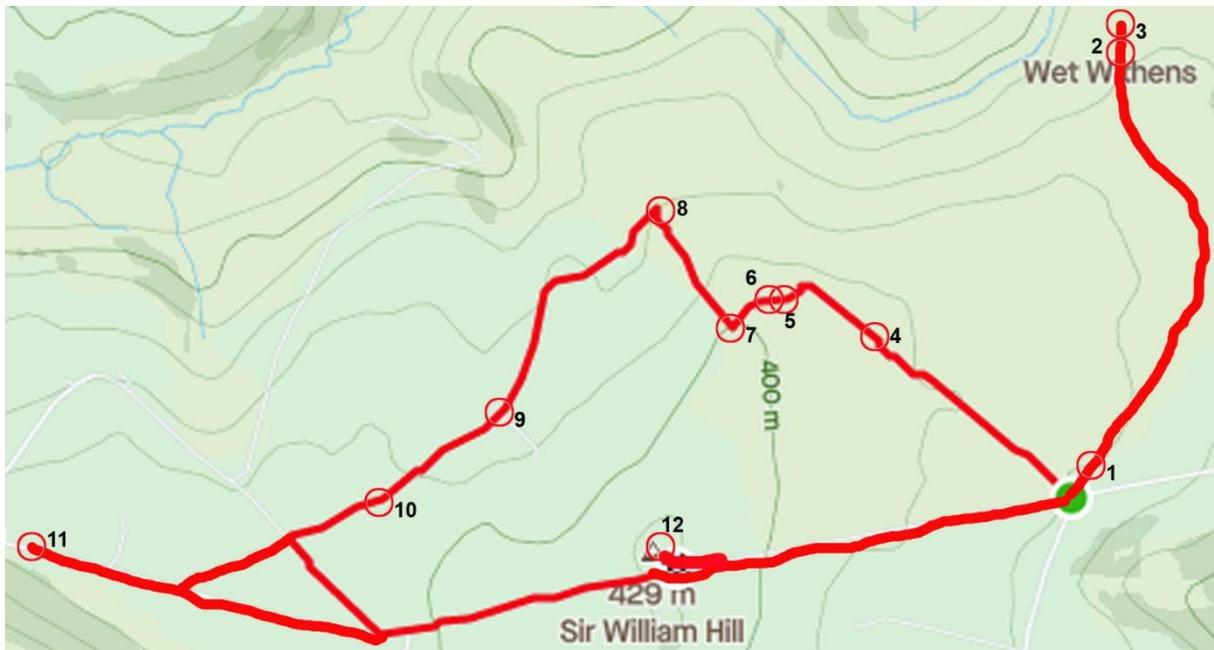


Most visitors to the Peak District know about the Mam Tor (Shivering Mountain) landslip which made the road un-repairable in the 1960s. The Snake Pass also has regular landslips, closing the road for weeks while temporary repairs are carried out.

Bretton Clough is more impressive!

The map above shows an approximate route, best done as a circuit from The Barrell Inn.

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 at Sir William Hill bend.

Location 1 OS ref SK 22474 78040

Holloway leading north from Sir William Hill junction

W3W Contains "shutting"



This was once a packhorse trail but it has lost its purpose and is now the path leading to the stone circle.

Location 2 OS ref SK 22544 78997

Eyam Moor Stone Circle - centre

Contains "famed"



Wet Withens stone circle is very overgrown, the 12 standing stones are within a low earth bank and are hard to find especially in summer. The single standing stone is the most prominent. At the centre is a flat stone, probably recently placed.

The moor also has two smaller circles that are much more difficult to find, many Bronze Age barrows and the remnants of ancient field systems.

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 is now under Historic England. They decided, on our behalf, that the piles of stones forming a burial site was more worthy of listing than a well sited Stone Circle.

Location 3 OS ref SK 22539 79033

Eyam Moor Barrow – south west

Contains “sprawls”



This Ancient Monument burial site has a well-maintained metal sign. It isn't for the Stone Circle. It is for several very large piles of stones near the stone circle. It has been dug over by archaeologists and treasure hunters many times until it became protected.

On behalf of the many visitors who make the trek to visit the stone circle, I think our historic custodians have lost the plot on Eyam Moor.

Location 4 OS ref SK 21990 78399

Squeeze stile

Contains "river"



This is a proper sheep-proof squeeze stile. The stone walls are high enough to deter athletic sheep.

Location 5 OS ref SK 21795 78448

North shooting butt – south corner

Contains “fruity”



Last in a line of collapsing stone butts. Eyam Moor is no longer used for shooting.

Location 6 OS ref SK 21760 78440

Rock basin

Contains "asked"



The basin on top of this massive rock is natural and has been scoured out by thousands of years of winds driving sand particles around the inside.

Note that the lip is 'undercut'. This helps keep the grinding sand and water in place, ready for the next scouring gale.

Quarrymen in the last century have prepared this large wind sculpted rock for splitting by driving wedges into joint lines, then abandoned the project.

Location 7 OS ref SK 21711 78384

Boundary stone on path junction

Contains “mistaken”



The ridge north of Sir William Hill has been extensively quarried. The individual quarry workings are each quite small. The OS map names this area as ‘Stanage’ which means stone edge.

The farm below is Stanage House. This may have caused some confusion amongst climbers looking for the ‘real’ Stanage Edge.

Location 8 OS ref SK 21542 78651

Ring Cairn - centre

Contains "face"



Stone ring cairn with external earth mound.

Location 9 OS ref SK 21206 78202

Stone guide post near Stanage House

Contains "outsmart"



There are a couple of very substantial stone stiles on the way here. This was an important path north to Stoke Ford and on to Abney and the Hope Valley.

Location 10 OS ref SK 20964 78024

Stanage House

Contains “educates”



Stanage House was unoccupied and semi-derelict for many years. It must have been quite prosperous in the past. The surrounding fields have fine stone walls and good quality stiles. The ornamental rhododendron thickets suggests that they were managed for shooting habitat as well as for beauty in this wild place.

Eyam Moor has a number of shooting butts, so game management was probably important. Rhododendron in particular *R. ponticum* which originates from countries around the Black Sea, is a notoriously invasive imported shrub, The rhododendron thickets are now unmanaged and quite rampant.

Over the past few years the house has been completely rebuilt.

It is in a very remote location.

Location 11 OS ref SK 20077 77922

Barrell Inn

Contains “juggles”



The Barrell Inn sits on a high ridge overlooking the White Peak to the south. The original Barrell Inn was on the small lane to the north in the hamlet of Bretton. When the road was repositioned and straightened as a turnpike, the Barrell Inn was relocated and rebuilt in 1597. It now commands the best views from any pub in Derbyshire.

The ridge has been an important route across the high ground since medieval times, carrying salt from Cheshire to Sheffield.

This is the highest pub in Derbyshire at 1,200 feet (365m).

It has served carters and coachmen, now it is easily accessible by car.

The road is high and exposed and can be blocked by snow. It is also prone to landslips on the south side.

Location 12 OS ref SK 21538 77893

Sir William Hill trig point

Contains "suitable"



A fine summit, Sir William Hill is at a height of 1,407 feet, 429 metres. The nearby radio mast on top of Sir William Hill is a well known landmark, . Recent new stiles make it easy to reach.

Sir William Hill has been described as "one of the most stately and personal hills in the Peak" and is one of the Peak's most noticeable landmarks.

There is uncertainty as to which Sir William the hill was named after.

Baddeleys 1899 guide to the Peak District, wrote that the hill might have been named after "Sir William Peveril, the natural son of William the Conqueror."

Or it might be one of four Sir Williams from the Chatsworth Cavendish family.

The front runner would be the 1st Sir William Cavendish (1505-1557) who was the husband of Bess of Hardwick.

The 1st Earl of Devonshire (1552 – 1625) was also Sir William, and was knighted by Henry VIII for his role in the dissolution of the monasteries.

The 2nd Earl (1590 –1628) was dubbed Sir William while in his late teens.

The 3rd Earl (1617 –1684) was made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles I, to become the fourth Sir William Cavendish.

Sir William Hill is a fascinating place to walk over. There are panoramic views taking in Froggatt Edge, Burbage, Win Hill, Mam Tor, Kinder Scout and Bleaklow.