

Hallam Moor Geocross V13

HALLAM MOOR

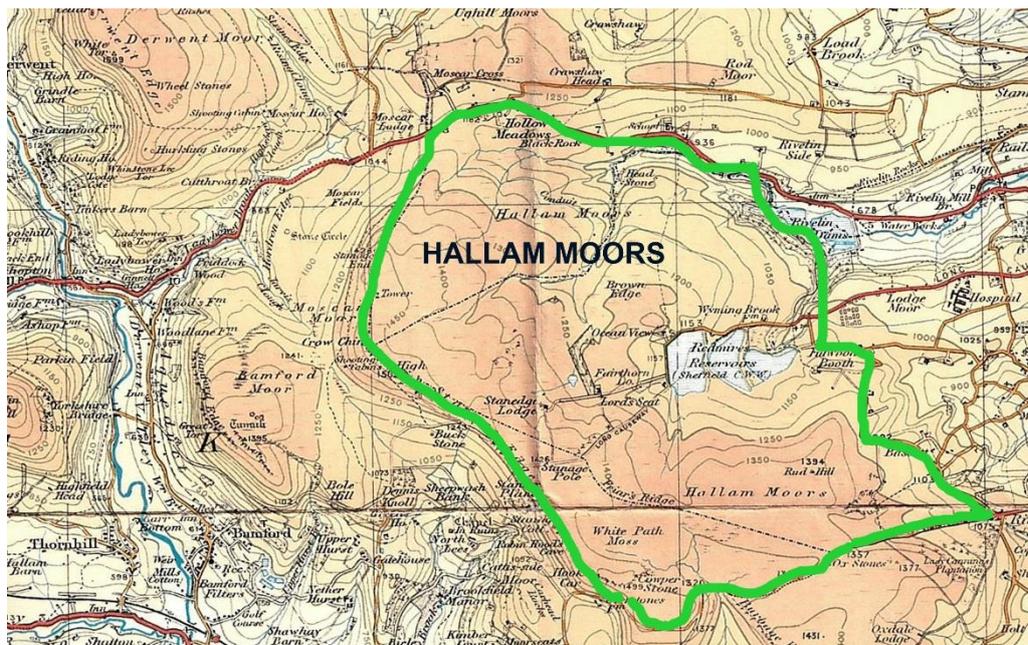
According to the 1928 OS map, Hallam Moor was the name given to all the moorland west of Ringinglow and Lodge Moor.

Underneath Hallam Moor is the shallow Ringinglow coal seam.

At the heart of Hallam Moors are the Redmires Reservoirs.

Sheffield Water Works (SWW) constructed the three Redmires Reservoirs between 1833 – 1854 to provide clean drinking water to Sheffield after the cholera epidemic of 1832. Water from Redmires Reservoirs then flowed in an open conduit to smaller reservoirs in west Sheffield.

As moorland reservoirs (not valley reservoirs) the three Redmires reservoirs have a very small water catchment. The Redmires scheme supplements the small amount of incoming water from moorland bogs by intercepting streams which would otherwise drain into the Rivelin Valley. The 5km long catchwater Oaking Clough Conduit follows the contours from Moscar, picking up small streams along the way and outfalling briefly into the small Oaking Clough reservoir, where a sluicekeeper can divert some overflow water down Oaking Clough to Rivelin Reservoirs, the remainder continuing in the Oaking Clough catchwater conduit to outfall into the Upper Redmires Reservoir.



The 1999 OS map dropped the name Hallam Moor for the wet moor south of the Redmires Reservoirs, which is now called White Path Moss. All earlier OS maps used the name Hallam Moors, north and south of the reservoirs. The OS 1928 map shows this, and all subsequent editions of OS maps did this. Until 1999, I wonder why?

All of this land is within the Sheffield City boundary.

Much of the land on Hallam Moor is currently a privately owned shooting moorland. The Countryside Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2001 gave public access.

Hallam Moor is most well known for its brief period when it was used for military training in 1914 – 1915.

At the beginning of World War 1 Britain was raising new battalions of soldiers to fight in the trenches of northern France. The Sheffield City Battalion was formed in the early weeks of the First World War.

Within a month of Britain's declaration of war against Germany on 4th August 1914, the Duke of Norfolk (twice Lord Mayor of Sheffield) and Sir George Franklin (Lord Mayor of Sheffield and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield) attended the War Office to propose the formation of a Sheffield battalion. On 10th September enlistment began at the Corn Exchange for the Sheffield City Battalion, the 12th (Service) Battalion of the York & Lancaster Regiment.

"It took little time for the battalion to reach its full complement, with between 900 and 1,000 men being recruited in just two days. The recruits came from all walks of life; business men, stockbrokers, engineers, chemists, metallurgical experts, University and public school men, medical students, journalists, schoolmasters, craftsmen, shop assistants, secretaries, and clerks".

Other cities did the same. These were nick-named Pals Battalions, usually because a group of pals who worked together decided to all join up at the same time.

Sheffield needed wasteland for trench warfare training. The Duke of Norfolk might have offered the moors above his home at Derwent Hall. However Sheffield snuff manufacturer and moorland landowner William Wilson had recently bought a large area of Hallam Moor near Redmires Reservoirs for grouse shooting. In 1914 he lent most of this to Sheffield City Council to use for military training.

On Saturday 5th December 1914 the battalion of 1,131 officers and men moved to Redmires Camp at Lodge Moor, a windswept field 5 miles west of the city. The battalion trained at Redmires for just over 5 months. The troops were barracked in wooden huts and tents on Redmires Road, near the Sportsman and the Three Merry Lads pubs.



The historic photo from 1915 shows huts and tents on the Redmires camp.

Most of their training was carried out on Hill 61 and Hill 60 for trench warfare. The area close to Redmires Reservoirs has now has a maze of abandoned shallow trenches.

The first Pals battalions began to arrive on the Western Front from mid-1915.

After this short period of intensive training training, the Sheffield Pals battalion were called up. They arrived in Normandy on the Somme Front in March 1916. They were stationed in the British Front Line. They did not see any action until three months later on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916.

The Sheffield Pals fought alongside the Accrington Pals in a hopeless attempt to capture the heavily-fortified village of Serre. They went into action on 1 July 1916 and suffered very heavy losses.

The 1916 Somme offensive was one of the largest and bloodiest battles of the First World War. (1914-18). The opening day of the attack, 1 July 1916, saw the British Army sustain 57,000 casualties, the most disastrous day in Britain's military history.

Each of the locations can be found on the route below.



Start and finish at Redmires reservoir

OS ref SK 25672 85734

Ocean View farm and public house

W3W above.caller.keeps



Ocean View farm was a traditional combination of working farm and public house. This moorland farm opened as a pub in 1840 to serve the workers who were building the Redmires reservoirs. It closed in 1885 and the farm was demolished along with most habitable buildings within the reservoir catchment..

The hill immediately north was called Quarry Hill but the reservoir workers and visitors nick-named it Ocean View.

You cant see the ocean from Ocean View but you can see the Humber Bridge.

The Upper Redmires Reservoir was like a small ocean. It certainly attracted sightseeing public who came by bus. To see Sheffields newest Lake District.

The landowner William Wilson didn't like the general public on his land, so using his power as a Magistrate had the pubs licence to serve alcohol removed in 1885.

OS ref SK 25623 85794

Soldier silhouette Quarry Hill

W3W icons.cats.items



Sheffield City Battalion, also known as the Sheffield Pals, carried out trench warfare training on land lent to Sheffield City Council in 1914 by moorland landowner William Wilson. Part of the land was Quarry Hill, used for building stone in the Redmires area.

Quarry Hill was renamed Hill 61 in military style.



The air photo shows the main areas of trench warfare training on Hill 61.

After intensive training, the Sheffield Pals were called up for action on 1 July 1916 on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. They suffered very heavy losses making this the most disastrous day in Britain's military history.

The memorial sculpture has a prominent skyline position on Ocean View, also known as Quarry Hill and to the Sheffield Pals, Hill 61.

OS ref SK 25110 85714

Hill 60 WW1 trench warfare training site

W3W gasp.rival.press



The photos shows the remnants of trenches on the summit of Hill 61.

The trench complexes on Hill 60 and Hill 61 are easily visible on air photographs. Not to be mistaken by the remains of stone quarries which were used for reservoir construction, although the quarries were also used for military training.

The layout of trenches was designed by military engineers to a complex standard layout so that all soldiers would understand them day and night.

OS ref SK 26138 86496

Tunnel surveyors sighting tower

W3W pram.charmingly.jazz



The 4.5 mile (7.2km) gravity fed water tunnel between the Upper Derwent Valley reservoirs and Rivelin Reservoir was built between 1903 – 1909. The Derwent Valley Water Board was founded in 1899. One of its obligations was to deliver Sheffield's share of 'compensation' water from the Howden and Derwent Reservoirs (Upper Derwent Valley Impoundment Scheme), to Rivelin Reservoir. This was long before the Ladybower Reservoir was built. Construction of the tunnel required three in-line surveyors sighting towers. This one is the east tower on Oaking Clough catchwater conduit.

OS ref SK 25631 86755

Redmires catchwater conduit

W3W older.rich.stroke



The Oaking Clough catchwater conduit begins at Moscar north east of Stanage Edge and captures water which would otherwise flow into the Rivelin reservoir, instead taking it to the higher Upper Redmires Reservoir and feeding into smaller supply reservoirs in west Sheffield.

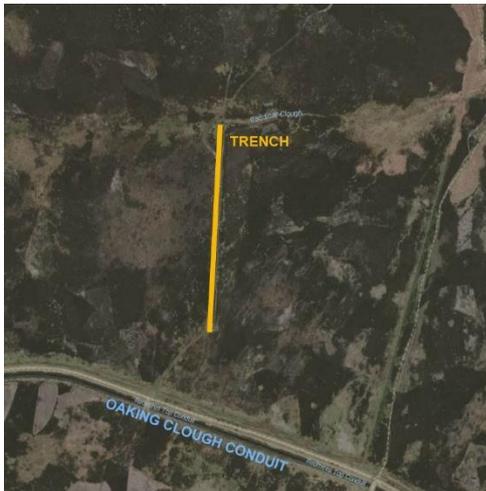
It flows 5km passing the small Oaking Clough reservoir, eventually emptying into the Upper Rivelin Reservoir. As it reaches the reservoir water passes the 'plug-hole' which allows surplus water to overflow down to Wyming Brook.

There are four substantial stone bridges which cross the Oaking Clough conduit. This was an expensive way of providing access to moorland fields.

OS ref SK 25476 86907

Hallam Moor Pals Trench

W3W tender.grand.shows



The green posts in this trench mark shooting positions. But a trench is an unusual feature for a line of shooting butts. This one is very close to Hill 60 where WW1 trench warfare training was carried out in 1914 – 1915.

Trench warfare training showed soldiers how to dig a deep defensive trench. This one is deep enough to conceal grouse shooters.

It may be that they were asked to make it straight and deep enough for grouse shooting landowner William Wilson.

The actual layout of real military trenches involves many zig-zag changes of direction.

OS ref SK 25029 86713

Hallam Moor Grouse trough No 1

W3W pull.jungle.debate



Sheffield snuff manufacturer William Wilson bought the moorland shooting estate in 1897. He soon discovered it was a 'dry' moor. In 1907 he had his gamekeeper George Broomhead carry out the carving of 108 numbered grouse drinking water troughs. He hoped these would help keep more grouse on his land.

These are in three sets:-

Stanage Edge 1 – 75

Hallam Moor 1 – 27

Stanage Lodge 1 – 6.

George received 7 shillings and 3 pence halfpenny for each trough. Some are very intricate and unique to this shooting estate.

This is No 1 in the Hallam set. Sadly most of the others in this set of 27 were damaged during some heavy handed rhododendron management a few years ago.



They didn't manage to destroy Lucky No 13

OS ref SK 24751 86435

SWW Spillway Keepers house

W3W papers.sends.left



Sheffield Water Works (SWW) built this stone lodge for the sluice-keeper at Oaking Clough Reservoir.

In the days when hand control of sluice valves was needed, the Oaking Clough Reservoir keeper had to live nearby.



At Oaking Clough the water collected from the west arm of the conduit empties into the small Oaking Clough reservoir. At the spillway, water overflows the dam and drops into a slot leading east to a short tunnel. From the tunnel the Oaking Clough conduit flows through mechanically operated sluice gates at a gentle gradient to enter the Upper Redmires reservoir. In times of high flow the excess water overshoots the slot, onto the spillway which diverts the water into Rivelin Brook, which flow steeply down Oaking Clough to enter the Rivelin Reservoir.

OS ref SK 23974 85729

Stump of veteran vandalised pine

W3W tooth.pretty.hours



Windswept pine as it used to be

This was one of several windsculpted pine and larch which were left behind when Rape Piece plantation was felled for timber. Coal pits needed timber for props.

By 2011 these trees were over 100 years old, no use as timber but formed a much loved local landmark and offered roosting sites for birds.

A gamekeeper saw that raptors (birds of prey) were roosting in these scattered trees, no doubt searching the surrounding moor for small animals, reptiles and birds to prey on.

Unfortunately all these trees were cut down by the gamekeeper in 2011.

Anyone who goes out walking on the Peak District moors will have seen signs on entry gates warning about adders. There are more adders now than there were 15 years ago, and there are a lot less raptors.

OS ref SK 23138 85267

Bell pit coal mine – Waterloo Mine

W3W cared.prove.from



The Waterloo Coal Mine had at least 14 shallow coal pits on the east slope of Stanage Edge, close to High Neb trig point. These are bell pits, which describes the excavated shape below the pit shaft, where coal was worked from the seam in all directions until it became unsafe to dig further. Bell-pits usually occur as a field of side by side depressions over the shallow coal seam. Most are unfenced but this one was recently thought to be a hazard and fencing was erected.



After the coal seam was worked out and the mine closed in 1840, a line of grouse shooting butts was built and named The Waterloo Line.



This is the first in the line of The Waterloo Line of shooting butts. These turf topped shelters are well built and traditional.

The coal mining began at Stanage Waterloo Colliery in the early 1700s and stopped when the shallow coal from the Ringinglow Seam ran out in the 1840s. The coal seam was only a few feet thick. The pits we see today are just remnants of a much larger number. Once miners had removed as much coal as could safely be done they would open a new coal pit a few feet away.

The Colliery 'Coal Pit House' was a ruin by 1854. It may have been used by a gamekeeper.





There are more shallow bellpit mines near Oaking Clough Plantation, 1500 metres north east. Some are flooded. This depression is one of many near to Oaking Clough Plantation. They are named as shafts or shake holes on the OS map.

Coal in Britain was deposited during the Carboniferous period (359–299 million years ago). The geology of coal seams is that the forests which turned into coal grew in shallow swamps. Over thousands of years the trees fell into the swamp and built up a thick layer which became coal. The base of the swamp is called seat-earth or ganister. It is waterproof and hard, so impedes drainage. Coal miners know they have reached the bottom of the coal seam when they hit ganister.

The Ringinglow seam is slow burning brown coal and makes a poor fire. Packhorse travellers carried their own coal to make tea at Ringinglow because the local coal was so poor it took too long to boil a kettle.

OS ref SK 23065 85287

Shooting shelter

W3W slap.shirts.motion



Built for William Wilson as a shelter for his shooting parties ponies.

Nearby is the fenced off shaft of the Waterloo bell-pit coal mine. The Coal Pit House was here until the 1850s, keeping a 24 hour watch on comings and goings at the mine. Equipment was stored overnight and a night-watchman would patrol the workings to stop thieves stealing coal.

The shelter seen today is an example of an inappropriate 'urban' folly placed on a moor. Nicknamed the 'Bus-Shelter' it is now mainly used as a picnic shelter.

OS ref SK 23435 84956

Grouse trough No 3 - pair of spectacles

W3W jukebox.fish.yarn



One of the more imaginative of the 75 Stanage grouse troughs, a tandem trough named The Spectacles.

OS ref SK 23708 84730

Grouse trough No 1

W3W achieving.fancy.shades



The first of the 75 troughs which run along the top of Stanage Edge to Stanage End, then turning north-east and following Crows Chin Rocks.



But the very first grouse trough carving is near Stanage Pole. This is W Wilson 1907 No 1.

OS ref SK 24312 84387

Long Causeway – original paving

W3W float.nails.shed



Long Causeway is what remains of an ancient packhorse road first laid out by Roman surveyors. This formed one of several moorland crossings between the Roman fort at Brough and the navigable river at Templeborough, Rotherham. In Roman times packhorses would have carried lead from Derbyshire mines, destined to be used as waterproof linings to the cisterns and aqueducts of Rome.

Causey is a french word meaning trodden ground. The original packhorse trail was paved by stones pressed into the ground, and repaired regularly over the centuries. The areas of double flagstones were a later addition to make smoother travel for carts.

There were milestones, but these have now mostly disappeared.

The fenced boundary on the north side was until recently a dilapidated iron bar railing fence erected by the new moorland owner William Wilson, who bought the Moscar moorland shooting estate in 1897. The expensive iron bar railings, and the post and wire fence which replaced them, had no access gates, but there are now three stiles.

Coal from Ringinglow and Stanage mines probably went to Bamford and to the Derwent Valley, villages and farms. Probably to Derwent Hall too, although the Duke of Norfolk had his own coal mines in the Dukeries.

OS ref SK 24683 84427

Stanage Pole

W3W chat.vase.reform



Since 1550 a wooden pole has marked the boundary between South Yorkshire and Derbyshire and has been a useful landmark for travelers on this packhorse road. The tall wooden pole is high enough to always be seen above snowdrifts. It is one of two wooden posts on the Eastern Moors. The current pole was re-erected in 2016. The rocks below have carvings by road surveyors, giving their initials and dates the pole was replaced.

The second Wooden Pole is on Longshaw Estate, near Froggatt.

Stanage Pole Colliery was on the Ringinglow seam. Close to Long Causeway there are at least 14 bellpits and run in 'shaft hollows' each with a causeway link to the Long Causeway. Long Causeway was an essential part of the colliery business, carrying the locally dug coal to towns and cities.

Some of the bellpits are flooded and have surprised fell runners with an unexpected cold bath while crossing the moor on a dark winters evening.

OS ref SK 24895 84642

Scots pine

W3W input.usage.heats



When Redmires reservoirs were built, all farms and dwellings were cleared from the water catchment, and conifer woodlands planted. Some were felled for timber, others blew down in gales. These two pine have survived. But they are lonesome.