

Houndkirk South Geocross V4

HOUNDKIRK MOOR

It features the Ox Stones, Lady Cannings Plantation and the rarely found Burbage Moor trig point

This land is now Countryside Rights of Way (CROW Act) free access but 100 years ago it was private and strictly managed by gamekeepers who were under instructions of the Duke of Rutland to keep people off his shooting moors. They were closed to the public until 1928.

Until 1928 the Duke had extensive game shooting moors covering 12,280 acres. Of these moorlands, Burbage Moor and Houndkirk Moor were closest to Longshaw Lodge.

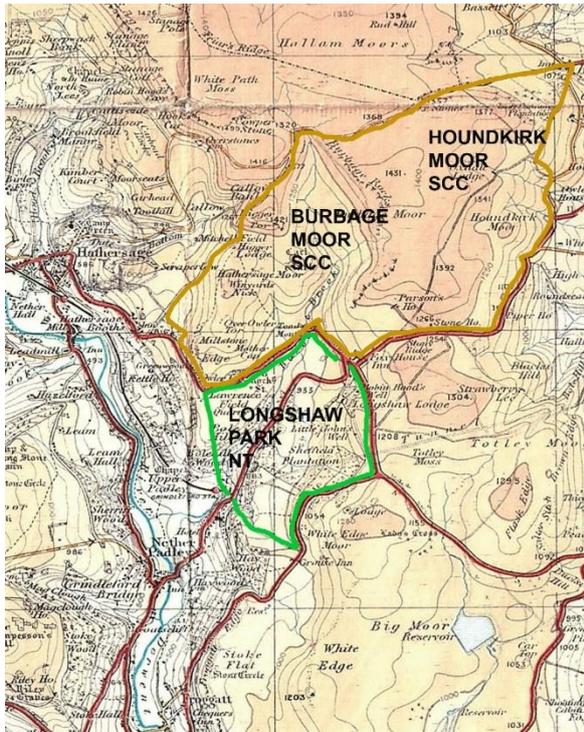
They were also closest to the expanding city of Sheffield, home of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers Club.

By 1927 the Duke of Rutland was forced to sell his Derbyshire Eastern Edges shooting estates. Negotiations took place during the year with interested parties.

Sheffield Clarion Ramblers were at the forefront of campaigning for access to moorland, and one of the closest areas of moors to their base in Sheffield was Houndkirk and Burbage moors. Their founder, George Herbert Bridges Ward was prominent in helping secure public access to this land. He encouraged Ethel Haythornthwaite to raise public money to help buy Longshaw Estate. The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers contributed to the appeal for funds.

Peak District and Yorkshire Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England was set up as a countryside charity. Ethel Haythornthwaite was born into the Sheffield Ward family, daughter of one of the largest industrialists in the Steel City. She was very well connected and passionate about the countryside. She was also well educated and she knew how to use her connections to make things happen. One of her first major achievements was to raise a public appeal to purchase the 747 acre Longshaw Estate which was threatened with development.

In 1928 the purchase of Longshaw Estate was concluded. Ethel Haythornthwaite immediately gave Longshaw Hall and Park into the ownership of the National Trust.



What most people don't know is that Sheffield City Council bought Houndkirk and Burbage Moors in 1928 and still own them. In 1928 SCC had long term plans for a reservoir and a housing estate.

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



Start and finish at the south of Houndkirk Road near the Fox House

Location 1 OS ref SK 27533 80802

Cicely Low raised cairn earth circle centre

Contains "mount"



A large ring cairn, over 20 metres external diameter with a low grass mound, dating from the Bronze Age.

Location 2 OS ref SK 27627 81240

Stone Cabin ruin

Contains "tells"



Probably a shepherds hut prior to enclosure.

Location 3 OS ref SK 27631 81344

Buried Boomerang

Contains "vivid"



Not a natural shape, probably left behind after quarrying. Climbers use this for bouldering.

Location 4 OS ref SK 27933 81303

Houndkirk Edge summit

Contains "courier"



Location 5 OS ref SK 28371 81666

Leaning Rock

Contains "chimp"



Location 6 OS ref SK 28384 81782

Houndkirk Tor benchmark

Contains “gears”



Houndkirk Tor was known as 'An Kirk' and was thought to resemble a poorly built church. Built by the giant of An Kirk.

Cairn

Location 7 OS ref SK 28335 82228

God's Spring

Contains "poster"



Never runs dry

Location 8 OS ref SK 28311 82473

Houndkirk Road Thieves Bridge - centre east side

Contains "areas"



Badger House was built on the level plinth where the retaining wall is. It was one of nine gamekeepers houses for the Duke of Rutland's Longshaw shooting estate.

Location 9 OS ref SK 27503 81351

Houndkirk Road hilltop bunker site

Contains "gave"



Part of the WW2 Starfish Decoy site