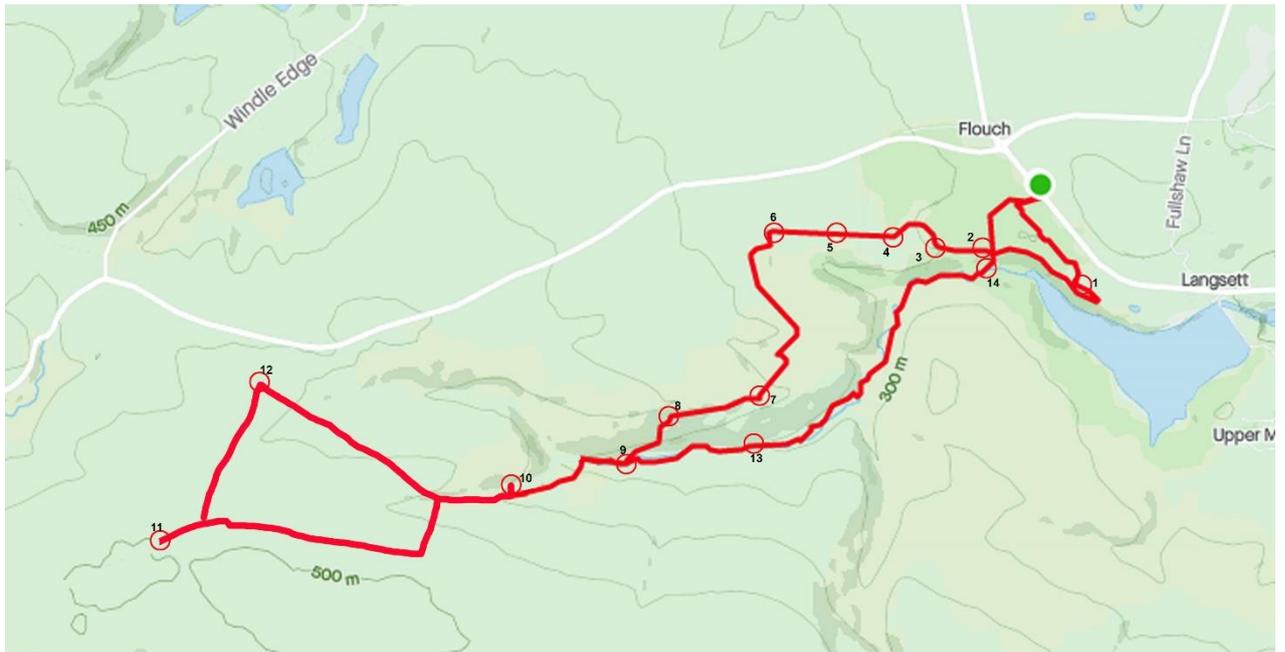


## Langsett Moors Geocross V53



Start from Langsett overspill car park.

Location 1 OS ref SE 20321 00523

Poetry bench

Contains "inner"



The footpaths around Langsett Reservoir are mainly wooded and shady and often on steep banks. This well chosen location can be sunny and open on the right day, and easy to access.

Location 2 OS ref SE 19734 00742

Footbridge water level monitor

Contains "laptop"



Footpath over the Hagg Brook.

The majority of incoming water to Langsett Reservoir is from the Little Don. Hagg Brook drains a small catchment to the north.

The reservoir engineer must think it important enough to have a means of assessing it's flow volume. There is a water level monitor pipe on NW side

Location 3 OS ref SE 19418 00771

Swinden barn

Contains "airstrip"



The land now occupied by Langsett Reservoir was once farmland and is now covered by conifer plantations. These were planted at a time when Sheffield Water Corporation wanted to keep people and livestock off water catchment land.

The woods contain historic remnants of the lost agricultural landscape, old collapsing stone walls and this derelict barn at Swinden. This was one of five farms at Langsett. Swinden Farm was occupied until the 1930s and was subsequently demolished.

Swine Dean was a wooded valley where pigs foraged for acorns and roots.

Location 4 OS ref SK 24177 89521

Road Sign

Contains “matrons”



The track leads to Access Land but is not a designated footpath or bridleway.

The blue directional sign is a familiar one on highways, and road users are used to obeying its instruction. This is one of a pair which have been ‘liberated’ and put to an alternative use.

The farmer has made every effort to keep people and their dogs, bikes and 4WD vehicles away. Shooting parties with similar equipment are of course welcome.

Location 5 OS ref SE 18756 00835

Rhododendron plantation NE corner

Contains “tickles”



A moorland rhododendron plantation, one of a handful in the Peak District. Possibly used to rear pheasants for shooting.

Upland rhododendron plantations in the Peak District were usually planted by wealthy landowners to impress their guests. Moorland farmers didn't have the money to buy exotic imported evergreens which originate in the Himalaya.

Location 6 OS ref SE 18440 00848

Gates leading to Access Land

Contains “decimal”



Final warnings.

Boundary of Open Country. Freedom to roam lies ahead.

Location 7 OS ref SK 18291 99771

Guide stoop near Hordron Farm

Contains "animal"



Marks the turnoff down to Hordron Farm which sits above a steep bank down to the Little Don, and a magnificent sheepfold.

The buildings were abandoned on the 1930s and are now roofless and decaying rapidly.

Also known as Little Hordron, the farm has retained four enclosed fields which are not part of the Access Land. The enclosed fields once extended west to include Upper Hordron, historically used as a summer residence by a shepherd.

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Location 8 OS ref SK 17713 99654

Upper Hordron – north gate post

Contains “generated”



The building and the track are kept in good repair for use by shooting parties.

It has a great location on the edge of one of the last wild places in the Dark Peak.

If you head west or south you won't find any habitation, roads or settlements for 10 kilometres.

Location 9 OS ref SK 17441 99345

Hordon Clough footbridge - north

Contains "rates"



Many people have been happy to find this footbridge. It gives a safe way of crossing the Little Don River when in spate.

200 metres upstream are fords used by horse and later landrovers to take shooting parties to the butts at the head of Laund Clough.

Location 10 OS ref SK 16726 99201

Skarratts Stone 1894

Contains "tuxedos"



Very difficult to find, the elusive Skarratts Stone 1894.

Charles Skarratt took part in shooting parties on Langsett Moors between 1887 - 1897. The shooting rights belonged to Harrison & Harrison, Sheffield cutlers. Charles Skarratt made his money from gold mining in Australia. He returned to live in London and may have had a financial interest in Harrison & Harrison. Shooting parties took their lunch in the Upper Hordron cabin, and returned for afternoon shooting at Laund. Skarratt traditionally took a 10 minute rest near this stone to cure his fear of fog by a shot of whisky.

The carving was instructed by newly elected 1893 Master Cutler George Howson who had taken over the Harrisons cutlery firm. It has been well made, clearly by an expert mason. Note the S without apostrophe. It has an un-natural straight edge at the top so may have been pre-prepared and brought to the site by cart.

*The next 6 km are the toughest, so this might be a good time to decide on skipping Locations 11 & 12. They can be more easily reached from the top of the A628 Woodhead Road, by an access stile at Lasche.*

Location 11 OS ref SK 13822 98553

1894 Stone

Contains “roosts.shadowing.dweller“ All three words are given.



The 1894 Stone is a well known landmark on the Derwent Watershed. To the south all rainfall goes into the River Derwent which joins the River Trent at Derby. To the north all rainfall goes into the River Don. Both rivers reach the Humber Estuary, but the Derwent has the best scenery.

The Watershed is a famous natural route for moorland bog-trotters. It became so popular that this section of 5 km of boggy footpath widened out to over 50 metres width as walkers tried to find a dry crossing. That has now changed with the foresight and planning of the Moors for the Future Project. Bogs have been stabilised, the bare peat has been revegetated with grasses and it is a much more pleasant crossing.

The south face of the 1894 Stone has a rock basin on the lip with the initials IWB carved inside. Probably carved in winter with a deep snow cover because it would be hard to reach. IWB was Isaac Wall Bolton 1823 – 1899, a wealthy locomotive engineer in Ashton under Lyme. He was a JP, an Alderman and a keen rambler and campaigner for public access to ancient paths over Kinder Scout. He was also a Vandal, carving his name on rocks he didn't own. There are at least 10 stones with IWB carved on them.

The date 1894 is carved on the north facing top. Not very well carved, the Skarratts Stone is much better.

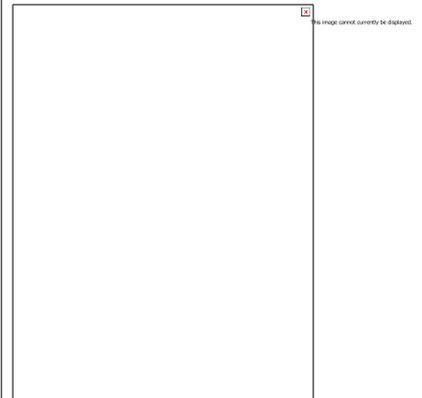
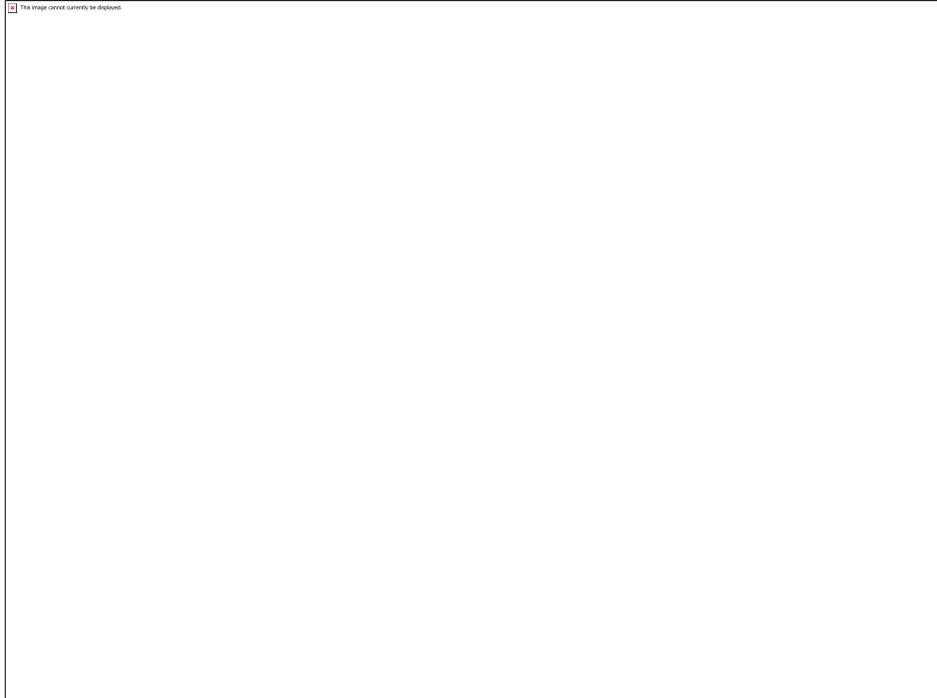
Few people manage to climb this rock without getting wet feet. Again, winter is best.

Why are there two 1894 stones on Langsett Moors?

Location 12 OS ref SK 14851 99741

Lady Cross

Contains “dine.swarm.builders” All three words are given.



Remnants of a Christian wayside cross placed between 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries to help travellers cross the featureless moor. A Scheduled Listed Monument. The vertical shaft is not part of the original which is lying nearby. The triangular ‘new’ shaft is a surveyors triangulation post which predates trig point pillars. The relatively modern carved graffiti includes letters IWB, the same initials as are carved into the 1894 Stone.

*Return over Cloudberry Moor to Laund Clough and the footbridge at Location 9. The return journey follows the Little Don downstream to Langsett Reservoir. This section is easiest in a dry spring when river crossings are possible and tracks are easily found. It becomes very ‘brackeny’ in summer, and can be dangerous when the river is in flood.*

Location 13 OS ref SK 18296 99473

Hordron Clough sheepfold – SW corner

Contains “keeps”



Castellated sheepfold. Over 200 years old and very well constructed, in much better condition than nearby Hordron Farm.

Very elaborate wall-top decoration for such a wild place.

There is also a sheep dip.

Location 14 OS ref SE 19750 00586

Little Don Fish Pass sign

Contains “whizzed”



Built in 2018 to enable brown trout to reach their long lost spawning grounds in the upper reaches of the Little Don river.