

Longshaw Geocross V11

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LONGSHAW ESTATE

Longshaw Lodge was built in 1827 as a 'shooting box' by John Henry Manners, 5th Duke of Rutland, as the centrepiece of his moorland shooting estates. A shooting box was a modest place to entertain guests invited to a shooting party, which might spread over several days, shooting on a different moor each day. Stanage Lodge is another nearby shooting box. They are usually on private land and guests come by invitation only.

The Duke of Rutland owned seven game shooting moors close to Longshaw Estate. These covered 11,700 acres and each one had a gamekeepers lodge:-

Houndkirk Moor

Burbage Moor

Totley Moor

Big Moor

Froggatt and Curbar Moors

Ramsley Moor

Leash Fen

Later in the 19th century, Longshaw Lodge was transformed from a modest shooting box into an elegant aristocratic country house. It is now a Grade II listed building and is owned by the National Trust.

During World War I the 9th Duke made Longshaw Lodge available as a recuperation facility for wounded soldiers recovering from treatment at Sheffield hospitals. After WW 1 there was a sudden decline in agricultural income and higher taxation was imposed to cover the costs of the Great War.

By the 1920s the Duke, like many other landed gentry, faced a cash crisis. He had long-standing debts, incurred when his principal residence of Belvoir Castle in Rutland was rebuilt at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Also, following the death of the 8th Duke of Rutland in 1925, the estate faced crippling death duties. The 9th Duke was still working on Haddon Hall and had difficult decisions to make.

In March 1927 the 9th Duke was residing at Haddon Hall. He had no choice but to put the whole of the Longshaw Estate and his shooting moorlands up for sale. The sale documents described Longshaw Lodge as suitable for conversion for residential

purposes as a school, institution, or hotel. With this came 747 acres of parkland, woodland and moorland.

The 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 were Houndkirk and Burbage moors. Their founder, George Herbert Bridges Ward, was prominent in helping secure public access to this land and he didn't want to see Longshaw Lodge converted for residential purposes as a school, institution or hotel. He encouraged Ethel Haythornthwaite to raise public money to help buy Longshaw Estate.

The Peak District and Yorkshire Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England was set up as a countryside charity. Ethel Haythornthwaite, its founder, was born into the Sheffield Ward family, a 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 help purchase the 747 acre Longshaw Estate for the public, to avoid the threatened development. The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers contributed to the appeal.

The Longshaw Estate went up for sale and Sheffield Council, with the help of the funds raised by the local campaigners, purchased Longshaw Estate and Longshaw Lodge and 3,000 acres of its associated moorland in 1927.

**THE WELL-KNOWN
LONGSHAW LODGE ESTATE,**
of some
11,533 ACRES,
with
2,200 ACRES ADDITIONAL SPORTING RIGHTS,
including, as separate Lots, the magnificently situated
and well-appointed Mansion,
"LONGSHAW LODGE,"
suitable, if not required for residential purposes, as a
SCHOOL, INSTITUTION, or HOTEL.
28 bed and dressing rooms, two bathrooms, capital
suite of reception rooms, electric light, good water
supply, central heating, etc., with Park Lake Lands,
Woodlands, and Moorlands, in all about 747
ACRES; also, separately Lotted,
THE FAMOUS SPORTING MOORS,
well heathered, and easily reached by good motorway
roads, as follows—

	Approx. Area.
HOUNDKIRK and BURBAGE MOORS	2,407 Acres.
BIG MOOR	5,111 Acres.
TOTLEY MOOR	1,119 Acres.
CLOD HALL MOOR	856 Acres.
LEASH FEN MOOR	681 Acres.
BLACKA MOOR	448 Acres.
RAMSLEY MOOR	638 Acres.

Each equipped with adequate KEEPERS' LODGES,
and which, shot as a whole, have produced in good
years over 3,000 BEACE OF GROUSE, and which
are now in capital condition.
Also THREE WELL-KNOWN FULLY LICENSED
HOUSES,
THE FOX HOUSE; THE PEACOCK, OWLER BAR;
and THE CHEQUERS, FROGGATT FINE,
SEVERAL SMALL FARMS, BEAUTIFULLY
SITUATED COTTAGES, VALUABLE QUARRIES,
WOODLAND, and BUILDING SITES, Etc.
Which will be offered by Auction (unless previously
sold privately), by Messrs.
JOHN D. WOOD and CO.,
On Tuesday, July 5th at the Royal Victoria Hotel,
Sheffield.
Solicitors—Messrs. DAWSON and CO.,
2, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.2
Land Agent—ALEX. CARRINGTON, Esq.,
Haddon Estate Office, Bakewell, Derbyshire.
Auctioneers' Offices—6, Mount Street,
Crosvenor Square, London, W.1.

Sheffield City Council was not 'cash rich' and needed those public funds to complete the purchase. With the help of £14,000 raised by the public, Ethel Haythornthwaite and the Peak District and Yorkshire Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England were able to help the Council buy the entire Longshaw Estate including three Public Houses and several farms.

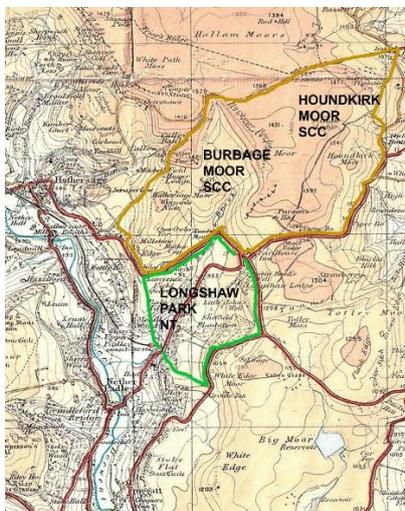
It had been pre-agreed that the Longshaw Estate would be given to the National Trust. It took four years to arrange the details of this deal, during which Longshaw Lodge was rented as a guesthouse by the Holiday Fellowship. By 1928 the purchase of The Longshaw Estate was concluded and in 1931 Ethel Haythornthwaite gave Longshaw Estate, including Longshaw Lodge, to the National Trust.

A similar guesthouse arrangement was being carried out at the Duke of Norfolk's Derwent Hall where the YHA were renting it as holiday accommodation. For Derwent Hall though this was just a short-term reprieve before its disappearance beneath the rising waters of the new Ladybower Reservoir.

Today, Longshaw Lodge is part of the Longshaw, Burbage & the Eastern Moors. All this property is now managed by the National Trust, but only Longshaw Estate is actually owned by the National Trust.

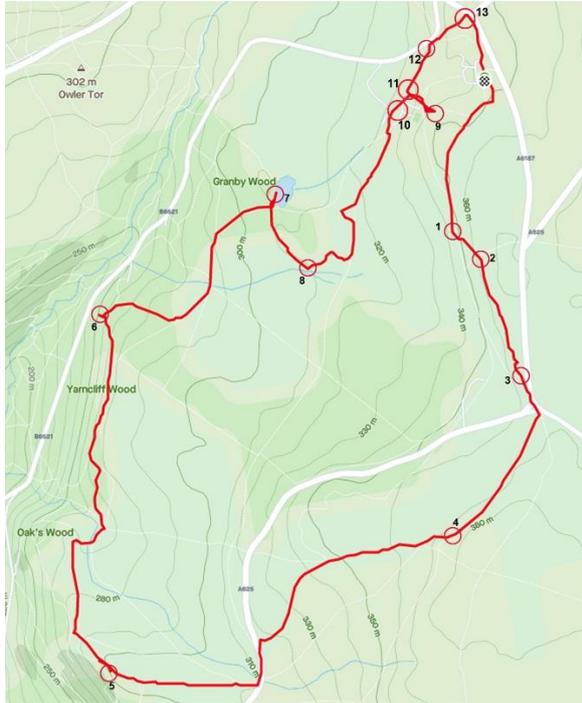
After the sale of the Longshaw Estate some of the moors changed hands. At the founding of the Peak District National Park in 1948, several moors transferred to the Park's ownership. Today the Eastern Moors Partnership of the National Trust (NT) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Birds (RSPB) have a 15-year renewable lease on all these moors except Longshaw, Houndkirk and Burbage Moors.

Longshaw Lodge continued to be a popular guest house with the Holiday Fellowship until 1960. In the early 1930s they opened a café for the benefit of the public and eventually ended their lease. Two years later, by 1962, it was converted into residential flats and is still used in this way.



This Geocross visits a number of interesting locations on the east side of Longshaw Estate.

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



Start and finish at Longshaw car park.

Location 1 OS ref SK 26578 79535

Little John's Well

W3W chest.finest.riots



Longshaw Estate has both a Little John's Well and a Robin Hood's Well. However, at the time of the outlaws fame in 1180, there were no moorland inns here. The naming of the wells is much more recent.

Robin Hood is thought to have been born in Loxley in 1160, and Little John may have come from Hathersage. They may have fought with quarter-staves on the stepping stones over the River Derwent near Hathersage. It is worth noting that 1160 is just 94 years after the Norman Invasion of 1066, when King William the Conqueror seized all the land and gave it to his barons.

I think it fairly unlikely that Robin Hood and his Merry Men used these wells near to the Fox House Inn.

Location 2 OS ref SK 26651 79460

Seat in rock outcrop D'EC 1830

W3W likely.chart.grabs



Dukes seat built by D'Ewes Coke, agent to the Duke of Rutland, in 1830.

The Duke approved of man-made carvings on natural gritstone, and much more of this type of graffiti can be seen at Stanton Moor, near his home of Haddon Hall near Bakewell.

Location 3 OS ref SK 26790 79100

Froggatt Wooden Pole

W3W cable.earth.pilots



Froggatt Pole stands on a corner of the Longshaw Estate where the road divides at a triangular junction. One road leads down to Froggatt village and the Derwent Valley' the other crosses the moor to Owler Bar. Like Stanage Pole, this tall waymarker was installed to guide travellers. It stands over 20 feet high and is even visible in deep snow. It is so well known that the area around it is known as 'Wooden Pole'. It isn't a traditional stone guide stoop: these are typically 4-6 feet high and are inscribed with distances to possible destinations.

On the ground is a stone slab inscribed with T1778. It is on the Totley Parish boundary, and this is probably a surveyors mark for the 1778 boundary inspection.

Location 4 OS ref SK 26511 78532

White Edge Lodge

W3W admit.hurts.eggs



One of the Duke of Rutland's gamekeepers' lodges, which was bought by the National Trust in 1928. It is now used by paying guests as holiday accommodation. It stands in a prominent position with extensive views; exactly what a gamekeeper needed.

Known locally as the Haunted House, it has a unique location. There isn't a more dramatically sited moorland house in the Peak District.

Location 5 OS ref SK 25471 78036

Tegness Pinnacle – base at north

W3W beats.oven.photos



Tegness quarry is off the beaten track. It is one of two small quarries which produced building stone. It closed many years ago, leaving behind an iconic quarried pinnacle that rock climbers know as the Crazy Pinnacle.

Location 6 OS ref SK 25436 79241

Duke's Gazebo cave

W3W planet.kind.walks



A carved stone table or seat overlooking the Grindleford Road, which would have been more visible then. Now obscured by trees.

It takes a strong nerve to descend to it, and the drop off the edge is to be avoided! The Duke would have been able to sit there and watch his guests arriving on the Bakewell – Sheffield road.

Location 7 OS ref SK 26006 79649

Longshaw Pond sluice valve

W3W luck.fluid.link



Known as the Ice Pond, people often think it was used for skating but it was actually used to produce ice. The ramp allowed the ice sheets to be dragged ashore and cut into blocks. The ice was used for keeping stored food fresh, in the Ice House behind Longshaw Lodge.

Location 8 OS ref SK 26109 79396

Stone Guide Stoop

W3W sport.reef.trim



This Guide Stoop is south of the Ice Pond in Longshaw Park. There are many stone guideposts in the Peak District and three of them are on Longshaw Estate.

In 1697 King William III passed an Act requiring local surveyors to erect guideposts, or stone guide stoops, where two or more paths intersected. The lettering, sometimes mis-spelt, would point travellers to the nearest market town, sometimes giving distances. These guidestoops are mostly over 300 years old and they mostly haven't fallen over in that time. They are deeply buried.

Location 9 OS ref SK 26513 79912

Longshaw Ice House

W3W retail.tanks.gent



Large country houses often had an Ice House, used for keeping food fresh, and this was Longshaw's.

In the days before electric fridges people used a stone refridgerator, or a room excavated below ground and having a roof that was insulated with an earth and grass cover. The ice collected in the previous winter would last all summer.

Location 10 OS ref SK 26417 79915

Longshaw Lodge

W3W loyal.pipes.solve



During the Duke of Rutland's time the building had fine ornamental gardens and private walks and scenic drives across the estate. The gardens around the Lodge were protected by ha-ha walls to ensure that grazing animals were kept out. Rhododendrons were planted close to the building to provide spring flowering as well as cover for birds. These have proven to be very difficult to control as they spread vigorously and need severely hacking back every few years.

Living in Sheffield I visit Longshaw Estate frequently, and always feel privileged to be able to enjoy the grounds of a once grand house that had to be rescued by the public purse.

During his time of ownership of Longshaw Estate, in the 19th century, the 5th Duke of Rutland also owned Haddon Hall near Bakewell and part of the nearby Stanton Moor. He developed Stanton Moor for sightseeing scenic drives, a fashionable activity for the wealthy in Victorian times. From 1809 the Duke carried out 'improvements' on the moor, allowing his guests to visit carved man-made rock formations. Just as at Longshaw he carried out major planting of rampant rhododendron in thickets which are now over-abundant. He also created carved stones in honour of his invited guests.

Stanton Moor probably has the most desecrated gritstone rock features in the Peak District. Virtually every large boulder has graffiti of some sort. This 300 million year old moorland has been dramatically vandalised in the last 200 years.

Location 11 OS ref SK 26424 79972

Ha-ha wall

W3W snacks.spare.minds



Robin Hood's Well is the source of the stream that enters Longshaw Park below the ha-ha wall. It arises just east of the A6187 and emerges into Longshaw Estate in a number of channels near the Fox House.

The idea of a ha-ha wall was used by Capability Brown in 1757, at Chatsworth House, to separate the lawns and gardens from the Park where animals grazed. The sheep and cattle couldn't climb the wall. Longshaw has quite a lot of ha-ha walling. The view west from Longshaw Lodge over the 'Park' and Lawrencefield is magnificent. Not a house to be seen.

Location 12 OS ref SK 26504 80139

Stone Guide Stoop at north gatehouse

W3W starts.proven.listed



Another guide stoop close to the road junction. To the south is Grindleford and, at the road junction, the turn west takes travellers to Hathersage and the Hope Valley. East is to Sheffield. Nearby is one of the 12 Companion Stones. They are all placed close to long established stone guide stoops.

The Companion Stones are found on the Eastern Moorlands of the Peak District.

Longshaw Gate

Longshaw Park

White Edge

Barbrook east

Deadshaw Sick

Curbar Head

Eaglestone Flat

Shillito Wood

Bleak House

Hob Hurst's House

Beeley Moor

Ball Cross

They have been created by local artists in response to the ancient Guide Stoops that already exist in these locations. Traditional stone stoops have long helped travellers navigate their way across the moorlands. Sadly, Health and Safety has got in the way of a good idea. Most of these 'Companion Stones' are laid flat, probably so they can't be pushed over. The ancient stone Guide Stoops are set deep in the ground and have stood the test of time

The words on the new stones are intended:- *'to guide us in the future, through the tricky environmental terrain we have yet to navigate.'*

Location 13 OS ref SK 26611 80241

Footpath entrance to Longshaw Park

W3W damp.zest.grant



Unlucky for some, Location 13 is the pedestrian entrance to Longshaw Park opposite the Fox House Inn. It has been rebuilt many, many times. It seems that some drivers, on the A6187 Sheffield to Hathersage road, fail to grasp the reduction in speed needed to overcome the difficulties of a ninety degree bend. Every year at least one will smash their way through this stone wall. Some years it is many more than one. Perhaps this disastrous corner needs its own Companion Stone;-

'to guide us in the future, through the tricky environmental terrain we have yet to navigate.'