

## Redmires Geocross V15

### REDMIREES

The marshes (mires) on the south side of the Redmires Reservoirs lie over the shallow Ringinglow Coal Seam. Sometimes water coming off the mires above the reservoirs is a vivid orange/red. The orange ochre stain is caused by iron found in sandy clays associated with coal measures.

Red Mires describes the area very well.

Redmires Reservoirs are on Hallam Moor but they don't share similar features. The moors have wide reaching views, whereas the reservoirs are visually quite contained within woodland. The woodland was originally mainly evergreen conifers, intended to keep people off the reservoir catchment.

To the east is Lodge Moor, over 300 metres above sea level; the highest housing suburb in Sheffield. Redmires Camp is on Lodge Moor.

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the Industrial Revolution triggered a mass migration in Victorian Britain. Cities and towns received vast numbers of families from the countryside looking for work in the new factories. There was a shortage of housing. Migrant people had to live in slums with poor sanitation and poor quality drinking water.

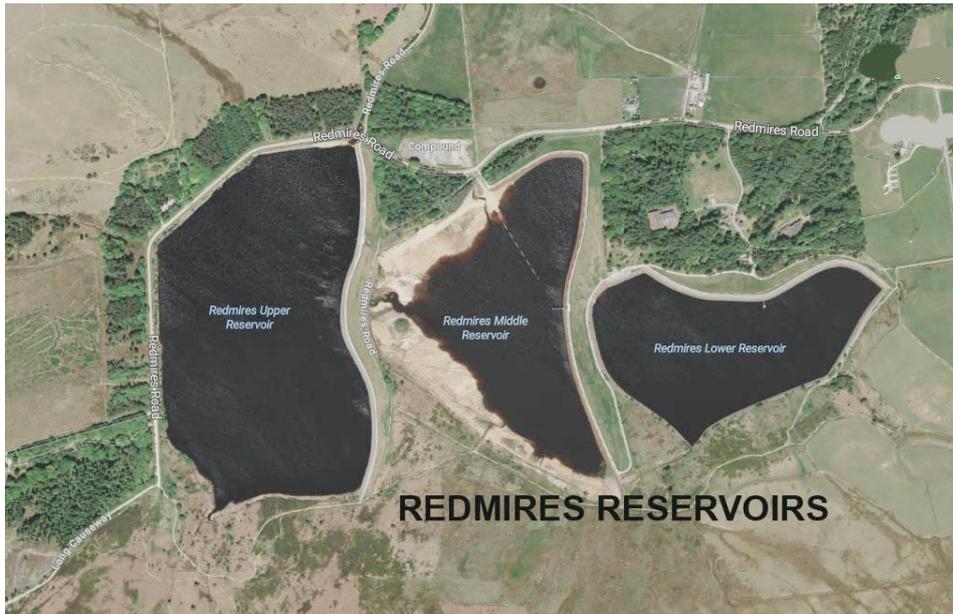
Asiatic cholera arrived in Britain in 1831 and spread rapidly. It is a bacterial disease spread by contaminated water and food. Symptoms are severe diarrhoea and dehydration, It can be fatal, causing death within a few hours.

In Britain 50,000 people died of cholera, 402 of them in Sheffield including the Master Cutler John Blake. Churchyards couldn't cope with the number of burials. In August 1832 the Duke of Norfolk provided an unconsecrated plot of burial land at Clay Wood in Nortfolk Park. In 1935 the Cholera Monument was built on this plot.



The Redmires Reservoirs are a direct result of the Cholera epidemic. They were built between 1833 – 1854, immediately after the cholera epidemic of 1832. Sheffield Water Works (SWW) needed to quickly improve supplies of clean drinking

water to Sheffield. Water from the new Redmires Reservoirs 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.

Lodge Moor Hospital in Sheffield was erected in 1888 as an isolation hospital, initially for smallpox, and later used for other contagious diseases. It wasn't there during the Cholera outbreak of 1831 – 1832.



The gates into Redmires Camp are close to the Three Merry Lads pub.

Redmires Camp was where the Sheffield Pals Battalion trained in 1915 before going into action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

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.

It later became the largest prisoner of war camp in Britain during both the First and Second World Wars. It had very high security fences.

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

Start and finish at Upper Redmires Reservoir.



OS ref SK 26108 85742

Grouse and Trout public house

W3W dart.judge.latest



This was the location of a moorland farm built in 1828. This farm became a public house in the 1840s to serve the workers on the Redmires Reservoirs which were built between 1833 - 1854. It remained open long after the nearby Ocean View pub closed in 1885, and continued to serve the growing number of countryside ramblers and charabanc parties who visited these scenic reservoirs.

However in 1913 the growing popularity of Redmires reservoirs caused William Wilson, the owner of the Moscar shooting estate, to become increasingly concerned about the masses of visitors. He imagined that the pub might attract poachers and this would damage his shooting interests. He called for the Grouse and Trouts' alcohol licence to be revoked.

The farm continued to sell tea and cakes to ramblers and charabanc parties. It was closed in 1934 and later demolished.

The roadside marker stone depicts a grouse and three trout, and the motto '*Ich Dien Dinner*' I serve dinner.

OS ref SK 26024 85823

Oaking Clough catchwater conduit plug hole

W3W veal.could.agenda



The Oaking Clough conduit delivers the main incoming water to the Redmires Reservoirs. It collects water from several very small incoming streams, so small you can step over them in summer. In times of high flow the overflows from all three reservoirs follows an open conduit down to Wyming Brook and into the Rivelin Reservoir.

OS ref SK 26138 86496

Tunnel surveyors east sighting tower

W3W pram.charmingly.jazz



The 4.5 mile (7.2km) 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 pillar on Oaking Clough catchwater conduit.

Actually there is a fourth sighting tower on Bamford Moor because the lie of the land obstructs a clear sight line from the Bamford start of the tunnel to the first tower. This is shorter than the others.

The sighting surveyors calculations were very accurate, when the west and east tunnels met they were just inches apart.

OS ref SK 24795 86435

Oaking Clough reservoir spillway

W3W boot.energy.putty



At Oaking Clough reservoir the water collected from the west arm of the conduit empties into the 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 25696 86861

Standing stone

W3W zebra.buyers.pardon



Hallam Moor has a large number of ancient stones, mounds, burial sites and cairns, many of which were found during moorland management by burning.

Archaeologists were quite pleased with their findings.

Those who came later were unimpressed!

OS ref SK 25573 87374

The Headstone

W3W dots.report.saints



The Headstone is a wind sculpted gritstone tor. It is very impressive!

It is a well known landmark visible from the A57 Hollow Meadows road as it descends into the Rivelin Valley. It was also known as 'Stump John' and the 'Cock Crowing Stone'.

OS ref SK 25551 87366

Hallam Moor grouse trough No 15

W3W secure.tops.frosted



One of 27 carved grouse drinking troughs. This Hallam Moor set begins at Oaking Cough and ends at Wyming Brook edge.

These are three sets:-

Stanage Edge 1 – 75

Hallam Moor 1 – 27

Stanage Lodge 1 – 6.

George Broomhead was a gamekeeper for William Wilson. He received 7 shillings and 3 pence halfpenny for carving each trough. Some are very intricate and unique to this shooting estate.

I have not seen them on any other shooting moorland.

This is No 15 in the Hallam Moor set. Sadly most of the others in this set of 27 were damaged during some heavy handed rhododendron management a few years ago.



The photo shows a demolished gate pillar with W (William Wilson)

OS ref SK 26538 86477

Rangers Grave

W3W puzzle.boxing.voices



A small carved cairn with a date of 1899 and 'IN MEMORY OF RANGER. Possibly a gamekeepers' dogs grave.

OS ref SK 26957 86229

Ash Cabin Flat Stone Circle

W3W scarf.safety.axed



Another very unimpressive collection of stones.

The smallest stone circle in the Peak District, actually an oval just 5.5 metres diameter inside the standing stones. Hard to find and not impressive, but it is very old. Dating back to prehistoric times in the Bronze Age, over 3000 years ago. The stones are surrounded by an oval shaped raised earth bank. Heavily overgrown by heather it was last visible and rediscovered after burning management in 1981.

Easily missed, but not really important.

Nearby is the Ash Cabin Flat standing stone is 100 metres to the NNE, 600mm high. Also easily missed.



OS ref SK 26850 85815

SWW stone

W3W copy.axed.panel



Sheffield Water Works (SWW) on Redmires Road.

This massive stone 'gatepost' to the Redmires Reservoirs has a surveyors bench mark. Getting the levels correct is what Water Works surveyors do best.

OS ref SK 26776 85507

Lower Redmires Reservoir tower and bridge

W3W jelly.gasp.wells



This is the outfall for an uphill pumped water supply from the Rivelin Water Treatment Works, raising clean water 120 metres into Redmires Lower Reservoir, after removal of peat and impurities.

Unfortunately the original tower proved to be a challenge to reservoir jumpers and so the gate was rebuilt in 2020 to make it more difficult for people to cross to the tower.

OS ref SK 26235 85208

Middle Redmires Reservoir catchwater ditch

W3W public.harp.patio



Sometimes the water coming off the mires above the reservoirs is a vivid orange or red. These are the 'red mires' which gave Redmires its name. The orange ochre stain is caused by iron found in sandy clays associated with coal measures. West Sheffield has shallow coal seams and this discolouration is locally quite common.

This ditch captures the ochre coloured water and leads it off to Wyming Brook so as to avoid contaminating West Sheffield's drinking water..

OS ref SK 25795 84889

SWW Stone south of Upper Redmires Reservoir

W3W lines.foil.dollar



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 flowed in an open conduit to smaller reservoirs in west Sheffield.

As moorland reservoirs, not valley reservoirs, Redmires has a very small water catchment. It 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 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, the remainder continuing in Oaking Clough catchwater conduit to outfall into the Upper Redmires Reservoir.

OS ref SK 25672 85734

Ocean View farm and public house

W3W above.caller.keeps



Ocean View was not the farms first name.

The photo shows the farm ruins where there are remains of red bricks produced by a west Sheffield brickworks. It is unlikely that the original farm would have used. It was almost certain to have been built from gritstone from Quarry Hill.

The SWW construction of the reservoirs may have used brick, and some of these might have found their way into the pub buildings.

Ocean View was a traditional combination of working farm and public house. The pub opened in 1840 and served 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 Quarry Hill but acquired the new name Ocean View when the Upper Redmires Reservoir was completed.