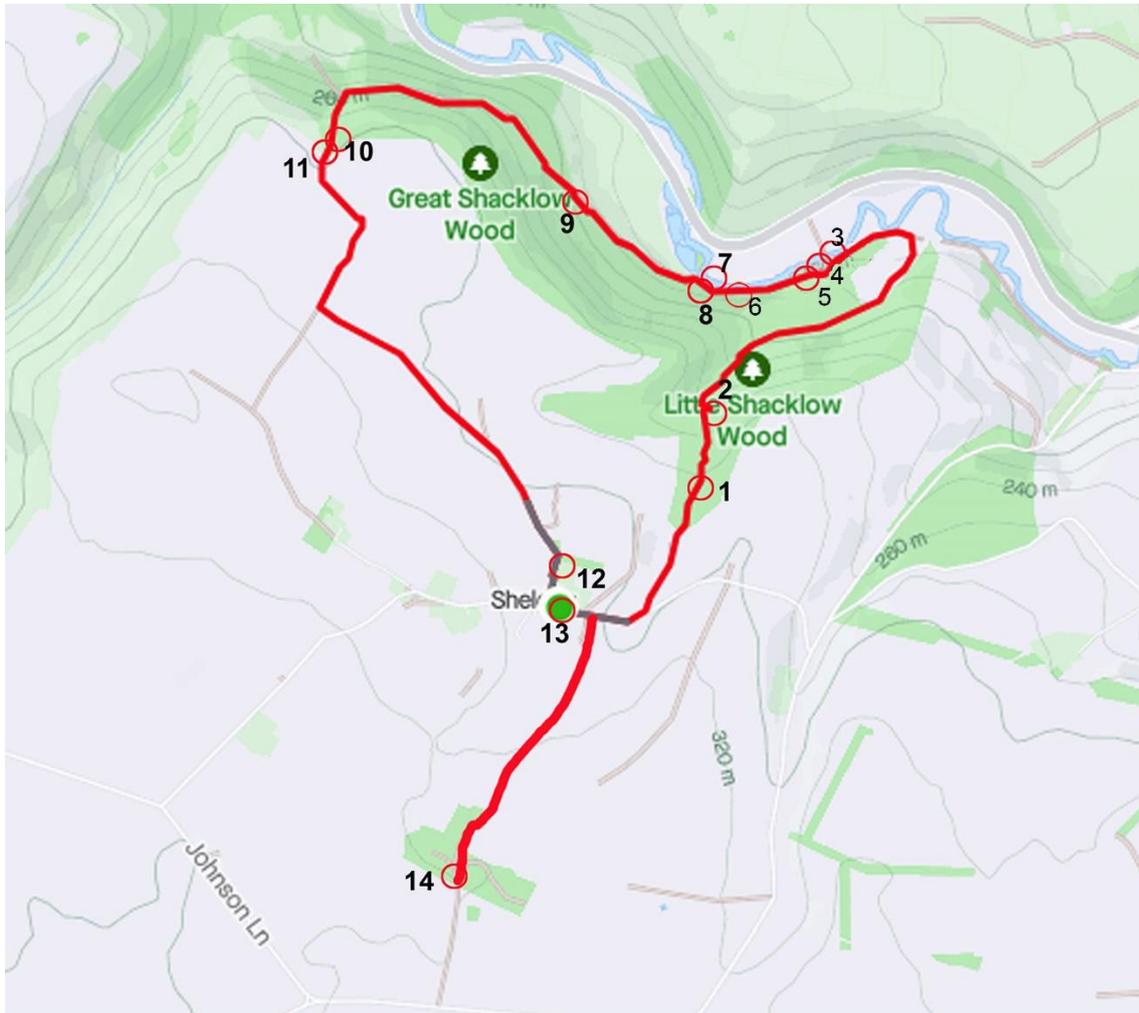


Sheldon Moor Geocross V77

Each of the locations can be found on the route below. The locations are listed in order and sufficient background is included to help you triangulate your position to identify the location.



Start from Sheldon

Location 1 OS ref SK 17932 69168

Memorial stone by cave in Little Shacklow Wood

Contains "streamers"



A manufactured memorial stone, usually seen in churchyards, placed near a cave entrance.

"In Heaven you can rest in endless peace"

Well selected, Nettler Dale is quiet and peaceful.

Location 2 OS ref SK 17922 69281

Black Marble Mine Nettle Dale

Contains "array"



There are two mine entrances on opposite sides of Nettle Dale within Little Shacklow Wood. These are two of several mines around Sheldon which produced Ashford Black Marble, which is a dark limestone and not a true marble. Black marble was a favourite inlay stone for ornamental fireplaces and was used in Hardwick Hall in 1580.

There were quite a number of Ashford Black Marble mines near Sheldon but the beds were shallow, typically just 2 metres (7 feet)..

The mines were abandoned when the easily reached mineral was exhausted. There is plenty more but it is too deep to mine profitably.

Chatsworth Estate opened the Nettle Dale mines in 1687 to obtain black marble for a new chapel. Large blocks were used for the columns, altar steps and floor of the chapel at Chatsworth.

Location 3 OS ref SK 18230 69699

River Wye Private Fishing

Contains "direction"



The true left bank of this stretch of the River Wye is protected for private fishing and the access is gated and locked. There are many signs saying that the land is private. This sign also says 'Poachers Prosecuted'.

Location 4 OS ref SK 18213 69642

Ashford Bobbin Mill

Contains "sprain"



Ashford Mill was built in 1870. The mill building has two iron waterwheels. There were a number of textile mills both upstream and downstream on the River Wye. This location on the edge of Shardlow Wood gave a plentiful supply of wood for a Bobbin Mill.

It is also known to have been used as a Bone Mill. Animal bones were ground to make agricultural fertiliser.

Location 5 OS ref SK 18204 69648

Bobbin Mill leat

Contains “wizards”



Upsteam from the Bobbin Mill are large mill ponds, ensuring a steady flow of water to drive the mill wheels. There are now used for more private fishing, and attract swans and herons who have not yet been prosecuted for poaching.

Location 6 OS ref SK 17987 69594

Pump chamber

Contains "fats"



Cast iron water pipe

An underground pump chamber with a water wheel powered by a take off from the River Wye. This pump moved drinking water up to Sheldon village. The take out point is close to the sough from Magpie Mine.

Location 7 OS ref SK 17942 69614

Magpie Mine sough

Contains "squirted"



There is a sough draining the now disused Magpie mine shaft. The tunnel is 2km long and carries up to 6 million gallons (22 million litres) a day. In dry conditions cavers have reached Magpie mine from here. The sough gate is kept locked under instructions from Chatsworth Estate.

Location 8 OS ref SK 17933 69611

Burst out landslip

Contains "ultra"



In 1960 the sough was running full speed but water pressure continued to build up in the hillside above the tunnel outfall, and eventually blasted a new outlet through the limestone rock, creating this landslip feature.

There are several other landslips on this hillside probably formed the same way.

Location 9 OS ref SK 17580 69835

Great Shacklow Steps

Contains "commented"



The path to Sheldon village at the west end of Great Shacklow Wood is very steep.

In 1992 the Derbyshire Branch of the Ramblers Association built a flight of steps with timber donated by Chatsworth Forestry. There are 225 steps ascending 330 feet. This was a more steady ascent than the Deep Dale Nature Reserve gully which has a short climb section of 1 in 2 up gravelly gully. A real 'granny stopper'!

The wooden steps have lasted 32 years but are rotting away. Its now in a state of collapse and the mud and slippery timber is dangerous to descend when wet.

Location 10 OS ref SK 16963 70001

Handrail fence

Contains "operation"



The steep ascent up a gully in the Deep Dale Nature Reserve is possibly the steepest ascent on a public footpath in the Peak District. It climbs over 300 metres, and of this, 100 metres at a gradient of 1 in 2.

The photo shows the end post of a strained wire fence which has been thoughtfully provided to help walkers haul their way uphill by hand. The fence stops where the gradient slackens to a mere 1 in 3.

Cyclists will know that a 1:3 paved road is the absolute steepest gradient they can get a bike up, providing they can maintain a steady forward movement. Walkers are not so fortunate, each step forward comes to a stop....

Location 11 OS ref SK 16942 69950

Gate at top of Nature Reserve gully

Contains "chestnuts"



The gate and now disused stile are the end of the struggle.

Location 12 OS ref SK 17548 68866

Sheldon Chapel

Contains "feasted"



The Sheldon Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels is the smallest chapel in Derbyshire. The old chapel was falling down so a new church was built in 1864.

Location 13 OS ref SK 17476 68794

Cock and Pullet pub

Contains "deceased"



The Cock and Pullet pub appears to be quite old but in fact it was built in 1995. It replaced 'The Duke of Devonshire' pub which is now a neighbouring house.

The iconic red telephone box has a history going back to 1935, when the Post Office commissioned Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to design a new model to celebrate the silver jubilee of King George V. This was the first telephone box to be used extensively outside London and used to be seen in virtually every town and village. Most have been removed, making the few that remain even more of a British Icon.

Like many traditional village telephone boxes, this one now houses an emergency 'defibrillator'

Sheldon is a picturesque linear one street village with wide grass verges. It is easy to imagine cattle and sheep being driven through the village by a boy and dog, moving between fields. It stands above the River Wye at the 1000 feet contour, making it one of the highest villages in the Peak District. The surrounding fields are scattered by old lead mine workings but have been restored to productive farmland.

In its heyday, Sheldon was a typical mining village with densely packed scruffy small houses. The pub was central to the lives of thirsty miners. It has been transformed into the pretty village on show today.

At the top of the village is the Village Green and a fine standing stone with no inscription. It looks as though it might have a long history but in fact is an old gate post placed there to mark the year 2000 Millennium.

Sheldon, like many Peak District villages, has an annual Fell Race. Being a high up village it has an impressive descent down to the River Wye. Naturally it takes in the killer climb up the gully in Deep Dale Nature Reserve

Not everything in Sheldon is quite as it seems.

Location 14 OS ref SK 17286 68092

Magpie Mine

Contains "boardroom"



Magpie Mine was the last working lead mine in the Peak District when it closed in 1958 after over 200 years of operating. It is now 300 years old and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is the most intact lead mine in the Peak District and is very popular.

200 years ago there was a long running dispute between miners of three lead mines: Magpie, Maypitts and Red Soil, over ownership of a lead vein. Their underground tunnels were interconnected and miners retaliated to encroachment into 'their' lead vein by lighting fires to smoke out their rivals. In 1833 three Red Soil miners were suffocated by a fire lit by Magpie miners. It is said that Red Soil placed a Widows Curse on Magpie mine. In 1842 there were two deaths and a fifty year problem of flooding and fires.

The Agents House and Smithy (1840) are used as a Field Centre by the Peak District Mines Historical Society who have restored the site and made it safe. The most important buildings are the coal fired Cornish Engine House (1869) and adjacent circular chimney. On the outside of the Engine House is a horizontal winding engine and drum which took miners and lead up and down the 728 feet (240 metre) shaft. The shaft is now flooded and drained by a sough to the River Wye which carries up to 6 million gallons (22 million litres) of water a day.