

# Stanage North Geocross V14

## STANAGE NORTH

Stanage Edge has an international reputation for the finest gritstone climbing. Rock climbers worldwide cross continents to climb here.

There are around 1000 climbs of all grades, including some exceptionally difficult routes which very few people can climb.



Stanage South end is known as The Popular End, and rightly so. The crag reaches its' maximum height of 24 metres and extends 2km as an almost continuous vertical cliff.

The South End is also the 'Business End', where many climbers start their careers. It was taken there by Everest Expedition climber Major Mallory at the age of 15 during a school field Trip. Mallory was a 'hard man' and member of the Alpine Club and Climbers Club. He didn't let the blustery Easter weather spoil the experience.

Today there are usually instructed groups with expert leaders controlling the activities and teaching 'calls' and belaying techniques. The Business End is also the 'commercial' end. Rock climbing is generally known as a free activity, but there are quite a lot of paying customers here.

The Popular End has a car park and a short steep walk up to the foot of the crag.

Stanage North End has a longer approach walk. The big difference is between the numbers of people climbing. 80% will be at the Popular End, and it appears very busy, particularly with the calls of climbers!

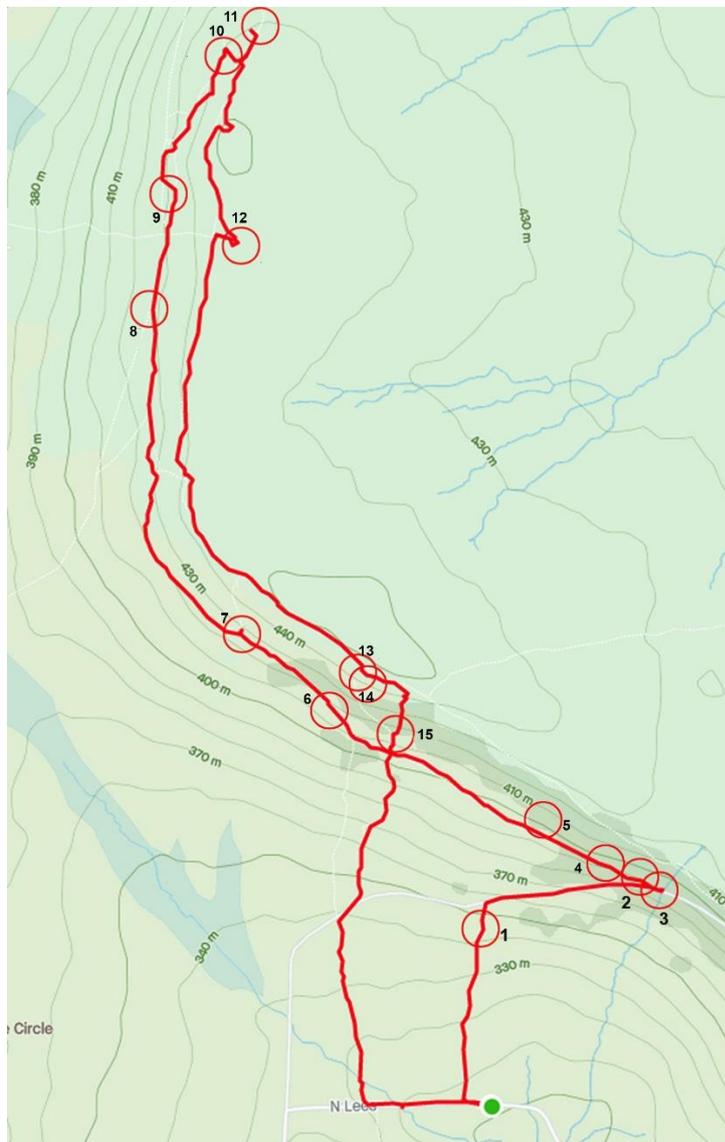
Less so the North End, climbers will be scattered thinly, and it is more quiet.

Stanage North End is not a continuous rock face and is broken up into a number of buttresses and quarries, with steep vegetated slopes in between. The North End is also the 'Post-Industrial End', littered with millstones and quarry waste which extends downslope below the rock faces. This would have been a very noisy crag until quarrying ceased 100 years ago.

Below the crags of Stanage North are the left over remains of many centuries of a booming millstone industry which became abandoned almost overnight when British taste changed from brown to white bread in the early 1800s. The brown millstones made brown bread but French millstones made the more desirable white bread.

There are probably as many abandoned millstones below Stanage as there are in Bolehill Quarries, but they are not so neatly stockpiled.

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



Start and finish near Dennis Knoll plantation.

OS ref SK 23112 84687

Buck Stone

W3W frame.snap.trace



Like nearby Higgarr Tor, this 4 metre high and 6 metres wide block has become detached from Stanage Edge above and has been moving very slowly downhill.

This process is called 'mass wasting' and is like a very slow moving landslide. It is happening on the slopes below the main gritstone crags of the Eastern Edges in the Peak District. Very slow means thousands of years.

Some of these blocks have names and are popular with climbers for bouldering.

The Buck Stone once had simple lean-to shelters around it. The lines of carved sockets are where roof spars were fixed, and the carved channels diverted rainfall away from the roof. It operated as a simple moorland inn which sold refreshments to travellers on the Long Causeway. There is a carved date of 1666 low down and a stick man carving on the top.

If you stare at it for long the side profile of a 'buck' rabbit with flattened ears might be seen?

OS ref SK 23457 84840

William Wilson's boundary railings

W3W mint.audio.cars



Sheffield Snuff manufacturer William Wilson bought the Moscar moorland shooting estate in 1897 and set about stopping up traditional footpaths crossing his private moor, causing conflict with the growing countryside rambling movement. The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers and their founder GHB Ward were activists in lobbying for the reopening of blocked off traditional rights of way. The iron bar railings which Wilson erected on the north side of Long Causeway have no access gates. They would have been quite expensive to erect and maintain, and are now in very poor condition.

The south part of Stanage Edge is within Sheffield City Council ownership. No shooting takes place here.

North of the fence is Hallam Moor and Bamford Moor, both part of the Moscar grouse shooting estate.

The land management regime for a grouse moor is to brash old heather to encourage regrowth of young shoots.

OS ref SK 23518 84818

Steep wall with massive copings

W3W ruled.grain.judge



This massive overhanging slab wall copings look like a giants staircase and is quite different to traditonal drystone walling. It was probably built by quarry workers who had no tradition of building walls. There is a similar wall at the Stanage End quarry. It is another unique feature of William Wilsons quirky shooting estate.

OS ref SK 23293 84919

Old Stanage Edge crossing

W3W grows.opens.mice



The track below Stanage North was used by quarrymen carting their stones to Long Causeway. This ramp is an older crossing used before Long Causeway was built. There are several other similar ramps along Stanage Edge.

Long Causeway was an ancient medieval road set out by Roman military surveyors 2000 years ago. It was later paved with causey stone to provide a year round road capable of carrying coaches.

OS ref SK 23194 84986

Very thick millstone

W3W burn.clean.zone



Very fat millstone, possibly intended to be sawn into three.

The central hole has been cut to enable the heavy millstone to be rolled downhill.

OS ref SK 22814 85197

Smiley millstone

W3W curve.apples.pasta



A familiar landmark to people who visit Stanage North.

The Smiley Face is sometimes refreshed.

OS ref SK 22610 85373

Millstones stockpile

W3W oiled.beams.term



There are many heaps of abandoned millstones along this well built cart track which runs from Long Causeway to Stanage End and Moscar.

Millstone production was one of Derbyshires biggest industries from the 12<sup>th</sup> century until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The bottom fell out of the market for Derbyshire gritstone millstones in flour mills from the 18<sup>th</sup> century when peoples' taste switched to white bread. Derbyshire gritstone millstones ground flour to a brown colour and this made brown bread, whilst imported French millstones created white flour.

Millstones were still needed in industrial Sheffield, but the Derwent Valley flour mills in each village changed to French millstones almost overnight.

A mason would make up to 16 pairs of millstones in a year and they were stacked on the moor waiting for a buyer. There were many mills in Sheffield using water power to turn the millstones for the cutlery, steel and flour industries.

OS ref SK 22455 86334

Stanage End quarry loading bay

W3W speeds.help.career



Stanage End quarries are now a quiet spot well away from industrial noise. The calls of climbers and the cry of the curlew and red grouse is all you hear today.

In their industrial past, these quarries produced hand cut stone for housing and millstones. There would have been many quarry workers, carters and their horses, and it would have been a very noisy place with incessant hammering and occasional blasting. Stone was hauled away by horse drawn carts. Getting the large heavy stones onto the carts required skilful hauling and leverage to get the most benefit from gravity, hence the multitude of loading bays.

OS ref SK 22539 86533

Stanage End masonry stone stockpile

W3W civil.scan.detail



A well stacked pile of masonry stone in the quarry, waiting for a buyer who never came. Its been there for over 100 years.

OS ref SK 22588 86602

WW boundary stone cairn

W3W sorters.dozed.melon



Boundary stone between William Wilson (WW) and Wilson Mappin (WM), both wealthy Sheffield businessmen who bought fashionable moorland shooting estates and went about managing them in their own way. No expense was spared in the heydays of grouse-shooting.

OS ref SK 22622 86668

Grouse trough No 30

W3W pizza.stocks.spot



Also pictured are No 1 and another. Most can be identified by number within the sequence 1 to 75. The best time to find them is early spring. Allow half a day and take an enthusiastic friend!



This grouse drinking trough is a feature only found on Stanage and Hallam Moor. They are all numbered and were carved in 1907 by George Broomhead, gamekeeper to William Wilson.

Sheffield snuff manufacturer William Wilson bought the moorland shooting estate in 1897. He quickly learned that it was a 'dry' moor. Water Engineers had led most of the rainfall into reservoirs and an underground tunnel.

Wilson wanted to keep his grouse on his moor, so decided to try providing more drinking water. In 1907 his young gamekeeper began carving 108 numbered grouse drinking water troughs. These are in three sets:-

There are 75 on North Stanage. They run along the top of Stanage Edge and then turn NE along Crow Chin Rocks. Here they are found above and below the crags.

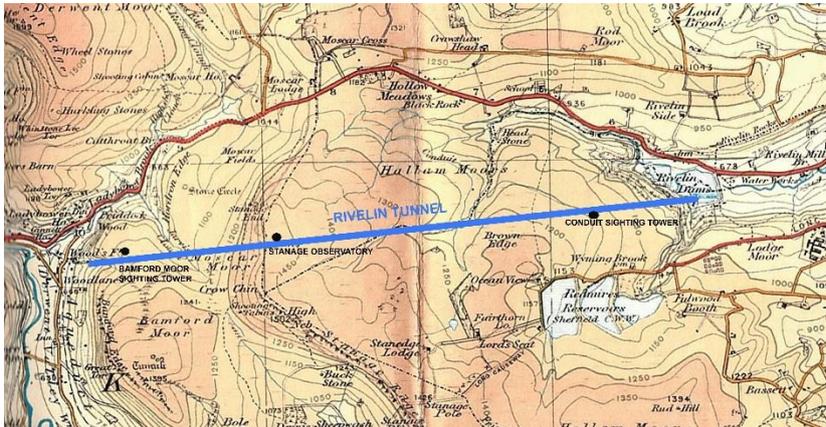
Most people think that the line of carved troughs finishes at Stanage End. In fact the troughs continue along Crow Chin Rocks and eventually reaches the rarely visited trough 75. Only very determined grouse trough hunters reach number 75!

Over the years some of the numbering has been vandalised by chiseling away so as to deter visitors. A couple of troughs have disappeared completely.

OS ref SK 22585 86459

Site of Rivelin Tunnel surveyors Observatory Tower

W3W zones.spirit.packet





The 4.5 mile (7.2km) Rivelin Tunnel runs between the Upper Derwent Valley reservoirs and Rivelin Reservoir. It was built between 1903 – 1909 and the portal has a datestone of 1910.

The Derwent Valley Water Board was founded in 1899. One of its obligations was to deliver Sheffield share of 'compensation' water from the Howden and Derwent Reservoirs (Upper Derwent Valley Impoundment Scheme), to Rivelin Reservoir. This was before the Ladybower Reservoir was built. Construction of the tunnel required three in-line surveyors sighting towers. The one above Stanage Edge is the observatory tower at the mid-point, the tallest of the three, and has been demolished. It was once a 40 foot structure allowing sighting to the east pillar on Oaking Clough Conduit and the west pillar on Bamford Moor. The tunnel falls just 2 metres along the 7.2km length. The remaining building here was a store for surveying equipment and later may have been used as a blasting powder store for the Stanage End quarries.

The engineering skill required to dig this tunnel by hand in 1903 was considerable.

Included are photographs of the three sighting pillars. The Observatory Tower was much taller at 40 foot than the west and east towers of 8 feet.

The outlet portal into the Lower Rivelin Reservoir is a few metres upstream from the Wyming Brook. It flows continuously, and more water comes out from the tunnel than enters it at the Ladybower end. This is because the tunnel is unlined and natural seepage from the moor adds to the volume.

OS ref SK 22816 85346

High Neb trig point

W3W drip.hotel.pool



The highest point on Stanage Edge at 458 metres.

A popular destination that is being worn away.

OS ref SK 22822 85305

Quietus overhang

W3W knee.digits.factories



This overhang is climbed by a very bold route named Quietus. The name means 'something that causes death'. Or a release from life.

The rock climber requires confidence and commitment to swing out beneath the overhang. The next move onto the short vertical face above is very hard!

OS ref SK 22931 85142

Quarry hut ruins

W3W panels.puts.fame



Quarry building ruins below High Neb. Tools would have been stored overnight and there might have been a night-watchman.