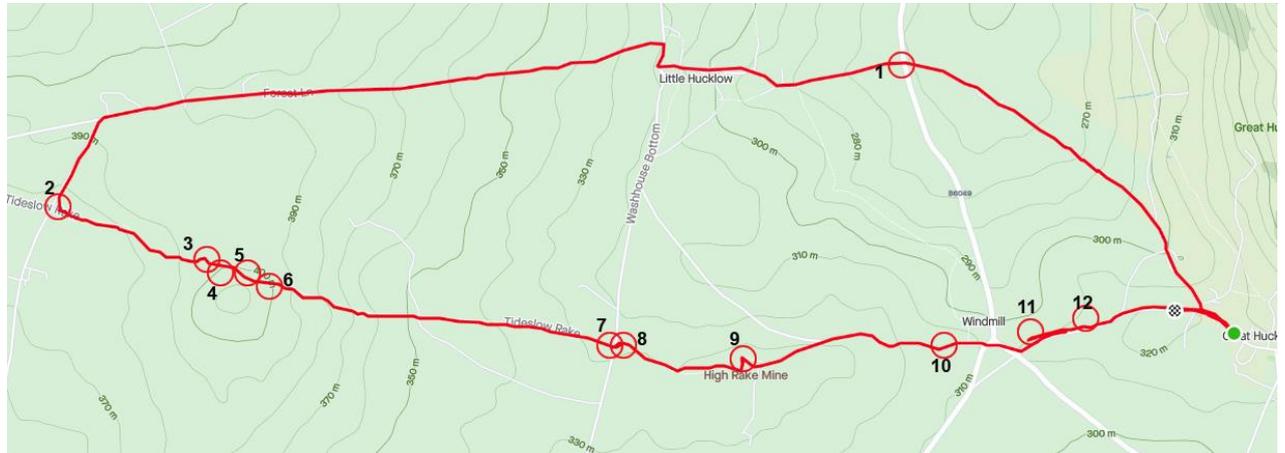


Tideswell Moor Geocross V58

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 Great Hucklow.

Location 1 OS ref SK 16809 78626

Blind Bull sign

Contains "debit"



Little Hucklow is off the beaten track. Nothing much has changed there since the collapse of lead mining, except the decline in the fortunes of the village pub. It is thought to be the 5th oldest public house site in Britain, a 12th Century Inn.

How can a 900 year old Inn be 'Just Opened'?

Surely just reopened and renamed?

The original name was The Old Bulls Head. It closed in the 2000s, and reopened in 2021 as The Blind Bull, a self-styled gastropub.

Little Hucklow was a mining village close to the lead rake which extends 9km from west to Eyam in the east. For centuries this was a rough, tough, hard drinking miners pub. Those ancient miners will be rolling over in their graves at the thought of a gastropub.

Location 2 OS ref SK 14487 78226

Footpath sign

Contains "wriggled"



A starting point for a 3.5 km walk along one of the biggest lead rakes in Derbyshire.

This lead rake extends from beyond White Rake farm to the west, to beyond Sir William Hill in the east, some 10km. The rake is 100 to 200 metres wide.

It has several names:-

White Rake, Tideslow Rake, High Rake, Hucklow Edge Vein

A lot of limestone had to be shifted to reach the veins of lead, and it kept Derbyshire's miners busy for over 3000 years. The main period of intensive 'rake' mining was between the 16th and 18th centuries. They must have found a lot of lead here because there are no massive spoil mounds, just a deep trough.

Location 3 OS ref SK 14892 78071

Tideslow Rake – very slight bend in stone wall to south

Contains “sensitive.tired.native” All three words are given.



This is a section of Tideslow Rake which was open cast mined up to 10 metres deep. It is heavily grazed by sheep which makes it easy for the viewer to see how it might have looked when mining ceased in the late 19th century.

The peak of the mining industry was reached in 1820 and then quickly declined. Between 1860 – 1880 almost every mine closed. Tideslow Rake was abandoned.

Over the past 140 years a very poor soil has developed, and grows a thin grass cover.

Location 4 OS ref SK 14967 78054

Mast – gate post

Contains “abode”



The mast is set next to the historic burial site of Tides Low. The cairn and bowl barrow are situated on private land south east of the small hilltop woodland.

It dates from between the late Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age, over 3500 years ago, and is a Scheduled Monument.

Location 5 OS ref SK 15030 78016

Tideslow Rake capped mine shaft

Contains “necklace”



The lead beneath Tideslow Rake was mostly reached by deep open cast mining but some shaft mines were also dug. This one has been capped for safety. These shafts are identified by dished groundforms.

Location 6 OS ref SK 15111 78005

Tideslow Rake

Contains "touches"



More open cast rake up to 10 metres deep. Heavily grazed by sheep.

Location 7 OS ref SK 16026 77842

Stile

Contains "behaving"



The lead rake is crossed by the Tideswell to Little Hucklow road.

Location 8 OS ref SK 16061 77843 (may be imprecise due to trees)

High Rake sign

Contains "offstage"



High Rake has been partially restored to woodland. This wood is owned by the Peak District National Park Authority.

Location 9 OS ref SK 16378 77803

High Rake Mine – chimney base

Contains “regrowth”



High Rake has been mined since the 13th Century.

A layer of igneous rock named Toadstone was reached below the first layer of lead bearing limestone at 84 metres depth. Miners tried to get through the hard Toadstone to reach a second layer of limestone which carried veins of lead. Two early attempts failed in 1757 & 1768 due to water entering the workings.

The High Rake Mining Company was formed in 1834. A pumping engine was installed and two tall chimneys erected. The mine never proved economic and became one of the most costly failures of Derbyshire leadmining.

The foundations of the pumphouse and chimneys remain. The 210 metre deep shaft, lined with dressed stone, is now covered for safety.

Location 10 OS ref SK 16787 77844

Windmill sign

Contains “goggle”



Windmill grew as a short lived mining village close to the High Rake deep mine. Of the original tiny miners cottages, only one remains.

There is no evidence that there ever was a windmill.

Location 11 OS ref SK 17177 77872

Lead Rake Sign

Contains "initiates"



Now an area of mown grass with a bench, this was once the Watch and Ward mine, now filled in. It closed in 1873 when the mine reached a layer of Toadstone, too hard and deep to pass.

Nearby is the Milldam Mine. This closed in 1885, but was re-opened in 1985 to continue mining the Hucklow Edge vein system, a major west – east mine which continues past Sir William Hill. It produces fluorspar, baryte with lead ore and zinc as by-products.

Location 12 OS ref SK 17324 77901

Great Hucklow sign

Contains "rejoined"



As befits a village based on mining, Great Hucklow welcomes visitors with carved stone entry signs.