

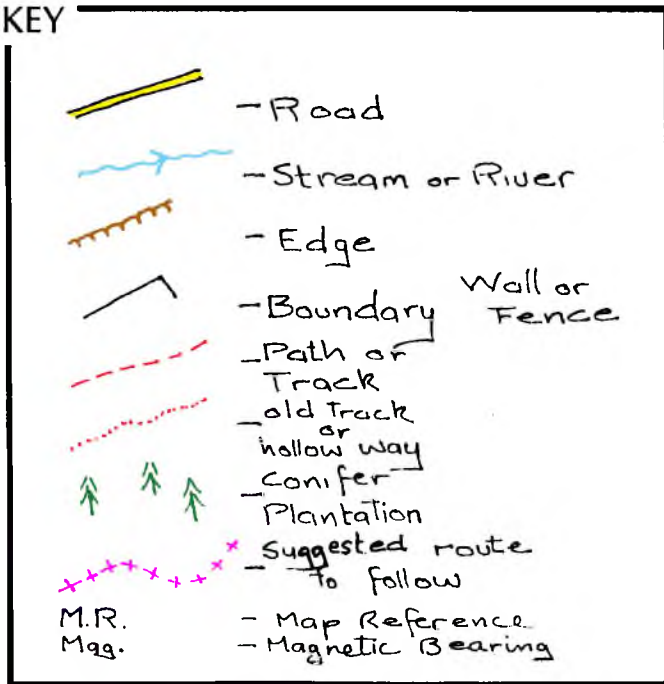
**freedom
of**

the moors



**alternative rambles
in the Peak District**

KEY



COVER PHOTO :

Looking West from Higger Tor, Nov. '85

K. A. WEBSTER

FREEDOM OF THE MOORS

*a booklet of alternative rambles
by supporters of the*

**Sheffield Campaign for
Access to Moorland**

It has always been intended that we should produce a permanent record of the various routes we have used on our regular mass tresspasses and other rambles — not only to show that they could be walked and where but also to encourage other people to go at other times and in smaller groups onto the beautiful moorlands near Sheffield.

We thank members of the Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland and of the Ramblers Association for their contributions in the production of this booklet.

In particular, we thank the late Jim Byford for his help and encouragement in the early days of S.C.A.M.

We also acknowledge, with thanks, the financial assistance given by the Ramblers Association towards the publication of this booklet.

They have asked us to include the following statement :

“The National Executive Committee of the Ramblers Association is pleased to give assistance to the Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland in their production of this booklet. The views and advice which it contains do not necessarily reflect RA policies ; indeed the RA and SCAM do not always see eye to eye. However, our differences are mainly those of tactics and presentation. Our objectives are identical : we both want to encourage people to go walking in the countryside and we both want to secure a right of access on foot to all open, uncultivated moor and mountain in Britain. Those are the aims to which our late vice-president, Tom Stephenson, devoted his life, and to which the publication of this booklet is directed.”

Alan Mattingly, Director of the Ramblers' Association,
1/5 Wandsworth Road, London SW5 2XX

THIS BOOKLET IS DEDICATED TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN, AND HAVE HELPED FIGHT FOR, THE FREEDOM TO ROAM.

S.C.A.M., June 1988

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THE COUNTRY CODE

Take all your litter home with you.



When picnicking use a fuel stove,
not a wood fire.

Take care with matches and
cigarettes.

Forest and moorland fires are
devastating.



Take pleasure in wildlife living and
growing in its natural setting and do
not carelessly pick flowers
or destroy delicate habitats.



Take care not to pollute water.



If you open a gate, then
shut it securely.



Keep your dog under firm control
on a lead.

Dogs do not respect rights of way.
They stray and pose a threat to
livestock.



Avoid damage to walls or fences.



Avoid blocking gateways and access
roads — park your car mindful
of any hazard it may cause.



Take pleasure in the vital working
elements of the countryside and
leave only good report.



The SHEFFIELD CAMPAIGN FOR ACCESS TO MOORLAND

is a voluntary organisation
campaigning for free public access
to moorland and for the right of
'Freedom to Roam' over open land.

The campaign evolved out of the
1982 celebrations of the
50th Anniversary of the
Mass Trespass over Kinder Scout.
These events gave a renewed
impetus to the fight for access and
to challenge the assumption
that the battle was won.

Inspired by the moorland battles of
the 1930s we recognised that there
was again a need for direct action
and, in the intervening years,
we have organised a series of
mass trespasses over the
many moors bordering Sheffield.

S.C.A.M. supporters, along with
many other ramblers and
outdoor users are responsible
and concerned people.

We believe that what is needed
and should be achievable
is an integrated system of access
which would benefit both the
wildlife and the walker. We will
continue in our efforts to persuade
organisations involved in access
matters of this, through action or
discussion, and will endeavour
to encourage support from interested
people through lectures, discussion
and our tape/slide show.
S.C.A.M. is always prepared to visit
other organisations or groups to
inform them of our aims and
objectives in seeking greater access
to our moorlands and open country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION — PLEASE SEND A S.A.E. TO :
S.C.A.M.

c/o 334 Manchester Road, Sheffield S10 5DQ

THE NEED

Every day thousands of people from the urban areas surrounding the Peak District take advantage of its open, uncultivated areas, the moorlands, for the pursuit of a wide range of leisure activities. These include family picnics, rock-climbing, backpacking, the study and appreciation of wildlife ; examining historical and prehistorical remains, running in its various forms, modest strolling, strenuous fellwalking, or just the simple contemplation of wide open spaces. All these mutually inoffensive and quiet pastimes require 'the Freedom to Roam', that is : the right to wander at will over uncultivated land.

The vast majority of ramblers over moorland tend to limit themselves to existing paths, which may or may not be recognised 'rights of way', if only for convenience and relative ease of walking. However, many otherwise familiar places and perspectives assume new interest and are refreshingly exciting when approached or viewed from different less accessible points. We should not be deprived, as we have been for many generations, of the right to freely and fully explore the wilder, less human-influenced uplands and the wealth of educational opportunities they offer.

With the increasing need of an ever-growing urban population to find both physical challenge and mental escape from the pressures of city life, it is essential that free access be extended to those large areas of moor which are regarded by their owners as 'private'. By so doing human impact would be diffused over a greater area, with the consequent lessening erosion and wildlife disturbance over the Park as a whole.

THE ENCLOSURES

(or How We Lost The Moors)

All land in the British Isles legally 'belongs' to someone, whether person or institution, and has done so since time immemorial. Apart from land occupied by housing, factories, roads and the like, it may be broadly designated as 'cultivated' or 'uncultivated'. Our concern, for the purposes of this booklet, lies with the latter.

Prior to the Enclosure Acts of the 18th and 19th centuries a more or less sparse population tilled a relatively small proportion of the land for many generations leaving vast areas of Royal Forest (not all wooded), Wasteland, (largely unpopulated), Moors and Commons. 'Common', as originally interpreted, referred to the usage of the land rather than the ownership — giving villagers, smallholders and peasants certain limited, though often

vital, 'rights' (the more usual being : *piscary* - to fish ; *turbary* - to dig and remove turf (peat) for fuel ; *pannage* - for stock to forage and graze ; *ferriery* - to gather bracken for bedding ; and *extovers* - to collect firewood).

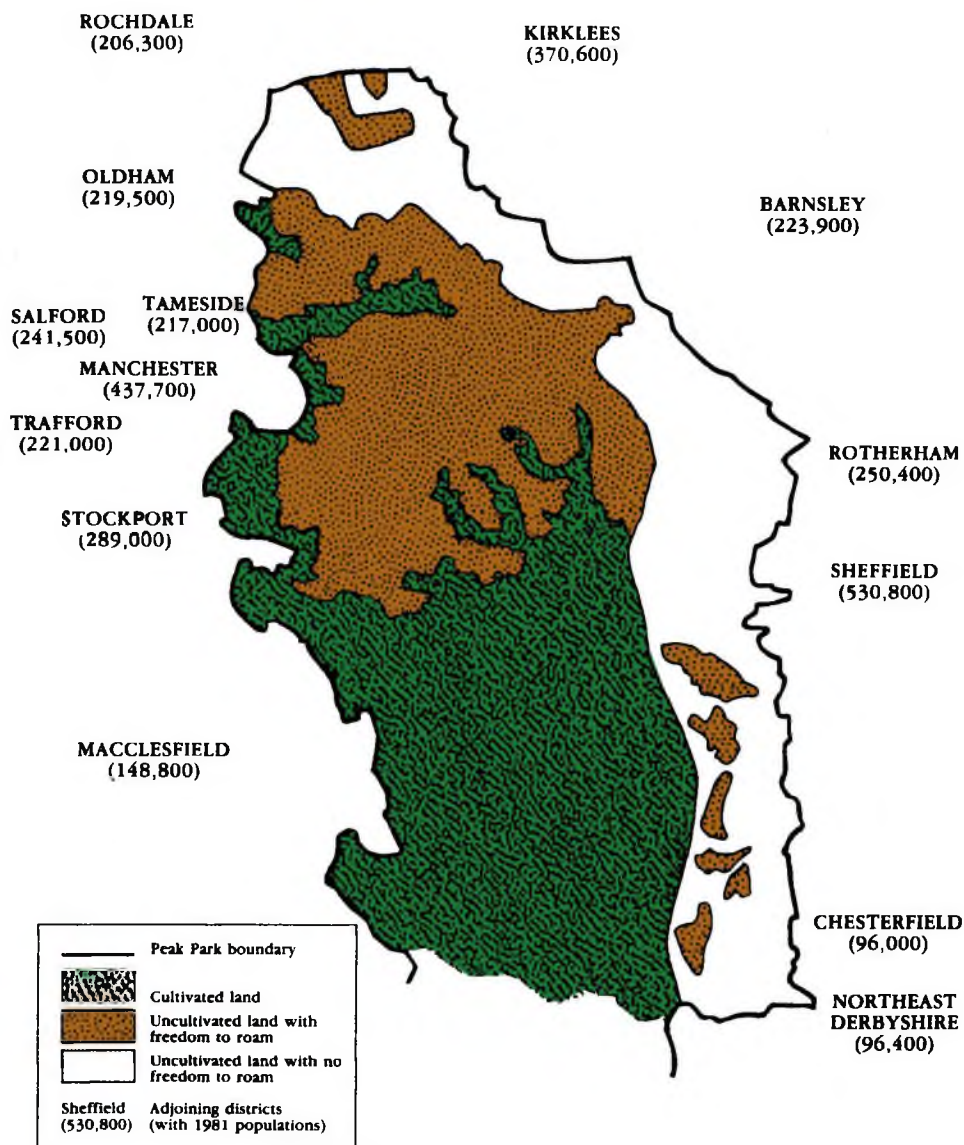
Most of these rights, together with the attendant rights of access and passage, were usurped by the later various Enclosure Acts. The Enclosure Commissioners, being often themselves from the land-owning gentry, may not have been averse to what can only be described as dubious practices in this legalised robbery. Having thus been deprived of their essential common rights, the smallholder or peasant who had had their holding or farm enclosed had to pay a common rent, or, without the common grazing, had to sell out to the enclosing landlord. Thus were the profitable (to the few) grouse moors extended at the expense of the commoners, who were consequently forced to 'emigrate' to the developing industrial towns and cities.

In addition, the Acts allowed 'omissions' such as those bridle-roads and footpaths which the landowners wished to close with the minimum of trouble to themselves. The common people may have been able to continue to use them, but it was on sufferance, and traditional routes used for centuries were closed at the whim of the landowner. Before the individual Act was enforced notices had to be conspicuously displayed, but, couched as they were in legalistic terminology, the largely illiterate populace was more often than not unable to understand them. In the event of a village or smallholder having the courage to assert their rights in Law, they had to prove that the route in question had been used "from time immemorial" (in a legal sense, from before the reign of Richard I, 1189 AD).

Ranged against them they would have found cunning lawyers, with all the relevant records, manorial, copyhold and freehold, kept by the landowners. Many of these went conveniently 'missing' and have remained so to this day ! The established Clergy, usually related to the landowning class, and in receipt of glebe lands, were of no help to their parishioners, but rather assisted in this early 'privatisation'. No doubt physical intimidation was also employed by the landowner's hired lackeys (cheaper than lawyers) but bloody noses and bruised ribs do not show up in the record.

In view of this theft from our forebears (and theft is not too strong a word — legal or not) of their common rights, is it not a very modest demand on our part to be allowed to wander freely over these moors ?

NORTHERN SECTION OF THE PEAK NATIONAL PARK



THE STRUGGLE FOR ACCESS

In the 1930s city dwellers sought relief from appalling social conditions at a time of massive unemployment by taking to the countryside in their thousands. This movement was vigorously opposed by the landowning classes, both legally and physically. Among dozens of minor confrontations between the ramblers and authority, in the form of gamekeepers and policemen, the dramatic events of the Kinder Scout Mass Trespass (24th April 1932), the Abbey Brook Mass Trespass (initiated by the Sheffield Ramblers' Federation on 18th September 1932) and the massive annual Winnats Pass Access Demonstrations stand out. They created a new public awareness of the nature and extent of the struggle. The subsequent imprisonment of six of the Kinder Scout Trespassers only served to emphasise the harsh injustice meted out to those who dared challenge the landowners.

This period of militancy ensured that the post Second World War Labour Government was committed to a legislative plan that led to the 1949 *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act*, which created the ten National Parks we have today.

The main objective of the outdoors movement, in all its various forms, has always been, and still remains, the right to wander at will over uncultivated land. This principle seemed conceded when the Hobhouse Report, which led to the 1949 Act, endorsed it. However, the entrenched power of the landowners (not least in the House of Lords) enabled them to effectively castrate the original Act and thus deprive us of an unlimited Freedom to Roam over uncultivated land. Instead 'Access Agreements' were to be negotiated between the landowners and farmers and the Park Authorities as a means of securing public access to what remained private land.

Despite the fact that the Act, even in its final form, gave the Park Authorities the power to force landowners to open up their 'private' moorland to the public, these powers have only been used once, and never in the Peak Park. Instead, the interests of ordinary people have been subjugated to the cosy relationship which the Park Authorities have with the landowners who, whilst retaining their farming and shooting 'rights', can also claim large amounts of public money as compensation for the theoretical damage done by allowing the public on their land, which is anyway policed by a large body of wardens and rangers also provided for out of the public purse.

THE SITUATION NOW

It is still a widely held belief that the National Parks, looking good on maps, confer on the general public the right to wander at will over the open spaces included therein. This is far from being the case. Even in the Peak Park, which is better in this respect than any of the others, less than 50% of the open countryside is legally accessible. If England and Wales is taken as a whole an even smaller fraction of the area of open countryside can be legally walked over.

For nearly thirty years progress in extending public rights of access has been almost non-existent. The initial activity subsequent to the original establishment of the Peak Park appeared to have ceased and no new access agreements were negotiated. Recently, however, access has been extended to the western edge of Big Moor, and there is a good prospect that other local moors may ultimately be opened up. However, this will be as much due to the continual agitation of organisations such as the Ramblers' Association and S.C.A.M., as to the patient and long-drawn-out negotiations by the Peak Park's Officers. It must also be said that the more 'enlightened' landowners are realising the impact of free-roaming walkers on moorland is negligible, and that negotiated access agreements can be a source of yet more income. Delay in entering into such agreements may have more to do with the Park's reluctance or inability to pay for the provision of wardening services, that are usually written into such agreements, as much as any compensation payments that may be required. But surely this goes against the original reasons why the National Parks were set up and their ability to serve the people they are supposed to represent ?

There still remain some twenty-five Peakland moors that are not covered by any access agreement, including the whole eastern edge of the Park bordering on the Sheffield area. Moors such as Bradfield, Broomhead, Midhope and Gibbet have remained private grouse reserves. Others are owned by the Water Authorities who exclude people quite unnecessarily from catchment areas though with continued pressure this policy may change. However, these areas are due to be privatised by the Government along with the Water Authorities, which may inhibit any access agreements being finalised, so making them all the more necessary.

With the general public's increasing awareness of the value of such wild animals, bird and plant life which still survive, especially in 'wild' areas such as moorland, there is a growing tendency for various conservation groups to lobby the Peak Park Planning Board to prohibit *all* access to considerable areas, even some which have, officially or unofficially, been

regularly traversed in the past. Whereas all who gain pleasure from the countryside will applaud the motive of conservation — the case for *total* exclusion has yet to be proven and would be difficult to enforce.

Once off the more popular routes and away from favoured car parking areas, the passage of people is infrequent and often confined by the terrain itself to particular routes so that disturbance to wildlife is insignificant. The depredation of upland wildlife was not caused by the occasional passing human but by pollution and trigger-and-trap happy farmers and game-keepers attempting to eliminate all carnivores and most herbivores as an imagined threat or competitor to grouse and/or sheep. With regard to the (unlawful) removal of rare botanical specimens, exclusion is more likely to advertise their location than to deter 'collectors'. In conclusion, it ought not to be forgotten that the preservation of wild habitats is largely dependent upon public awareness of their value, which is best encouraged by free, responsible access for all that wish it.

Increasingly, areas of beauty have become threatened by the activities of companies excavating for minerals. In the Peak District, the Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation has been engaged in a search for oil and other minerals on Hallam, Burbage and Bradfield Moors and such searches can be expected to continue. Whole hillsides may be brutally excavated for relatively small quantities of minerals and concern is justified in the light of such multinational companies' past record of environmental devastation.

There has recently been a turnaround in E.E.C. policy towards marginal agricultural land which had previously led to much 'wild' country being ploughed-up, as on the western flanks of Kinder. However, it appears that rather than simply allowing such areas to revert to their former state (that is where irremediable damage has not already taken place) present Government policy is to promote alternative use of agricultural land taken out of cultivation. The fact that existing legislation limiting building and other development in rural areas may be amended or waived has an ominous ring about it.

Military encroachment on open land has been increasing nationwide of late. This further restricts public access as new areas are sought to train troops and test weapons. New 'bye-laws' have been introduced around military bases at Greenham Common and at Fylingdales on the North Yorks Moors. Whilst purporting to stop action by peace protesters, these also limit access by any member of the public. All rural areas are used for flying, often at very low levels, and other military exercises regardless of whether these are in National Parks or not. At present, parts of Totley Moor in the

Peak District are designated 'Danger Areas' and are unsafe for the public to walk over. Vigilance is called-for if further infringement is to be limited.

The aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster has shown how particularly vulnerable the moorland areas are to radioactive fallout — even though it may originate thousands of miles away. Over a year after the event, sheep and, more particularly, lambs are still detectably contaminated, to say nothing of other wildlife which must be similarly affected. The awareness generated amongst the general public by the catastrophe has made it increasingly awkward for the nuclear industry to dump radioactive waste in more densely populated regions — thus placing sparsely populated upland regions under increasing threat. Of course, any such proposal to use our moorlands as dumping grounds must be vigorously opposed.

The 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act has made it even more difficult and expensive for access to be extended. The Conservative Government has been steadily packing the Peak Park Planning Board with pro-landowning and farming nominees. Whilst paying lip-service to the growth in the leisure industry (and certainly creating the time for many more to enjoy it, often unwillingly and with little funds) the Government does not seem concerned with any leisure aspect that wouldn't also be profitable to its friends and supporters. Increasing the public's access to all moorland and uncultivated land would, although costing little, make no one any profits. This should not, however, be a reason for preventing it.

We shall have to continue the struggles of our forebears of the Thirties and fight for the Freedom to Roam. It is in the interest of all, not just ramblers and other countryside loving groups, that such protests be made, be seen to be made, and ultimately be successful.

THE MOORS — FORMATION AND MAINTENANCE

The areas of moorland described in this booklet and which our walks cover, with their heather-dominated landscapes, have the appearance of ancient, unchanging wilderness. Whereas, in fact, human activity seems to have played a crucial role in both its creation and maintenance.

People and moor have interacted with each other for thousands of years through such activities as hunting, pastoral and arable farming, communications and, more recently, grouse shooting, forestry and recreation.

Until about 7,000 years ago, the Pennine uplands were largely covered

by forests of birch, pine and oak, as indicated by pollen, and by tree remains preserved beneath the overlying peat blanket. It is now widely accepted that about this time people, although still subsistence hunters, had begun the process of forest clearance, by felling and burning, in order to increase the grazing areas of their main prey species (deer and the like).

This process was continued throughout the prehistoric period, wild species being supplanted by domestic, and arable farming being practised where conditions were suitable. The clearance of forest cover, with intensive grazing preventing its regeneration and coupled with widespread climatic changes, caused essential nutrients to be leached from their thin acidic soil. Under this pressure the grasslands were in turn superseded by peat-forming mosses and other plants more tolerant of the impoverished conditions.

Throughout the following Saxon and Medieval periods these 'wastelands' were utilised to provide supplementary bedding and grazing for livestock, fuel, etc., eventually formalised as the 'rights of common'.

From the nineteenth century to the present day, the bulk of the moors have been reserved for rough sheep grazing and the seasonal shooting of grouse, particularly the latter. Accordingly this has given rise to the practice of systematic burning of areas of heathland, at roughly ten yearly intervals, which promotes the growth of young heather shoots, upon which grouse feed. Unfortunately, other plants prove to be less tolerant of this form of environmental management for the benefit of a single species of bird (itself destined to be shot), and heather assumes a more dominant role than might otherwise be the case. It would seem that many species of plant, and their dependent animal life, which at present survive only in isolated pockets, would be much more widespread were it not for this practice.

Under certain conditions the underlying peat itself may be scorched or burnt to such an extent that even the heather roots are killed off and rapid, and irreversible, erosion occurs, especially on sloping hillsides. On the other hand, when heather has become dominant as a result of regular burning-off this practice has to be maintained. Otherwise it can become overgrown ('rank') and may be superseded in its turn by other, less beneficial, dominant species such as bracken or tussock grass.

Thus it can be seen that even wide expanses of 'wild' heather moorland are, to a certain extent, dependent on people for their creation and, in their present form, maintenance. To what extent deliberate or 'natural'

development may be encouraged or allowed, without unacceptably altering the moors as we know them, is a complex dilemma beyond the scope of this booklet.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We had hoped to include details of public transport into the moorland areas where many of the walks in this booklet are situated. However, what was not a very good transport system was, following 'deregulation' in April 1987, made much worse. In addition many services are only run during the summer months.

We ask that readers enquire at their local bus and rail stations, tourist offices or at the various information offices run by the Peak Park Planning Board. In May of each year the Derbyshire County Council publish a timetable of all the bus and rail services operating in the Peak Park with quarterly supplements providing up-to-date information.

Additionally we ask them to join in any campaign that seeks to provide, save or improve any public transport service into the Peak Park and so improve the access for all to the countryside.

In the meantime it should be noted that most of the walks in this booklet are of a circular nature (or can easily be made so) and so they could possibly be undertaken by people travelling by car.

SAFETY ON THE MOORS

Any experienced hill walker will be only too well aware of the very real dangers presented by unforeseen changes in the weather, having an accident or by getting lost on the high moors. Particular care should be taken when walking over the moors since paths, if any, may be indistinct, the terrain underfoot unexpectedly awkward and, of course, no-one else may happen along these little used routes for quite some time. It makes good sense to take sensible precautions when setting out, which may be briefly summarised as follows :

- **INFORM** some responsible person of the intended route and your expected time of completion. Allow plenty of time as distances tend to be short on the map but long on the ground — especially rough moorland.
- **KNOW** and practice the correct use of a compass (e.g. Silva type) and Ordnance Survey Maps (at least 1:50,000 and preferably 1:25,000) in

familiar surroundings and good conditions.

- IT'S TOO LATE TO LEARN WHEN YOU'RE LOST !
- WEAR suitable clothing — especially stout boots. Water and wind proof 'shell' (top and leggings) garments should be carried, if not actually worn, as should other warm clothing.
- CARRY the following items for use in emergencies :
 1. First Aid Kit
 2. Small pack of high calorie food and sweets
 3. Survival or 'bivvy' bag
 4. Torch
 5. Whistle

The distress signal is six blasts repeated at intervals.

The above information is intended only as a reminder. Any good walking or backpacking book will supply more detail.

SUGGESTED ROUTES

This section is not intended as a step-by-step guide, but rather to give general directions for routes which include and link sites of particular interest. They are intended to be used in conjunction with the appropriate 1:25,000 O.S. maps of the area to enable the walker to follow the routes and interpret the terrain more effectively. The sketch maps which accompany the text are NOT drawn to scale and simply outline the general direction of the walks, without details of contours etc., though certain useful or interesting features are included.

The relevant 1:25,000 O.S. maps are cited with the individual walks, as is the 1:40,000 Harvey Peak District specialist map.

The various routes may be walked singly, in combination with another route or as part of a specifically planned itinerary such as, for instance, one linking interesting archaeological sites, ancient packhorse tracks, etc.

It must be emphasised that considerable sections of the walks are only suited to those experienced in the use of map and compass, and possessing good stamina, as the going can be difficult, especially when coupled with adverse weather conditions. Certain parts, however, may be suitable for accompanied children, providing that the adults themselves are competent walkers and due care is taken. No matter who sets out on any of the walks — they must *ALWAYS* be prepared to turn back or seek an 'escape' route should the terrain prove too demanding or the weather too bad.

Most of the land you will be crossing is considered to be 'private' with no public right of access, though certain landowners may allow 'de facto' access, which means that they or their employees (e.g. gamekeepers) "may tolerate your presence on their land". They retain the right to require you to leave the land. Trespass is *not* a criminal offence, and the infamous "Trespassers will be Prosecuted" notices are deliberately misleading. Only if property is harmed whilst trespassing may the owner apply for damages through a Civil Court, a time-consuming and expensive procedure. The law, in this respect, is not affected by the passage of the 1986 Public Order Act despite the last minute Amendment, now Section 39, dealing with 'aggravated trespass' which is concerned only with those "present there with the common purpose of residing there for any period".

However, it should be noted that the Act does require the notification (to the Police) of marches and demonstrations, and this probably includes group walks protesting at the lack of legal access to particular areas.

All who venture into wild country should walk with care and consideration as some areas may support rare and vulnerable wildlife species or contain archaeological sites.

Where a magnetic compass bearing is given — it is approximate and will change. Please see a current O.S. map for details.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

<i>Trespassers will be Prosecuted</i>	Phil Barnes, Blackfriars 1932
<i>The 1932 Kinder Trespass</i> — A Personal View	Benny Rothman Willow Publishing 1982
<i>Freedom to Roam</i>	Howard Hill, Moorland Publishing 1980
<i>The Story of Access in the Peak District</i>	Dr Pat Rickwood P.P.J.P.B. 1982
<i>Greenprints for the Countryside</i>	A. & M. McEwan, Allen & Unwin 1987
<i>This Land is our Land</i>	Marion Shoard, Paladin Books 1987
<i>Walkers Handbook</i>	H.D. Westacott, Penguin 1978
<i>Mountain Safety & First Aid</i>	B.M.C.

All the above should be available through public libraries. Sheffield and Rotherham libraries also have copies of the *Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbooks* which, as well as detailing rambles and the access battles of the 1930s, also tell of how the moors were 'lost' under the 18th and 19th century Enclosure Acts.

SNAILSDEN MOOR

O.S. MAP : Dark Peak or SE 00/10

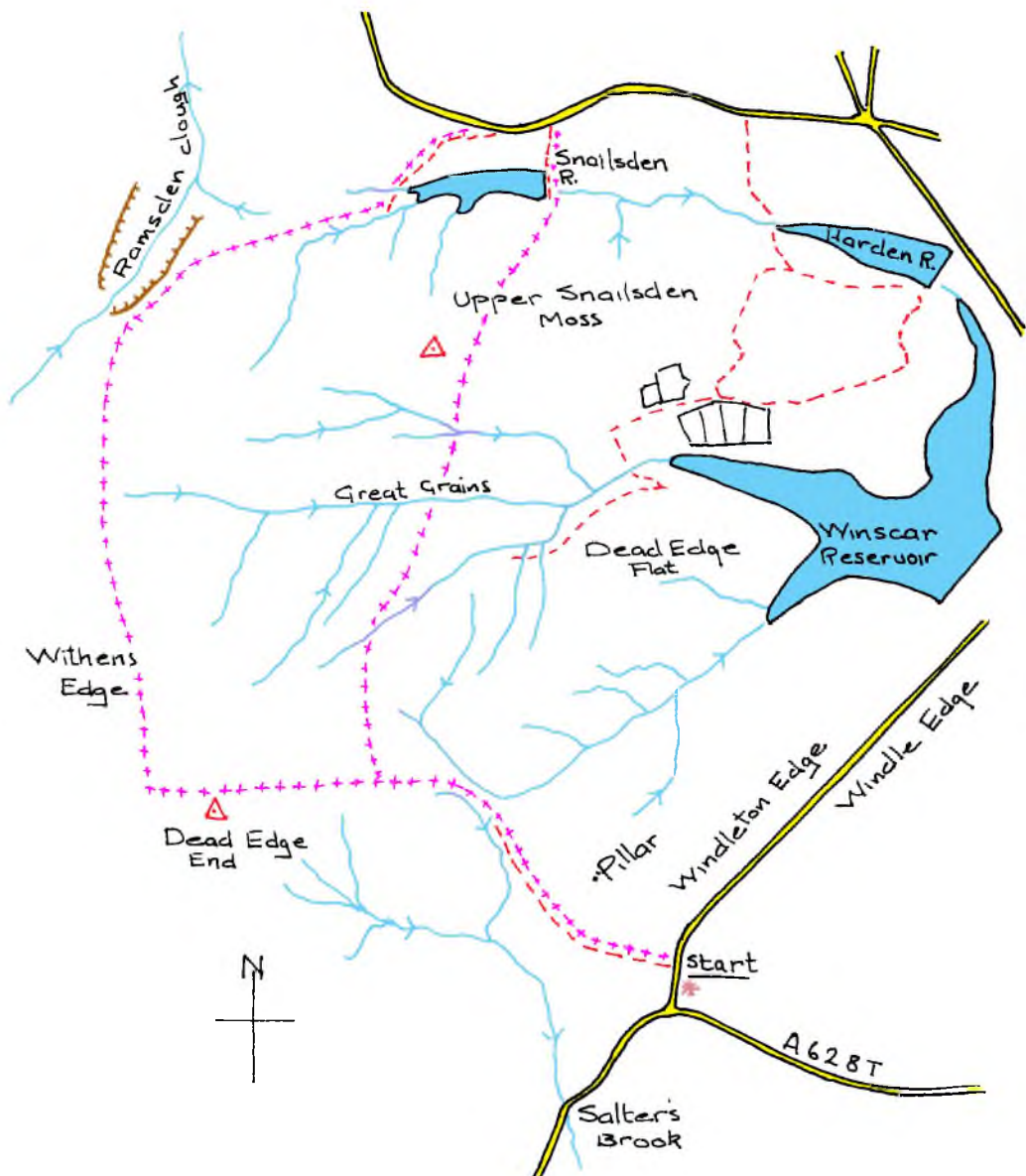
Circular or Return Walk

Enter the moor by a track which has its junction with a minor road that links the A628 and Dunford Bridge near Salters Brook (MR : 141007). The gate has a sign saying "*PRIVATE — NO ROAD*" on it. The track goes North-West over Carr Top, then narrows to a small path running-up the right hand side of the stream. On reaching the moor top follow the County Boundary, occasionally marked by stakes, in a Westerly direction past Dead Edge End to Withens Edge. You should then strike North, still following the boundary mounds and stakes. Where the boundary turns South-West continue due North towards Ramsden Clough. The views from here, over the reservoirs and Holme Valley, are spectacular.

Proceed in a North-Easterly direction towards the neck of Snailsden Reservoir where a track takes you round to the road by Cook's Study Hill. Turning right along the road — take the track on the right back to the reservoir embankment from where a compass bearing should be taken (216° mag) and followed past the Trig point on Upper Snailsden Moss on to Dead Edge End. From here retrace your steps back to the starting point.

This moor offers good walking and the opportunity to test navigational skills. It is often wet in places with the tops being a complete blanket bog.

Approximate distance : 7 miles



SNAILSDEN MOOR

THURLSTONE MOOR

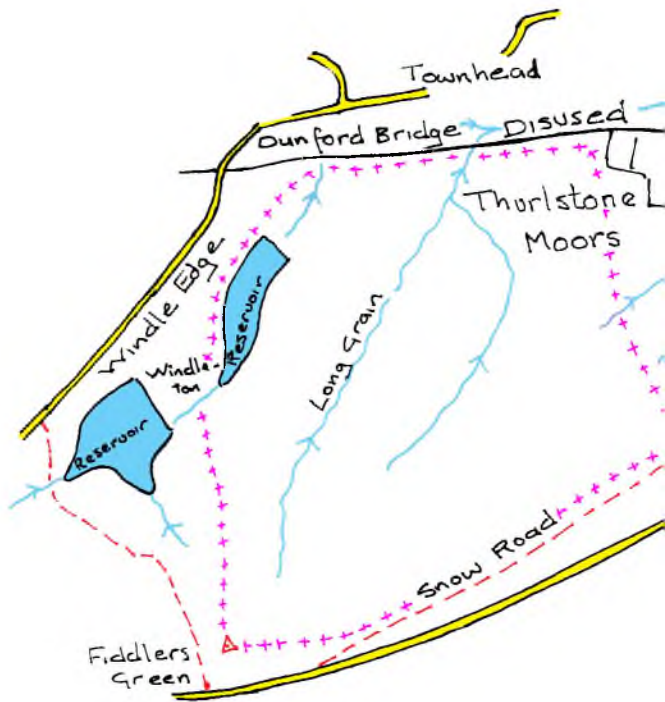
O.S. MAP : Dark Peak

Circular Walk of approximately 4 miles

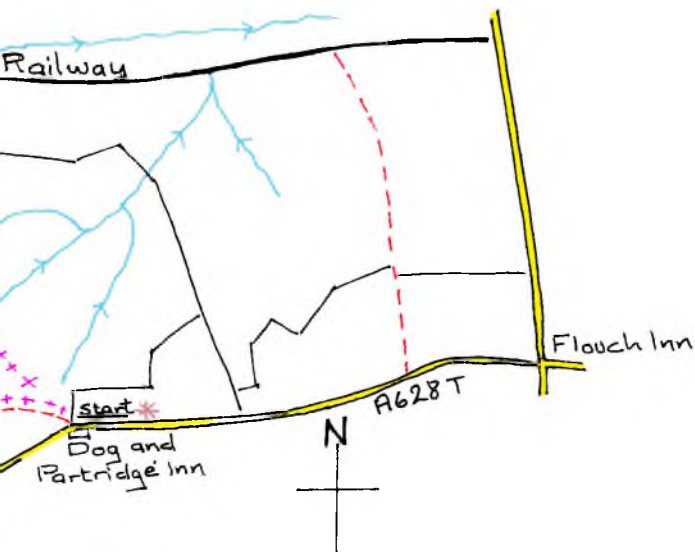
The walk starts on the track opposite the Dog and Partridge Inn on the A628 (MR : 178012). This track, now known as the Snow Road, was the original route used by 'salters' who carried salt, mainly by packhorse, from Cheshire to the South Yorkshire area. Follow the Snow Road until the Trig point on South Nab is visible. Head towards the Trig point. From there head due North down over Burnt Moss towards Windleden, passing between the two reservoirs. Follow the Water Board's track to the road just South of Dunford Bridge. From here a track parallel to the disused railway line can be followed in an Easterly direction until fields at Heald Common are reached. From here strike out in a generally Southern direction back towards the Snow Road and the Dog and Partridge.

The walk can be extended by following roads and public paths from Dunford Bridge to Townhead, Carlecotes and Soughley and back via Low Moor Ridge to the A628 and either the Dog and Partridge or the Flouch Inns.

This is not a long walk, and may not be one of the more 'inspiring' moors. Although it is rather closely bounded by roads and the railway track it does offer the opportunity for wilderness walking using navigational aids without much risk of getting hopelessly lost. Please remember — it can be rough and wet in places.



THURLSTONE MOOR



--- MIDHOPE MOORS ---

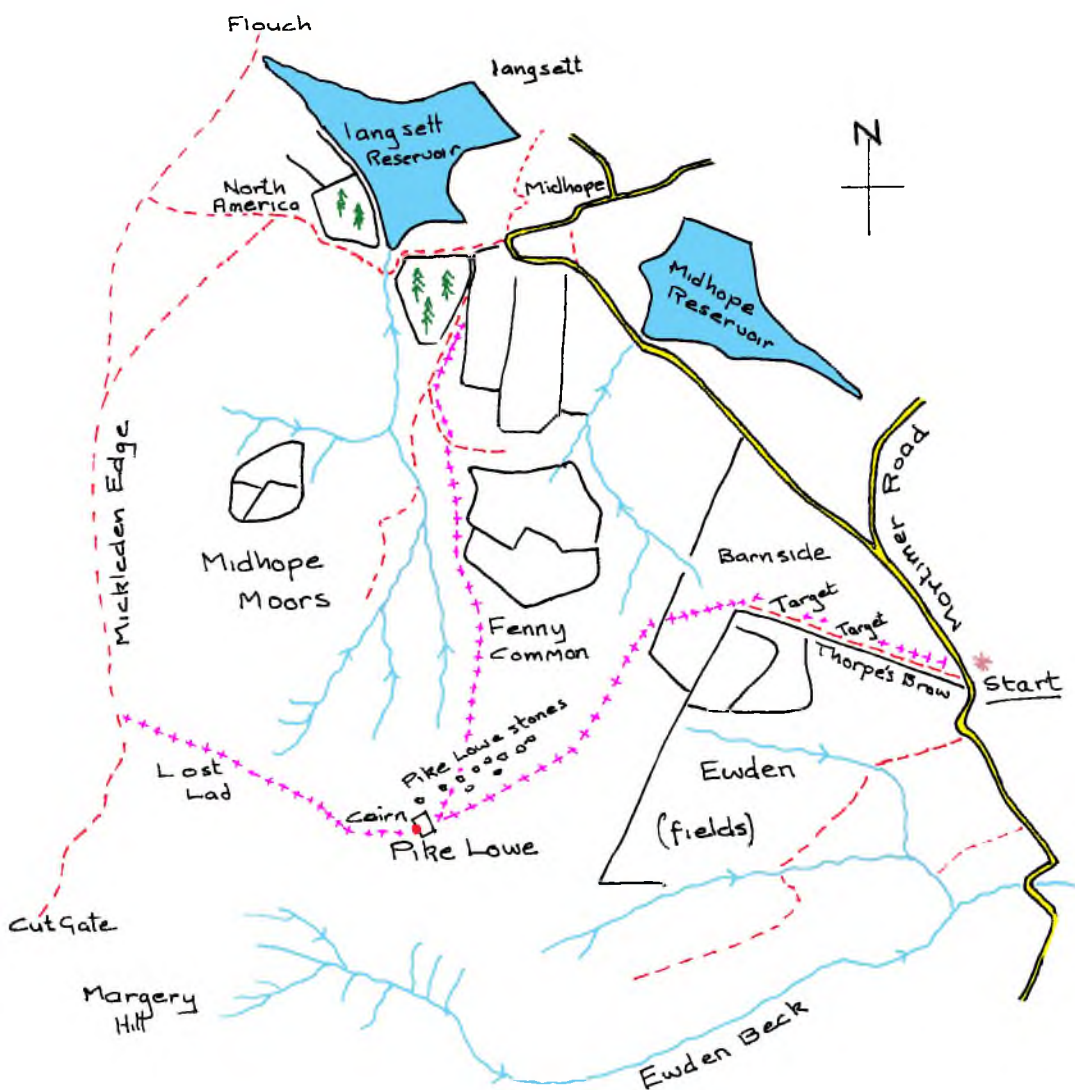
O.S. MAP : SK 29/39 HARVEY MAP : Peak District

Thorpes Brow to Midhope

Start at the track as it leaves Mortimer Road above Thorpe's Brow (MR : 239975), then towards Ewden Height in a West by North West direction. You will pass two concrete and brick structures which were targets used for firing practice during the Second World War. Where the ridge ends take a South West direction for Pike Low (compass bearing 245° Mag). This can be a fairly easy route — if you pick your way with care to avoid streams.

Pike Low itself is a large burial mound of prehistoric origin. The views from this spot are dramatic — which no doubt accounts for the siting of this ancient monument.

From here you can either carry on in a Westerly direction to join-up with the public footpath along Mickelden Edge or, alternatively, head due North. This second route is not so much difficult as awkward, since it is necessary to pick your way around fences and walls to get onto the 'tank tracks' on Range Moor. These lead towards the East of the plantation surrounding Langsett Reservoir and onto Upper Midhope.



MIDHOPE MOORS

— BROOMHEAD & BRADFIELD — MOORS

O.S. MAP : SK 29/39 HARVEY MAP : Peak District

Broomhead Hall to Agden Bridge

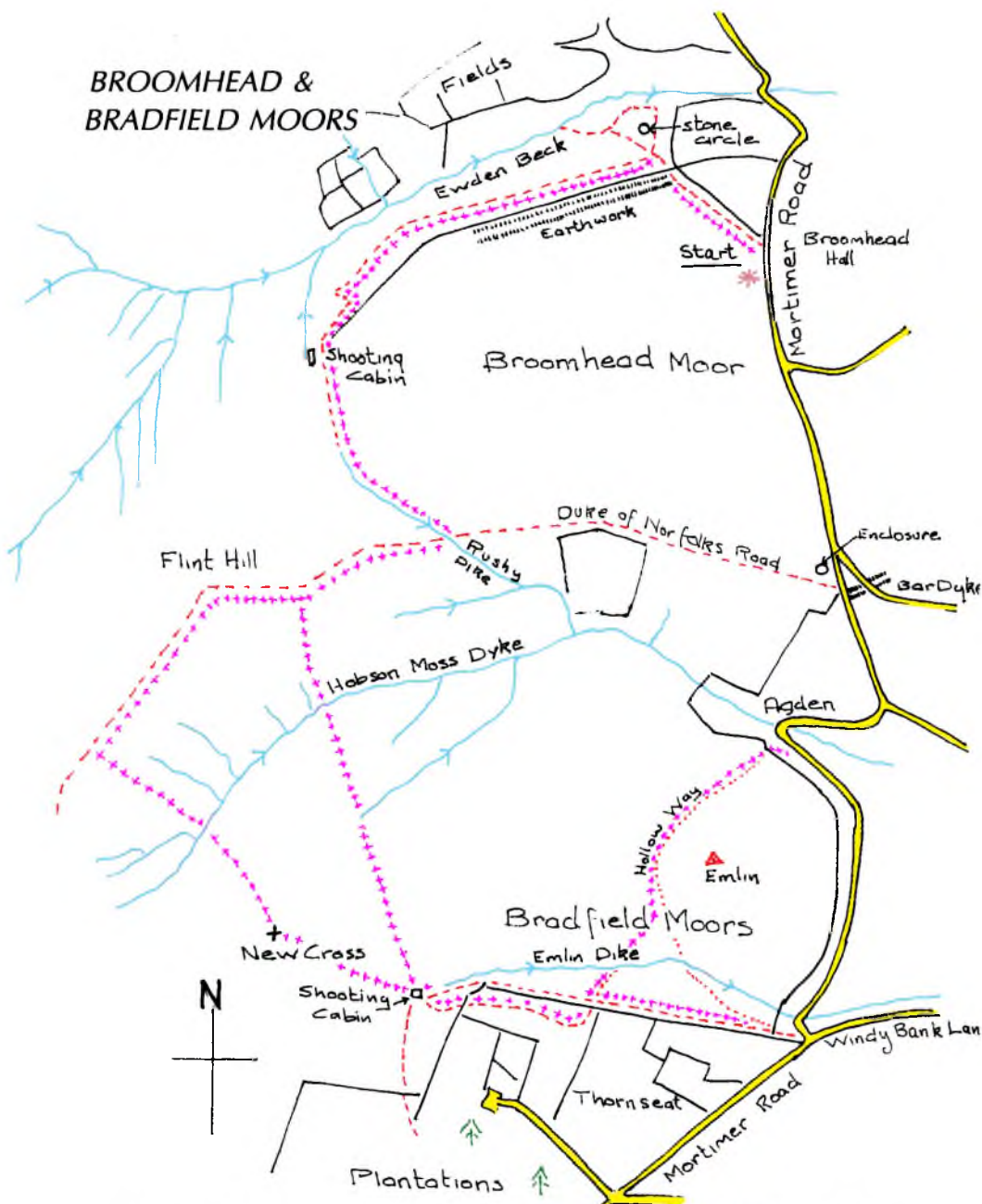
Start along the public footpath which leaves Mortimer Road almost opposite Broomhead Hall (MR : 242962). This passes through an ancient earthwork of considerable length whose exact date of construction and purpose is still open to conjecture. Further along this path is a very interesting area containing cairns and a stone circle of great antiquity, with fine views over and along the Ewden Beck valley. Backtrack slightly to a vehicle track, which is followed in a Westerly direction, eventually reaching a shooting cabin. From here are grand views over one of the broadest expanses of open moorland in the area, though with very rough going in places.

Continue Southwards past a series of grouse butts until the track ends and the way follows the course of a small stream, Rushy Dike, down to the public bridleway called Duke's Road. In this region, where the peat covering has been eroded, have been found signs of human habitation, including flint tools, dating back some 8,000 years.

Turn right along the bridleway for about half a mile. Here there is a choice of routes. The first is to take and walk on a compass bearing to the shooting cabin on Bradfield Moor (MR 228928). The other is to carry on to Cartledge Flat (MR 209936). Leave the path here to take a walk roughly South-Eastwards to New Cross at MR 216928. This is the base of a stone cross that marked an old ecclesiastical boundary, probably of land belonging to the Knights Templar since there is a carving of a sword on it.

From here proceed Eastwards to converge with the alternative route at the shooting cabin. From there continue along the footpath above Emlin Dike near which is a series of marker stones which once indicated the course of an ancient way, the Emlin Dike Road. Once again there is a choice of route — either to carry on down to Mortimer Road or to head in a North-Easterly direction, following a hollow way and markers down to and across Emlin Dike.

Passing over a very wet area — look out for a further section of hollow way leading over Emlin and down to Agden, where the hollow tends to become less distinct as it nears the bridge.



A very interesting ramble, though fairly rough in places if followed in its entirety.

STRINES MOOR

O.S. MAP : SK28/38, SK29/39, Dark Peak

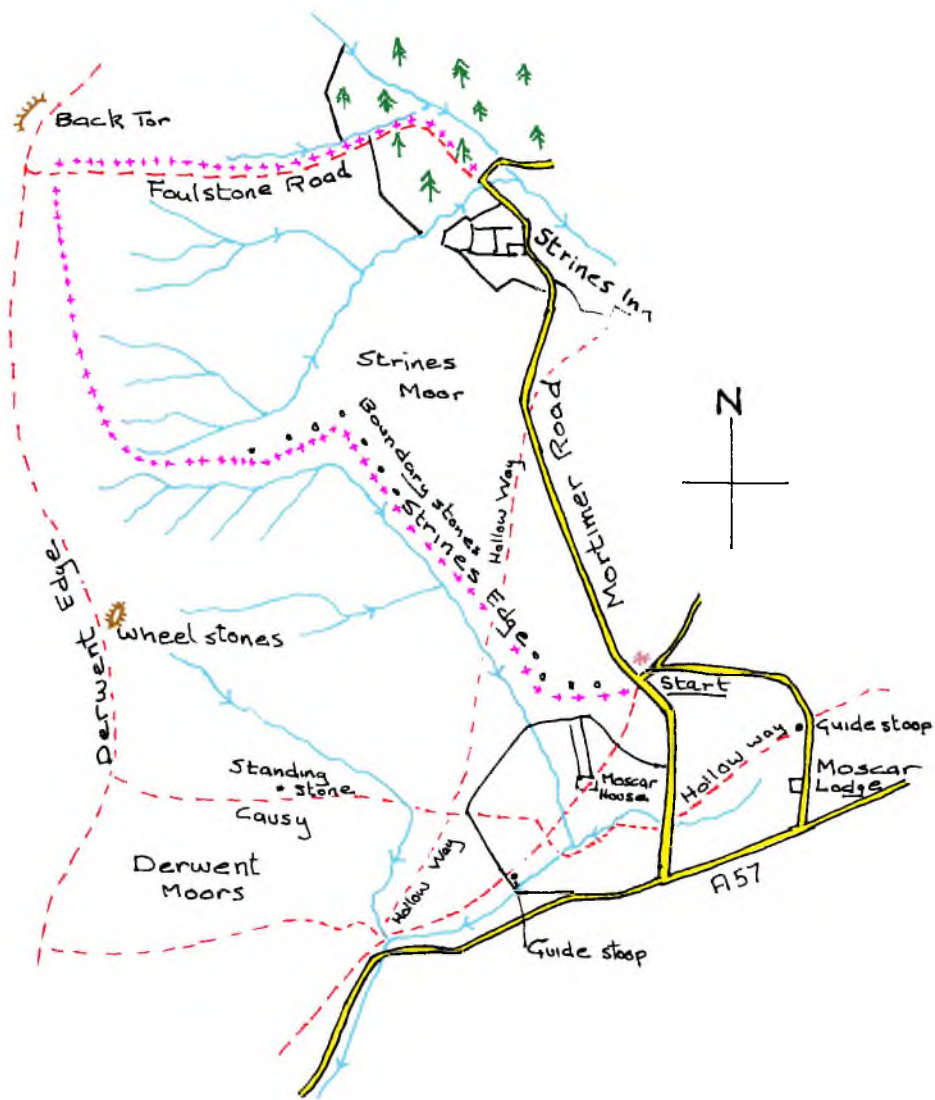
HARVEY : Peak District Map

Moscar to Strines

Start at the junction of Sugworth Road with Mortimer Road (MR : 224885), going through the gate opposite onto the public right of way, then follow the course of the upright boundary stones, passing over a grassed track which is part of the original turnpiked Mortimer Road dating back to the late 18th Century. The line of the upright stones, and boulders, is crossed by a hollow way which is probably a bridle road from Hope to Penistone, later succeeded by the Mortimer Road. This boundary between Yorkshire and Derbyshire, running as it does along the natural watershed may be very ancient indeed.

After about a mile the line of stones changes direction almost due West between tributaries of Rising Clough and Strines Dike. The going underfoot here is rough, may be very wet and care needs to be taken. On reaching the head of the various Strines Dike tributaries — strike off in a Northerly direction towards Back Tor. This section may prove very tiring due to the difficult terrain and you may prefer to join up with the well used path along Derwent Edge. On reaching Bradfield Gate Head, just before Back Tor, you have a range of alternatives. Either West towards Derwent Reservoir, East towards Bradfield or North over Back Tor to link up with the walks suggested for Bradfield and Broomhead moors.

STANDING STONE : (MR 207880). From this point, in Megalithic times, the Midsummer full moon in its most extreme position (the major lunar standstill occurring once every 18.6 years) would be observed to rise from above Crow Chin on Stanage Edge.



STRINES MOOR

HALLAM MOORS

O.S. MAP : SK 28/38 HARVEY : Peak District Map

Wyming Brook to Stanage End

Start from the car parking area at Wyming Brook just off Redmires Road (MR : 269858), taking one of the paths leading North-West over Ash Cabin Flat and White Rake to the point where the Redmires-Hollow Meadows public footpath crosses the Redmires Conduit. There are remains of many Stone Age settlement sites and hut circles on Ash Cabin Flat.

Follow the conduit along the adjacent track until a stone building by a small reservoir is reached, from where a compass bearing may be taken and walked to reach Stanage End over Middle Moss (277° Mag). A ruined stone building conveniently marks the point on the skyline to be made for. The going underfoot is relatively easy, despite tall heather in places, and is fairly dry provided stream tributaries are avoided where possible.

An alternative, and somewhat easier route, is to continue along the course of the conduit to its end at Black Clough, then cut across the short stretch of open moor and take the public footpath leading from Moscar towards Stanage Edge.

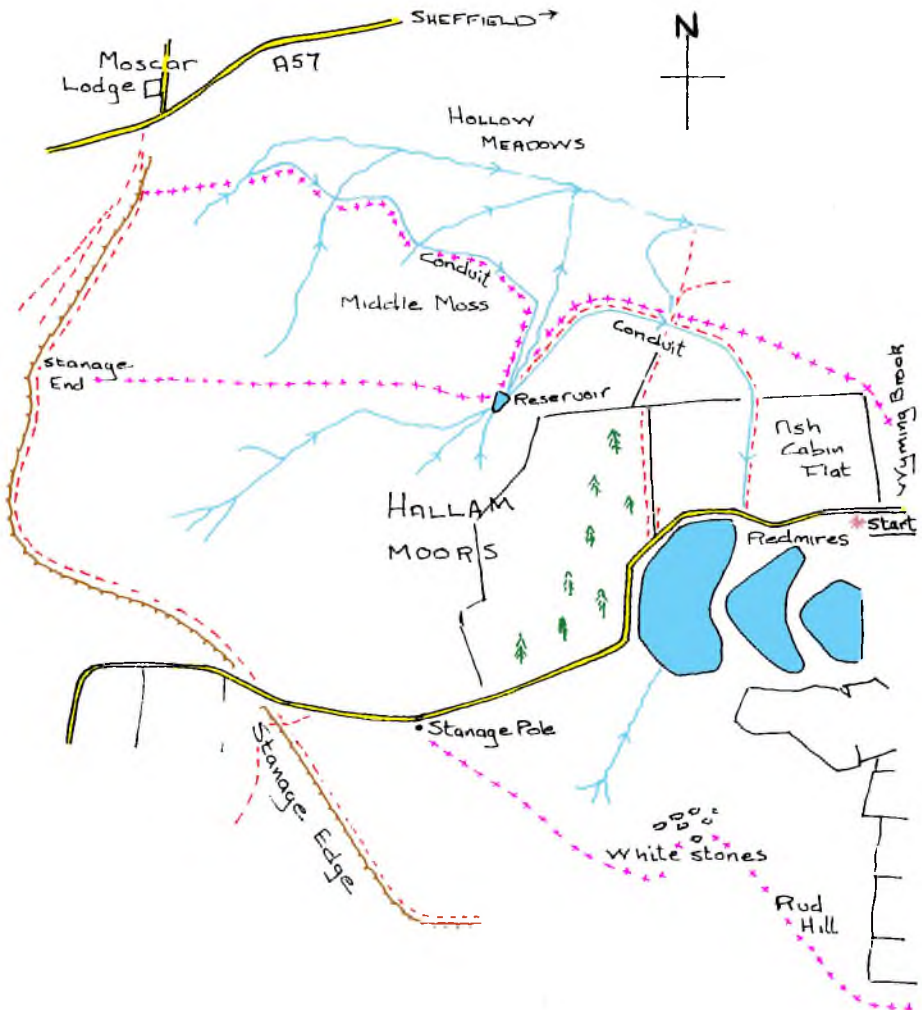
From the Stanage End region a useful link-up may be made with the Moscar - Dennis Knoll walk by cutting across Moscar Moor either to the stone circle on Hordron Edge or to the shooting cabin in Jarvis Clough.

Stanage Pole to Porter Clough

Start from Stanage Pole tracing the line of the Yorkshire/Derbyshire boundary along Friar's Ridge in an East-South-Easterly direction. (The individual stones and cairns positioned to mark this line are of great antiquity). After about a mile turn in a North-Easterly direction towards White Stones, an area of eroded very hard sandstone, offering a novel vantage point to view the familiar Redmires region to the North.

Proceed next to Rud Hill in an Easterly direction, upon which is a cairn-like structure, which proves on closer examination to be a ruined hut. Walk

HALLAM MOORS



around the enclosed fields to the disused quarry at Brown Edge, then along the public footpath to Porter Clough.

This walk is mostly dry and fairly easy — providing that the ridges are followed.

BAMFORD MOOR

O.S. MAP : SK 28/38 HARVEY : Peak District Map

Moscar to Dennis Knoll

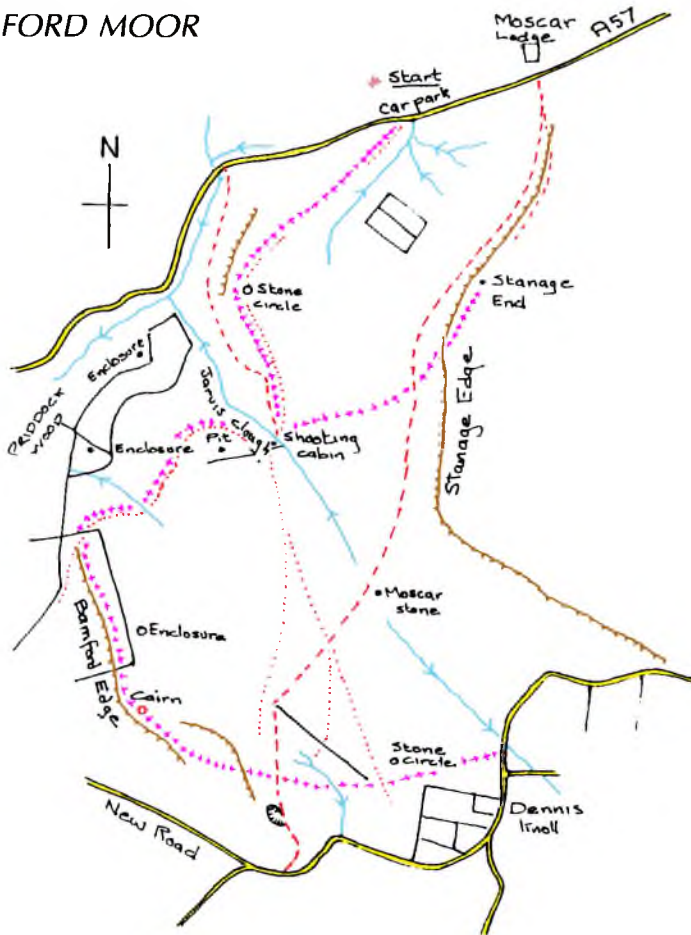
Start through the gateway adjacent to a car parking area on the A57 below Nether Reeve Low, Moscar (MR : 222876). This point is the site of an old quarry where the inhabitants of Hathersage Outseats had the right to excavate stone up to and during the Enclosure Awards of the early 19th century. It also marks the point where a number of hollow ways converge to cross the stream before heading North-West towards Moscar. These may be the remnants of the course of the ancient Bakewell to Halifax road.

Proceed in a South-Westerly direction towards Hordron Edge where there is a stone circle which is reckoned to have stood there for between 3,000 to 5,000 years. It is seen to best advantage during the winter and spring, when the rampant bracken has died back, and its constituent stones sited in an exacting position taking in the impressive skyline. Continue in a South-South-Easterly (SSE) direction to the shooting cabin in Jarvis Clough which is situated near what was probably an old crossing place, since largely destroyed by digging-out to facilitate Land Rover passage. Several hollow ways converge here from the West and South.

Take the hollow way heading West through the line of grouse butts, keeping the wall to your left. This tends to become less obvious under the heather but can be traced with care. Pass the Pit, which appears to have been an old 'bell pit', and go round the wall to head South-West across two streams before heading towards Bamford Edge. This route originally led down to Bamford, making the link from there to Moscar and beyond. Here on the Edge are traces of hut circles, field systems and small cairns dating back approximately 2,000 years to the Romano-British period, and there are other similar sites to the North and North-East overlooking Priddock and Ladybower woods.

Carry on along the Edge to Great Tor, from where there are truly spectacular views — amongst the best in Derbyshire. Further along there are sites where millstones were quarried and worked. Now strike East over the moor, passing below the boundary wall, looking out for a cairn and another small stone circle. In this region many hollow ways run in a North-South direction, probably remnants of variations on a general Bakewell to Halifax route.

BAMFORD MOOR



This walk is completed in the Dennis Knoll area.

Two alternatives

Following the above route from Moscar towards Jarvis Clough but before the shooting cabin is reached you should cross the Clough earlier at an obvious ford and head Westwards until the stone wall is reached. Follow this around until Bamford Edge proper is reached. Again, magnificent views can be expected.

Alternatively — you may strike Eastwards from the shooting cabin, following the line of grouse butts. You should join up with the right-of-way that runs under Stanage Edge and on down to Moscar and the A57.

EYAM MOOR

O.S. MAP : White Peak or SK 27/37

Circular Walk

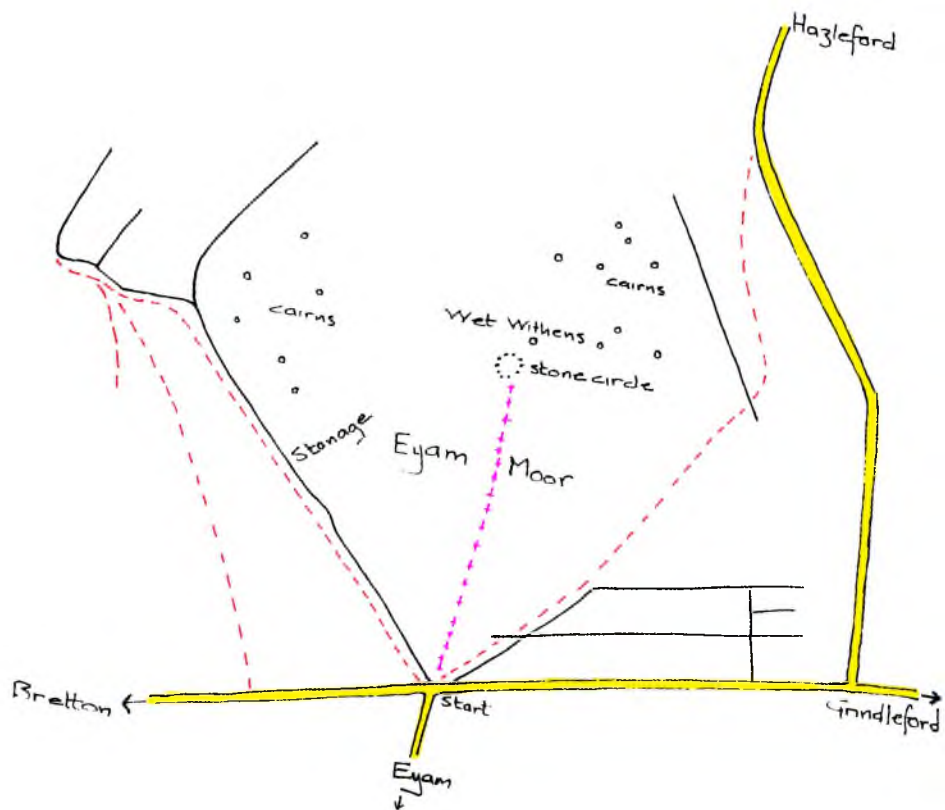
Approach from Grindleford up the Sir William Road. You will come to a junction (MR : 225780) where the road bears off left to Eyam whilst the ancient bridleway continues up to Bretton.

At this point there are two stiles. The left-hand one leads in a North-Westerly direction towards Abney and is NOT the one to be taken.

Climb the RIGHT-hand stile but do NOT follow the public right of way which heads in a North-Easterly direction. Instead follow a narrow track which threads its way through rough ground in a Northerly direction. On both sides of the track a number of prehistoric burial mounds are passed and, after approximately half a mile, a metal post comes into view on the right.

The post was erected by the Ministry of Works (though now the site is administered by English Heritage) under whose care is this part of the Eyam Moor and especially the Wet Withens Stone Circle (MR : 225790). Although the tallest stone in the circle is only some two feet in height, Wet Withens is an important site and has a number of interesting astronomical alignments. It was probably built in the Bronze Age and is the largest stone circle in the Peak District to have been built on gritstone. To the immediate North of the circle is a large ruined cairn which was once known as the Round Hillock.

From the Wet Withens stone circle, cross Eyam Moor in an Easterly direction and, eventually, a wall will be encountered which crosses a public footpath (MR : 232790) coming up from Leam. Follow this footpath (a former pack-horse route) South-Westwards which in due course arrives back at our starting point, completing a short but interesting walk over Eyam Moor.



EYAM MOOR

— GIBBET & BRAMPTON EAST — MOORS

O.S. MAPS : White Peak or SK 27/37

HARVEY : Peak District Map

Umberley Brook to Chatsworth

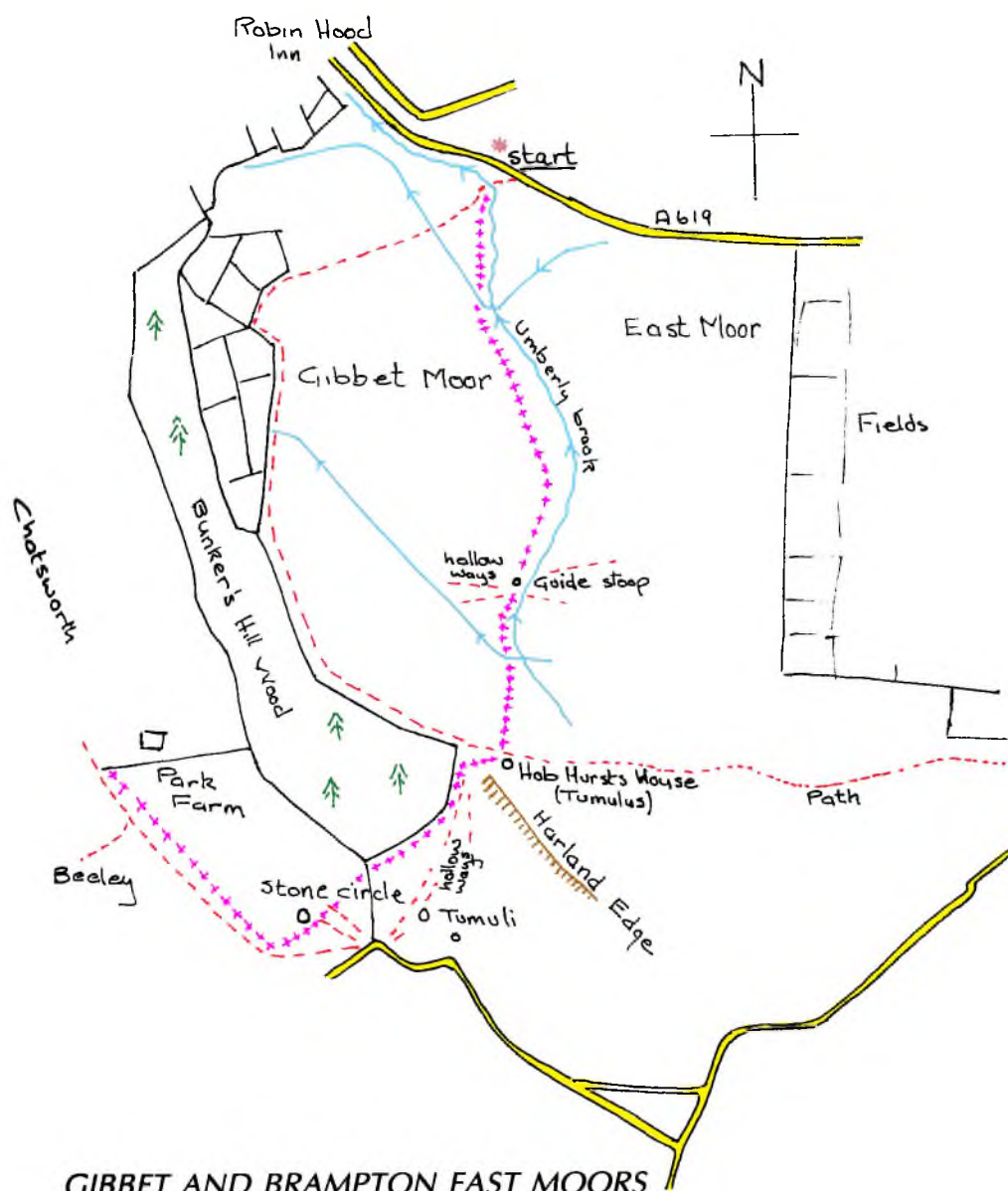
Start where a track joins the A619 about a mile East South East of the Robin Hood public house and public car park (MR : 287716). Go over the bridge — heading in a Southerly direction along the course of Umberley Brook. You will shortly cross the conduit which takes water round the high moor to supply the Emperor Lake above and behind Chatsworth House. The stream intersects several hollow ways and a guide post which indicates that these were the main routes between Chesterfield and Bakewell. Near the head of the stream is another conduit which supplies the Swiss Lake. At this point leave the stream and make for the corner of the wood in the South-West. Close by is a rectangular burial mound, Hob Hurst's House, dating back to the Bronze Age, circa 1,800 B.C., and well worth a closer examination.

From here there is a choice of routes. You can either go down by the side of the wood along one of several hollow ways to the Rabbit Warren, where there is a stone circle, and then onto a track leading North-West into the Chatsworth Estate. Alternatively — you can continue along Harland Edge some way either to the road or turning back along the course of the Harland Sick, which runs below the Edge, and passes several burial mounds towards a stone circle and onto the Chatsworth Estate's permissive paths.

This is a fairly easy walk, with several points of interest, convenient for the somewhat different pleasures of the Chatsworth House and Park.

Buses are available that link Baslow with either Sheffield or Chesterfield.

Recently the Duke of Devonshire, who owns the Chatsworth Estate, offered to negotiate Access Agreements for Gibbet and Brampton East Moors but following protests by various ornithological and environmental groups these have not yet come to fruition.



BIG MOOR

O.S. MAP : White Peak or SK 27/37

HARVEY : Peak District Map

White Edge to Totley

Start where the bridle path to White Edge Lodge leaves the junction of the B6054 and B6055 roads (MR : 268789) and follow the path leading up to and along White Edge, near the fence. Several hollow ways are passed, leading from the 'Wooden Pole' which is situated on a very old site in the Longshaw Estate and is only the latest in a long succession of similar prominent markers.

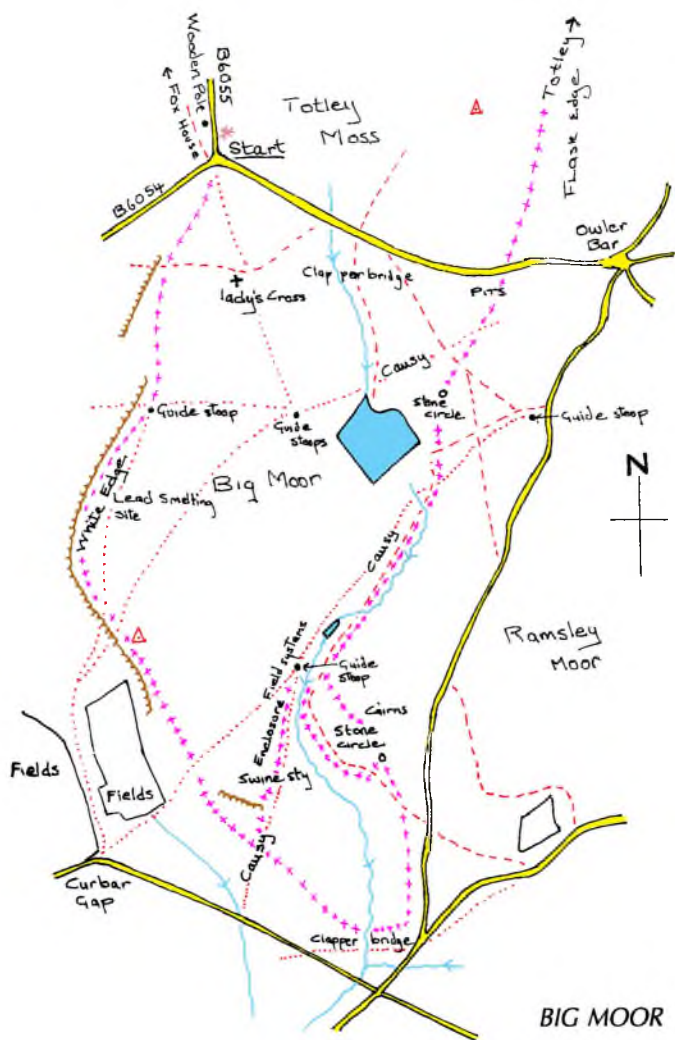
Continue along the Edge until the Trig point is reached, from where are excellent views over Froggatt and Curbar, and in the vicinity of which evidence of lead smelting has been discovered, presumably taking advantage of the strong and consistent winds over the tops. A series of hollow ways mount the Edge, coming from the direction of the fields near to Curbar Gap and indicating the general course of a 'cartway' recorded as having crossed the moor in times past.

Stay with the path as far as Swine Sty, where there are surviving traces of pre-historic field systems, and a 'causey' (stone-paved track) just below the Edge running in a South-West/North-East direction which eventually reaches a Bronze-Age settlement site of enclosures and field systems. Further along will be found a 'guide stoop' of the 18th Century which marks the old 'horseway', more direct but less easy to traverse than the 'cartway'.

Back at Swine Sty, carry on in a South-Easterly direction towards the old clapper bridge crossing Bar Brook then swing round to head North through thin woodland to join up with a track just beyond. Follow this for a short way then you have the option of simply carrying on, or crossing the moor towards a stone circle and a series of cairns constructed during the Bronze Age, before rejoining the track to Barbrook Reservoir. At a junction of tracks by the side of the reservoir — go due North over the moor to another stone circle of large diameter, though its constituent stones are relatively small. In common with other stone circles its situation gives marvellous views.

Continue North-North-East towards the road though before reaching it you should look out for the remains of old 'bell pits' — once used for mining the underlying coal.

continued on page 32



Cross over the road and up to Flask Edge. You will eventually reach the public bridleway leading down to Totley.

Big Moor, with its profusion of human artefacts which span over at least 4,000 years, is one of the most fascinating regions in the Peak District National Park.

The walk suggested above should be fairly straightforward if you avoid the central area of the moor. However, special care should be exercised in certain parts as several rare animal and plant species are resident hereabouts.

Big Moor, as part of the Eastern Moors Estates, was purchased by the Peak Park Planning Board from the Severn-Trent Water Authority a few years ago. Following a year of surveying and consultations they have instituted a 'Management Plan' which is similar to one that exists on The Roaches whereby although the land is not categorised as 'access land', anyone wanting to wander over the moors will not be turned back. Parts of Big Moor are designated as a wildlife sanctuary area.

Ramsley Moor which is to the east of Big Moor offers a different type of wilderness walking through trees, heather and grass. It can be very rough in places but it does offer a useful link through to Fox Lane and Holmesfield.

This area of also designated as a wildlife sanctuary area so the usual care should be exercised.



KEY



- Road



- Stream or River



- Edge



- Boundary

Wall or
Fence



- Path or
Track



- old track
or
hollow way



- Conifer
Plantation



- Suggested route
to follow

M.R.
Mag.

- Map Reference
- Magnetic Bearing

The public still has legal access to less than 2% of all the open countryside in England and Wales. The Peak District is easily the best of the national parks in possessing some 56% of all this agreed access land. Yet even here less than one half of the open countryside is covered by access agreements.

In 1982, 27 moorland areas within easy reach of Sheffield alone were (legally at any rate) closed to the rambler, climber and countrygoer.

FREEDOM OF THE MOORS published by the *Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland* details walks that can be enjoyed over 13 of those moors where access is still not allowed. Sketch maps are provided to aid the walker. A brief history of the access movement and of the need to continue the struggle for free public access to all uncultivated moorland is included.

FREEDOM OF THE MOORS

*Published by the Sheffield
Campaign
for Access to Moorland*

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