

**Foreword**

George Herbert Bridges Ward (1876–1957) was a pioneer Rambler. He founded the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers after leading a group of walkers on a twenty mile ramble round Kinder Scout in September 1900. The annual prospectuses of this Sunday rambling club soon turned into pocket-sized booklets, mostly

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written and edited by Ward from 1902 until his death in 1957. The booklets are mines of walking information, packed with articles on local history, folklore, place names, topography, anecdotes and especially access to the wilder parts of the British countryside, particularly the moors round Sheffield. These articles are interspersed with quotations from outdoor literature – Wordsworth, Thoreau, Whitman,

2

Jefferies, Borrow and many more. In 1945 the local rambling community presented Ward with land at the top of Lose Hill, renamed 'Ward's Piece'. He promptly gave it to the National Trust. The Sheffield Clarion Ramblers continue to meet for Sunday rambles to this day.

(by David Sissons, author of 'The Best of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers' Handbook)

3

**Prospectus**

The four page Sheffield Clarion Rambler's Prospectus of 1902 had grown to over 100 pages by 1912. Each contained the annual programme of rambles, literary quotations, a few photos, some Rambler-related adverts and G.H.G. Ward's personally researched essays.

Extracts from the handbooks appear in this font.

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**Ward's Clarion Call**

"Fourteen Sheffields responded to an advertisement I inserted in the Clarion (newspaper) and, on the first Sunday in September 1900, walked the usual round of Kinderscout, from Edale station. And this to my knowledge, the first workers' Sunday Rambling Club in the North of England (or South?) was formed."

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**Moorland Access**

The Clarion Ramblers led the campaign for public access to the moorland areas of the Dark Peak. Much of it was owned by private landowners, who employed fierce gamekeepers to enforce their exclusive rights. Ward set out to prove that in many cases rights of access had been "stolen" from local people by the Enclosures of the 18th and 19th Centuries.

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## Right to Roam

Ward was unafraid to walk the moors, explore them in great detail, and lead his Clarion Ramblers in trespass walks. As early as 1907 Ward participated in an illegal mass trespass of Bleaklow, a forerunner of the April 1932 Kinder Scout Mass Trespass.

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This famous mass trespass had a far-reaching impact that culminated in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which legislates rights to walk on mapped access land today.

8

## Protest Trespass

Six months after Kinder a less well-known trespass took place to demonstrate against the imprisonment of 5 ramblers. This podscroll details the events of that September day and draws upon 3 articles which influenced this trespass, and were written by Ward, in Handbooks dating from the 1920's.

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## Hints to Leaders

“The Leader will take the ramble as printed – wet or fine. He has charge of the arrangements and will make provision for teas, etc., but cannot be responsible for a large party. He should provide a reading or give useful information (place name, etc.) from S.C.R. booklets or other sources. New members must not defile moor or field with paper or orange peel or leave gates open.”

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## Safety Guidance (for today's walkers)

The aim of this podscroll is to increase your enjoyment of the natural environment. Please do not rely on the contents for navigation in open countryside. You are advised to have a map and compass as well as sufficient food, water and suitable clothing to make walking on the moors a safe and enjoyable experience.

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## Quotations and poems

Listed under each ramble in the annual handbook, Ward would add a poem or short literary quotation from writers who shared a passion for walking, looking or breathing fresh air – whether they were revered writers such as Wordsworth, or less well-known authors.

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19th century poet Christina Rossetti wrote the following poem, which appeared in the 1953/4 Handbook.

Before green apples blush,  
Before green nuts embrown,  
Why, one day in the country  
Is worth a month in town.

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## Moor Memories

In true S.C.R. Handbook manner we have interspersed this podscroll with contemporary information gathered from Peaklanders too. Moors for the Future are building an oral history collection to this end, and short transcribed excerpts illustrated here contain recollections of life on the moors during the last century.

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## The Abbey Brook Trespass Walk

At a meeting in the Victoria Hall, Sheffield, several rambling clubs and political groups decided to trespass along the "Duke of Norfolk's Road" in September 1932. This route was chosen because it was one of five ancient paths into the Derwent Valley, but the landowners who wanted it for their own private use closed it.

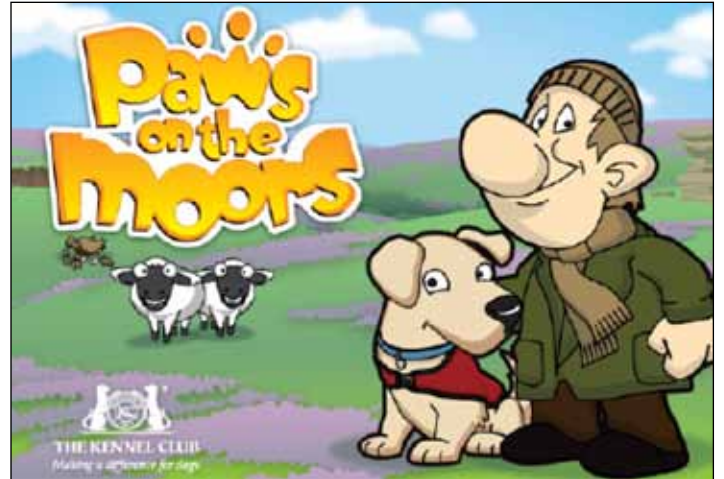
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GHB Ward researched the route and was convinced it was an old public right of way. It was said he didn't take part himself, but 'advised' the trespassers of the route they should take. The walk started from Wisewood and went over Loxley Common and Kirk Edge to the beginning of the 'Duke's Road', at Bar Dyke above Bradfield.

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Our walk is approximately **twelve miles**. Directions provided in this podscroll are intended to enhance your enjoyment of the walk, but they are not an adequate substitute for a map. Experience of moorland walking is essential as fine clear days can quickly deteriorate into very intimidating conditions.

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## Responsible dog owners are welcome on the moors:

Please keep your dog close by, under close control and in sight; however always use a 2 metres lead:

- Between 1st Mar - 31 July when rare moorland birds lay their eggs on the ground
- Near farm animals - all year round.
- If you cannot rely on your dog's obedience

Visit [www.pawsonthemoors.org.uk](http://www.pawsonthemoors.org.uk) before visiting the moors.



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## Start of the walk

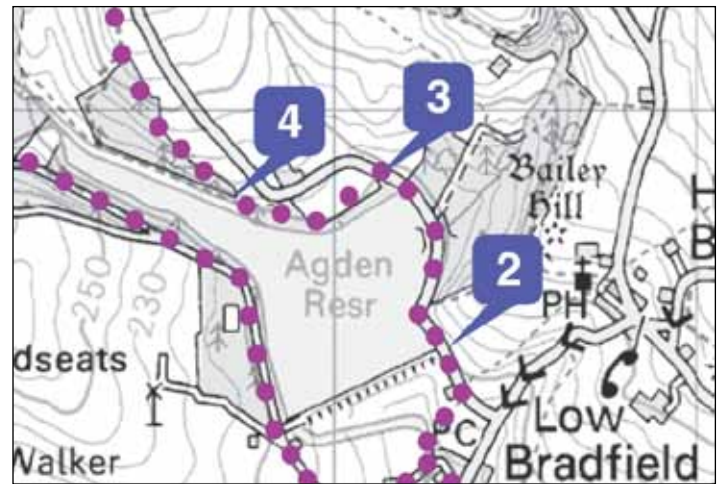
Our walk today will start at Bradfield Village Hall near the public toilets. We will catch up with the trespass route taken later. Facing the toilets, go left along the path, up the long flight of steps and path, onto Smallfield lane. Turn left along the road with Agden Reservoir on your left (2).

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Along the road, again on your left, is a parking area with an opening giving access along the reservoir side (3). Follow the path until it emerges onto a track (wide path), turn left but very shortly is a wooden marker post showing a direction uphill to your right (4).

23



### Moor Memories - John Bunting

"My first proper rucksack, it were the bees knees then, were a frame rucksack. They were the only ones, we got them from Norway. Norway rucksacks were famous. You were somebody if you got a Norwegian rucksack, cos before that it were knapsacks and army sacks."

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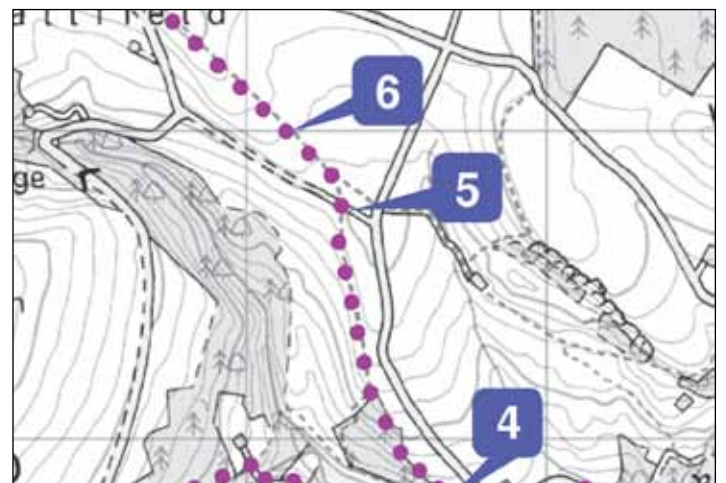
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Head up this new path, which was created when the plantation was felled. Eventually it joins an older one along the top of Agden Side, which in turn meets Agden Side Road (5). Cross it and go over the ladder stile then turn left over another stile (or gate) and then over a 'sleeper' bridge following the path to the right of the enclosure walls (6).

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Continue along this path over Cowell Flat, upon which there is a large Bronze Age settlement with enclosures well worth exploring. The path eventually comes out at Bar Dyke (7).

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“There is little doubt that Bardyke was an ancient British defence work placed there where an enemy would cross at the most obvious point – avoiding the wide peaty and boggy moorland between here and the Derwent Valley... The complete length (of Bardyke) from the edge to Mortimer’s Road is 370 yards.”

31

Turn left and over the Mortimer Road and up to the gates leading onto the Bradfield and Broomhead moors. This is the start of the ‘Duke’s Road’ and where we share the route with the early trespassers.

32

“The ‘Duke of Norfolk’s Road’ provides the wildest Yorkshire moorland walk south of Wharfedale. It crosses the non-Derwent watershed and leads down Abbey Clough, one of the finest of Peakland’s upland stream courses.”

33

“The route [Duke of Norfolk’s Road] – six miles – is entirely within the Yorkshire boundary. The ‘Road’ begins at the S.S.W. end of Bardyke – eight miles (as the crow flies) from Sheffield Town Hall – where you have backward views of the Walkley Bank, Malin Bridge, Hillsborough and Owlerton suburbs of the beloved city of smoke.”

34

“It is a ‘public’ road legalised for ever (save the word!) by the Ecclesfield Tithes (or Enclosure) Act of 1811 which closed the commons to freehold farmers and labourers of the wide Ecclesfield parish.”

35

### **Moor Memories - John Bunting**

“We did the usual footpaths like Duke’s Drive. Actually there are several packhorse routes still there across the moors, used to call them salt roads in the old days and they would take steel implements or iron implements from Sheffield over to Manchester side, Cheshire side and bring salt and silks and other things back on these packhorse routes.”

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In 1932 it was claimed there was up to 200 people taking part in the Abbey Brook trespass. It never got the notoriety of the Kinder Trespass because the police and landowners didn’t want to attract the same publicity as the event 6 months earlier. The trespassers went through the gates and along the path.

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### **Moor Memories - John Bunting**

“You could see the gamekeepers on the horizon, but they never came near because actually I think they must have realised they were on a losing battle because if they had confronted us, cos police were there as well obviously, they’d have got some bad publicity because we had every intention of having a peaceful walk across the moors.”

38

There was only one gamekeeper spotted, probably a 'lookout', and the ramblers continued unhindered right onto the moors to the rocks above Cartledge Flat overlooking Abbey Brook. The first point of interest they, and we, pass is the Herculean Edge. Ward wrote about the 'Duke of Norfolk's Road' in the 1924/25 handbook.

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"The Rev. A.B. Browne...tells me that he has asked the Ordnance Survey to re-name Herculean Edge 'Ereclin: or Hereclin' Edge', a local word for crouching... The edge seen at a distance resembles a crouching or recumbent beast...Mr Wm Bramall also tells me that he well remembers the local use of a sentence such as "urklin' under t'wall"."

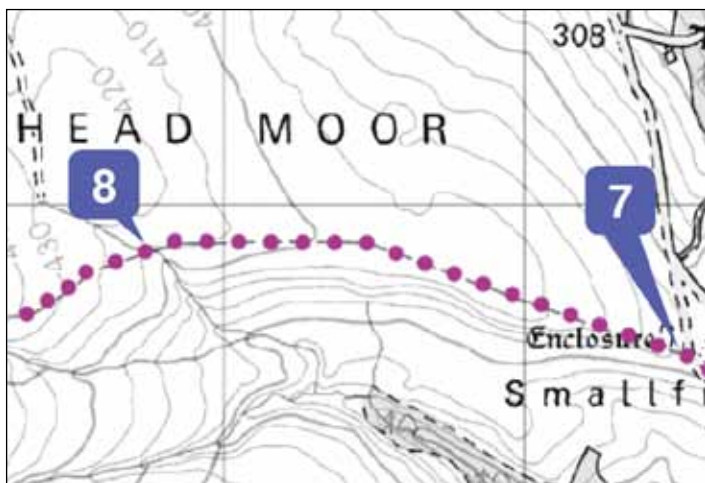
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"En route 330 yards from the commencement is the site of the Apron-Full-of-Stones – apparently a former cairn 60 feet in diameter and probably 20 to 25 feet high, and ancient burial place of the pre-historic Britons of which I have failed to trace a written descriptive record."

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"It may have been removed about 1770, for the making of Mortimer Road or later, to build the lower field walls or dwellings...The Apron-Full-of-Stones was once a great local landmark...Near by, is a cluster of shapely grey-weather gritstones – the few survivors after the moorland stone cutters and wall builders of 100 years ago or so had done their work."

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The route we follow has changed little over the years, firstly a wide track, then over Rushy Dike (8) where the track becomes more uneven.

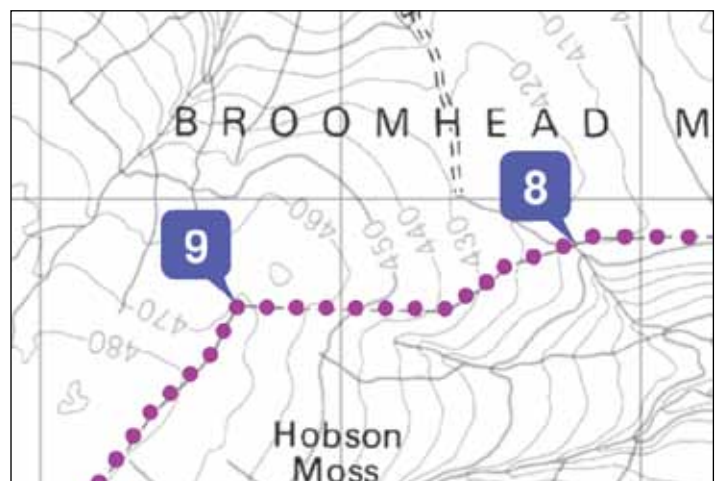
Then we venture onto the moor top by Flint Hill (9) where it then becomes a moorland path, often wet and boggy.

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### Moor Memories - John Bunting

"What we used to wear when we went out there were burberry coats. There were no camping shops, well there were one. What we did when they were no longer fit for going out dressed up we cut bottoms off and they were short coats then. Inevitably everything that we walked in were something made of something we'd had for when we were dressed up."

45



“The track is again renewed and plain – like a cut-out roadway through the peat – and Flint Hill’s flat top (about 1580 feet) is on our near right. Pre-historic man lived or worked hereabouts, as my friend Leslie Armstrong, F.S.A., has found flint flakes, which, obviously enough, were imported from other districts.”

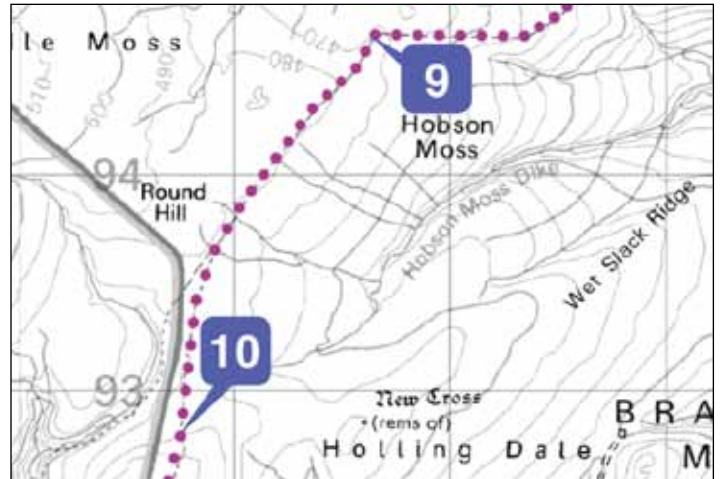
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“The view westward is just that dreary moor and loneliness which only has a call for the active vagabond and restless wanderer who is still called ‘trespasser’. The ordinary man would curse it and walk home again. But let everyone beware and bring compass and map, for, on a misty day, here is one of the most bewildering moorlands in the Peak District.”

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Eventually the path starts to descend slightly and the Derwent Valley and the beginning of Abbey Brook come into view. To the left is the paved path over the very wet Cartledge Flat – this task was undertaken by Moors for the Future in 2008. The right hand path will lead along slabs to the rocks overlooking Abbey Brook (10).

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“...on either side of Abbey Clough the land below the skyline was a great heathland pasturage which, within the last forty years, summer-pastured from three to four hundred horses and young beasts each year – in addition to sheep. Some day the production of beef and mutton will, in law, be more important than grouse.”

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### Moor Memories - Terry Howard

“I know that GHB Ward used to say ‘You’ve never been anywhere unless you’ve been lost’. Well that might be so, the point is, you don’t want to get lost on a moorland in bad weather.”

52

It is here where the ramblers met the gamekeepers and police who had come up from Abbey Brook. The ramblers were halted in their tracks and told to go back to where they had come from. They refused and sat down to have lunch, taking as long as they could. Agitation on the side of the keepers led to pushing and shoving before a fight ensued.

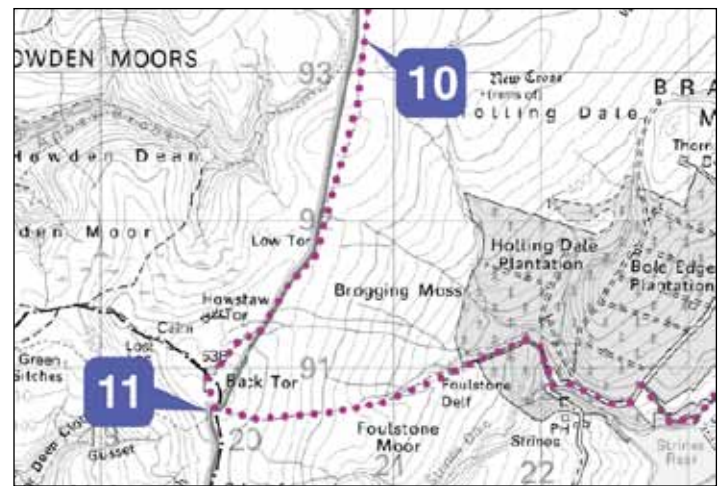
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The keepers lashed out with pick axe handles but the police intervened, advising the keepers to “only hit arms and legs”. After a while the ramblers decided they would return the way they came, but took their time “singing rambling and Bolshie songs”. Had they continued it was never quite certain which way they would have headed.

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Return to the main stone flagged path and continue south along Cartledge Stones Ridge to Back Tor. After 2.5 km the flag path leaves the line of the public footpath and heads towards Back Tor. A short steep climb over stone pitching brings you onto the summit of the Tor (11).

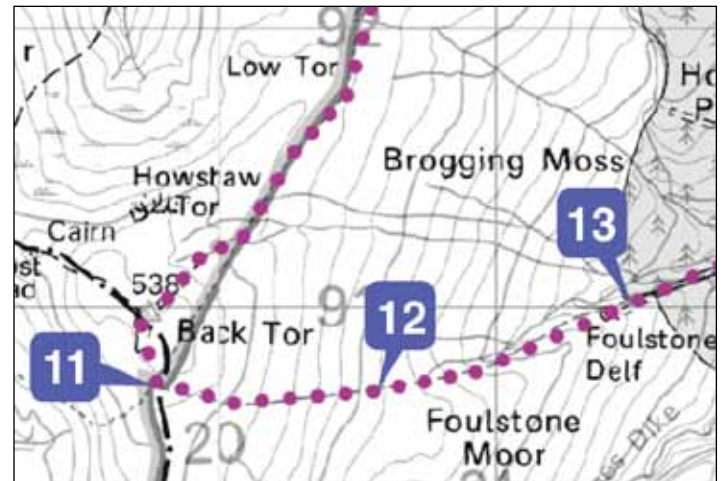
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### Moor Memories - Terry Howard

"Anyway we got right up on top of Cartledge and I thought this is a bloody long way round and there were all the moor laid out in front of us, all Bradfield moor, and I thought "Where do we go from here? I've never been anywhere like this before!"

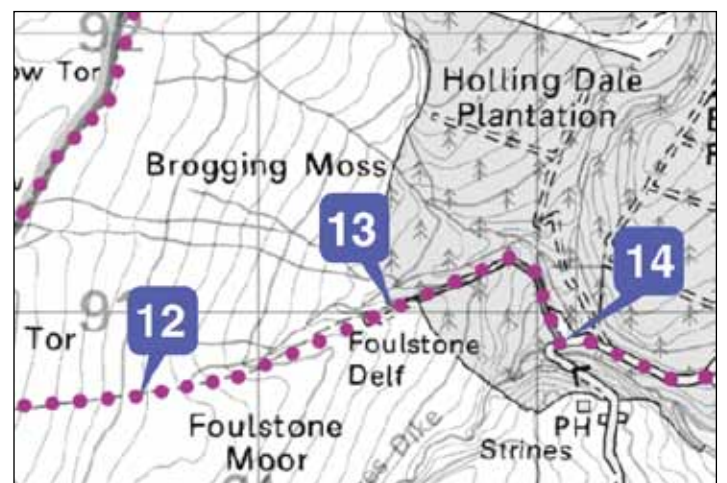
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Follow the summit rocks on their eastern side. At the southern end of the summit rocks, pick up another stone flag path and follow this to Foulstone Delph bridleway (12).

At the bridleway turn east towards the woodland of Bole Edge plantation. Enter the plantation after passing the disused quarry on your right (13).

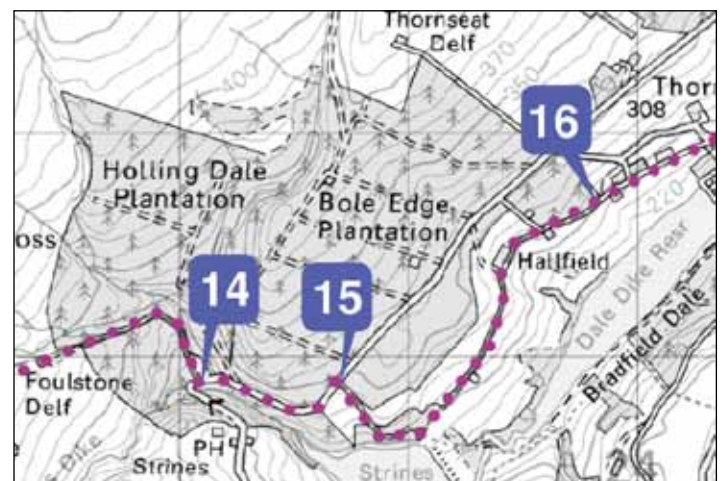
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On reaching Mortimer Road (14) a right turn up the hill will bring you to the Strines pub for a drink or snack while admiring the peacocks. A left turn will take you back to the start of the walk along Mortimer Road.

To continue, however, turn left along Mortimer Road.

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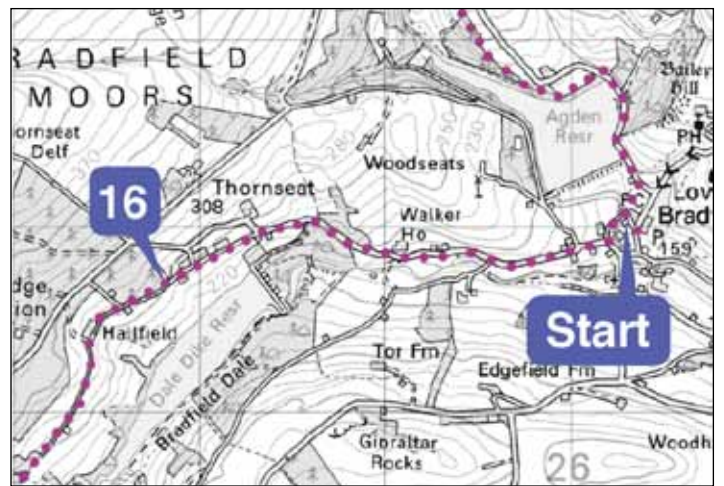




Turn right onto the path after Strines Bridge (15) and follow the path between the road and Dale Dyke Reservoir.

Continue onto the road (16) and follow this back to Low Bradfield - the start of our walk.

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“One of the old inhabitants of Bradfield told me quite twelve years ago that the elderly natives of the district remembered five ‘Cut Gates’,...which were, or had been, in their days, public rights of way across the moorlands from the western end and sides of the Bradfield valley.”

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The Duke of Norfolk's and the Emlin Dyke Roads were two of these 'Cut Gates'. The latter was, according to Ward "stolen by the Ecclesfield Tithes Act of 1811...It was the obvious sheep and cattle drovers' route for the one-time commoners, farmers and shepherds coming from Low Bradfield and Dungworth, Thorneat or Ughill, and their direct way for the upper Derwent Valley.”

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The Abbey Brook Trespass, like the Kinder Trespass, didn't achieve anything on the day; they became iconic events which went on to inspire those of a later generation to continue the access to moorland campaigns. Success came in the year 2000 with the parliamentary passing of the Countryside Rights of Way Act.

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### Moor Memories - John Bunting

“We were hoping for the freedom to walk. We fought for it and some of my colleagues died fighting for that freedom, and when we come back it were no different to before we went. So that were the motivation, we thought we had the right to walk on it. And at the end of the day we wanted to preserve it which we have done.”

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### The Duke gets a 'tip'

The late Duke of Norfolk, Sheffield's Mayor in 1895-7...was well known for his “Norfolk” jacket and habit of ‘mixing’ and losing his identity. On one occasion the Duke, on a crowded platform at Sheffield Midland station, and seeing an elderly lady with several parcels, asked if he could help.

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She said: “I'd be grateful if you would. The porters seem too busy to notice the likes of me.” The Duke found a seat, and, putting the parcel on the rack said: “Now I think you will be quite comfortable.” Then, replied the old lady: “Yes. Thank you my man, and here's a threepenny bit. You've earned it.”

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"I don't suppose you get paid like this every day," and the Duke responded: "No, indeed, I don't." The Duke speaking humourously of this event said: "It was the only money he had ever earned," and he wore that threepenny-bit on one of his watch chains.

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## Moor Memories - John Bunting

"I remember talking to a landowner at Langsett, and I said, 'We could fight for it but we can't walk on it', and I trained as an anti tank gunner on Langsett moor and he said, 'You made a right mess of it too!'"

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## Next edition

In the next edition of the Clarion Ramblers podscroll we will take a closer look at "The King of the Ramblers", and take a walk to **Ward's Piece** - an area of Lose Hill, that was given to him by the Ramblers Association in 1945, and which he subsequently gifted to the National Trust.

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## Acknowledgements

Terry Howard and the Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorland (SCAM) for suggested the walk route and providing the direction instructions, David Sissons for his foreword and permission to use text from his book, and John Bunting for his memories.

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