



YHA (England and Wales)  
Youth Hostel Profile

compiled by the Association's volunteer archivist, John Martin, rev2020-01-01

Fulshaw Youth Hostel 1941 to 1951

Fulshaw House, Fulshaw Cross, Thurlstone, Sheffield

Historic County: Yorkshire  
(West Riding)

YHA Region: North Midlands

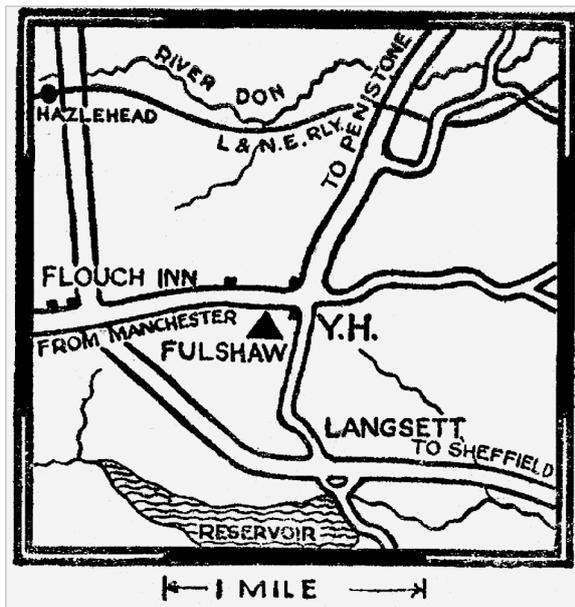
GR: SE 208015

Fulshaw House is a moorland farm three miles southwest of Penistone on the Manchester road and one mile north of Langsett. The hostel was in a stone barn adjoining the farm. The barn has since been substantially remodelled, though some internal features remain.

This accommodation hostel opened in 1941, with Mrs Beard as warden. It was one of the North's most primitive hostels, a tiny place with spartan facilities that included a vertical plank with footholds to the very low-ceilinged loft. The dormitory roof was of corrugated iron, and as at nearby Greenmoor there was a Scottish Stove. The loft provided the men's dorm (six beds), with the women's dorm (four beds) downstairs. Water was fetched from the horse-trough down the road.

Perhaps the simplest of these hostels is Fulshaw, which was formerly a stone barn, the bleak exterior of which gives no indication of the cheerfulness within. Those who prefer bog-trotting in its finest form would enjoy the wild uplands of Bleaklow or Cutgate, the finest of Derbyshire's tracks. Leaving the road near the Flouch Inn, a track leads to the left up Mickledon Edge, elevated moorland overlooking the infant Don, and over Cutgate bridlepath. From here one drops to the upper reaches of the Derwent (crossed at Slippery Stones), and follows a pleasant grassy track, larch-lined, to the road round the dams. This road is followed to the point where the Westend Riber enters the dam at a wooded creek, when a steep ascent through a plantation gives access once more to open moorland. After a mile or so one comes quite suddenly to the precipitous edge of Alport Castles. Right opposite across a narrow cleft looms the Tower, a black and forbidding rock looking almost man-made as it frowns over the quiet river valley.

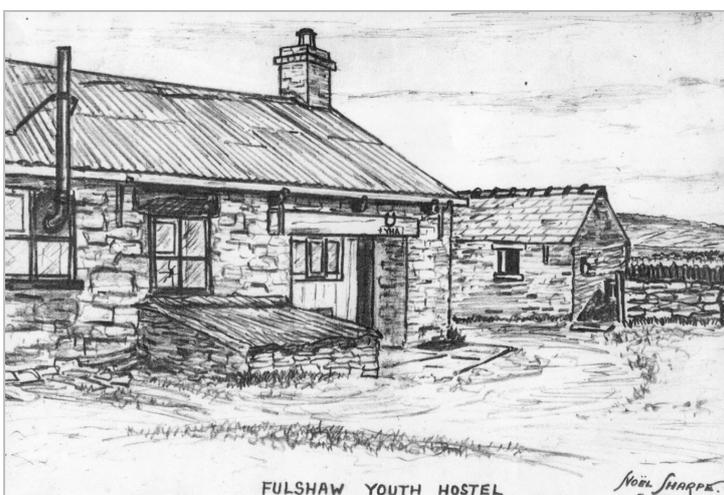
A path to the left follows the edge of the Castles and leads to a steep descent (look out for guide stakes) to the river Alport, Alport hamlet, and the cart track to Hayridge Farm and the Snake road. From here the way is easy to find, if less easy to follow – across the river Ashop by the ford and along the Roman road, and over the ridge between Win Hill and the Kinder plateau to Hope. The summit of the ridge is marked by an interesting signpost, the early 18th century Hope Cross.



These four hostels [Birley, Ewden, Greenmoor, Fulshaw] form a chain between the industrial districts of the West Riding and the major hostels of the Peak, and cover a type of country very different from the better known limestone district, a sandstone country varying from homely pasture to wild and open moorland, from streams and hidden valleys to barren crags, a country hitherto neglected by those who make for more famous beauty spots, but nonetheless enchanting in its changing moods to the walker who seeks the less trodden paths.

Article and map from the YHA Peak District Hostels Regional Guide, 1946. A later hostel was located at Langsett, further south

The hostel operated through the rest of the war years and up to the last day of 1951. The Region did all it could to keep the hostel going, but the warden wished to close. Some 15 years later YHA opened a new purpose-built hostel at nearby Langsett to replace Ewden.



Noël sketched this as we awaited the opening of the hostel which was on the road from Penistone over Woodhead about 3/4 mile from the Fouch Inn. It accommodated 8M & 4F. The men's dormitory was the roof space accessed by a vertical plank with footholds fastened to the chimney breast. GA

1: a homely photograph of the hostellers in Fulshaw's simple and cramped common room by J Briggs;  
 2: 1944 sketch by Doncaster YHA member Noël Sharpe donated by his companion GA Norris (both images YHA Archive)

**Overnights – inclusive periods each year as follows**  
 1941-1952: previous Oct to Sept

\*137 bednights were shared with Brassington Hostel in the final 3 months of 1951

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
...	213	620	752	871	858	758	791	798	open
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
855	728	137*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

YHA is indebted to Les Cartledge for extra historical detail of Fulshaw hostel.

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