

Ballidon and the Tissington Trail

14¼ miles: Moderately strenuous

Two moderately steep descents and one long but gradual climb. Beware of quarry traffic between Bradbourne Mill and Ballidon Quarry. Mountain bike/hybrid recommended. Allow 2–3 hours.

1 Turn left from the campsite entrance and left again down Chapel Lane, passing the chapel after a short distance. **2** At the end of the lane, turn left over the former railway bridge (Tissington Trail) and follow the lane beyond for one mile (crossing several cattle grids) before descending sharply to a ford (foot-bridge to left). **3** Turn left past Bradbourne Mill and follow the B5056, ignoring the right turn to Bradbourne. **4** After ¾ mile, turn left (signposted to Ballidon and Parwich). **5** Take the first right (“Ballidon (only)”) and ride past the isolated church on your right, then through the hamlet of Ballidon. **6** Beyond the quarry entrance, keep right along Roystone Lane. **7** Pass a further quarry entrance and keep on along the lane to a cattle grid. **8** Follow the narrow lane beyond up the dale, climbing steadily for a mile to Roystone Grange, passing a former engine house (now a barn) and a gate. **9** After Roystone Grange, the track descends slightly to a cattle grid and then proceeds to a gate by some cottages, then climbs again to Minninglow Lane (National Cycle Network 548). **10** Turn left and descend to Parwich Lane. Cross carefully and continue along the track opposite. **11** After another gradual climb, turn right through a gate to continue on NCN 548. **12** After a second gate, the track finally levels off to reach a third. **13** Head straight on, ignoring the turning (signposted “Green Lane”) on your right. **14** Beyond another gate, the loosely surfaced track descends quite steeply (take care). **15** On reaching the main road, cross and turn right, then turn immediately left (signposted to Biggin). **16** Beyond a bungalow and just before a railway bridge, dismount and turn right through a gate onto a path. **17** On reaching the Tissington Trail, double-back left to pass over the bridge. **18** Follow the gently descending Trail through a shallow limestone cutting. **19** Cross two more bridges and pass through a deeper cutting with an overbridge. **20** When the Trail runs close to the A515, there is an opportunity to leave the trail where there may be a mobile food van on the main road; otherwise continue along the Trail. **21** Beyond another overbridge you reach a car park on the site of the former Alsop-en-le-Dale Station, beyond which is another possible refreshment opportunity at Newton House tea rooms. **22** Beyond Newton House the Trail swings eastwards, away from the main road, and bridges a farm track near Newton Grange Farm on the right, before heading along an embankment and under a bridge. **23** Pass under another bridge, then, just after a third overbridge, dismount at a footpath sign to “Tissington and Parwich” on your right and mount a flight of six steps. Turn right, to meet Flatts Lane by the bridge. **24** Turn left and ride the short distance back to the site.



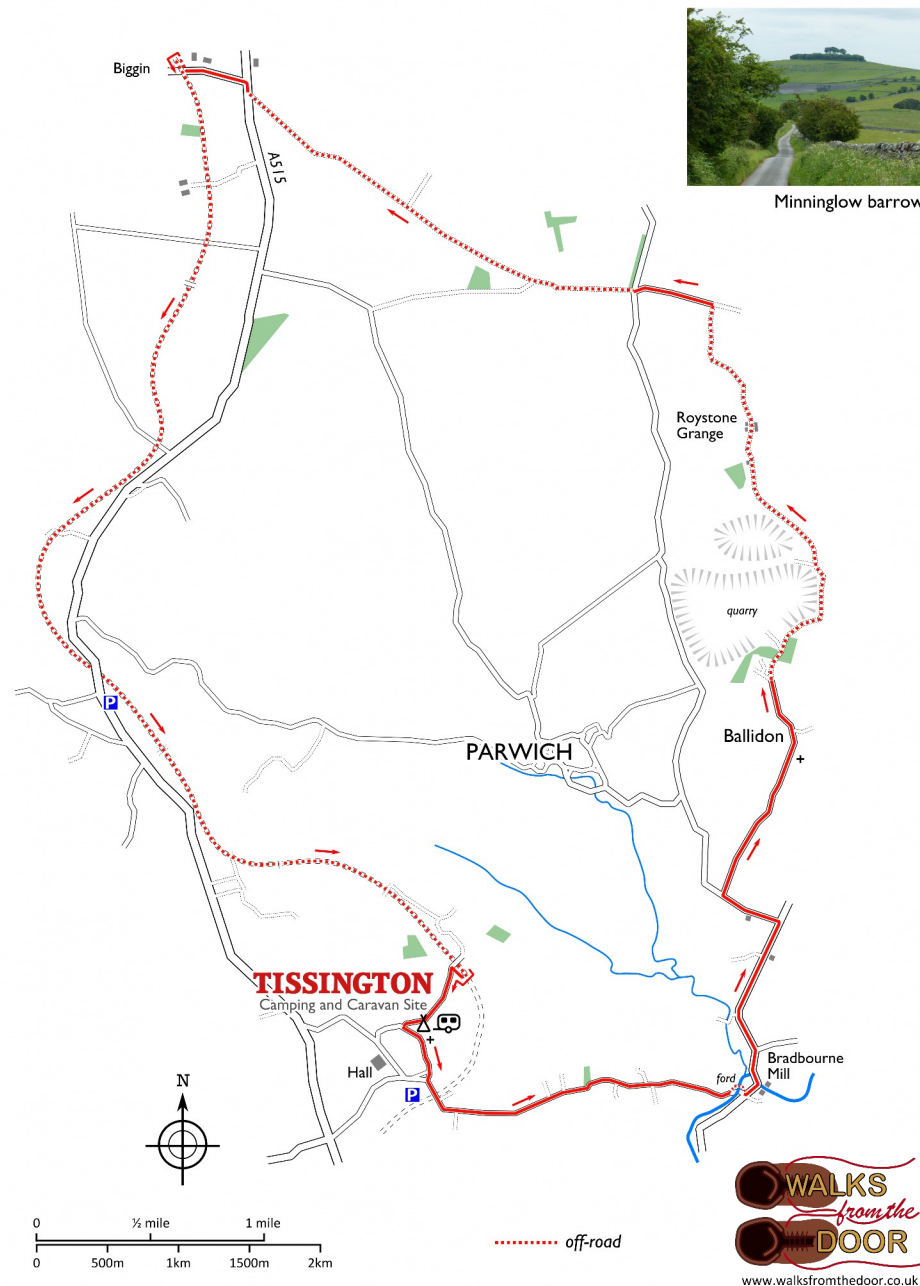
The Tissington Trail runs for 13 miles from Parsley Hay to Ashbourne. It follows a former railway line that opened in 1899 and closed in the 1960s.



All Saints' Church, Ballidon, is 12th-century in origin, but was rebuilt in 1883. Documentary and archeological evidence shows that Ballidon was once a much larger settlement than it is today.



The ford at Bradbourne, close to the Grade II listed Bradbourne Mill.

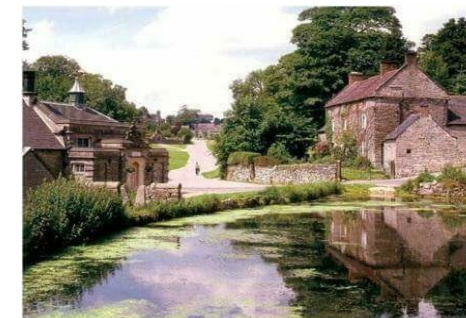


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Three Walks and a Ride from TISSINGTON Camping and Caravan Site



Tissington Trail stroll (2¼/3 miles)

A mostly level stroll through meadows and along a stretch of the former railway line.

Parwich circular (4½ miles)

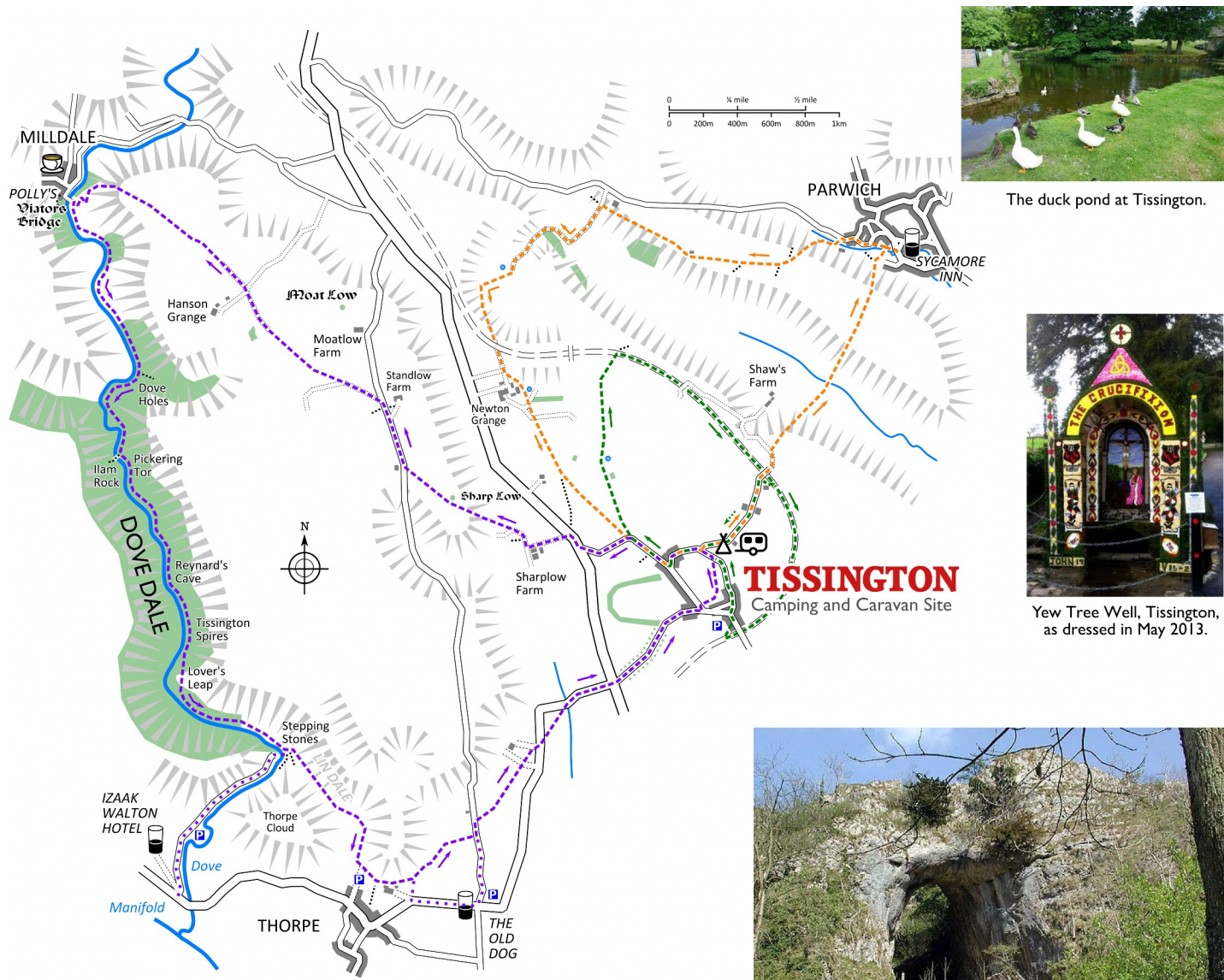
Walk to a picturesque village green and pub, returning via pasture land.

Dovedale (8¼ miles)

An all-day Peak District classic, with refreshment opportunities en route.

Ballidon & Tissington Trail (14¼ miles)

Mostly on off-road tracks and cycle-ways.



Tissington Trail stroll

(2¼ or 3 miles: Easy)

Allow 1–1½ hours. Mostly level; wet grass after rain.

1 From the campsite entrance, turn left and walk down Sawpit Hill to the Hands Well. **2** Turn right and follow the road past Town Head Farm and out of the village. **3** When the road bends left, take the walled footpath straight ahead (ignore another path just to the left). **4** Beyond a gate, follow the path along the left-hand edge of a series of fields, climbing gradually. **5** The path descends then bears slightly right to meet the Tissington Trail. **6** Turn right and follow the Trail,

passing under a bridge after 500 yards. **7** Just after a second bridge, a signpost up some steps on the right indicates the shorter route via Flatts Lane back to the campsite. For the longer route, continue along the Trail until you reach the Tissington car park, just beyond a third overbridge. **8** Leave the Trail here and walk out to the road. **9** Take a few steps to your left, then turn right into Chapel Lane. **10** Follow Chapel Lane for quarter of a mile back to the site.

Parwich circular

(4½ miles: Moderate)

Muddy spots and wet grass in places after rain; several moderate climbs, and numerous stiles. Allow 2½ hours. Refreshments available at the Sycamore Inn, Parwich (1½ miles).

1 From the campsite entrance, turn right into Flatts Lane. **2** Follow the lane to the old railway bridge. **3** Cross the Tissington Trail and the cattle grid at the entrance to Shaws Farm. **4** Follow the track round to the left, then turn off onto a downhill footpath to the right (signposted “Parwich 1½ miles”). **5** Walk down the field to a wall stile to the right of a gateway and continue close to the edge of the field to a squeeze stile. **6** Descend to a footbridge. **7** Climb the valley side beyond, to a stile and plank bridge. **8** Follow the left-hand side of the next field, then cross the next to a squeeze stile in the far left-hand corner. **9** Descend to another stile, then turn right along the wall to a stile into a small wood. **10** Follow the narrow path to Parwich village green. **11** Cross the stream. (For the Sycamore Inn, turn right.) **12** To continue, turn left and follow the streamside path between stone buildings. **13** When you meet the village street, turn left to pass Parwich Cave in a limestone outcrop on the left. **14** Pass the Methodist Church, and a junction with a narrow lane leading up to the school, both on the right. **15** At the end of the village and beyond a farm entrance on the left, turn left through a hand gate next to a farm gate, and cross the stream. **16** Turn right then bear left uphill to a gate in the hedge on your right. **17** Cross half-left to a further gate in the far corner. **18** Follow a short hedged path into another field, where you follow the right-hand hedge, before deviating slightly left to a squeeze stile and gate. **19** Aim left of two large ash trees ahead, to a gate in a ruinous wall, then aim left of an isolated stone barn. **20** Beyond the barn, keep along the contour to a step stile in a hedge, then cross a narrow field to a further double stile. **21** Skirt to the left of the grounds of the large house ahead of you (Parwich Lees). **22** Beyond the house, descend to a concealed stile into a track. **23** Turn left and follow the track to the valley bottom, beyond which it bends right to a gate then left, up a side valley. Pass an old limekiln and quarry on your left. **24** At the top of the valley by a sheepfold, go through a gate and turn immediately right, up the side of the field. **25** When you encounter a squeeze stile in the wall on your right, turn left and cross the field, keeping right of a wall on the far side to a step stile. **26** Walk along the bottom of the next field, to a bridge under the Tissington Trail. **27** Follow the farm track beyond, ignoring a turning to the right, then, before the farm, turn left onto a footpath. **28** This skirts the farm, passing below a barn on the right and a pond on the left, to a squeeze stile below power lines. **29** Cross a farm track with stiles on either side and climb the slope to a hand gate. **30** Cross the field beyond, and another farm track. **31** Continue in similar fashion across two more fields, climbing to the circular earthwork of a former lead pit. **32** In the next field, bear slightly left and descend to another hand gate. **33** After two more fields you reach the road. Head straight on into Tissington village. **34** Pass Town Head Farm on your right, then turn left at the Hands Well. **35** Walk up Sawpit Hill back to the campsite.



The duck pond at Tissington.



Yew Tree Well, Tissington, as dressed in May 2013.



Reynards Cave, one of the spectacular limestone landforms for which Dovedale is famous. A hoard of Roman and Late Iron Age coins was found in the cave beyond the arch in 2014.

Dovedale

(8¼ miles: Moderately strenuous)

Muddy spots and wet grass in places after rain; one steep descent, and some rocky sections in Dovedale. Allow 4–5 hours. Refreshments available just off-route at Polly's (Milldale), the Izaak Walton Hotel (Ilam) and the Old Dog (Thorpe).

1 From the campsite entrance, turn left and walk down Sawpit Hill to the Hands Well. **2** Turn right and follow the road past Town Head Farm and out of the village. **3** Follow the road round to the left and uphill to the main road. **4** Turn right along the main road for a short distance then cross over and walk down the track to Sharplow Farm. **5** Beyond the farmhouse, turn right and follow the track. **6** When the track bends left, follow a footpath to a gate on the right. **7** Cross the next field to a projecting wall corner then a further gate, then pass to the left of the wooded Sharp Low barrow at the top of the hill. **8** Beyond another gate, descend the field diagonally to meet the road opposite a barn conversion, and turn right. **9** Follow the road for ¼ mile, past Standlow Farm on the right, then turn left into the track to Bostern Grange Farm. **10** Follow the track until it meets a wall, then follow the wall to a stile and gate. **11** Continue to another gate level with a wood on the left, then follow a track beyond. **12** Pass to the right of a farm, crossing the entrance track and following the track opposite. **13** Keep to the left of a series of descending fields, then drop steeply to Viator's Bridge. **14** Turn left to follow the riverside path downstream. **15** Walk down Dovedale, keeping to the left bank and passing the large round openings of Dove Holes, the pinnacles of Ilam Rock and Pickering Tor and the natural arch of Reynard's Cave. **16** After approximately 2 miles, when the path divides, take the left-hand fork and climb to Lover's Leap, before descending again. **17** At the stepping stones turn left through a gate, away from the river and to the left of the wall (or for the Isaak Walton Hotel, cross the stepping stones and follow the road; see map). **18** Climb Lin Dale; keep straight on at the top. **19** Pass to the right of an old quarry then bear left above a wall (ignoring the obvious track ahead); pass behind a hotel and bear left when you meet the Limestone Way (turn right here to visit the Old Dog; see map). **20** Pass the bottom of the rifle range, then pass through two hand gates either side of a sheepfold. **21** Follow the field edge beyond to a squeeze stile, then continue to a narrow lane. **22** Turn left for 100 yards, then turn right through a wooden gate next to a field gate. **23** Cross a series of fields and then a gravelled track to emerge into a road. **24** Take the footpath opposite and bear half-left to rejoin the road in the far corner by a stream. **25** Turn right and walk up to the main road. **26** Cross and pass through the gates, following the avenue beyond as it curves back to Tissington. **27** Beyond the Yew Tree Well, turn left at the triangle, then immediately turn right through the gates into the churchyard. **28** Pass to the right of the church building to a gate in the far right-hand corner of the churchyard. **29** Cross the field diagonally to a step stile in the left-hand wall, next to a farm gate. **30** Follow the left-hand field edge beyond to a gate and stile into Chapel Lane, and turn left to return to the site.