

## 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.

## Dovedale

8¼ miles: Fairly 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 Izaak 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.

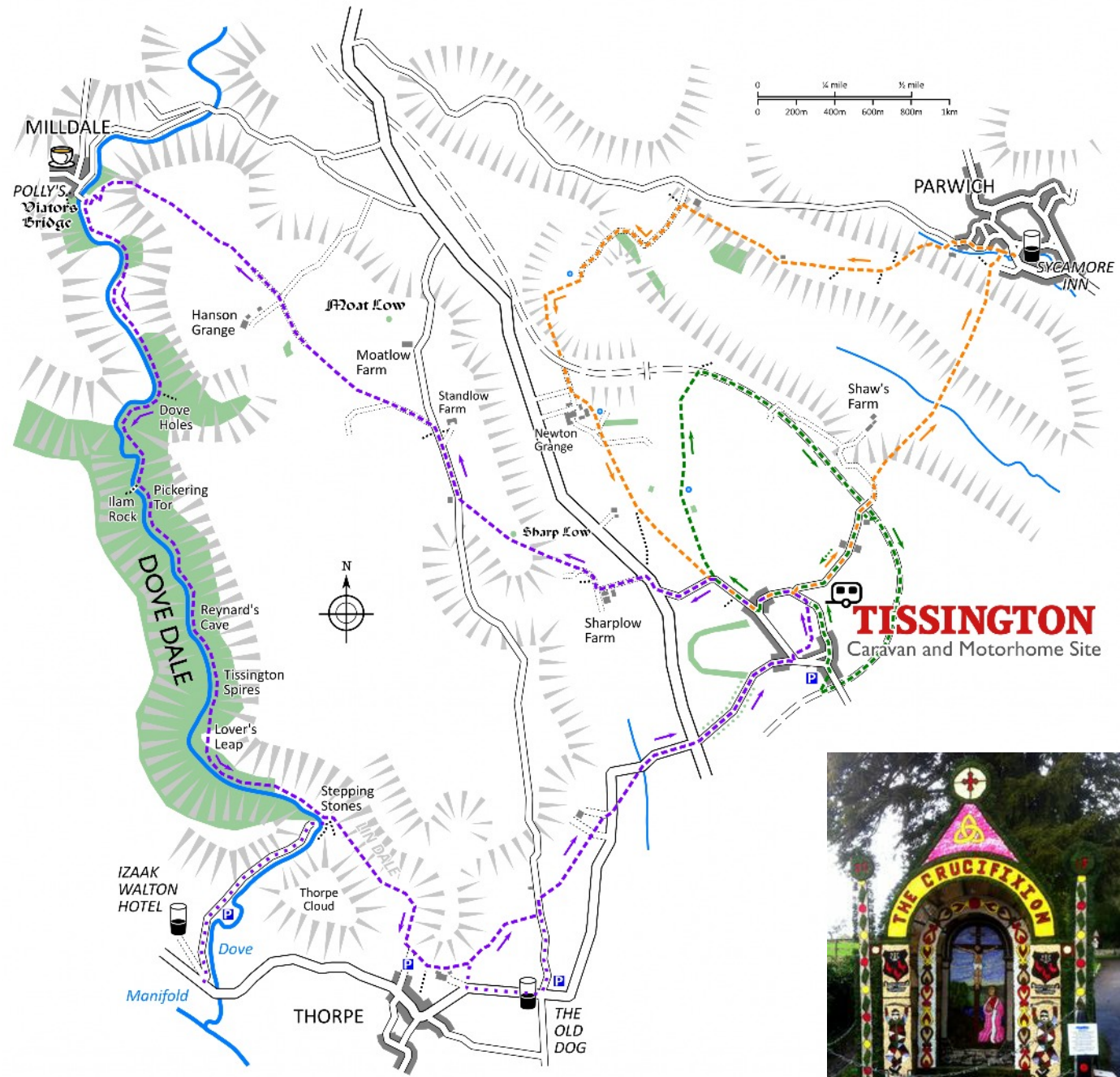


Reynard's Cave is one of the spectacular limestone landforms for which Dovedale is famous. A hoard of Roman and late Iron Age coins was found in the cave beyond the arch in 2014.



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



## Six Walks and Cycle Rides from

# TISSINGTON

Caravan and Motorhome Site



**Tissington Trail**  
(2¼/3 miles)

**Parwich circular**  
(4½ miles)

**Dovedale**  
(8¼ miles)

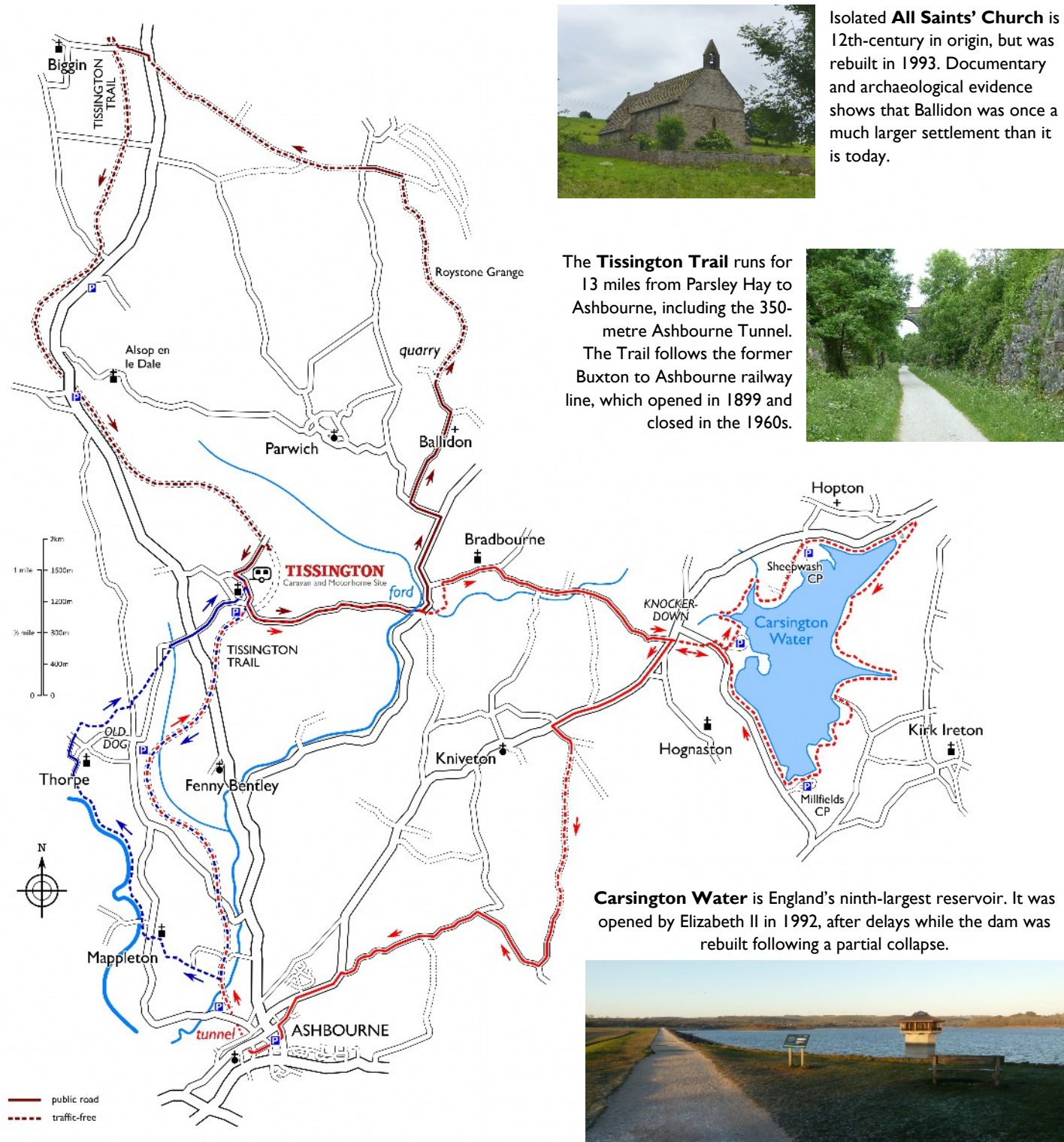
**Mapleton & Thorpe**  
(8¼ miles)

**Ballidon**  
(14¼ miles)

**Carsington Water**  
(24 miles)

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## Tissington Trail, Mappleton & Thorpe

8¾ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 4–5 hours. Two moderate climbs. Paths may be muddy in places.

**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 Chapel Lane, turn left and then right, down to the signposted Tissington Trail car park. Beyond the toilet block, join the trail. **3** After a little over half a mile, cross the A515 and continue along the Trail. **4** A similar distance further on, pass a car park (the Old Dog pub is a short walk away up the hill). **5** A mile and half further down the Trail, cross Spend Lane. **6** The Trail runs below Haywood Farm and over the entrance drive to Callow Top. Shortly afterwards, ignore a footpath on the right then, just before a gate beyond which the Trail drops sharply, a signposted second footpath crosses perpendicularly. Turn right down steps to a stile and go over the stile into a field. **7** Climb steeply to a gate near the top right-hand corner and follow the fenced path along the side of the next field. **8** At the top of the slope, follow the right-hand side of the next field. **9** Cross a service road within the campsite onto a fenced path (signposted 'Mappleton') to a footbridge and gate at the far side of the campground. **10** Cross the field to a squeeze-stile and gate and follow the hedge beyond downhill to a gap in the hedge. **11** Turn right and follow the descending path along the top of the next field. **12** After a couple of field boundaries, the path descends diagonally towards Mappleton village. **13** Walk behind the Okeover Arms pub, then go through a gate on the left into the churchyard and walk out past the church to the road. **14** Cross and take a few steps to the left, then turn right into a field just before the pub. **15** Bear half-right across the grass to a gate into the road near the bridge over the Dove, beyond a house (the Okeover Almshouses) on your right. **16** Cross straight over the road and take the path upstream alongside the river. **17** After a couple of fields, the path takes a short-cut across a meander then rejoins the riverbank, shortly crossing a narrow wooden footbridge over a side-stream. **18** After a series of riverside fields, the path reaches a gate into a wood. Cross a bridge and turn immediately right, following the 'Thorpe' waymark post. **19** This path climbs alongside the stream gully to start with, then leaves the stream and winds uphill through scrub to a gate at the bottom of a field. **20** Climb steeply up the shoulder of land to a gate in the corner of a paddock below a house. **21** Continue to a second gate into a road. **22** Turn right through the gate and follow the road to St Leonard's Church. **23** Keep left past the postbox into Digmire Lane at the top of Hall Lane, passing the village hall on your left. **24** Beyond Woodland Close, follow the lane round to the right and continue past the end of Glebe Lane to a T-junction opposite a bus stop. **25** Cross over into a parking area and continue through a gate by the house at the end. Follow the track to a small quarry, and turn right (away from Thorpe Cloud, the prominent hill to your left). **26** Pass behind a hotel and bear left when you meet the Limestone Way (turn right here to visit the Old Dog; see map overleaf).

Now follow steps **20–30** of the **Dovedale** walk (overleaf) to return to Tissington.

## Ballidon bike ride

14¼ miles: Moderate



**An undulating ride including limestone trackways and easy riding on the Tissington Trail.**

*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 (footbridge 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.

## Carsington Water bike ride

24 miles: Fairly strenuous



**A hilly ride including an off-road circuit of Carsington Water, returning via the historic town of Ashbourne and a section of the Tissington Trail.**

*Several significant ascents and descents; expect traffic in Ashbourne. Some off-road sections are unsuitable for road bikes.*

**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 (footbridge to left). **3** Beyond, go up the short metalled path on the right and cross the road to a gate. **4** Follow route 54A (now off-road) down to a footbridge over the stream and then uphill to skirt a building and reach Mill Lane. **5** Turn right and ride uphill into Bradbourne. **6** Beyond the church, turn right (signposted to Carsington and Kniveton, and still on route 54A/547). **7** Follow this road for a mile and half to the B5035. **8** Cross over and follow route 54A to Dam Road. Cross and follow the cyclepath down to the Severn Trent visitor centre at Carsington Water. **9** Turn left through a barrier and follow route 54A to the left of the coach park. **10** At the end of the parking area, turn left onto the dual-use reservoir circuit. **11** Keep left by the Wildlife Centre and continue around an inlet of the reservoir, descending to a bridge at the head and swinging right. **12** The route bears left round a second inlet, again crossing a bridge at its head, then swings left on returning to the main reservoir. **13** Beyond the entrance to Shiningford Farm and the Bombing Tower, the circuit follows a hedged track to Sheepwash car park. **14** At the head of the car park, join a path that runs close to and parallel to the road. Beyond a birdwatching screen by a gate, at the extremity of the reservoir the track swings right, around a reedy inlet. This section of the trail is hillier than the western side. **15** At the top of a rise, keep right at a fork. The path runs alternately through wooded and fieldside sections, gradually swinging east round a major inlet. It climbs to cross open fields past a carved wooden chair, before dropping down to a gate and rounding the head of the inlet. **16** On regaining the main reservoir, the track swings left then meets a metalled road. **17** Turn left briefly, passing Upperfield Farm, then turn right through a gate to rejoin the track around the reservoir, which climbs away from the reservoir then descends back towards the shore. Just beyond a building on the right, keep right at a fork, following the track round a bay and bearing right at another fork as you approach the Millfields car park. **18** Keep right of the car park and toilet block and, just before the road, follow a parallel path on the right which leads to the end of the dam. Cross the dam, passing the valve tower. **19** When you reach the sailing club entrance, turn left out to the road and turn right. **20** Beyond the entrance to the main Severn Trent visitor centre, rejoin route 54A when it crosses the road and retrace your route briefly to the B5035. **21** Turn left along the B-road, ignoring two turnings to Hognaston on the left. Climb over Hognaston Winn, passing the Trent DVOR air traffic control antenna on the left, opposite the entrance to Winn

Farm. **22** After descending for 500 metres, turn left at a staggered junction into a lane marked "Unsuitable for motors". **23** Swing right at a gate then, at a fork, take the right-hand track. **24** Beyond the summit of Madge Hill, descend a long hill (loose surface) past the houses at Woodhead then follow the metalled lane beyond. **25** At a T-junction at the bottom, turn right across the stream and climb to another T-junction. **26** Turn left (signposted "Ashbourne") and ride down to cross a stream and up the other side, continuing until you meet the B5035 road. **27** Turn left then, beyond a zebra crossing, turn left again (Cokayne Avenue, signposted "Town Centre"), past a school and park. **28** At Madge's Corner, turn left, then dismount at the traffic lights and cross the road. **29** Walk through the car park and to the left of the Waitrose supermarket to emerge by the old bridge. **30** Follow King Edward Street opposite, then turn right to meet Station Road. **31** A few steps to your right, a gap in the railings opposite gives access to the Tissington Trail. **32** Join the trail, remount and turn right to pass through the Ashbourne Tunnel (350m, lit). **33** On emerging from the tunnel, pass the cycle hire centre and follow the Trail down the hill to Bentley Brook and up the other side. **34** Follow the Tissington Trail for 2 miles. Shortly before the bridge over the A515, there is an opportunity to visit the Old Dog pub from a car park on the left. **35** Otherwise, continue over the main road and follow the Trail for a further ¾ mile to the car park at the old Tissington station. **36** Leave the Trail here and, at the car park entrance, turn left then immediately right into Chapel Lane. Follow the lane back to the campsite.

**Thorpe Cloud** (287 m) dominates the village from which it gets its name. It is a 'reef knoll', the remains of an ancient coral reef, and the steep climb is rewarded with fine views over the stepping stones and the lower stretches of Dovedale.

