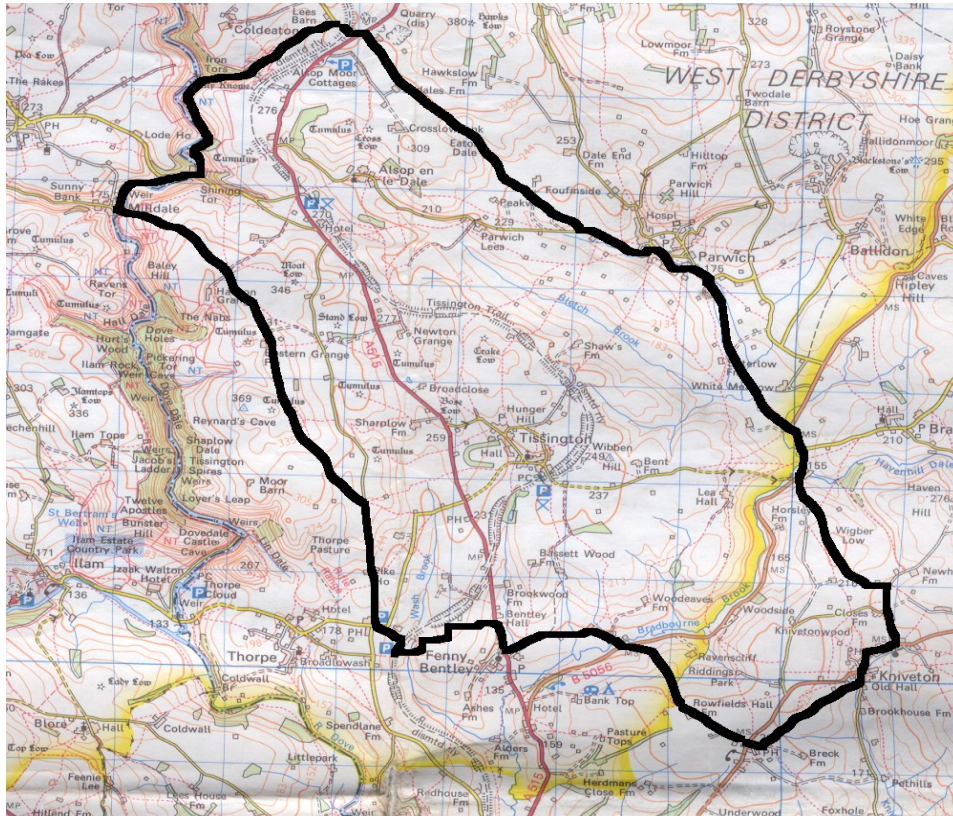


WALK 11.
KNIVETON 11.
17.7 miles. 5 hours 40 minutes.
Map SK. 04/14. SK24/34. White Peak.



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Start at Kniveton (211504), on the White Peak Map. A Roman road later called Hereward Street ran through here; the Normans built a church of which only the S porch remains. The family named Kniveton is remembered in remnants of stained glass, and for the lovely flagon and chalice, which were given by Lady Frances in 1572. Sir Andrew Kniveton became so impoverished through his loyalty to King Charles 1 that he had to sell most of his family estates.

From the B.5035, take a lane signed Offcote which goes to the left just SW of the Parish Church and walk SW down the lane with a stream on the right. Kniveton Post Office is on the left. At the footpath sign, go right over a footbridge over the stream and walk for 20 yards through an untidy area, then turn right to go up a steep bank through woodland, go through a wooden fence in 20 yards, then continue up a bank on the left in to a field.

Change now to SK.24/34. Go SW through the middle of the field, making for a gap in the distant hedge, then through this into the next field which slopes away down to the left to the stream and Cliff Cottage and Brookhouse Farm. Walk SW uphill to a small, narrow metal gate, which is on the right of a farm gate. Climb gently uphill SW to where the field levels out as you approach another gateway with a metal gate to its side. Proceed through this, level going through the next field toward a gateway with a gritstone slot stile on its right. Once through this, turn sharply left and walk S with a hedge on one's left, going slightly downhill to the remains of a slot

stile. Turn right, hedge on right, and in 20 yards go through a good gritstone slot stile and enter the next field. Level going.

Turn now to SK.04/14. Walk SW through a fairly large field keeping close to the hedge on the left, making for an open gateway. Continue SW through the middle of this field until the drive to Breck Farm is reached, then turn right to walk E along this good drive to a minor road at (197493). There are one or two dwellings here and a pub. Go straight across the road and up a farm drive. Pass Rowfield Farm on one's left, then Brunswood Farm, walking NW up to Rowfield Hall Farm, which has a good sign. Keep to the left of this farm: go through a farm gate, leaving the good farm drive behind. A stream flows on one's left. Walk now along what seems to be a continuation of the farm drive with a hedge on either side. Pass a gritstone slot stile on one's right and go forward to a wooden contraption which might pass for a gate, then walk on level ground through a field with evidence of former lead mining round about: mounds and depressions. Away to the right, a stream winds its way down through a thin line of trees, which fills the little valley. Change to White Peak Map. Go through an open gateway in the hedge, downhill a little into the next field, then walk with an enormous holly hedge on one's left. As you walk NW, the land falls away sharply on the right, some sparse woodland on one's left. Pass through a gap in the hedge in front, go down to a farm gate, and out on to a road at (186503).

Turn left to go SW down this road for some 30 yards, then turn right up a lane to go over a substantial bridge over Bentley Brook, walking N then NNW past Woodeaves Mill, then pass The Priory on the right and a lane to Lees Farm on the left. Go into a field, walking uphill N to a sign indicating Parwich one way, and Tissington the other. At this point, bear left across a field, going W to a gritstone slot stile, then downhill to Lees Farm through a gateway, then across the farm drive, keeping to the left of the farm. Enter a field, go slightly downhill SW for 100 yards to a gate with massive gritstone gateposts, and a neat wooden slot stile on its right. Continue in the same direction for about 100 yards to a small stream which is crossed by a concrete footbridge with wooden handrails, then go uphill gently for about 40 yards: note the route follows overhead cables here. There is a good gritstone slot stile in the hedge leading to a field which is level; again, the cables are overhead and a stone building on one's left. In about 200 yards, you come to a slot stile next to a gate, and so into the next field, fairly level going, keeping near to the hedge on one's left for about 300 yards where there is a farm gate with a neat slot stile which has a wooden gate.

Go along a lane down to a footbridge over a stream and out on to the road at (175503) and in to Fenny Bentley. The little Bentley brook is mentioned in Izaak Walton's "The Complete Angler" thanks to its trout and grayling. The old hall has a striking appearance though now a farm: the square mediaeval tower is part of the old manor house of John Beresford who fought at Agincourt. His monument, one of the most extraordinary of its kind, stands in the Parish Church. Both he and his wife Agnes lie in shrouds tied above the head and at the ankles. There is a similar tomb in Chesterfield Parish Church.

Cross the road, go through the Churchyard and out the other side. Turn left, then in 100 yards, a lane and stile signed "Public Footpath to Thorpe". Enter a field going W uphill with a hedge on the right. In about 150 yards, there is a gritstone slot stile and a farm building on the left. Continue uphill, hedge on right, to a wooden stile with a step and bars across, neatly made; then pleasant walking to a similar stile and so into a field, level going with hedge on left and a view of Thorpe Cloud ahead. About 300 yards of pleasant walking brings you down to a slot stile in a fence, then into a field, going downhill with views ahead of people walking on the Trail. You come down to a substantial footbridge made of a concrete slab, then up a steep bank to a wooden gate and so on to the Tissington Trail at (167503).

Turn right, walk N for 100 yards, then leave the Trail on the left, passing the Station House, going WNW up a lane toward the "Dog and Partridge" Hotel where we bear right to go N up a lane for 600 yards, passing Pike House (162510), climbing steadily as we go to a metal farm gate in front which gives access to an open area where mounds and depressions tell of former lead

mining. The drive levels out and you come to a stile on each side of the road at (162517): take the one on the left (signed Dovedale), then go NW through a field, level going, one or two stone buildings in the vicinity, one of them being a strange, circular construction in a quarry – probably a mine once. Pass a pond on the left as you go downhill, then up the opposite bank, bearing right to an obvious stile signed by a post bearing several arrows and a notice stating that this is only a concessionary path. Nevertheless, the stile is well made, with excellent stone steps cemented in to the wall. Continue in the same direction through the next field, cutting the corner on your left by going through an open gateway into a field, then gaining height very gently through a large field and up to a slot stile in a limestone wall in order to walk NNW alongside a stone wall on one's left. Hollington Barn is just visible away to the right.

Pass a small outcrop of rocks, gaining height as you go, until the next stone wall is reached and in it a shallow slot stile with a number of stones lying around. A yellow arrow indicates that this is, in fact, the correct way, so, into the next field, wall on left, and up to the next stile, which is a wide slot in a limestone wall with a wooden post at either side with a wooden bar across it. With the wall still on one's left, continue through the field, a small copse away to the left, and so up to the next slot stile in the wall. In the next field, there is, on the left, a big barn-like construction, and ahead on left, a high stone building over a kind of tunnel – probably a mine – very impressive. Go straight on to the next stile in a limestone wall: a good stile made of two upright limestone slabs. There is no stile in the next wall, but a large gap gives access to a field through which one walks slightly more to the W up to the wall ahead and through another gap (no stile). Losing height gently in the next field, you come to a slot stile with a wooden step. Level going now, but the ground falls away to the left. Go to another slot stile with a wooden step in it, then make for Bostern Grange ahead, (153533), its name indicating that it might well have belonged to a monastery in mediaeval times when the Grange was an outlying sheep farm run by the lay brothers.

There is a good slot stile to the right of a farm gate leading in to the farmyard, neatly concreted; go through a metal farm gate, (farm buildings to the left), then out in to a field, going N to a wall containing a slot stile with the addition of a small ladder. You lose height as you approach the next wall, which has a good stile with a step on its left. Go NW with a stone wall on the right to a signpost

indicating a junction of several footpaths. Continue NW with wall on right, to the next stile which is on the left of a farm gate; go into the next field, level going, and this is where you have the irritating task, especially in wind, of turning the map over (150539). There is a copse away to one's left. Keep well to the right of Hanson Grange and make for a signpost ahead with four arms: Nabs Dale to the left; Tissington behind us; Alsop to your right; Milldale ahead: we make for Milldale. Go NW with a wall on the left, level going just here, and making for the wall ahead which has a gritstone slot stile on the right of a gateway. Still level going with the wall on the left, you come up to a wall in front where there is a signpost near a concrete drinking trough, and a slot stile on the right of a farm gate. It's downhill now, to Milldale, wall on left, to a poor wooden gate with a good slot stile on its left. Downhill again to an open gateway with a stile on its right, then continuing to a wall and a farm gate, to the right is the slot stile, its stones cemented in place: not quite how it used to be done. You drop down fairly steeply now to the dale below with its famous Viators Bridge over the River Dove (139547). The bridge got its name from "The Complete Angler" 1653 in which the angler, Charles Cotton, has a dialogue with a traveller (Viator).

Walk N then E with the River Dove on one's right along the road, then cross over the river. Just beyond the bridge, go left down some steps at (146551), then walk N, this time with the river on one's left to a unusual double stile in 200 yards; one of the uprights bears an inscription. Pass through more stiles until a footbridge is reached, and another memorial, to J.F. Holloway "who loved this place, who could not". On then, to a wooden gate with a stile on either side, and so to Coldeaton Bridge at (146561), a stone building nearby. Ahead is Iron Tors, a little dale which was presented to the National Trust by ICI, the first gift the NT. ever received from a commercial

undertaking. At this point, leave the River Dove, turn right to walk E, then NE through this delightful dale, dry, with steep slopes, a few impressive outcrops, a scree and woods to the left; turn the map over. The path gains height; the dale narrows then levels out. A limestone wall is reached: it has a good slot stile and step. Continue with a wall on the left as Lees Barn gets nearer, its copse of trees looking very striking; then out on to the road at (157567).

Turn right: walk SE under Tissington Trail to a road junction. Turn left and walk 30 yards NE on the A.515, then turn off to the right at the entrance of a Caravan Park, then in 20 yards go through stile on your right, then downhill to a good slot stile in a limestone wall. Note, at this point, that you can see a line of slot stiles ahead, pointing the way. A hundred yards walking brings you to the next good stile. Away to the left is a disused quarry. A hundred yards again brings you to a slot stile in a high wall; eighty yards ahead is the next stile and the next in another eighty. Look back: there is the line of stiles again. With the wall on one's right, walk uphill to a small open area on your right, angle slightly right to a stile in the facing limestone wall, then walk SE with Oxdales Farm on the right. The path leaves the farm behind and continues through the middle of a field down to a wall where there is a gate. Continue SSE through the middle of the next field; there are two copses on the left, the nearest being Eatondale Wood. Then path now goes through a tiny dale, Eaton Dale; the next stile it reaches consists of wooden bars across a slot stile with a new and ominous electric fence on either side. Make for a metal gate, then bear right to a ruined barn which is marked on the map and so into the next field through which go SE to the far corner and through a open gateway (no stile); cut the corner to a good slot stile in the wall.

Middlehill Farm is on the left as you go SE through the middle of the next field, making for the farm drive which you cross: do not go through the open gateway. Keep the wall on your right: there is a poor slot stile in about 20 yards near a tree. The farm drive is now away to the right as you go SE through the field to a wooden slot stile in a fence. Go in the same direction through the next field toward Middlehill Barn Farm where there is a slot stile in the corner, the farm now close on the right. Go SE through the next field down to a neat little wooden gate on the right of a farm gate, then downhill to another wooden gate at a gritstone slot stile, and, thus, out on to the road at a signpost (181546). Walk E on this road to Parwich, passing a small Methodist Church. The parish church of St Peter was rebuilt in 1873 but retains some of its Norman work. Parwich Hall is a large, five-bay house of three storeys, probably completed in 1747. Follow the road through the village, walking SE, then turn off right through a slot stile in the boundary of the football field at (190542). Keep to the wall on the left to reach a brook.

Coming under the wall on the left, you follow this to two stiles in a hedge. Go through these and follow the brook on your left to a lane.

Cross the lane buildings on your right, to a slot stile: enter a field and walk SSE, level going, a stream on the left until you cross it (no footbridge), then continue to go SSE through the middle of alluvial land to a metal gate, then another in 200 yards further on; a slot stile on its left is covered with barbed wire. In another 200 yards of level walking you come to a gate from which you proceed SSE, crossing over a farm drive to Sitterlow Farm on the right. At the next hedge go through an open gateway and make for a footbridge of concrete with handrails. Continue SE, through another long, open field, White Meadow away to the left, then cross a small stream by a large stone and arrive at a gritstone slot stile close to which is a wooden slot stile. As you approach the road, the stream snakes nearer, and there is a glimpse of Bradbourne Church ahead. In 30 yards, you go over a stream again by a stone slab, then proceed to an excellent slot stile in a wall on the left of a farm gate, then out on to a road at (199525).

Turn right: walk S along the B.5056; pass the junction where a road goes off to Bradbourne, continue SSE. Pass Bradbourne Mill on the left; then, where the road forks right to a ford and Tissington, go left over a rudimentary stile at (201521) and climb up a steep farm drive, going S to a footpath signpost at the top. Go to the left to a metal gate, then up a disused lane, going SE to a wooden gate, then into a field, and soon back into the lane again. A farm is down to the right. Wigber Low rises to the left. Go through a gate; keep the wall on your right, branch to the left

away from Longrose Farm which is away to the right. Follow a thin line of trees which seems to mark a former lane or track which curves to the left following a fence which goes E towards a farm. Go over or through an old metal gate into a lane which seems to have been forgotten by man and beast for centuries; go E along it to a farm which is muddy in bad weather, then along a farm drive to a minor road. Turn right: go S. Note the signpost here. You arrive at some houses, go straight on in the same direction to Kniverton and the start of the walk.

Completed. 20 May 2002