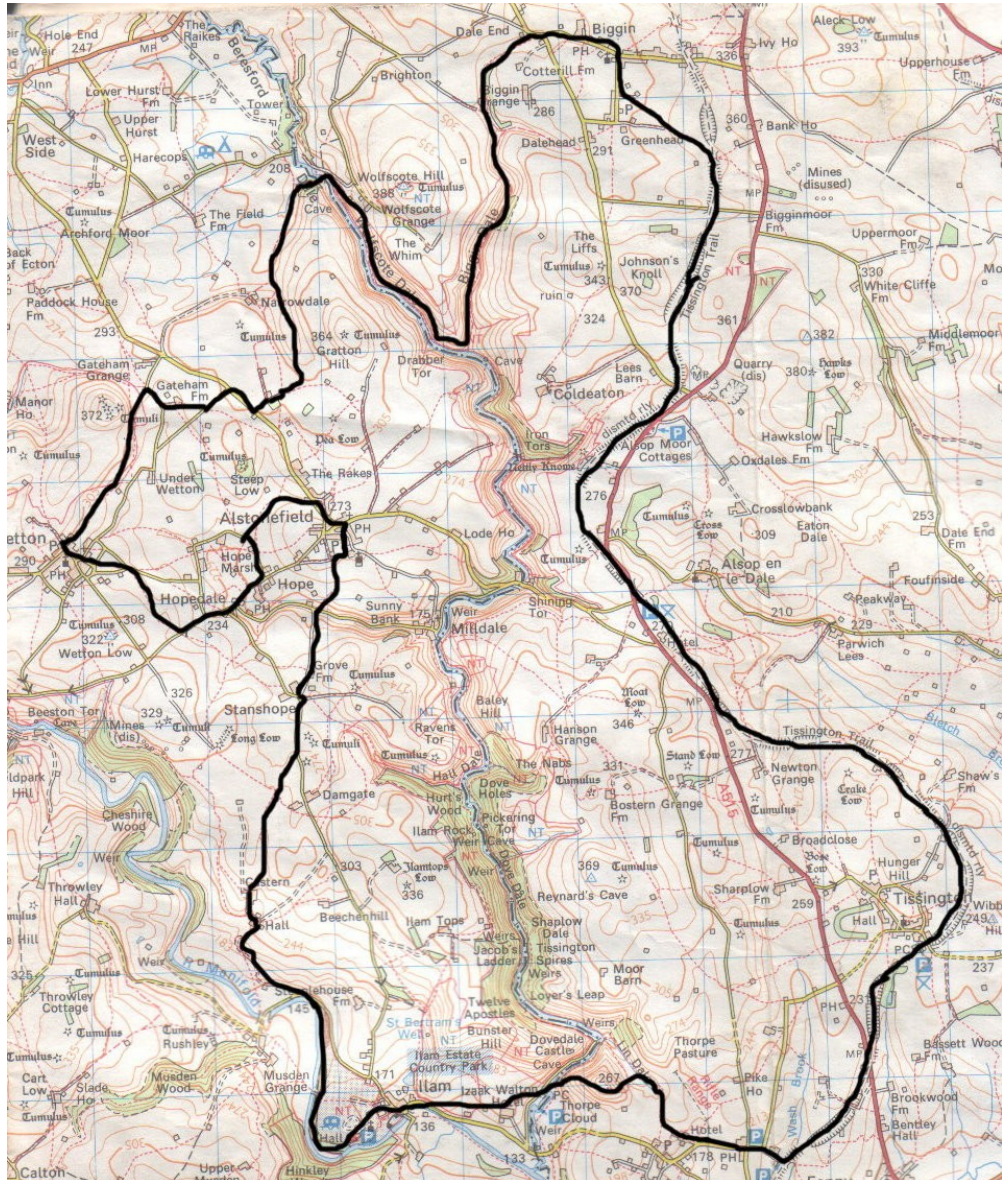


Walk. 46
Biggin. 46.
23.5 Miles.
Map- White Peak.



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Start at Biggin (155593). Walk W along the road to a metal gate on the L with a slot and sign, then down a lane, a hard surface with wall on either side, Cotteral Farm to the R. the track narrows then walk into the Biggin Dale. Then a single wall on the R and a steep bank on the L. the dale gets deeper but always bare. At a wall in front there is a poor stile: A sign indicates the route ahead into the dale S; the going is pleasant. Come to a junction of Dales: go R with wall on the L, the dale getting deeper. Through a wall then the dale curves to the L round a spur, Ferny Bottom is to the R; the dale is still bare. Go through a gate wall on L, the dale then curves to the R, descending gently to trees and an indifferent stile. The path is now wide and stony; on the R, a tree grows right out of the

limestone rock itself. There are great, impressive scarps high on the R as Biggin Dale joins Wolfscote Dale. Turn R and walk NW alongside the River Dove.

The Dove flows quietly down on the L; Drabber Tor is on its other side: the rocks give an impression of strength; scree falls to the waters edge. Come to a stile with two metal pipes across it. Further on are more outcrops with caves in them. (At the time these caves were formed, they show the level of the dale). Periods of heavy water flow formed these limestone dales. At a N.T. sign "Wolfscoates Dale" pass a footbridge on the L to enter a wide area to arrive at a footbridge at 128586; there are stepping stones on its L. Cross the bridge but do not go R up Beresford Dale but go straight up the road for a few metres go L at a gate, a poor slot on its R, and enter a field walking S with wall on R. ahead is a conical hill "Narrowdale Hill", a farm nestling at its base. Follow the wall to a metal gate, and then take a good wide track along an old farm drive, going now SW to a metal gate with stone steps on its R; the wall is now on the L. The old drive eventually bears to the R to the farm, but go straight on to a poor slot to turn up Narrow Dale.

Go S uphill to a wall in front, no stile, then continue on the L of this shallow dale, a wall on the R, near the top bear to the R of the dale, wall on the L to come to the top from which Hartington can be seen through the gap in the dale. Bear R now to a rusty gate and enter a lane, wall either side to walk SW on a good grassy track; trees stand ahead and Alstonefield away to the L. Pass the lonely Greed hills Cottage on the R with Narrowdale Hill behind it; Wetton Hill is in front. Come down to a road at 124565.

Bear R and walk 300 metres NW. Wetton Hill is now on the L at a bridle path and a sign to Wetton turn L and walk on it for 300 metres to a sign and a slot which leads into a field; the path comes to the buildings of Gateham Farm. Go between a gap between Wetton Hill and Narrowdale Hill to the R. through the gap to come to the boundary wall in it is a slot which leads into the farmyard. Go forward to a gate, slot on the R, and down a concrete drive to a road at 117566. Turn R; walk NW passing a belt of trees on the L beyond this is a gate to the L, a good slot on its L, then enter a field. Level walking towards Wetton Hill, and a far wall; trees on the L, and a good slot. In the next field, there stands a NT sign: "Wetton Hill". Turn L and walk S, level going, wall and trees away to the L; the hill on the R. The countryside has now opened up; good views. Not far ahead is a stile in a wall on the L. then turn R and walk SW to a wall with two stiles; cut the R corner to the topmost stile, Enter a field where the walking is pleasant, the road down to the L a good slot in the next wall, go through the field to a slot in a wall, a small farm building to the L, the path rising a little. Continue up to a wall and slot. Continue with wall on the R to a stile, then level going to a slot in the corner. Go through a cultivated area of shrubs and in a few yards to a fence and step stile on the R, then back into a field again with wall on the R and a farm on the L. a slot in the next wall leads into a narrow field; with a glimpse of a Church Tower. In front is a farm building with windows closed up a slot on the R of a gate goes into a short lane and a gate to enter another lane; on the R is a sign to Ecton. Turn L and go down a road to Wetton at 109554.

The church looks interesting: it was rebuilt in 1820; the tower is quite old, older than the C.15 battlements and pinnacles. In the churchyard lies Samuel Carrington who assisted Thomas Bateman in his extensive excavations, especially in the nearby Thor's Cave which yielded remains of Iron Age and Romano-British occupation.

With the church on the R, walk SE then go L at a simple junction (there is a circular stone wall in a small green). Do not go R in 80 metres but continue past the old chapel on the L to the last building (Town End Farm), then go R at a drive, gate on the L, stile on the R of a gate, then go NE through a field downhill. There are views over Dove Dale and many hillocks break up the scene. Go through a gap in a wall into a field and descend gently, wall on R, to a slot in the next R corner; it cannot be seen until nearly on to it. Continue downhill through the next field to a slot. Then downhill through the next field then level out towards a gate in front. At this point, look for stone steps in the wall to the L of a gate to enter a lane, then walk through Windledale Hollow. Go SE down the lane to a slot at a gate, and so out on to a road at Brook Lodge (119554).

Bear L; go NE 200 metres to a slot in a wall on R and into a field. Go through a gateway on L into another field to a good slot in a wall. Go 25 metres, hedge on L, to a slot at a tree, then E through a field to two stiles: take that one on the L with a hand rail then go NE, wall on R to a gate, slot on R, into a lane, wall on L, going NE uphill towards houses on a skyline. Go through a slot into a field, wall on R, to a slot and wooden screen in wall in front. Go diagonally uphill through the field in front. Steep Low is prominent on the L. In the top L corner, there is a slot. Walk with wall on the R to a corner and a step stile into the road at Alstonefield. (127560). A visit to the church is worth while to see among other things, Cotton's canopied pew painted green.

Facing the church gateway, go R through a slot between two gritstones, carved, shaped and tooled, along a narrow jitty to another slot between grits into a field. Alstonfield was a veritable junction for packhorse ways: this one leads to Stanshope. Go to a half slot with steps either side into a field, going S now hedge on the R. there is a large gap in the corner ahead at a huge tree which leads into a small field and a small gate, slot on L; then out on to a steep bank and down to the road at 129549 (Dale Bottom). Go straight across the road and up a grassy lane which levels out. Grove Farm has some interesting touches: gabled, dressings, quoins; but note, to the R, the most unusual brick building: Grange Farm with yellow lintels and prominent chimney stacks. You Come to a road at 128542, then go S along it: the view on the L down the deeply incised Hall Dale.

In 500 metres, there is, on the R, a little step in a slot to enter a field and walk SW, climbing up to a wall and a slot to continue uphill to the far wall and a high step over into a field to continue uphill, wall on R, to a wall and a large gap where there was once a stile. With a wall on the R in the next field, climb up to the corner and a slot with steps, then downhill, wall on R, fine views over the Manifold. There is, in the next corner; a nondescript stile but the going good in the next field, wall on R, descending to another poor stile and another good field, wall still on the R. only halfway along the next field, look far a poor stile in the wall on the R and enter a field, bearing L, going S. Note the view to Throwley Hall and the undulating hills. Come now to a farm gate and an unusual metal slot; enter the farm. You come now to a farm gate and an unusual metal slot; enter the farm. Bear R on a concrete yard; do not go to the L through the farm area but walk 40 metres uphill, wall on L, to a circular water trough at the top where the drive goes off to the R. at this point, note that the farmer has helpfully written in red paint the directions for several footpaths. Squeeze between the trough in the wall; keep close to the wall on the L and walk 20 metres to a slot in the wall. Go L through this, then down to a farm gate, no stile, out on to a tarmac drive, then turn R.

Follow the drive down past Castern Hall. From the back, the hall appears to be irregular, with a strange arched alcove and a window in the wrong place. From the front it has a pleasing regular pattern of five bays; the central one protruding slightly, pilasters at the doorway which is flat-headed, a central window above the doorway has a pediment. There are splendid wrought iron gates between stone piers; early C.18.

Follow the drive down to the river level at 127518, then take the road going SE which comes to River Lodge. Over the doorway is inscribed that the first stone of River Lodge was laid by Jemima, Countess of Monrgelas, in May 1840. This is of absolutely no use to walkers who push open the metal gate and enter the garden of River Lodge to walk on a riverside path through private property on payment of 1P. It is worth 1p to walk alongside the river through trees, going S on a firm, level path to a metal slot at a point where a well used footbridge crosses the river from huge gritstone pavers on one side to equally huge stones on the other. Do not cross the footbridge but go straight on to a stile and a good track, passing the Battle Cross and arriving at Ilam Hall which was built inn 1821-6, later reduced in size, given to the N.T. and now used as a Youth Hostel. A visit to the Holy Cross Parish Church should not be missed. It was rebuilt by Jesse Watts Russell who built Ilam Hall. In his memorial Chapel stands an impressive monument by Chantrey (1831). Also impressive is the tomb with alabaster effigies of Robert Neverell and his wife (1626). Robert was the last male heir of the Meveralls who owned Throwley Old Hall. He was a benefactor of this church when it was rebuilt in 1611; his initials, with others, are carved above a doorway and may still be seen. There are two late Anglo-Saxon crosses in the Churchyard.

Go through the village where the houses bear the imprint of the hall, as do most estate villages. Here they have prominent barge-boarding, half-timbering and tile-hanging. The prominent cross is a memorial to the wife of Russell who liked to think of it as being in the tradition of the Eleanor Crosses. Go L here along the road to Thorpe for about 100 metres to a little wooden gate on the L and enter a field to be faced with a N.T. sign to Buster Hill, and another of the metal signs erected by the PDANCFPS, No 123 dated 1950, erected in memory of a R.A. member, J.T. Robinson. Walk E on a good track to a farm gate, slot on L, and continue through a field, level going towards Thorpe Cloud which rears up in front, Bunster Hill to the L. in the next wall, there is a swing gate then proceed to a stile ahead. The Isaac Walton Hotel lying close on the R. yet another metal sign of the PDANCFPS approaches, dated 1960, there go through a slot stile, then descend to a double step stile,. Pass through young saplings down to the boundary fence and a stile, and another metal sign, dated 1976, at 147509.

Turn L on the road. To the R is a car park and picnic area. Walk NE up the road passing the Isaac Walton Gauging Station and come to a Footbridge over the river and a N.T.sign "Thorpe Cloud". Enjoy! the steep climb to the top, view the landscape around, then descend to the SE to a swing gate which admits to a field through which leads to a far wall on the R, then go through a stile between gritstones into a field then to a slot in a low wall. Cross another narrow field to a wooden stile, then out on to the road at 159505 near the Peveral Hotel.

Turn L and walk NE uphill, passing the Dog and Partridge and heading on to the Tissington Trail. Walk N, and arrive at the trail car park. Continue along the trail to Tissington which is worth stopping to look around, the village duck pond; the church largely rebuilt in 1854. The tombs of the Fitzherberts rest there. The Hall where the Fitzherberts have lived for the last 400 years is a Jacobean building, a plain front with no roof visible and no gables and recent additions.

Then back to the trail and continue N for about 4 kilometres to a point at 162585. Leave the trail at this point on the L, going down a bank to a wooden stile at a bridge, then go L to a gate, no stile into a field. Walk NW across the field to a wall containing stone steps which are not easy to see. Cross the next field to a broken wall, then go 50 metres to a gap in a wall, and likewise another gap in the next wall. Here, walk with a wall on the R to come to a farm gate, no stile, and enter a grassy lane, passing a coal depot on the R, and so down to the road at 155590 in Biggin. Turn R and walk N to the road junction and the start.

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