

WALK 102.
Parsley Hay 102.
24-7 miles. 6 hours 55 minutes.
Map White Peak.



“Reproduced by kind permission of Ordnance Survey”
Crown Copyright NC/02/308704.

Start at Parsley Hay picnic site on the old railway trail at 146637. Walk S on the Tissington Trail. Go under a road at 148605, and then look out for a sign on the R to Heathcoate with a stile on the R. Then enter a field and walk close to wall on the R to a slot in the corner, then into a field, go over a broken wall at a stile. In the far corner, go through a gateway, into a lane to cross to another stile. Go diagonally through a large field, where to the L of a gateway is a step in a wall. Cut the L hand corner in the next field and make for a farm sheltering under trees; go through a slot in the wall into a field near a house where two wooden uprights provide a stile in the corner. Walk along a jitty for a few metres; house on the R and come to a stile and out on to a road at Heathcoate.

Bear R and walk for a hundred metres to Chapel Farm on the L. at a disused chapel, there is a gate and stile at the far side. A house now stands in front. In a few metres go through a gate on the R. now in a farmyard, go L through a gate into a field. Ignore a stile to the R; go forward to a wall and wide stile. Descend through a field close to a wall on the R. at the bottom; there are steps in a wall, then out on to the road at 145599.

Cross the road and walk up grassy lane, wall on either side, rising gently to a junction of lanes. Bear L then R in a few metres to another junction with signs and continue SW along this lane to a junction with a road and signs to keep to the same direction as before along a lane until it drops and turns to the L. in a few metres, go R over a stile in a low wall. Go diagonally through the field, cutting the L corner, and make for the wall on the L where there is poor stile in the wall. Enter a lane.

Descend through the lane which is overhung with trees. Cross a track and reach the base of Beresford Dale at 130584, where a footbridge crosses the River Dove. Do not take the bridge but go through a slot in the wall and walk S with river on the R: impressive limestone outcrops tower up on the L. continue down this celebrated dale to a wall and stile, the view ahead shows interlocking spurs. Another slot in a wall is where Biggin Dale joins the Dove. Then another slot and enter the

shade of trees. At this point (143568) go R across the river by means of stepping stones to climb up the far bank on a thin path that is slippery in wet weather.

The view to the L down the dale to the L is a remarkable view that is available from points such as this. Come to a stile in a wall. A sign N.T. states that this is Gypsy bank. Walk through a field to a stile with concrete slabs; it comes to a field to rise gently diagonally to the L up to a sign post that can be seen in the distance, get to a stile side of a gate. Pass a tree and go diagonally SW in the next field, where a wall has been removed: make again, for a sign that can be seen with a gate and slot it comes to a wall on left and farm buildings ahead.

Go a hundred metres to a gate, slot on L, the farm buildings on the R (a well build building), go 40 metres to a slot at the next gate, then proceed along a farm track, wall on R and a hundred metres to next gateway, then a further 70 metres to a gateway where the track becomes a lane. Then go through two more gateways to a junction at 134560.

Cross the lane to a stile in a wall and walk in the same direction through the next field to a large gap in the wall, then go R and walk close to the wall on the R to a stile; see Alstonfield ahead: go R to a hedge and walk close to the hedge the R to a wall; in 15 metres, there are stone steps up to a slot, then go through a narrow field to steps in a wall. Then bear L in a narrow field and make for the houses and gate, no stile, going L in a lane and so to road in Alstonfield (130558).

Near here are the remains of Beresford Hall where Charles Cotton lived 300 years ago and where he entertained Izaak Walton. The interesting church has Cotton's own canopied pew and more Jacobean woodwork. There are, also, fragments of Saxon Crosses. The village had one of the earliest charters for a market (1308), and was a busy centre for packhorse men.

Go more or less straight across the road down a lane, going W past an elegant house down to a slot at a gate, then enter a field and walk W close to wall on L to go through a gap with bar into a field, again wall on the L. away to the R is Steep Low. Go through slot in the wall and so into the next field where the wall is now on the R. the land rises to low hillocks, clumps of trees break the scene. A stile in the wall near a gate leads out on to a road at 124555.

Turn R and go about 300 metres to a slot in a wall on the R. bear L and rise gently through a rough field on a worn track to a metal gate with a slot on its L. Then still gently upwards to a wall on the R to the far corner and a gate, now walk with wall on R, level going; Steep Low fairly close on the R, level going. This landscape has been carved into low hills.

Go through a metal gate, then rise gently in a field, Rakes Plantation not far away on the L. through the next stile and go straight through a gate on the beaten track. Walk now close to wall on L to the next gate with stile on the R, and approach Stoneham Barn sheltered by trees. At a gate front of the barn, go L in a corner are steps in wall into a field to walk away from the wall and barn on the R, to a hedge in front where the stile is not easily seen. Go through and go for a stile ahead into a road at 119564.

Cross the minor road to a stile and enter a long field, Gateham Farm away to the R backed by trees, come to the far gate where a sign points the way to Alstonfield to reach a road at 117566. Bear R and walk NW along the road to a band of trees on the L. 30 metres beyond the trees, a gate on L has a slot on its L, and enter a field where several paths go off; take the footpath that goes WNW. A poor slot on the R of a gate that goes W around Wetton Hill. The land rises steeply this side of the Manifold.

Continue W but drop down into wet area getting close to hedge on R where great slabs of timber are used, and come, in a corner, to a limestone slot. Go NW up through a field, rising gently, Lees Farm up to the L. Come to a slot stile, cross a lane no longer used, to a mixed up stile, then climb a steep bank to a hard drive which comes from Lees Farm. Bear R, go 20 metres to a road which curves at this point like an Alpine Track. At the curve is a metal tank: go L here uphill and climb steeply, then level out and drop down to a point at 101573 where to go L down to Sugar Loaf.

Go R up a lane, walking N to Broad Ecton Farm to a metal gate, into a field, walking W uphill to another metal gate, then continue to climb, wall on R, to gateway, then into a field on R where go diagonally NW. this area is called Top of Ecton on map. At the far corner, go through gateway, into a field where to bear L and keep close to the wall on the L for 80 metres to a gateway in a corner, walking in the same direction, wall still on L now beginning to drop after all the climbing.

A cemented stile in front go through, then downhill for 40 metres faced with superb scenery, then, at the remains of a wall, go R and follow the wall, going NW downhill to the road near a house which viewed shows the traditional look of a gabled stone building. Go out on to the road at a slot at 093580.

Turn L and walk down to Ecton Bridge; cross it, then, in 40 metres, go R into an area marked as a car park. At this point, a tunnel goes L under the road: ignore it. Go forward on a hard track, trees either side, then, in 100 metres, go L at a farm gate there is a slot between wooden sleepers.

From the stile, go up a rough bank to a hedge to find a stile. Then bear R and walk through field, rising gently, a small stream in a tiny valley on the R. In 40 metres, go through an indifferent stile in a hedge, into a narrow field, a hedge of large trees on the R, a derelict farm building ahead, a fine example and well-built then go forward through a field to a gate with stile, a farm away to the L, then through a wet area to a metal gate with stile on the side, a holly tree either side with a farm with dressings an impressive vernacular building. From here go through a stile in a fence, on the L. at a metal gate go out on to a road at 086584.

Walk into Warslow whose church dates from 1820. Packhorse trains came through here with copper from the Ecton Mines, and a well attested route from Cheshire to Nottingham ran from Congleton to Winster passing through Warslow. The village came into the national orbit in 1781 when the Onecote to Newhaven Turnpike was advertised in the Derby Mercury.

Leave the village to the N where the Greyhound Inn stands opposite a disused chapel. Go R off the road here at the far end of the Inn into a rough area, then further on into a field, cutting the L hand corner to a slot into a field cutting the L hand corner to a stile in the wall on the L. On the L a school may be seen. Walk 40 metres close to the school fence to a stile in the hedge, then proceed to leave the school fence behind.

Go through a large field to a hedge whose base is a bank with two limestone uprights. In the next field, go L over rough ground to a fence with a stile to go into a field. Pass a small farm building and drop to a footbridge over a small stream (083593). Go N, climbing up through a field; following a bare remains of a ruined wall to a sunken area to then go L 40 metres up to a stile at side of a gate, into a level field, wall on the R.

In a short distance, the buildings of Hayes Cottages appear on the R and come to stone steps with a metal handrail and so up to a metal gate and go N into a field, hedge on R up to a farm building on the R. Go R here then immediately L so as to continue as before with building on R and wall on L. At a gate in front, there is a stile and then walk through a field close to wall for 100 metres to a farm building on R to go through a stile at a gate, then bear L to walk with wall on the L and building on the R; level going now, wall on the L, up to a gate which leads into a small area, wall on R, and slot in wall 20 metres in front; this is now gritstone country.

The next field is level walking, wall on the R, though leave the wall and go somewhat L in this large field, looking for a stile in a short section a wall in the far hedge, a tricky task in mist. Now enter a farm drive; cross it and walk with wall on R. A narrow area comes to farm buildings, Hayes Farm (082602). In the wall on the R, before the farm, is a stile between uprights. Go N through this and follow the black line on the map, by-passing the farm on the L, and come to a stile in a wall at the end of the first field. The second field is rough so make for the far corner, a metal gate and stile.

The aim now is to continue N to reach the road at 082612, passing through Spout Farm. The going is rough wet and reedy, the walls broken. Go through a stile in a wall in front to a wet area, then plod on until another stile is reached. Make for Spout Farm and the road. Bear R and go 100 metres as far as Kirkham Yard Farm on the R. at this point go L off the road at a stile, this leads to another wet rough area, walking N with hedge close on L to the far end and stile on the L of a gate. In the next field continue as before, hedge and fence on L for 40 metres to a stile to enter a lane; bear R and walk NW, wall either side farm on L.

The way forward is blocked, but there is a stile on the L to go into a field, wall on L. in a couple of hundred metres, following the wall on the L, go through a stile on L into a rough field to pass a cottage which is falling into disrepair. Come to a fence with poor stile to enter a grassy lane, bearing L, walking N for 40 metres to an open, wet, reedy area.

Now bear R and walk over rough ground. Pass a stile on the R and go straight on, it becomes a narrower lane but no easier and reaches a road at 088618.

Cross the road to a rough stile and walk NW through a level field, much easier walking than before, down to a stile in the far L corner, and notice a farm and road on the L. Gain the road on the L at the farm by going over a section of concrete and a stile in the wall. Then bear R and walk E down the road to a junction in 100 metres to then go L. Walk on the road the length of the field on the R to a curve in the road. A footpath sign on the R indicates a path do not take but go further along the road over a busy stream which would not take much rain to flood the road. In a short distance go R off the road through a stile at 092622. Bear L and walk NW through this field which is again rough and overgrown and make for a stile in a fence. In the next field, continue in the same direction, keeping close to the good hedge on the R and going through a stile between wooden uprights. In the next field, there is a hedge on the R; follow it to the far corner where a poor slot leads to a muddy area and the River Manifold. Ludbern Farm is up to the L.

Bear L and approach a stile in fence but go R instead, passing watercress growing in profusion and going over a stout wooden footbridge over the river at a place known to the pack horsemen as Ludburn Ford. This leads into a narrow field, wall on L and come to a gate in front, a stile on its L, and then into a rough, grassed lane, which, however produces a neat path eventually, and a cemented step stile in wall on the L, and so into a field: this walk has certainly produced a mixture of standards!

Walk N through the middle of this field, farm away to the R to a gap in the hedge in front, and, again, the walking is pleasant. Go through a slot in the hedge in front, the field is rougher; at its end, go through a stile with uprights in a wall and proceed in the same direction, wall on the R to a stile in the corner. The wall is on the L in the next field and a stile in a fence in 100 metres from which keep to wall on the R and come to a gate, near a farm. Enter a lane, go only 10 metres, then L through a stile into a large field, wall on R, to come to a stile in a hedge, then across the middle of the field, far up to the R.

Go down to the hedge and a stile marked by white paint. Continue N through a large field where, stands in proud isolation two wooden step stiles. Cross a drive to Over Booth Farm and make for a stile in front. And so now through a succession of fields by a pleasant river side walk to Longnor: first a field to leave by a slot between uprights; then to a slot in a fence, next a slot between stones, then one in a wall. Bear R in the next field to a stile in a wall, and then climb up through field to Folds End Farm to get over steps in a wall with a handrail. Proceed through the farm up to the main street in Longnor at 090649.

Bear R in this market town with a stone market hall, but in only a few hundred metres, go L off the road alongside a house and walk through a lane that climbs Top'th'Edge then curves R and comes to a gate, stile on L, then drops to a farm building where crude but useful letters declare footpath with arrow. On to the far end of this building to a sign and a gate, and walk NE downhill through a field, then up the other side and down again to Beggars Bridge (093657) over the Dove.

Walk NE up this narrow field for several hundred metres to a stile on the R; which do not take. But proceed up the road at 097661, then go N past High Weeldon (NT) on the R. in several hundred metres along the road go R at a gate and walk at the foot of High Weeldon to the E and SE for 400 metres to go L through a gap in a wall then climb steeply up a bank to steps over a wall, and out onto the road at 102662. Bear R and walk SE for a few metres before going L at a fork up a minor road, walking NE, down to the Royal Oak at Sparklow (127660). Cut down to the High Peak Trail and walk on it to Parsley Hay and the start.