

HARTINGTON, ALSTONFIELD, WOLFSCOTE DALE.

8½ MILES.

MAPS; O.S. Sheets. Landranger 119, Outdoor Leisure 24.

START; AT 128604, Hartington village square car park.

From the car park in Hartington walk past "The Charles Cotton Hotel" on your right up the B5054 Hulme End road. In a few yards just before the Ceramic Works and Shop on your left, turn right at the end of a wall in front of a row of stone houses.

Follow the wall and house wall to pass through a stone squeeze stile. Walk along a very narrow path between buildings, then between a fence and a wall. Pass through a gate, follow the fence path, then go over a stile.

Follow the line of the wall close on your left. Cross a wall stile. Cross the next five fields and five stiles maintaining a south-westerly direction. After the fifth stile turn left then immediately right onto the B5054 road. Follow the road uphill, crossing into Staffordshire, for about five-hundred and fifty yards, passing "Raikes Farm" on your right and "Lower Hurst Farm" entrance on your left.

Just past the "Little Raikes Footpath" sign and the cottage turn left signposted "Public Footpath" and the Staffordshire walking man sign. Cross the stile and descend the field keeping a wall on your left. Cross a stile and footbridge, walk up the large field ahead. Cross another stile.

Bear right up the field following the right-hand "Footpath" sign. Pass above the farm. Cross a waymarked fence and wall stile. Continue ahead to cross another waymarked fence and wall stile. Bear slightly left passing a tennis-court on your left. Cross a stile and walk straight ahead up the shallow field valley, keeping trees on your left and the steep bank on your right. Cross a fence and squeeze stile in the hawthorn hedge. Walk up the next two fields crossing two waymarked stiles. Turn left along the road.

Go straight on at the crossroads following the sign "Wetton 2¼ miles, Alstonfield 2½ miles".

In about five-hundred yards turn left through a stile at the "Footpath" sign by a gate. Continue ahead keeping the fence and wood close on your right. Cross a stile.

Follow the fence for a short way then at its corner keep straight on to a waymarked post and cross a footbridge.

Bear right across the field to cross a waymarked fence stile in the opposite hedge. Bear right again up the next field.

Cross a fence stile and bear slightly right downhill to cross another fence stile and a stream. Continue ahead up the shallow field valley and near the top turn left across a marshy area. Cross a fence stile. Walk up the field with a wall on your left for a short way. At the field corner bear slightly left away from the wall. Pass a barn a little way off on your left.

Keep straight on crossing the undulating field in the direction of road signs to be seen on the horizon. (Cross the stream at the best place you can find.) Walk up the steep field towards a gate and cross a waymarked stile just short of the gate.

Turn right up the road. At the crossroads keep straight on signposted "Wetton 1 1/4". Follow the road as it swings round to the left and then where it begins to swing right, cross into the field on the left. Follow the path diagonally left

to cross into the next field then keep to the right-hand boundary to reach the road (Long Lane). Cross over the lane into the fields on the other side. Cross the first two fields heading just to the right-hand of Stoneham Barn Farm.

Now head in a Bearing 160° keeping to the right boundary in the first two fields. Cross the centre of the third field.

Keep to the left-hand boundary of the fourth field and keep straight ahead on your Bearing 160° diagonally across the next two fields to exit out onto a road (Furlong Lane).

Turn left down the road for a few yards, and turn left at a footpath sign where the road starts to swing to the right.

Walk up the field keeping the wall on your left, cross a wooden stile and continue ahead with the wall now on your right to cross another stile. Cross a stile by a gate and enter a walled track which leads into "Alstonfield". At the T junction turn right. Walk through the village following the "Ashbourne" signs, passing the car park on your right, round a left-hand bend and passing the side of "The George Inn" and the village green on your right.

Follow the Lode Mill and Ashbourne road out of the village. Turn left at the second "Public Footpath" sign and walk along a walled track past two barns. Follow the track which has a sharp right and left hand bends, down to the top of "Gypsy Bank". Cross the stile. Bear right down the steep hillside to cross 'Coldeaton Bridge'. Turn left.

Follow the river Dove for two and a half miles through "Wolfscoate Dale" and "Beresford Dale", you will cross six stiles and two bridges. In a short distance after crossing the Dove over the second bridge, start to climb up away from the river. Go through a gated stile and keep straight on up the field path passing a waymarked post. Descend the field and pass through a stile by a gate.

Walk up the field, go through a broken wall and bear right uphill to another waymarked post. Cross two stiles on either side of a rough track. Follow the waymarked clearly-defined path to Hartington.

Pass through a small metal gate and down the steps by the toilets. Cross the forecourt of the Ceramic Works to join the B5054. Turn right into the village centre car park.

