

Viator's Bridge, Milldale



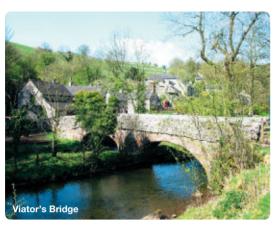












Route instructions

Park about 300yds (275m) west of Milldale and walk downstream from Viator's Bridge using the riverside path for just under 1 mile (1.6km).

1 The thin alkaline soil on the craggy valley sides, supports many semi-alpine plants such as thyme and dwarf cranesbill. Rock outcrops on the opposite bank are used by local rock climbers.

Turn left before Dove Holes and follow the direction of the finger post indicating Alsop le Dale. Climb the tree-lined dry dale. ½ mile (800m)

Dove Holes, These massive water-worn holes appear, at first glance, to be the start of an extensive cave system but are, in fact, only 20 ft (6m) deep. This is a good vantage point from which to view the dale.

The Nabs. These are the rocky crags guarding the exit fom this dry dale.

Turn left through a stile at the dale head and follow a series of stiles to the right of Hanson Grange Farm. Join its exit lane about 100yds (91m) beyond the farm.

4 Hanson Grange. There were several extensive monastic sheep walks in the area until the Dissolution. Hanson Grange was part of one. The farm house looks

Plan your walk



DISTANCE: 21/4 miles (3.6km)

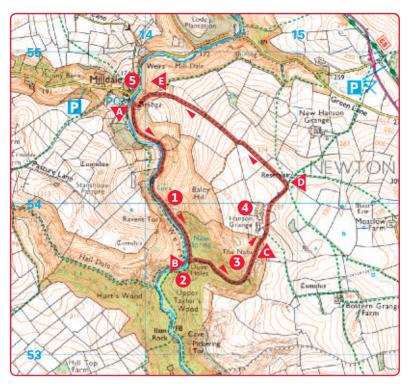
TIME: 11/4 hours

START/END: SK137548 Milldale

TERRAIN: Easy / Moderate

MAPS:

OS Landranger 119





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Jacobean but is probably built on older foundations.

At the end of the partly walled section of the farm lane, turn left as indicated by the signpost. Follow its direction across a series of fields, downhill towards Milldale. ¾ mile (1.2km)

Zigzag downhill on an ancient packhorse way into Milldale.

Milldale. The Dove is crossed by the narrow packhorse bridge known as Viator's Bridge. The bridge earned its name from a reference in Izaak Walton's

famous treatise, 'The Compleat Angler'. He referred to himself as Viator (The Traveller) and Cotton as Piscator (The Angler). To the left of the bridge stands part of Ochre Mill. It was powered by water which ran along the leat on the west side of the river below Shining Tor, Upstream was Lode Mill and the two mills gave Milldale its name.