

12km/7½ miles

4 hours

Jolly dales and views

Concessionary paths give access to splendid limestone scenery and one of the finest of the Derbyshire dales, including the intriguingly named Water-cum-Jolly Dale, where white vertical cliffs are reflected in the dam for the original Cressbrook Mill. The old quarries above Miller's Dale are now a nature reserve, and in spring give a fine display of wild flowers. The upland section of this walk gives good views of the area, and part of the disused Derby to Manchester rail line, now the Monsal Trail, is used on the return. By Derek Spiers.

signed path, R, into a field. A few metres downhill, go through a stile, L, cross the field to a stile beside a post, then across the next field to a waymarked stile. Cross several small fields using gates until signs guide you to the path down High Dale to a lane corner.

3 Walk up the lane and at the houses take track signed for Monsal Dale. This ascends gently. At a junction of tracks, at a tree, keep straight on, passing a signpost and following the main track. Soon, Monsal Dale appears down to the R, and Hob's House can be seen across the dale, with Fin Cop above. As you descend, Monsal Head is ahead. At a signpost, follow the track sharp L, descend to the Monsal Trail, the disused railway, joining it at old Monsal Dale station.

4 Follow the trail, L. Before a closed tunnel, a sign directs you, R. Follow main path as it descends to a footbridge to the start of Water-cum-Jolly Dale. D's Brew Stop (if open) is signed towards Cressbrook Mill. If path through the dale is flooded, go to lane at mill, turn L uphill past the school. Just past church, follow a signed track as it descends to Litton Mill.

5 Cross another bridge to walk between vertical cliffs and the dam. Continue on beautiful stretch of river. A section of old railway can be seen between tunnels. At Litton Mill, follow the track between the buildings to metalled road.

6 Near a telephone kiosk, a sign, L, directs you

The walk

1 From the car park, walk to the Monsal Trail and turn L. At the end of the viaduct, turn R on a concessionary path, climbing steps beside the limekilns. At the top, go over a stile and turn R, still uphill, to meet a level path. Turn back L and walk through the disused quarry. At the far end, the path bears R to ascend round the edge of the quarry. Through a gate, follow metal posts to a wall-stile. Go ahead across a field, then through a squeezer-stile. Continue ahead with a wall, R. Go over the next stile with the wall, L, but soon a stile takes you back to the other side. Past the next stile, head towards buildings, passing through a gap and squeezer-stiles. Near the buildings, go R to a stile on to a track. Turn L into Priestcliffe.

2 At the lane junction, turn L, then bear R on signed path past Stopes Cottage. Join a track from R, and a few metres uphill, take

DETAILS
Country Walking ID 2575
Mag Route 11, March 2006
Region East Midlands
Area Derbyshire
Length of walk 12km/7½ miles
Time needed 4 hours
Difficulty Moderate

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Tracks and field paths. Initial ascent, then easy walking
Suitable for children, dogs
Sites 10

PLANNING

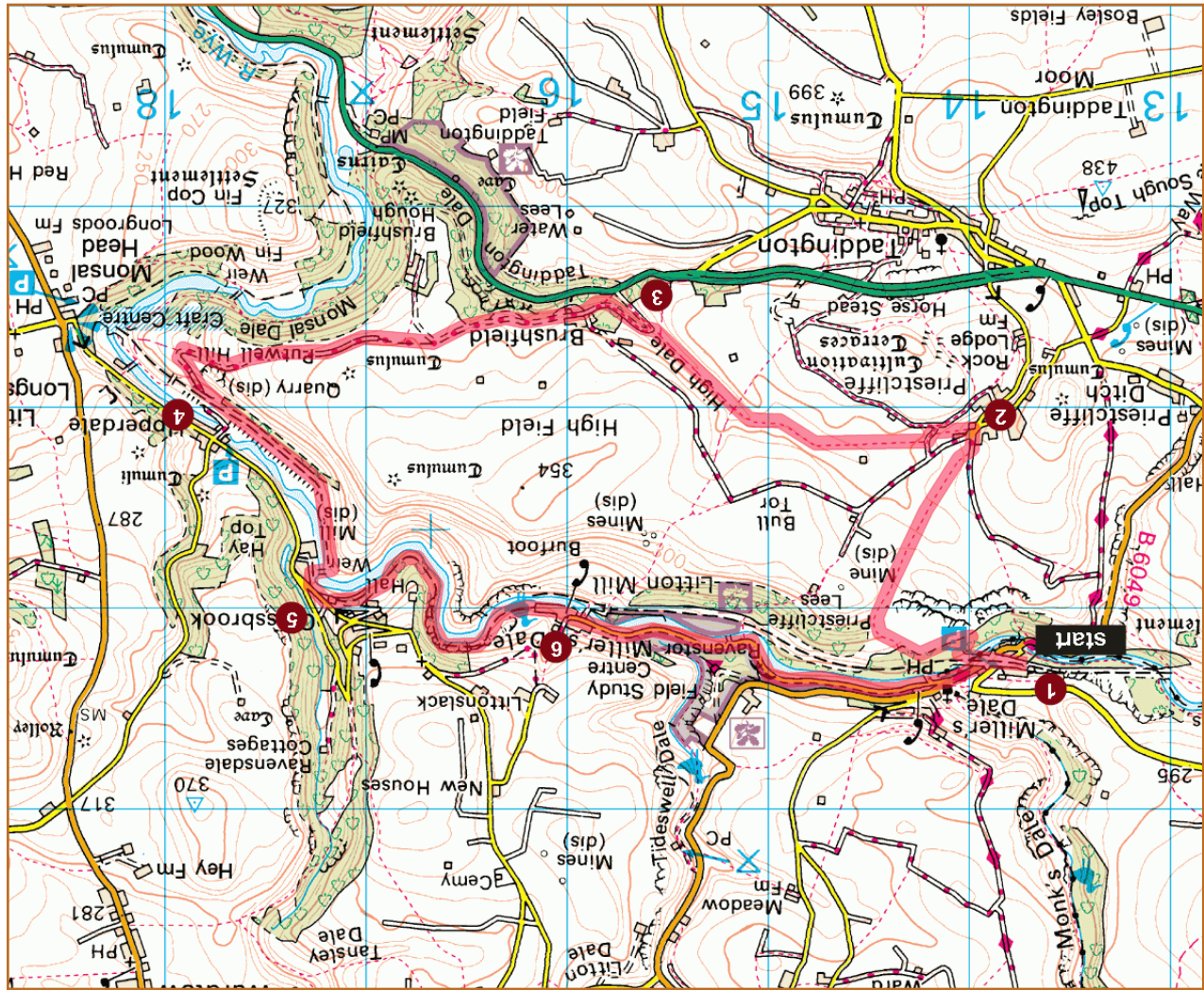
Parking Miller's Dale, off B6049 between Tideswell and the A6. Car park signed on road to Wormhill at old Miller's Dale station, grid ref SK138732
Start grid ref SK137733

Nearest town Buxton
Refreshments D's Brew Stop, a few metres from Point 5, pub just off route at Miller's Dale
Public toilets At start
Public transport Buses from Sheffield, Buxton and Chesterfield stop at Wormhill road junction

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24, Landranger 119

DEREK SPIERS



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