



## Okeover and Blore (8.7 miles, 14km)

### At A Glance

- Distance: 8.7 miles
- Time: 3 hours
- Grade: Moderate ●●●○○
- Terrain: Country lanes, trails and field paths
- Accessibility: Uneven ground, steps, stiles and gates
- Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24

*This beautiful route takes you into stunning open countryside on quiet trails and field paths, through the little village of Mapleton and into Okeover, past the magnificent 14th century country house estate of Okeover Hall. From there it passes through rolling fields to the pretty village of Blore, with incredible views across the hills and slopes of Dovedale, before winding back to the park. There is a dog-friendly pub in Mapleton for refreshments en route if needed, as well as plenty of great picnic spots!*

1. Leave the park by the main exit and carefully cross the road to join the lane immediately opposite (Spend Lane), signposted for Thorpe, Dovedale and Ilam. Take care walking along this lane as there are a few short sections with no pavement, but it is usually quiet.



2. After approx 500 metres look out for a railway bridge across the road. Immediately before the bridge go through the wooden gate on the right and take the path that twists up steps and emerges on to the Tissington Trail. Turn left and walk along this peaceful former railway track.

3. After approx 1km you'll see a wide wooden gate across the track. Just before the wooden gate are two public footpaths on the right hand side with steps leading down. Take the second of these two paths, the one almost immediately before the gate.

4. Go over the stile and walk uphill across the grass field, heading slightly diagonally right. Cross a further stile to emerge on to a broad grassy path. The path eventually narrows and tracks between two fences to the side of a large camping field. Cross straight over the road through the camp site and continue on the path directly ahead.

5. The path meets a small gate and emerges into a grassy field, with wonderful views across to the pretty village of Mapleton ahead. Cross the field, walking diagonally right, to go through a further gate and squeeze stile beside a tree.

6. Walk straight down along the field edge with a hedge to your right. At a wide gap in the hedge turn right and again follow the hedge line, continuing on the path towards the village you can see ahead of you.

7. After going through a gap in a hedge at the side of a large tree, start heading downhill diagonally left, to reach a small wooden hand gate. Follow the short path between houses to emerge on to the road through the pretty village of Mapleton. Turn right and head towards The Okeover Arms. If you're in need of a refreshment break this pub serves great food and drink - muddy boots and paws welcome!

8. Just a short distance beyond the pub it's worth taking a quick detour to look at the unusual church of St Mary. Built in the mid 18th Century, it was designed by James Gibbs, a pupil of Sir Christopher Wren, famed for designing the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral in London.



9. Continuing on the walk, take the public footpath signposted to Dovedale that starts directly opposite the pub. Head diagonally right across the grassy field to reach a small wooden gate in the stone wall. Go through the gate and turn left to walk along the quiet road.

10. Walk across the bridge over the River Dove and enter the county of Staffordshire. After approx 150 metres look out for a public footpath on the left, via a steep ladder stile over a metal railed fence. Cross the stile and walk diagonally right across the grass field into the Okeover Hall estate. (If the stile is too steep, walk a short distance further on and take the first road on the left through a gate beside a cattle grid to reach the same spot.)



11. After crossing the field, walk straight on over the road and follow the marked footpath that leads diagonally left up the hill towards two lime trees obvious ahead. The stunning (private) stately home of Okeover Hall is to your right.

12. Walk to the right of the two lime trees and straight on up the hill through a shallow valley. At the crest of the hill, cross over a step stile and continue straight on across a grass field, with a large abandoned house on your right.

13. Cross over a further steep ladder stile beside a wide metal gate (if the stile is not accessible the gate should be) and walk to the right of an area of woodland. Where the stone wall around the wood ends, continue straight on across the field to reach a wide metal gate. Go through the metal gate and walk across the field ahead, skirting to the right of a fenced area containing a pond.

14. In the left corner of the field, cross over a stile and walk towards a stone barn. Immediately to the right of the barn, go through a gate and turn right to enter a small farmyard. The path is clearly signed through a metal gate to the right of the garden.



15. Go through the metal gate and turn left, following the path to the far left edge of wide fields. You will go through a gate, over a stile and through two further gates, with stunning views on your right over the countryside around Okeover. The path eventually narrows to walk under trees and past a stone barn on the right.



16. Continue straight on through two gates to emerge onto a peaceful lane (Marten Lane). Turn right, walk through a wooden gate, and continue for approx 500 metres to reach the small village of Blore. Look out for the pretty St Bartholomew's church on the left, built in the year 1100.



17. At the crossroads immediately ahead, turn right to walk towards Mapleton and Ashbourne, passing Blore Hall on your right. Follow this quiet road for approx 450 metres, with magnificent views across on your left to the hills of Thorpe Cloud and Bunster, rising above Dovedale. When you reach Coldwall Farm on your left, take the public footpath through a narrow squeeze stile on your right immediately opposite the farm.

18. Walk downhill through the fields, staying to the left of the fence. On reaching a wide gate at a crossing path, go through the gate and turn immediately left. Follow the clear path through the field and over a stile. Approx 200 metres beyond the stile the path veers left through a hedge and crosses a stream, before continuing on the left of the hedge.



19. The path is obvious across the fields, through a gate and over a number of stiles, eventually meeting a stony track between hedges. Follow the stony track through a wide wooden gate to emerge onto a quiet lane (Yerley Hill). Turn right on the lane and walk gently downhill.

20. After approx 600 metres you will pass the path you took at point 10 into the Okeover Hall estate. Continue on the lane and retrace your steps into the village of Mapleton, turning right at the T-junction to head towards The Okeover Arms. Just past The Okeover Arms take the narrow path on the left signposted to Ashbourne that runs between houses, emerging through a wooden hand gate into the grassy field that you walked through at point 7. This time turn left, walking to the back of The Okeover Arms.

21. Follow the path as it heads uphill across the fields and diagonally right. The path goes through a wide gate and then a narrow wooden hand gate beside an oak tree. The path narrows and tracks to the right of a fence line, with beautiful views to your left.



22. Follow this narrow path through two hand gates until it reaches a crossroads of paths in a clearing. Turn right and then head diagonally left across the grass field to reach a narrow stile hidden in the hedgerow on the left of the field. Cross the stile and walk diagonally right across the next field to cross a further stile.

23. A short distance ahead you'll see a wide metal gate leading into a yard. Go through the gate and cross the yard, heading diagonally right to follow the footpath through a wooden hand gate between houses. Walk straight ahead to join a road and turn left.

24. After approx 30 metres look out for a footpath in the hedgerow on the right hand side. Go through the gate and walk across the grass field to a further hand gate. Walk ahead, skirting the little copse of trees, and go through a kissing gate to rejoin the Tissington Trail. Turn right on the Trail and follow this peaceful, tree-lined track for approx 800 metres, with beautiful views to both sides of the rolling countryside.



25. Upon reaching the bridge at which you joined the Tissington Trail at point 2, retrace your steps and take the path on the left down to the gate and back on to Spend Lane. Turn left on Spend Lane and walk along the road to return to Sandybrook ahead of you.

## Along the way...

### The Tissington Trail

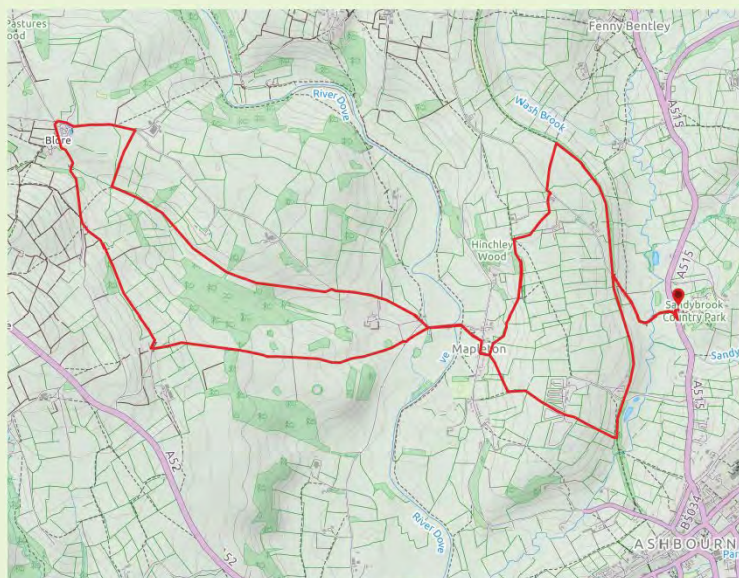
The Tissington Trail is a traffic-free trail that runs for 13 miles from Parsley Hay in the north to Ashbourne in the south. It follows the route of the former railway line between Buxton and Ashbourne, opened in 1899, operated by the London and North Western Railway. It was closed in the 1960s and the land was purchased by the Peak District National Park in 1971 to transform it into a trail for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists.

### Okeover Hall

The magnificent Okeover Hall is the private home of the Okeover family, who have been in residence on the estate since the reign of William II (1056-1100). The Hall has been much altered over the years, with the addition of the church in the 14th Century and stables in the mid 18th century, when the Hall was also greatly enlarged in the Georgian style.

### Blore Hall

The graceful Blore Hall dates back to the early 16th Century, extended in the mid 19th Century. The village was the home of the Bassett family from the mid 15th Century until 1652, when the line died out. The impressive alabaster tomb of Sir William Bassett of Blore Hall can be seen in the lovely church of St Bartholomew in the village. Blore Hall has now been converted into luxury holiday accommodation.



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