

## Fenny Bentley and Tissington (8 miles, 12.8km)

### At A Glance

- Distance: 8 miles
- Time: 3-4 hours
- Grade: Easy 
- Terrain: Country lanes, trails and field paths
- Accessibility: Uneven ground, steps, stiles and gates
- Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL24

*This beautiful route takes you through peaceful countryside to the lovely village of Fenny Bentley. From there it wends its way on field paths and quiet lanes to the picture-perfect village of Tissington, with its collection of pretty cottages, duckpond and magnificent country manor house, before returning on country trails back to the park. There is a wonderful tearoom in Tissington for refreshments en route.*

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.

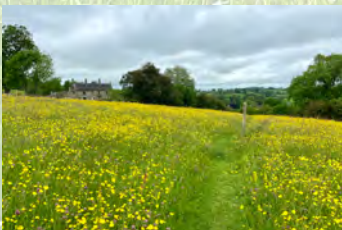


2. After approx 500 metres look out for a large railway bridge across the road. Immediately before the bridge go through the wooden hand gate on the right hand side and take the path that twists up a set of steps and emerges on to the Tissington Trail. Turn right on the Tissington Trail and walk along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

3. After approx 1km keep a careful look out for a path leading down to the right. It is not signposted but is the first path off the Trail on the right. (As a useful landmark, on the other side of the Trail is a wooden gate with a path leading off to the left.) Take the path on the right down to a kissing gate and into open fields.



4. Follow the clear path straight across the field ahead, skirting to the right of a beautiful ash tree. At the field edge, cross the stream by way of a little footbridge to enter the next field. Walk straight on, keeping to the left of a hedge.



5. At the top of the field the path crosses a track and continues straight on through a wooden gate. Follow the clear path diagonally left across the field, watching out for a wooden post to indicate the path.

6. The path reaches a wooden hand gate in a hedge to the right hand side of Ashes Farm. Go through the gate and walk slightly diagonally right towards a house obvious ahead.

7. The well-marked path skirts around the garden of the house, passing to the side of a shed and through a vegetable patch, before emerging into a field ahead.

8. Walk towards the squeeze stile and signpost obvious straight ahead, beside a large tree. Go through the stile and walk slightly diagonally right across the next field to the corner of a hedge. The path continues through a gate ahead.

9. Go through the gate and follow the path to the side of the village primary school. At the crossroads of paths continue straight on beside a collection of pretty cottages and into the village churchyard.



10. Walk towards the church door and then turn right to follow the path to the lychgate. Go through the gate and walk down the path to join the road (A515). Cross with great care directly over the road and turn right on the pavement.

11. After 50 metres take the footpath on your left, also signposted for The Orchards. Look out for Bentley Old Hall on your right, with its medieval square tower and 17th Century farmhouse attached.

12. Follow the path to the side of the Old School and, at the obvious fork, take the right hand track. At the top of the track go through the squeeze stile beside a metal gate and follow the path straight ahead in front of a row of houses on your left.

13. Where the hedge ends, continue straight on to the telephone pole immediately ahead, and then walk diagonally left across the field to meet a hedge with a stone marker post.



14. Walk to the right of the hedge, heading slightly uphill along the field edge, keeping the hedge on your left. At the top of the field the path continues over a step stile in the hedge.



15. Cross the stile and walk slightly left, heading gently uphill through two further fields, always keeping the hedge on your left. There are wonderful open countryside views all around you.

16. At the top of the second field, walk right to follow the hedge for a short distance. You will see a wide metal gate, to the right of which is a further step stile. Cross the stile and walk straight on across the field to a second stile visible ahead.

17. Cross the second stile and turn right on the metalled track. Follow this track through fields, ignoring paths off, for approx 500 metres, until you reach a T-junction with (private) woods ahead.

18. Turn left at the T-junction and follow the track for a further 500 metres until it joins a quiet road. Turn left on the road and walk into Tissington.

19. Cross a stile beside a cattle grid and go straight on, ignoring the road on the left signed for the car park and the Tissington Trail. Where the road forks, turn left and walk down into the village, past the duckpond.



20. Turn right soon after the duckpond on to The Green. You will see Herbert's Tearooms on your left opposite the church if you need refreshments.



21. Continue on the main road through the pretty village of Tissington, passing the very impressive Tissington Hall on your left. Where the road forks, turn right and walk on past the lovely vintage sweet shop.

22. Continue on the quiet, leafy lane. Where the road forks just before a caravan site, take the left fork on to Flatts Lane, marked as a no-through-road.

23. Follow Flatts Lane for approx 600 metres until you reach a stone bridge over the Tissington Trail. Just before the bridge, go through a wooden hand gate on the right and follow the narrow path down to meet the Trail.

24. Turn right on the Tissington Trail and follow the peaceful, tree-lined trail for approx 5.5km, with beautiful countryside views all around. Along the way you will pass the old sidings at Tissington station, now served by a small refreshments kiosk with toilets and picnic tables.



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.

26. Turn left on Spend Lane and walk along the road to return to Landal Sandybrook ahead of you. Take care crossing the road to walk back into the park.

## Along the way...

### The Tissington Trail

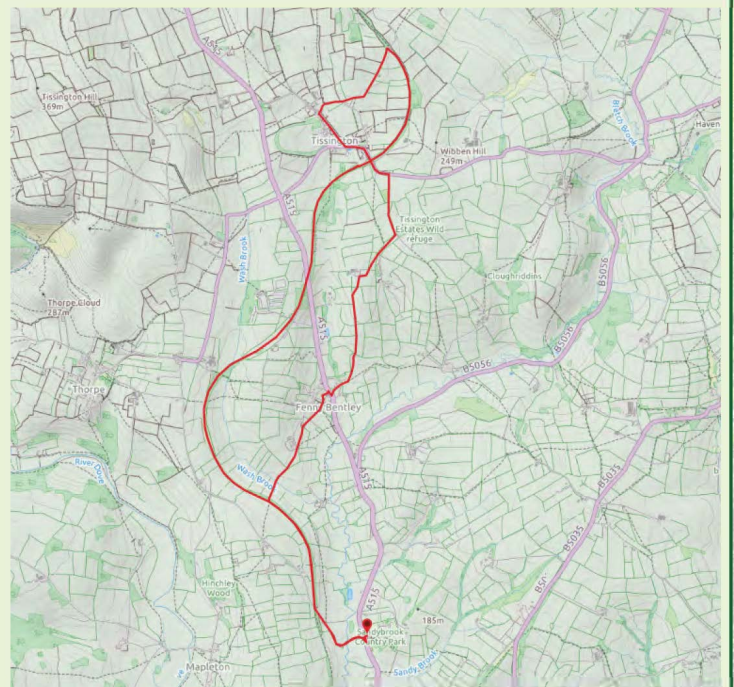
The Tissington Trail is a traffic-free trail that runs for 13 miles from Parsley Hay in the north to Ashbourne in the south. It follows the route of the former railway line between Buxton and Ashbourne, opened in 1899, operated by the London and North Western Railway. It was closed in the 1960s and the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

### Fenny Bentley

Fenny Bentley is one of the most southerly villages in the Peak District. Recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, it has been the ancestral seat of the Beresford family since at least the 15th Century. Bentley Old Hall (which you pass at point 11) was once the home of Sir Thomas Beresford, who fought at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

### Tissington

The beautiful village of Tissington is a picture-perfect Peak District village. There has been a settlement here since Saxon times. At the heart of the village stands Tissington Hall, a Jacobean house dating from 1609. It has been in the same family, the Fitzherberts, since it was first built, and it is still their family home today. It is open to visitors on selected days between April and August.



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