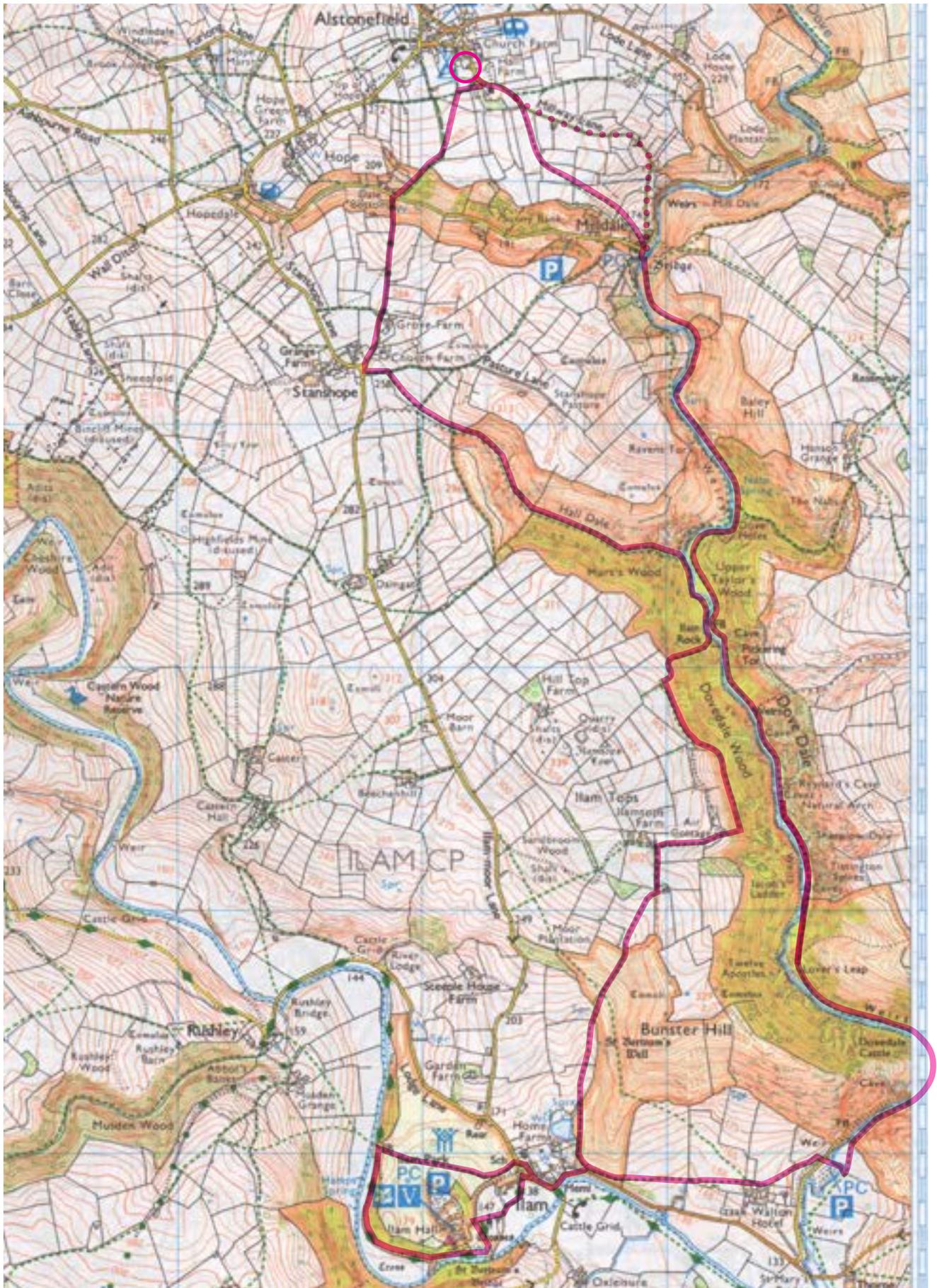




ALSTONEFIELD MANOR

WALK 3. Milldale - Dovedale - Ilam - Hall Dale - Stanshope
12 miles, 5 hours





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DIRECTIONS

Turn right outside the house and walk down Millway Lane past the Church. Just below the graveyard you'll see a finger post on the right. Follow the footpath across the fields. You'll go through a few stone stiles and then drop down to Milldale, take care going down the slope. *If it has been very wet stay on Millway Lane.*

In Milldale you'll find a small shop serving teas and snacks (*closed mid-week in the winter*). Cross over the bridge and follow the river down stream. You'll go past some caves (Dove Holes) and then further down the famous Ilam Rock. After passing through a section of the valley which is so narrow that the path goes on duckboards over the river you see Reynard's Cave up on your left.

Below Tissington Spires the path climbs above the river to pass above Lovers' Leap. Continue following the river down until you arrive at the stepping stones opposite the foot of Lin Dale. Cross to the west bank to find a footpath which starts opposite the car park entrance and leads across the fields to Ilam village.

The path crosses two fields to reach the rear of the Izaak Walton Hotel, where it crosses two stiles in quick succession before branching. Follow the left branch which drops down into Ilam. At the road turn right and walk up to the Monument. Turn right and head up to Ilam Hall (NT) this has a visitor center and tea rooms.

In Ilam it's worth visiting the Church and taking a walk around the park along the section beside the Manifold River. This will bring you out opposite the School. Turn right and go back through the village to the footpath. Take the left hand path leading up Buster Hill, you will see a small pond on your left. Follow this path up to Ilam Tops Farm, turn right down the track to Air Cottage. The footpath then leads you around Air Cottage, turning left behind the house and along the edge of a wood. The path then goes into the top edge of Dovedale wood and eventually begins to descend. The descent is quite steep (wooden steps) but you eventually emerge at the river.

Turn left, and proceed through Hurt's Wood and cross over the stone stile onto a grassy clearing. Turn left and follow the footpath up Hall Dale. Keep following the footpath up to Stanshope where the footpath joins a farm track, turn left and proceed up to the road, then turn right at the little green. Take the track past Church Farm and follow it down to Dale Bottom.

Cross over the road and take the footpath up the steep bank. *You can take the alternative route that zig-zags up the bank.* This is a short but steep climb. When you go through the bridleway gate at the top of the wood you will enter a small enclosure. Follow the footpath into the field and take the diagonal path that leads to a stone stile and back into our fields. You'll see the house ahead of you.