

This is the highest point on the walk at 133m. Look for the old 'trig point' in the hedge! On a clear day there are good views south towards Charnwood Forest, east towards Nottingham and north towards the foothills of the Pennines.



- 6 Be aware of traffic while you cross the road. Continue straight ahead across fields and golf course downhill towards Risley Lodge Farm. Skirt round to the left of farm and descend to track. Cross over, climb stile and descend to footbridge over brook. Do not cross bridge. Bear left along hedge and brook. After second stile, path curves round to right, then left uphill alongside hedge back to track. Turn right down track, taking path on left before first house. Cross the fields and one stile to reach Risley Brook and nature reserve.



Risley Nature Reserve, leased by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, is part of the glebe attached to Risley church. Unusual plant species here include marsh arrow grass, fleabane, lady's mantle and adder's tongue.

- 7 Cross over brooks ahead and slightly right following path up and over hill to house called 'The Nook'. Follow path round to left of house then straight ahead with hedge on left to meet Rushy Lane. Be aware of traffic as you cross over the road. Turn left and then right at finger post. Continue straight ahead across fields to reach Stanton Road by the motorway. Turn right, downhill over motorway bridge and right again down steps into the housing estate.

- 8 Enter the estate on Barker Avenue North and at the end turn right onto Barker Avenue East. Then turn left onto Travers Road and Kings Road. Now look right for a jitty to retrace your steps back to the library.



## WALK TYPE:

Undulating countryside with gentle climbs and several stiles.

## DISTANCE:

6 miles

## TIME:

Allow approximately 3-4 hours

## BUSES:

Traveline 0870 608 2 608

## RECOMMENDED OS MAP:

Explorer 260 Nottingham (1:25 000)

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE**



- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals, take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

For further information and comments please contact

**Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire**

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# A Walk in the Clouds

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## Country Walks In and around Erewash



**Start: Sandiacre Library car park, off Doncaster Avenue**

**1** From the library car park, cross the recreation ground and turn right along King's Road. Take first jitty on the left to Stanton Road. Turn right, cross over then take first left and left again onto Church Drive and up hill to the church.

*The Parish Church of St Giles is remarkable for its architecture. Parts of the building date back to the 10th century. Look for the Saxon window above the chancel arch and the carving of the 'Sandiacre Imp' on the arch itself.*

**2** From the church continue straight ahead along lane, through a chicane onto Stoney Clouds, a Local Nature Reserve.

*The undisturbed grassland around the sandstone outcrop of Stoney Clouds still shows signs of the medieval ploughing system known as 'ridge and furrow'. The site today is rich in wild flowers.*

**3** Continue straight ahead through two handgates then follow the waymarked posts along the edge of the field. The path soon descends steeply towards the golf course below.

**4** Follow the waymarked post, aiming for a telephone mast in the distance. Just past the mast turn left to go through a tunnel under the motorway and onto a golf course. Turn left following the edge of the golf course for about 100m. Follow the white posts indicating the path across the golf course to the road.



At the road turn left along the lane into the pleasant village of Stanton-by-Dale.

*The village lends its name to the Stanton Works in the Iron Dale to the north. Its 13th century church of St. Michael and All Angels remains active and well preserved. Buildings are of brick and stone (some from the ruined abbey at Dale); nos.16-24 on Stanhope Street were probably the first workers' cottages.*

**5** Follow main road through village, past village cross (dated 1632), Stanhope Arms and village pump (erected 1897). Turn left through church gates, past almshouses (early 18th century) to the church. It is well worth stopping to look around the churchyard diagonally opposite entry point, cross field to kissing gate opposite in holly hedge. Turn left to follow edge of field with holly hedge to your left, through next field and down steps to road. At road cross over, turn right through a short jitty and through kissing gate. Go through 4 fields up a gently sloping hill. The gnarled oak marks the top of the hill where it meets No Man's Lane.