



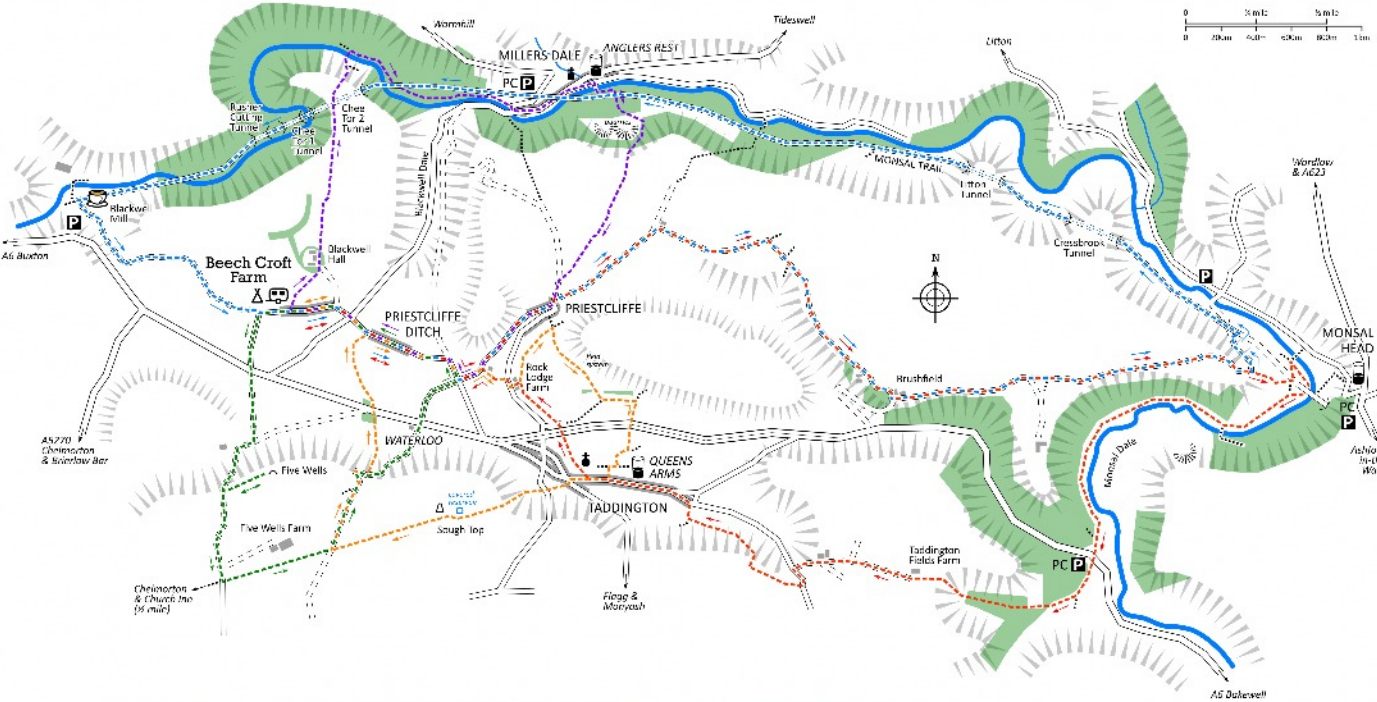
Priestcliffe Tarn is a Derbyshire Wildlife Trust reserve above Miller's Dale, once popular for trout fishing, quail and lead mines, and well known for its rare wildflowers and butterflies.



The former Buxton to Bakewell railway closed in 1963, and an 85-acre section was reserved as the Monsal Trail in 1963. In 2011 several of the tunnels were removed, equipped with lighting and opened for use by cyclists, walkers and horse riders.



The building of the railway was criticised at the time by John Ruskin ("the valley is great – and now every foot of it now can be in Bakewell in half an hour, and every foot of it Bakewell in an hour"), but the viaduct is now a celebrated landmark and a listed building.



Five Wells is one of the best-preserved burial chambers in the Peak District, dating from the Iron Age period (5400-2400 BC). It is said to be the highest ringed tomb in England.



The church of St Michael and All Angels in Taddington dates mainly from the early 14th century. It contains a more stone, eastern contemporary with this date. In the churchyard is a cross shaft with zig-zag carvings.



The striking terraces on this hillside north of the A6 near Taddington are known as "strip lynchets" and are thought to be the work of medieval farmers.



The views over the River Wye in Monsal Dale from the Greatfield path are stunning. The Wye rises near Poole's Cavern in Buxton and flows into the Derwent at Rowsley.

## Monsal Trail *(continued)*

twice more and passing through three more tunnels, Chee Tor 2 and Chee Tor 1 (401 yards and 91 yards, respectively) and Rusher Cutting (121 yards). **19** After crossing the river for the fourth and final time, you pass through a deep cutting and under a bridge. Turn right here for Blackwell Mill, and then turn back on yourself to cross the bridge. **20** A steep unsurfaced bridleway leads up a grassy side valley to a gate by a dewpond just below the main road. **21** Turn left here along a mostly level farm track across fields and through a series of gates. **22** When you reach the road, go straight on to return to Beech Croft Farm.

Open all year round for Tourers



## Beech Croft Farm

Caravan & Camping Park

We hope you enjoy these walks.



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## Five more walks from Beech Croft Farm Blackwell, Derbyshire



### Five Wells

**3½ miles: Fairly easy**

*Stroll via Priestcliffe to a prehistoric burial chamber.*

### Priestcliffe & Taddington

**4 miles: Fairly easy**

*An ancient field system and a pretty Peak District village.*

### Millers Dale & Priestcliffe

**4½ miles: Moderate**

*Superb views, riverside walking and a nature reserve.*

### Monsal Dale & Taddington

**9 miles: Moderately strenuous**

*A classic Peak District dale and a pretty village.*

### The Monsal Trail

**10 miles: Strenuous**

*A hearty walk or an exciting route on a mountain bike.*

**BEECH CROFT FARM**  
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Owned and managed by John and Julie Gregory,  
Beech Croft Farm is located at Blackwell in the Peak, a  
small hamlet with just 10 houses and a few small farms.

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# Five Wells

## 3½ miles: Fairly easy

*An easy stroll with one minor ascent and some road walking. Allow 2 hours. Livestock possible.*

**1** From the campsite entrance, turn right and walk along the road round a left-hand bend, until you reach the main road. **2** Cross carefully and follow the no-through road opposite. **3** At a T-junction turn right, then turn left at a metal gate with a Pennine Bridleway waymark. **4** Follow this track uphill. **5** Just beyond a gate at the top of the hill, a concessionary path on the left offers a short there-and-back diversion to view the Five Wells burial chamber. **6** On returning to the main track, keep on along, passing the entrance to Five Wells Farm on the left. **7** Shortly afterwards, take a footpath on the left that runs along the edge of a series of fields below the farm to meet Sough Lane, another walled trackway. **8** Turn left and follow the lane down-hill to The Waterloo. **9** Cross the main road and follow the quiet lane opposite. **10** At a crossroads, turn left. **11** Follow the road round a left-hand bend (ignoring the track straight ahead) through Priestcliffe Ditch. **12** At the crossroads, keep straight on, back to the entrance of Beech Croft Farm.

## Priestcliffe and Taddington

### 4 miles: Fairly easy

*Two busy road crossings. Refreshments available at the Queens Arms in Taddington. Allow 2½ hours. Livestock possible.*

**1** From the campsite entrance, turn left and walk along the road. **2** Keep on for ¼ mile, passing a series of farm entrances, until you reach a crossroads. **3** Cross the B-road carefully and follow the road opposite (signposted Priestcliffe and Taddington). **4** Walk uphill through the hamlet of Priestcliffe Ditch for ⅓ mile; when the road bends sharp right, follow it round (ignoring the track on the left). **5** At the next crossroads, turn left (signposted Priestcliffe). **6** After 200 yards, just before a house, go through a gate on the right and follow a footpath down the field to another lane. **7** Turn right then immediately left at the entrance to Rock Lodge Farm. **8** Beyond the farm buildings turn left and then follow a walled path down the valley. **9** At the next farm, take a footpath through a squeeze stile and wicket gate on the right. **10** Follow the wall on your left, then pass through a gate and walk along the right-hand edge of the field below the terraced field system on the slopes to your left. **11** When the wall bends right by a tree, head diagonally across the field, aiming for the far corner to the left of a small wood. **12** Cross the next field to a gate, then turn left along a walled path and into a further field with a belt of trees to your left. **13** At the far end, turn right through a wicket gate and walk down the side of two fields to the main road. **14** Cross quickly but carefully, take a few strides to your right then go up some steps and

over a stone stile. **15** Cross the field beyond to reach a walled track behind the houses of Taddington. **16** Turn right and then keep left as the track bends left. At a junction of tracks turn right then left to reach the main street in the village. Turn right (or, if visiting the Queens Arms, left). **17** Beyond the parish church, turn left (Humphrey Gate) then take a narrow path on the right between Daybreak Cottage and Greystones. **18** In the field beyond, walk half-right up the hill to a squeeze stile and then another to meet a lane. **19** Cross straight over to a step stile and continue up the hillside beyond. **20** After crossing two tumbledown walls, aim uphill towards the right-hand end of a clump of trees, then swing right to a stile, heading towards the covered reservoir. **21** Pass to the left of the reservoir and cross a wall stile. **22** Follow the wall beyond, crossing a series of stiles until you reach Sough Lane (a walled track). **23** Turn right and follow the track downhill. **24** Shortly after a wide hairpin, take a path on the left that leads down the slope and into a small wood to emerge on the main road (*alternatively, stay on Sough Lane to join the Five Wells route at the Waterloo*). **25** Cross the road and take a footpath opposite, to the right of another small wood, and follow the wall beyond. **26** After passing through the remnants of two crossing walls, swing half-right (away from the left-hand wall) to reach the road just to the left of the houses in Priestcliffe Ditch. **27** Turn left, and at a crossroads go straight on to return to Beech Croft Farm.

## Millers Dale and Priestcliffe

### 4¼ miles: Moderate

*One steep descent and an equally steep climb out of Millers Dale. There is a sheer rock-face (fenced) beside the path in Priestcliffe Lees Nature Reserve. Refreshments are available at the Anglers Rest in Millers Dale. Allow 3 hours.*

**1** From the front gate of the campsite turn left, then look out for a footpath sign on the left beyond Cottage Farm directing you over a stone step stile beside a field gate. **2** Cross three meadows then pass through a belt of trees to Blackwell Hall Farm. **3** Turn right then left and follow a concrete farm track past the farm buildings. **4** Keep along the track until an obvious fork, where you go through the gate straight ahead. **5** Beyond this gate the track shortly doglegs right towards a copse, then the track ends and you turn left to follow the wall on your left. **6** Leave the wall to reach a gate through a crossing wall then follow the path beyond to a further field gate with extensive views over Chee Dale to your left. **7** The path then drops steeply to the river, keeping to the left of an obvious spoil heap. Just before you reach the river you meet a crossing path; turn left and cross a footbridge over the river. **8** On the far bank turn right and follow the river, passing under a viaduct carrying the Monsal Trail and continuing until you meet the road in Millers Dale. **9** Turn right and then immediately left along the B-road. **10** Pass under the twin viaducts then turn right by the church, signposted “Litton Mill (only)”. **11** Just before the Anglers Rest, take a path on the right that crosses the River Wye via a

footbridge then swings left up between low limestone crags and continues to the Monsal Trail. **12** Take the footpath opposite by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust sign for Priestcliffe Lees. **13** Beyond a stile swing left across the grassland below a disused quarry, then go through a gate and climb steeply above the quarry face. **14** Above the quarry follow a line of fenceposts to a dry-stone wall, where you swing right to a wall stile. **15** Walk across the field opposite and then cross a series of fields via stiles marked with yellow paint, switching from one side of the wall to the other as indicated. **16** In the last field before the buildings of Priestcliffe, swing right to emerge onto a gravelly track, where you turn left. **17** At the road turn right and keep to the upper road through Priestcliffe. **18** At a crossroads, turn right, then follow the road left and walk through Priestcliffe Ditch. **19** At a second crossroads, go straight across and follow the lane opposite back to Beech Croft Farm.

## Monsal Dale and Taddington

### 9 miles: Moderately strenuous

*Some steep ascents and descents. Refreshments are available at the Queens Arms in Taddington (and just off-route at the Monsal Head Hotel). Allow 4–5 hours.*

**1** From the campsite entrance, turn left and walk along the road. **2** Keep on for ¼ mile, passing a series of farm entrances, until you reach a crossroads. **3** Cross the road carefully and follow the road opposite (signposted Priestcliffe and Taddington). **4** Walk uphill through the hamlet of Priestcliffe Ditch for ⅓ mile; when the road bends right, follow it (the ignoring the track on the left). **5** At the next crossroads, turn left (signposted Priestcliffe). **6** At the end of the road (Lydgate Farm), take the right-hand track past Lees Farm (following the footpath sign to Brushfield). **7** When you reach a barn by a junction of tracks; keep right, following the track uphill. **8** Ignore a footpath into Priestcliffe Lees nature reserve on your left, keeping to the track as it bends right, and then ignoring a bridleway into High Dale on your right. **9** Eventually the track descends to Brushfield, passing some farm buildings on the right. **10** At Middle Farm Cottages, turn left to pass in front of the stone buildings and then go through two gates in quick succession. **11** The track continues above woodland with views opening up down the Wye valley. **12** At a junction of tracks towards the top of the hill, keep left along a stony track and ignore a footpath on the right signposted to Lees Bottom and White Lodge. **13** The track descends gradually, with fantastic views down into Monsal Dale, before becoming stony and dropping more steeply. **14** When the main track swings left, take the bridleway straight on (*for the Monsal Trail route, see next section*). **15** When you meet the Monsal Trail, cross straight over through a gate and walk down to the river. **16** Don’t cross the footbridge; instead turn right and walk downstream with the river on your left. **17** Pass under the viaduct and continue down glorious Monsal Dale for about a mile, passing the famous weir on your left about halfway. **18** Eventually you emerge onto the A6; cross straight over into the car park (toilets

are available in the overflow car park to your right). **19** Otherwise, follow the footpath straight ahead into the lower reaches of Deep Dale. **20** Turn right off the main path at a footpath sign to Taddington, and climb through low outcrops above a limestone gorge on your left. **21** Beyond a stile you should find yourself walking up a wooded side-valley which eventually branches and opens out; keep right of the walled wood to pass through a gate beside Taddington Fields Farm. **22** Follow the metalled driveway beyond, passing another farm before you reach a road. **23** Turn left and walk uphill along the road for a short distance, then turn right onto a green lane. Towards the top of the hill follow the footpath sign at a right-hand fork onto a descending path towards Taddington. **24** Ignore a footpath sign on the right, and then at a junction of walled paths turn right to reach the road. **25** Turn left and left again and walk up the main village street, passing the Bramwell Memorial Institute on your left and then the Queens Arms on your right. **26** When you reach the parish church, turn right through the lych gate and walk to the left of the church to a stile at the rear of the churchyard. **27** Skirt the field beyond to reach the A6; cross carefully and then over a stile into a grassy track. **28** Turn left for a few yards, then take a path on your right to a gate in the wall. **29** Walk downhill towards Rock Lodge Farm. **30** Enter the farmyard through a gate just to the right of the buildings, then turn left up the entrance drive to a lane. **31** Turn right for a few yards, then left onto a footpath that leads up the field to emerge on another road to the left of a house. **32** Turn left and follow the road for 200 yards to a crossroads. **33** Turn right, then follow the road round a left-hand bend and walk through Priestcliffe Ditch. **34** At a second crossroads, go straight across and follow the lane opposite back to Beech Croft Farm.

## Monsal Trail

### 10 miles: Moderately strenuous

*This entire route is on roads and bridleways, so is **suitable for mountain bikes**, though inexperienced riders may choose to dismount for some steep or rocky sections. Apart from the Monsal Trail itself, the route is **not** suitable for road bikes. There are several lengthy (but well lit) tunnels on the Trail. Refreshments are available at Blackwell Mill cycle hire, and just off-route at the Monsal Head Hotel or the Anglers Rest. Allow 5 hours (walking) or 2 hours (cycling).*

Follow steps **1** to **13** of the **Monsal Dale and Taddington walk**, above.

**14** When the main track turns left at a junction, follow it. *This section is steep and rocky, with a loose surface, so you may decide to dismount if cycling.* **15** Pass a disused chimney and other industrial remnants, then leave the track to the right, before it passes under the former railway bridge, to join the Monsal Trail. **16** Turn left along the trail; after half a mile pass through Cressbrook Tunnel (471 yards), closely followed by Litton Tunnel (515 yards). **17** Continue to Millers Dale, where you cross the river on a high viaduct (public toilets are available at Millers Dale car park, and a short diversion is possible to the Anglers Rest). **18** Carry on along the westward Monsal Trail, crossing the river