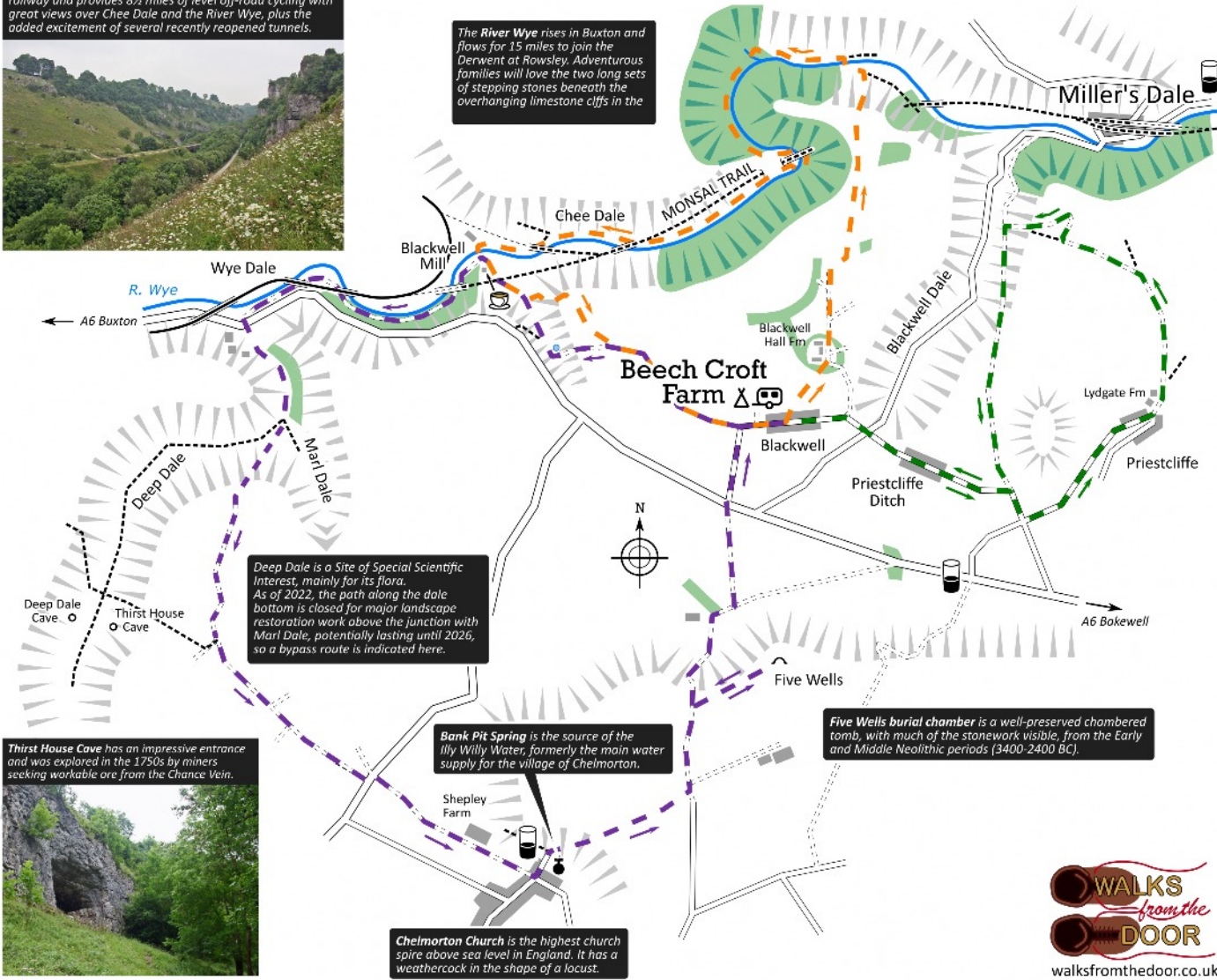


The Monsal Trail follows the former Buxton to Bakewell railway and provides 8½ miles of level off-road cycling with great views over Chee Dale and the River Wye, plus the added excitement of several recently reopened tunnels.



The River Wye rises in Buxton and flows for 15 miles to join the Derwent at Rowsley. Adventurous families will love the two long sets of stepping stones beneath the overhanging limestone cliffs in the



Deep Dale is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, mainly for its flora. As of 2022, the path along the dale bottom is closed for major landscape restoration work above the junction with Marl Dale, potentially lasting until 2026, so a bypass route is indicated here.

Thirst House Cave has an impressive entrance and was explored in the 1750s by miners seeking workable ore from the Chance Vein.



Bank Pit Spring is the source of the lily Willy Water, formerly the main water supply for the village of Chelmorton.

Five Wells burial chamber is a well-preserved chambered tomb, with much of the stonework visible, from the Early and Middle Neolithic periods (3400-2400 BC).

Chelmorton Church is the highest church spire above sea level in England. It has a weathercock in the shape of a locust.



**BEECH CROFT FARM
CARAVAN PARK AND CAMPSITE**
Blackwell in the Peak, Taddington, near Buxton,
Derbyshire SK17 9TQ
Tel: 01298 85330
Email: mail@beechcroftfarm.co.uk
Website: www.beechcroftfarm.co.uk

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.

Nearby Taddington is a larger village with a church and two pubs. The Queens Arms is in the centre of the village, whilst the Church Inn, at Chelmorton, is just a 30-minute walk away on the Pennine Bridleway.

Three walks from Beech Croft Farm Blackwell, Derbyshire



Priestcliffe (3¼ miles: Fairly easy)
Surfaced roads and tracks with views over the Wye valley.

Chee Dale (3½ miles: Moderate)
Adventurous families will love this walk through some of the Peak District's most impressive limestone scenery.

Chelmorton & Deep Dale (5½ miles: Moderately strenuous)
Flowery meadows, a riverside stroll, spectacular limestone scenery, a pretty village and a prehistoric burial chamber.

Priestcliffe

3¼ miles: Fairly easy

An all-weather route on surfaced roads and tracks. Allow 2 hours. Also suitable for mountain bikes (one moderately steep descent).

1 From the campsite entrance, turn left and walk along the road. **2** Continue along the road for ¼ mile, passing a series of farm entrances, until you reach a crossroads. **3** Cross carefully and follow the road opposite (signposted Priestcliffe and Taddington). **4** Walk uphill through the hamlet of Priestcliffe Ditch for ½ mile; when the road bends right, follow it (the track on the left is your return route). **5** At the next crossroads, turn left. **6** Follow this single-track road for ½ mile to Priestcliffe. **7** Pass a turning on the right, then at Lydgate Farm take the left-hand fork with a footpath sign pointing to Millers Dale. **8** Ignore a footpath sign shortly afterwards pointing off to the right then, at a second footpath sign after ½ mile, bear left along the track. **9** At a third footpath sign, this time on the left, bend right, still following the same track, as it starts to descend with views opening up over the Wye valley (the footpath merely cuts a corner). **10** Follow the track round a left-hand bend and past a small limestone outcrop on your left. **11** When you meet another track (Long Lane) at a T-junction, turn left. **12** After ¾ mile of gradual ascent, you meet the road again. **13** Turn right and retrace your steps through Priestcliffe Ditch. **14** At the crossroads, keep straight on back to Beech Croft Farm.

Chee Dale

3½ miles: Moderate

Uneven ground and some rocky sections and steep drops along the river, and a steep ascent from Blackwell Mill. Stepping stones in Chee Dale may be submerged after heavy rain (use Monsal Trail instead). Light refreshments and drinks may be available at Blackwell Mill. Allow 2½ 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 left and walk upstream, passing a vigorous spring (the first of many). **9** Level stretches with short boardwalks alternate with rockier sections until you reach Wormhill Springs,

where you leave the river briefly to cross a side-stream. **10** Further rocky sections, some high above the water, and boardwalks lead to a massive overhanging limestone cliff and the first set of stepping stones. **11** Beyond these, cross the river on a footbridge and pass beneath a railway bridge. **12** Shortly afterwards, descend some stone steps to return to the original bank via a second footbridge. **13** After further riverside walking you reach the second set of stepping stones, beyond which continue in similar vein to pass under a second railway arch. **14** At a third railway bridge ignore the footbridge over the river, continuing along the northern bank to the footbridge at Blackwell Mill, where you cross the river for the final time. **15** Follow the Pennine Bridleway up the steep slope to the left of the cycle hire hut (refreshments available) to reach the Monsal Trail. **16** Cross the Trail directly or via the brick bridge and follow the path up the side dale beyond. **17** Partway up, cross a stile on your left by a footpath sign (signposted Blackwell). **18** This narrow path zig-zags up between limestone outcrops and, in summer, through a profusion of flowers and their attendant butterflies. Towards the top there are spectacular views down Chee Dale. **19** Keep to the left of a waymark then cross a stone step-stile on your right into pasture. **20** Head half-left to a second stile, then swing right (away from the gorge) to a third. **21** Continue uphill in a similar direction on an indistinct path until you intercept a farm track with a grassy strip down the middle, where you turn left. **22** Follow this track through a series of gates until you meet the road, a short distance from the campsite.

Chelmorton and Deep Dale

5½ miles: Moderately strenuous

One very steep ascent from Deep Dale. Refreshments may be available at Blackwell Mill cycle hire, and meals and liquid refreshments are available 12–3pm at the Church Inn, Chelmorton. Allow 3–4 hours.

1 From the campsite entrance, turn right. **2** When the lane bends left, take the bridleway through the gate on your right. **3** Follow the walled track through a series of gates and then across open fields, ignoring a crossing track shortly before you reach a round dewpond near the main road. **4** Pass through a field gate then swing right, following a path down a dry limestone valley. **5** At the bottom, cross the Monsal Trail and continue straight across to Blackwell Mill cycle hire. **6** Turn left and follow the entrance drive, passing under three railway bridges before you arrive at Wyedale car park. **7** Cross the A6 carefully and follow the footpath to the left of the quarry entrance, separated from it by a fence. **8** At the end of the trees you reach the junction with Marl Dale, a side-valley to the left. **As of 2022, a section of the path along the bottom of Deep Dale above Marl Dale is closed for long-term landscape restoration work expected to last until 2026, so the following bypass route must be followed instead.** **9** Follow the path up some wooden steps and past a bench, then take a steep, narrow path that heads off left up the dale side, initially via further steps. **10** Towards the top of the valley side, the path zig-zags between low limestone crags to a stile in a stone wall. **11** Bear half-right across the field,

passing under power lines then keeping well to their left. **12** A step-stile in the far wall leads onto the end of a walled path, which you follow left, gradually heading uphill. **13** After 300 metres, the path widens to become a farm track. **14** After a similar distance, ignore the end of another track on the right (should you wish to take the there-and-back diversion back down into the dale to Thirst House Cave, the footpath departs on the right a few yards down this track). **15** To continue with the main walk, stay on the original track (Caxterway Lane) for a further half-mile, passing the entrance to Burrs Farm shortly before you reach a road. **16** Cross over and take the track on the opposite site of the road, a few steps to your left. **17** Pass Shepley Farm and continue along until you reach the main street in Chelmorton. **18** Turn left, passing between the Church Inn and the parish church, then (ignoring a bridleway on the left) follow the bridleway to the right past Bank Pit Spring. **19** When this path, which follows the humps and bumps of a former miners' 'rake', meets the end of Pillwell Lane, turn left. **20** Follow the track to a gate at the brow of the hill. From here an optional (but recommended) there-and-back diversion leads along a signposted permissive path to the right to visit the Five Wells burial chamber. **21** Upon your return, continue downhill along Pillwell Lane until you emerge by a metal gate. **22** Turn right then left, following the Pennine Bridleway signs. **23** At the main road, cross carefully and follow the lane opposite back to Beech Croft Farm.

Open all year round for Tourers



Beech Croft Farm
Caravan & Camping Park

We hope you enjoy these walks



2nd edition. Text, design, mapping and photography © David Dunford 2022. All rights reserved.
www.walksfromthedoor.co.uk