



In Chee Dale the footpath follows stepping stones in the River Wye below overhanging limestone cliffs.

Two railways joined in Chee Dale, branches of the Midland Railway from New Mills and Buxton respectively. Both lines closed in the late 1960s. The line was adopted to form the Monsal Trail in 1981, the utility of which was greatly enhanced by the opening up of several tunnels in 2011.

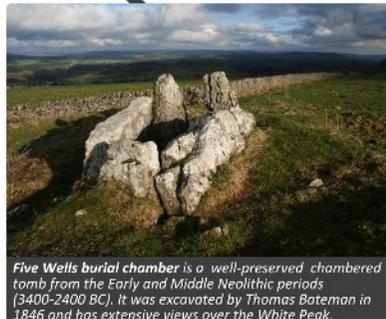
The River Wye rises in Buxton and flows for 15 miles to join the Derwent at Rowsley. This length of the river hosts Water Voles and Dippers.

The obvious humps and bumps on either side of the path between Marl Dale and Burrs Farm are the remains of a Romano-British settlement.

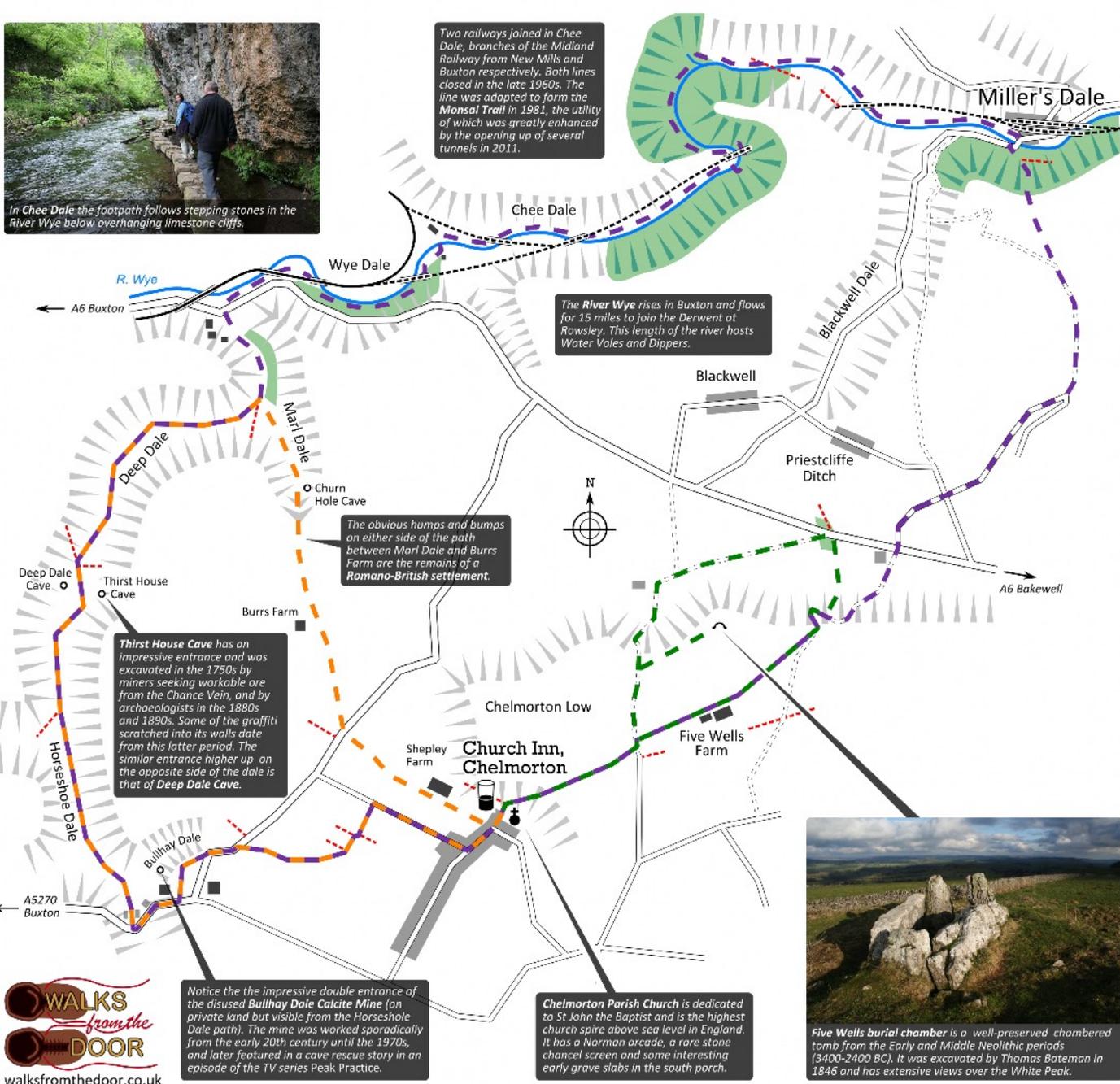
Thirst House Cave has an impressive entrance and was excavated in the 1750s by miners seeking workable ore from the Chance Vein, and by archaeologists in the 1880s and 1890s. Some of the graffiti scratched into its walls date from this latter period. The similar entrance higher up on the opposite side of the dale is that of Deep Dale Cave.

Notice the the impressive double entrance of the disused Bullhay Dale Calcite Mine (on private land but visible from the Horseshoe Dale path). The mine was worked sporadically from the early 20th century until the 1970s, and later featured in a cave rescue story in an episode of the TV series Peak Practice.

Chelmorton Parish Church is dedicated to St John the Baptist and is the highest church spire above sea level in England. It has a Norman arcade, a rare stone chancel screen and some interesting early grave slabs in the south porch.



Five Wells burial chamber is a well-preserved chambered tomb from the Early and Middle Neolithic periods (3400-2400 BC). It was excavated by Thomas Bateman in 1846 and has extensive views over the White Peak.



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Three walks from
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Five Wells

3¼ miles: Fairly easy

Stroll to a prehistoric burial chamber with fine views.

Horseshoe and Deep Dales

4½ miles: Moderate

An interesting walk through fields and impressive limestone scenery.

Five Dales round

9 miles: Moderately strenuous

Experience at length the dramatic limestone scenery of five dales, including a beautiful stretch of the River Wye.

Five Wells

3¼ miles: Fairly easy

Two minor ascents. May be muddy after rain. Allow 2 hours.

1 From the pub entrance, facing the church, turn left and walk uphill for a short distance. **2** Take the right-hand bridleway, pausing to explore Bank Top Spring on your left, then follow the obvious path until it reaches Pillwell Lane. **3** Turn left and follow the track to a gate the brow of the hill. **4** (Optional diversion: follow the permissive footpath on the right to the burial chamber at Five Wells, returning by the same route and turning right when you get back to Pillwell Lane.) **5** Follow the track downhill until you reach the gate by the entrance to a waste recycling plant; turn right at this point. **6** Keep straight on (signposted "Restricted Byway") when the Pennine Bridleway departs to the left. **7** Follow Senner's Lane until it meets the main road. **8** Leave the road over a stile on the right into a small wood. Beyond the wood keep on up the hill (diverting right if the left-hand edge of the field is wet underfoot). **9** Cross a stile into Sough Lane and follow it to the right, round a hairpin bend. **10** Look out on your right for a stile in the wall; once over the stile head half-left to the corner of the field. **11** Beyond this head for Five Wells Farm and walk between the farm buildings and along the farm drive beyond to the road. **12** Take the path opposite and return to Chelmorton the way you set out.

Horseshoe and Deep Dales

4½ miles: Moderate

Uneven ground and one rocky ascent. Allow 2½ hours.

1 Leave the pub and turn right down the main village street, passing the *Chelmorton Troughs*. **2** Turn right into Common Lane and follow it for ¼ mile until a footpath crosses at right angles; turn left into a walled trackway. **3** Pass a small farm building on your left and then, just after the track bends sharp right, cross a stone stile on your left, next to a gate, into open fields. Head half right towards a clump of trees. **4** Follow a path between walls to the right of the trees, at one point climbing a stone stile next to a gate, until you meet the main road. Turn left. **5** When the road bends left, take a path on the right in the corner and turn half left, slightly away from the dale on your right, aiming for a telegraph pole in the middle of the field. At a stone stile turn slightly left and follow the broken wall back to the main road. **6** Turn right and walk down the main road past a house and into Horseshoe Dale. At the bottom turn right through a gate and between farm buildings to join the dale proper. Look out for *Bullhay Dale Calcite Mine* on your right. **7** Keep on down the main dale, which becomes gradually deeper and rockier and enters the *Topley Pike and Deep Dale SSSI*. The obvious entrance to *Thirst House Cave* appears above and to the right of the path. Cross the Midshires Way and continue down the dale, usually now (depending on the season) accompanied by a stream. **8** Eventually the stream disappears and the path climbs

slightly, passing a gate and stile, to bypass a disused slurry pond that fills the bottom of the dale, before dropping steeply down steps to the junction of Deep Dale and Marl Dale. **9** Turn right up Marl Dale, switching to the right-hand side of the wall as you approach the head of the dale. **10** Clamber up the rocky top of the gorge to a stile beyond into open fields, and keep in the same direction with a wall on your left. **11** When the wall curves away to the left, note the earthworks of the *Chelmorton Flat settlement*, and keep straight on to meet a field track. **12** At the end of the field leave the track to cross a stone stile, beyond which head in the direction of Burrs Farm. **13** Keep left of the farm and beyond it follow a walled green lane. Keep on up the next, tapering, field to stile in the middle of the end wall. **14** A further stretch of walled green lane leads to a road, where you cross over into the farm drive opposite (signposted Midshires Way). **15** Follow this track past Shepley Farm, and turn left when you reach the main street in Chelmorton to return to the Church Inn.

Five Dales round

9 miles: Moderately strenuous

A lengthy walk with much rocky uneven ground, some steep drops above the river and one steep stepped ascent. The stepping stones in Chee Dale may be impassable after heavy rain. Allow 4–5 hours.

Follow steps **1** – **8** from **Horseshoe & Deep Dales**.

9 Turn left down Deep Dale, passing through a relatively unattractive section with quarry workings on your left to reach the A6. **10** Cross the main road carefully and turn right through the car park to a metalled drive beyond which heads downstream beside the River Wye, passing under three railway viaducts. **11** At Blackwell Mill, cross the river on a footbridge and turn right, now with the river on your right. **12** When the Pennine Bridleway heads off uphill to the left, keep right along the river bank. **13** At the next viaduct, do not cross the river but stay on the left-hand bank. Pass under a fifth railway viaduct after quarter of a mile to enter the most rocky and dramatic section of the dale. **14** Cross the first set of stepping stones under the cliff when you encounter them and, shortly afterwards, cross to the other bank via a footbridge. **15** Climb some steps to bypass a narrow gorge then keep left to drop back down to the riverside, passing under yet another railway arch, before crossing another footbridge back to the northern bank of the river, continuing downstream. **16** Cross the second set of stepping stones. **17** At Wormhill Springs the path crosses a side-stream via a footbridge, beyond which the valley opens out slightly. Ignore a footbridge over the Wye to your right signposted Blackwell, keeping to the left-hand bank. **18** Pass under a final viaduct and continue until you reach the road in Miller's Dale. **19** Turn right across the river. **20** By the speed limit signs, take a footpath doubling back into the woods on your left. When it divides, take the right-hand fork up the steps. **21** At the top of a steep climb the path passes some disused quarries and enters open fields. Aim for the opposite corner of the field ahead, to a gate under a tree. **22** Cross two more fields to

reach a gate into a track. Keep on in the same direction (left). **23** Pass Lydgate Farm on your right and keep right when you meet the metalled road, passing further houses and farms. **24** When you meet the main road, cross carefully and follow the road opposite. **25** At the Waterloo pub, cross a second main road and take the track to the left of the pub. This climbs gradually to a hairpin bend. **26** Look out on your right for a stile in the wall; once over the stile head half-left to the corner of the field. **27** Beyond this head for Five Wells Farm and walk between the farm buildings and along the farm drive beyond to the road. **28** Take the path opposite and follow it downhill to return to Chelmorton and the Church Inn.

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THE CHURCH INN

Main Street Chelmorton Derbyshire

SK17 9SL

T: 01298 85319

W: www.thechurchinn.co.uk



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