



YHA RAVENSTOR

Ideas for walks in the local area



How to use this book

This book contains some suggestions for enjoyable walks in the countryside immediately surrounding YHA Ravenstor. We hope that our guests can either use it to follow some of the walks we have chosen, or you can use the material in here as an inspiration to make up your own fun walk in the local area!

Each walk is graded as either an 'Easy Walk' (one requiring not much time or walking experience, with small distances covered), a 'Medium Walk' (typically involving walking longer distances) or a 'Long Walk' (involving a far more substantial commitment in terms of time and distance to complete). We have tried to provide approximately accurate details of how far the walk is from start to finish, as well as a suggested amount of time you should allow to complete the walk.

Each walk contains a section of the relevant Ordnance Survey (OS) map, which shows the route to be walked. The numbered points on each map correspond to numbered sections of directions at the bottom of the sheet. For the sake of brevity, some directions are short, but hopefully the combination of map and words should enable you to follow the route. Full OS maps can be bought at the hostel – ask at reception if interested.

We would recommend walking in sensible, ankle protecting shoes, carrying plenty of water with you and wearing weather-appropriate clothing. A weather forecast is usually available in the reception area – please use it to plan ahead for likely conditions on your walk. It's always better to walk in a group, with a way of getting help and some form of first aid provision if possible. We hope you stay safe and enjoy your walk!

Team Ravenstor

SHORT WALK

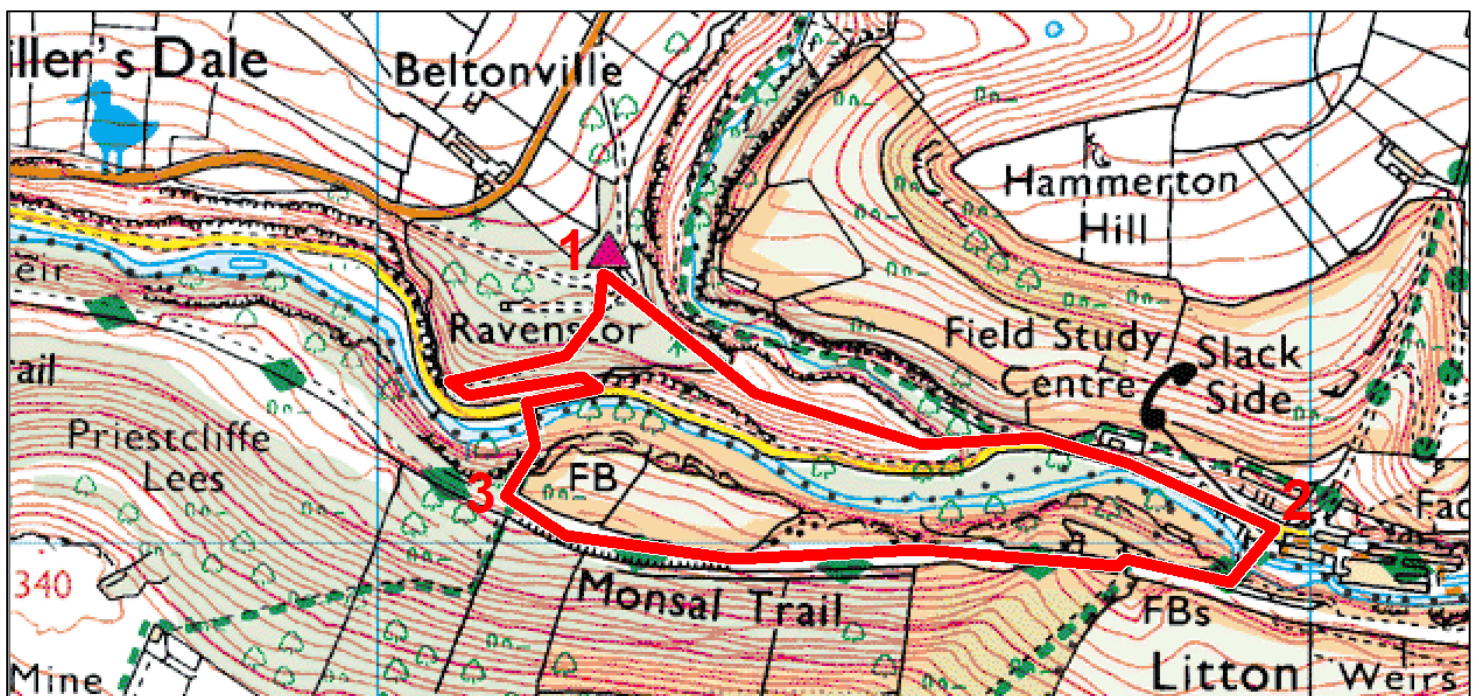


Ravenstor – Litton Mill – Monsal Trail – Ravenstor

Duration: 30-45 minutes

Distance: 2km, approximately

This walk takes in one of the two mills near to the hostel, as well as part of the Monsal Trail (a former railway, and currently a popular walking, cycling and horse-riding route).



- 1) From Ravenstor reception, head out through the front door and turn left. Head past the monkey puzzle tree and the archery nets; take the path onto Bellamy's Bank, descend the steps to the valley floor and walk straight ahead along the track.
- 2) Continue walking parallel to the river for a couple of minutes until you reach Litton Mill. There are some cottages just before the mill; take the footpath to the right of cottage number 10 (signposted 'Monsal Trail'). Cross the river and take the steps up to the trail (look out for the low-lying tree!).
- 3) When on the Monsal Trail, turn right and keep walking that way until you reach the next turning – there is a bench dedicated to Bill, and a signpost leading down towards 'Ravenstor'. Take the steps down and cross over the river; follow the driveway up through the woods, using the ramps and steps, until you arrive back at the hostel entrance.

MEDIUM WALK

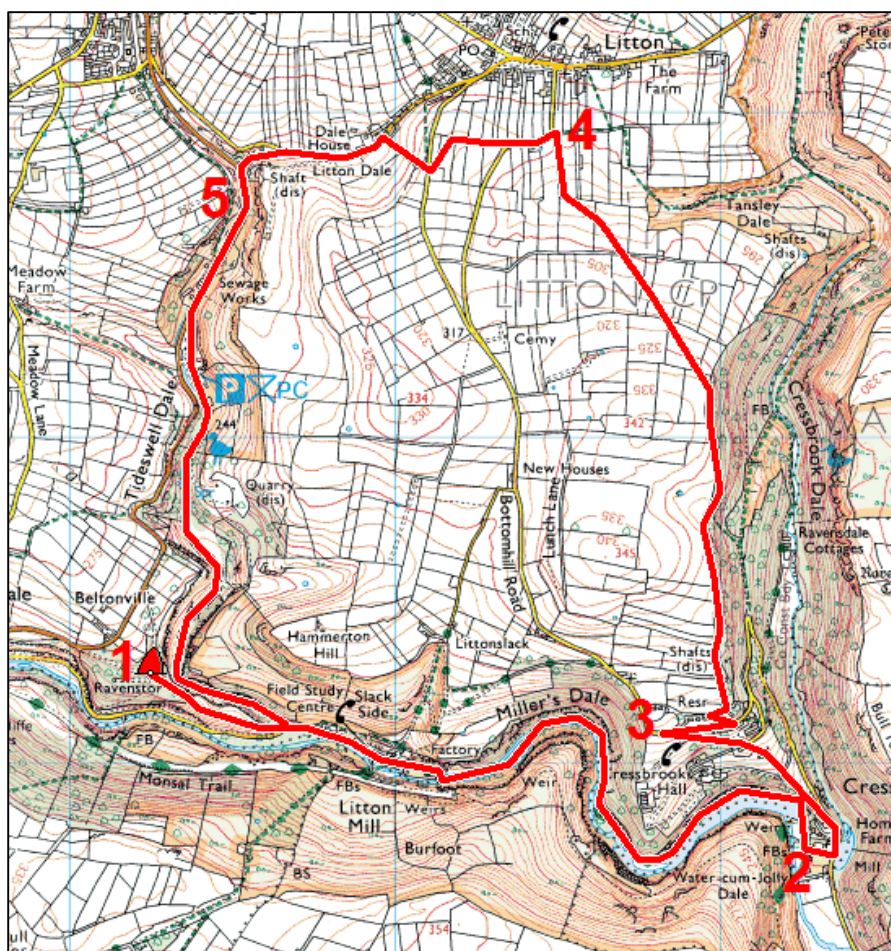


Ravenstor – Cressbrook – Tideswell Dale – Ravenstor

Duration: 3 – 3.5 hours

Distance: 10km, approximately

This walk follows part of the River Wye, taking in both Litton and Cressbrook Mills. It then cuts over the top of Cressbrook Dale, and skirts Litton before arriving back at Ravenstor via Tideswell Dale.



- 1) From Ravenstor reception, head out of the front door and turn left. Head past the monkey puzzle tree and the archery nets; take the path onto Bellamy's Bank and descend the steps to the valley floor. Travel straight ahead along the track for about a mile, until you get to Cressbrook Mill (this is the second mill you come to – the first is Litton Mill).
- 2) Take the left pathway and head onto the main road, heading left. Take the (steep!) left path up the hill, and turn left at the next fork as well.
- 3) At the T junction, turn right. Just past the phone box, there is a zig-zagging footpath to your left. Take it, and walk through the fields (Cressbrook Dale is down on your right) for 2km.
- 4) When you join a road, turn left. At the next junction head straight on (i.e. descending the hill), then cut through the fields to your right until you reach the main road into and out of Litton. Take this road downhill until you reach the T junction.
- 5) At the junction, turn left and walk along the road. Walk through the picnic site on your left; head through Tideswell Dale, bearing to your right, until you reach Bellamy's Bank again. Ascend the steps again and return to the hostel entrance.

MEDIUM WALK

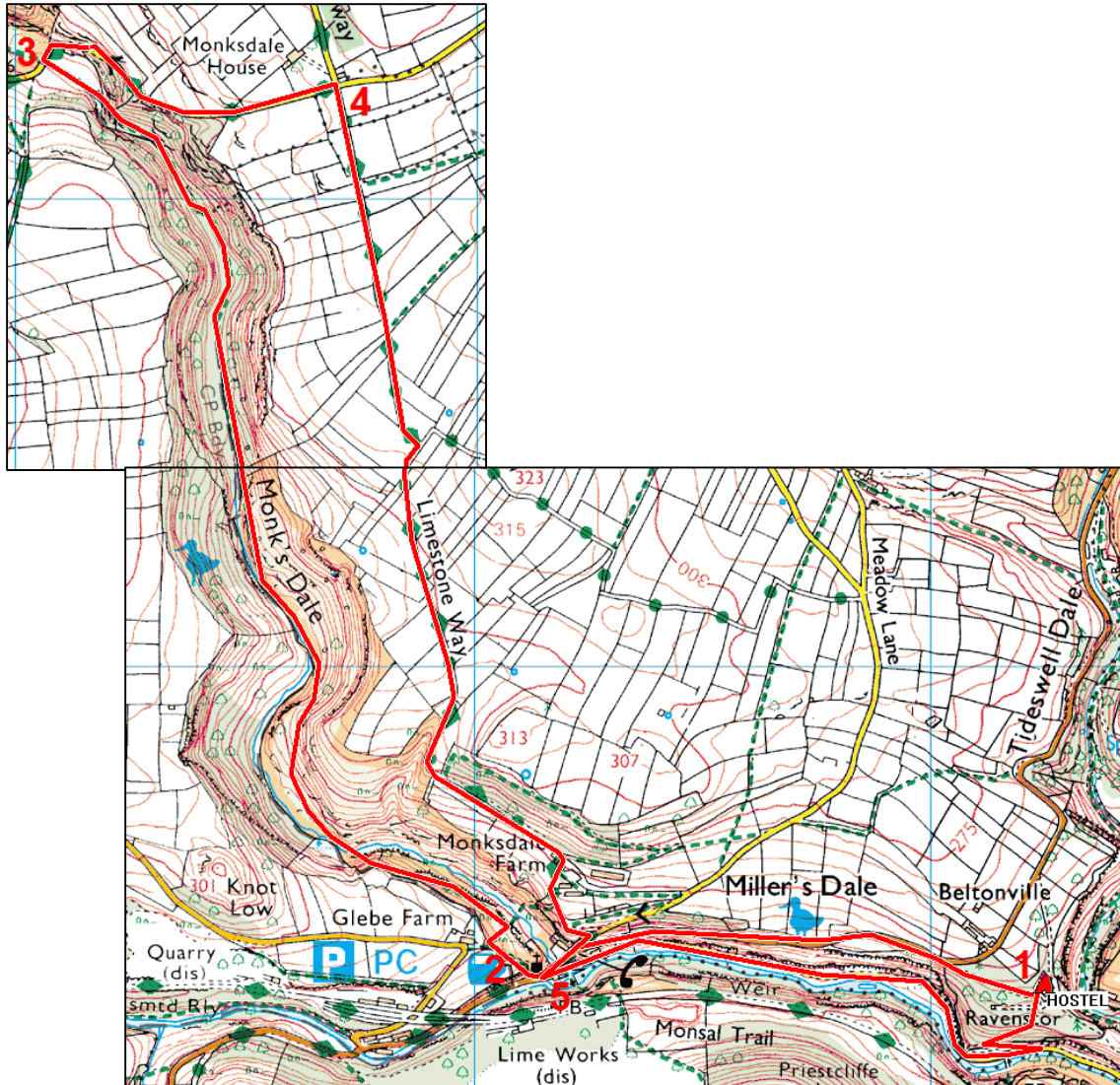


Ravenstor – Monk's Dale – Miller's Dale – Ravenstor

Duration: 3.5 hours

Distance: 10.5 km approximately

This walk takes in the splendid Monk's Dale nature reserve, and returns to the hostel via part of the Limestone Way (a well-established local walking route) and a path along the River Wye.



- 1) From Ravenstor reception, walk up the main driveway (past the customer car park) and turn left at the top of the drive. Walk down the hill into Miller's Dale.
- 2) Just past the church, on the right hand side of the road, there is a (concealed) footpath up into Monk's Dale. Take the footpath and walk all the way (about two miles) through the dale.
- 3) When you reach the main road, turn right and walk for about a kilometre.
- 4) At the four-way crossroads, turn right and head along the Limestone Way back into Miller's Dale. You pass through Monksdale Farm on your way down the hill.
- 5) In Miller's Dale, the road forks by the church. Take the lower branch of the fork (the Angler's Rest pub lies along this path) and walk alongside the river for about a mile. Eventually you will come to a driveway (signposted 'Youth Hostel') next to a bridge across the River Wye. Walk back up the driveway and through the woods to return to the hostel entrance.

LONG WALK

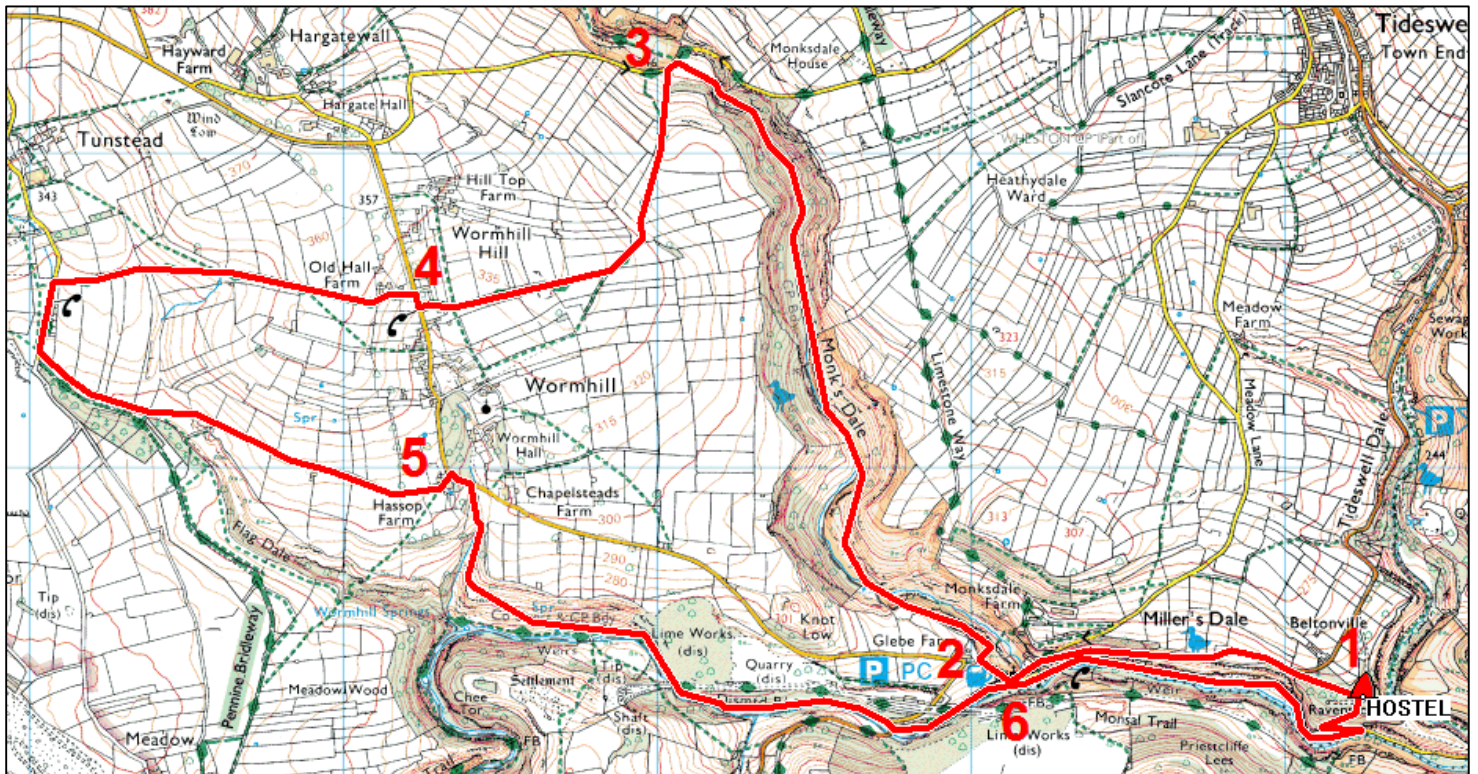


Ravenstor – Monk's Dale – Wormhill – Miller's Dale – Ravenstor

Duration: 4 hours

Distance: 12 km approximately

This walk takes in the splendid Monk's Dale nature reserve, and continues on through part of Wormhill. It heads west towards Tunstead, then takes in Chee Dale Nature Reserve, and returns to the hostel by following a path along the River Wye.



- 1) From Ravenstor reception, walk up the main driveway (past the customer car park) and turn left at the top of the drive. Walk down the hill into Miller's Dale.
- 2) Just past the church, on the right hand side of the road, there is a (concealed) footpath up into Monk's Dale. Take the footpath and walk all the way (about two miles) through the dale.
- 3) When you reach the main road, turn left and immediately left again; head uphill (taking the right fork when it appears) into Wormhill.
- 4) At the main road, turn right and cross over the road by Old Hall Farm. Pass through the farm, and walk through the fields until you reach a main road. Turn left (past the phone box), and take the first footpath on your left that you can (this is before Tunstead Limestone Works). After about a kilometre you will reach Hassop Farm.
- 5) On the main road out of Hassop Farm (heading downhill), take the immediate right footpath through Chee Dale Nature Reserve. Walk through the nature reserve and along the river (heading left when you reach it); after approximately 3km you will arrive at Miller's Dale.
- 6) In Miller's Dale, the road forks by the church. Take the lower branch of the fork (the Angler's Rest pub lies along this path) and walk alongside the river for about a mile. Eventually you will come to a driveway (signposted 'Youth Hostel') next to a bridge across the River Wye. Walk back up the driveway and through the woods to return to the hostel entrance.

LONG WALK



Ravenstor – Litton – Wardlow – Monsal Head – Ravenstor

Duration: 6 – 6.5 hours

Distance: 18 km approximately

This walk visits the viaduct at Monsal Head, via Tansley Dale and Longstone Moor. The walk then follows part of the well-known Monsal Trail back to the hostel.



- 1) From Ravenstor reception, head out of the front door and turn left. Head past the monkey puzzle tree and across Bellamy's Bank; descend to the valley floor. Turn left and walk through Tideswell Dale (via the picnic site) and onto the road. At the junction ahead of you, turn right and walk up into Litton.
- 2) Past the red telephone box in Litton, take the road to the right (signposted 'Monsal Dale'). When this road bends to the right, head onto the footpath to the left and then continue straight on. Descend into Tansley Dale; take the path straight ahead (it turns slightly to your right) at the crossroads in the dale; head up the other side of Cressbrook Dale, into Wardlow.
- 3) Turn right at the main road in Wardlow. Just past Hall Farm, take the path through the fields on your left. Walk until you reach a road, then turn right and walk up and over Longstone Moor.
- 4) On the far side of the moor, you meet a main road. Follow the road downhill; take the second major turning on your right, onto a path towards Dale Farm. Past the farm, you drop down onto a road; turn right and walk up through Little Longstone and onto Monsal Head.
- 5) At the car park / viewpoint at Monsal Head, take the (steep!) path down onto the Monsal Trail. Walk over the Monsal Head viaduct and continue straight on along the trail for about 3 miles.
- 6) When you see a signpost for 'Ravenstor', descend down the (steep!) steps on your right; cross the river at the bridge; walk back up the driveway and through the woods to return to the hostel entrance.