



WILBOUNDS

WILD CAMPING ESCAPES MANCHESTER

Five great wild camping spots that are
less than two hours from Manchester





WILDBOUNDS

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ABOUT US

WildBounds is a growing team of adventurous folk, united by a shared passion for the outdoors, for adventures big and small, and for discovering the stories behind the people and places that inspire us.

We believe passionately that to live life to the fullest, we must challenge ourselves, push ourselves beyond the bounds of our comfort zone – push ourselves to our outer, wild bounds.

The [WildBounds Store](#) brings you exceptional gear from independent brands – brands with an interesting story and a focus on craftsmanship and sustainability.

The [WildBounds Journal](#) brings you inspirational stories on active sport pursuits and outdoor adventures, culture and lifestyle.

We are 100% independent and based in the UK.

WELCOME...

“Wild camping is escapism in its purest form; it is losing yourself in nature; it is getting far away from roads, cities, shops and mobile-phone reception; and, ultimately, it is just good, old-fashioned, adventurous fun.”

– James Michael Forrest, adventurer, hiker and author

GREETINGS, ADVENTURER.

Since you're reading this, we take it you're interested in wild camping, which is awesome. But we know that for first-timers, it can be hard to know where, when and how to start. And even for experienced wild campers, one of the toughest decisions is working out where to go. That's why we've put together this selection of amazing wild camping spots that are all located within a couple of hours of Manchester by car, train or bus.

Why Manchester? Well, if you live or work in the city, you've probably experienced a desire to escape once in a while. We get it – we've been there too. And wild camping is the perfect getaway. With that in mind, we've picked five wild camping spots that ought to be the perfect antidote. It includes a couple of places to pitch up for epic views and well as some beautiful hidden pockets of pristine woodland.

Let's be clear: we're letting you in on our favourite secret wild camping spots here. Please don't let us down. That means camping responsibly and abiding by leave no trace principles. If you need a little help with that, we've collated all our hard-earned knowledge and experience, and enlisted some wild camping experts, to put together an online wild camping guide. This contains plenty of practical advice for first-time wild campers. For starters, make sure you've read all of the following articles.

BEFORE YOU HEAD OUT, READ...

[Essential wild camping kit](#)

[How to find the perfect wild camping pitch](#)

[Is wild camping legal?](#)

[Leave no trace: what you need to know](#)

[Axe murderers & other wild camping myths](#)

[What to do if you get moved on](#)

All good? Then read on. We've got everything you need for a great wild camp, with info on how to reach each spot, suggested routes to walk, local amenities, stuff to look out for and plenty more.

We hope you enjoy your night in the great outdoors. If so, be sure to take some pictures! Hit us up on Insta [@wildbounds](#), or tag your posts [#stayboundless](#).

Thanks for downloading this guide – and stay boundless.

WildBounds

05

GREAT WILD CAMPING SPOTS NEAR MANCHESTER

**KENTMERE,
LAKE DISTRICT**
1 hr 40 mins
via M61, M6
and A591

**FOREST OF BOWLAND,
LANCASHIRE**
1 hr 30 mins
via M62 and M66

**DOVESTONE RESERVOIR,
GREATER MANCHESTER**
50 mins
via A635

MANCHESTER

**GOYT VALLEY,
PEAK DISTRICT**
1hr
via A34

**CHROME HILL,
PEAK DISTRICT**
1 hr 20 mins
via A5103
and A537

KENTMERE

#1

LAKE DISTRICT

Located in the southern part of the Lake District National Park, reaching Kentmere is just about do-able from Manchester on a Friday evening after work. Nestled in a long valley, it begins with a bowl of hills known as the Kentmere Round; a horseshoe of high fells. It is a nice quiet part of the Lakes, ideal if you want to avoid the crowds. You could even complete the full Kentmere horseshoe, which is a 12-mile (19km) upland route that offers some of the best views of the far eastern fells, as well as the chance to bag a few Wainwrights (a series of 214 Lake District summits, collated by Alfred Wainwright in his series of iconic guidebooks).

The walk-in

Heading out of the small quiet hamlet of Kentmere, climb steadily to the top of the Garburn Pass, turning right and heading north towards the summit of the first fell, Yoke. Following the track along the ridge, head over Ill Bell and Froswick and finish at Thornwaite Crag, where you will find a tall beacon. There's a great view from here, and you can find a few small tarns that hold water even in summer.

Where to pitch

There are discreet places to pitch all along this ridge. The undulating ground means there are some great, secluded pitches away from the trail. You may be joined by the local herd of sheep up on this ridge, who seem to like enjoying the good views.

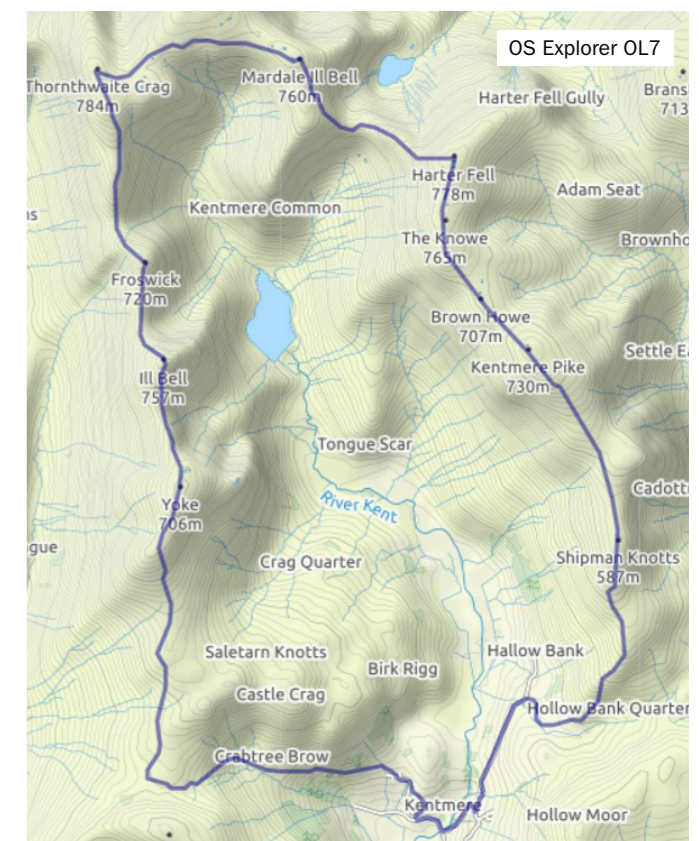
Local amenities

There is nothing in the hamlet of Kentmere itself but on the drive you will pass through Staveley, which has an amazing artisan bakery (it's not cheap but the bacon sandwiches and pastries are worth it). They also have a small-micro brewery here, plus a few small independent shops that are worth checking out.



HOW TO GET THERE FROM MANCHESTER

It's a 1hr 40min drive from Manchester, and the village of Kentmere can be reached by road via the village of Staveley. As with much of the Lake District, parking can be a bit of a problem, though there is a small village hall with a handful of spaces. Often there is also a designated field that you can pay to park in.



FOREST OF BOWLAND

LANCASHIRE

The Forest of Bowland is a bit of a hidden treasure. Situated to the north of Manchester, the majority of people seem to simply bypass it in favour of a trip to the Lake District. But these open moorlands are usually empty and great for a wild camping trip. With plenty of trails to choose from, you could easily plan a multi-day adventure as well as just a quick overnighter.



Nature and wildlife

The Forest of Bowland is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty known for its rare upland birds. The heath provides a habitat not only for red grouse, but also for breeding pairs of the much-persecuted hen harrier.

#2

The walk-in

Head straight up from the car park, following the trail up towards Fair Snape Fell. Here you get a great view west down to Preston and up to Lancaster on a clear day. Then descend into the Langden Valley, bashing your way through the beautiful purple sea of heather. Down at the bottom of the valley is Langden Brook.

Where to pitch

There are some lovely spots alongside the brook in the valley, where it's normally very empty – just head away from the trail. Then complete the looped trail, heading back up the Bleadale Valley and across the fells to get back to the car park the next morning.

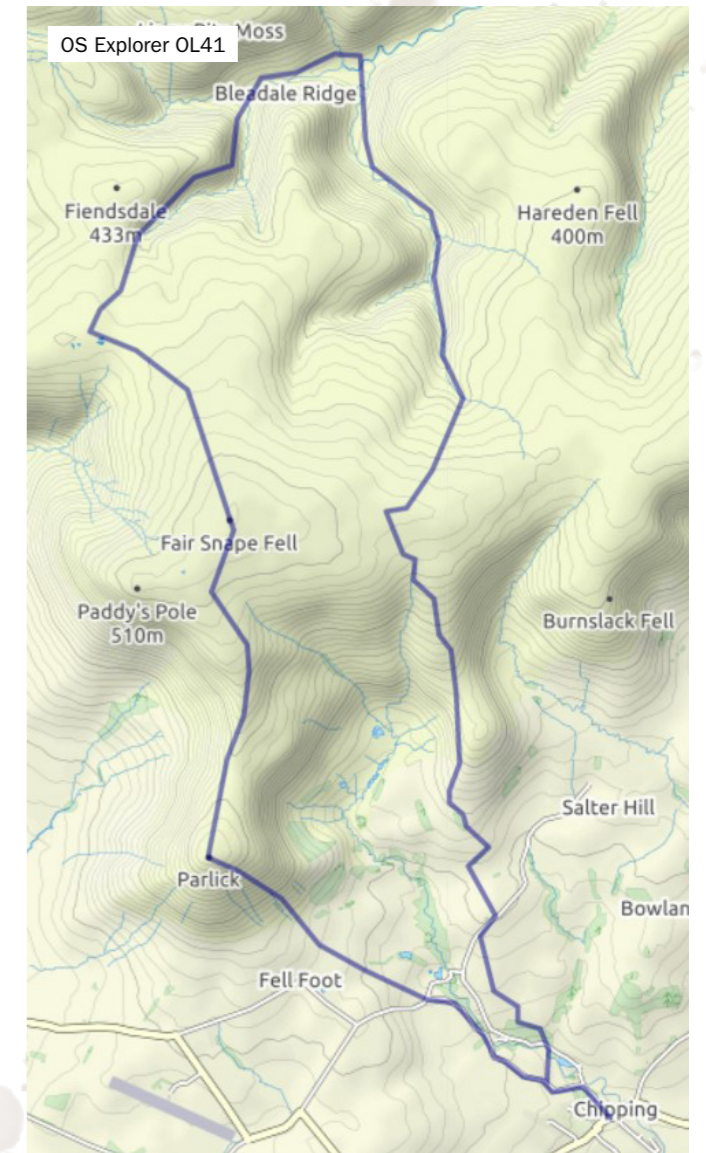
Local amenities

Chipping is the nearest village, with a very nice farm shop full of local produce. If you need a larger store, then Longridge has a Booths supermarket where you can stock up on supplies. Don't forget to stop off at the Tillotson Arms for some classic pub grub and a pint.



HOW TO GET THERE FROM MANCHESTER

It's about a 1hr 30min drive from Manchester and there are plenty of different places you can park up. A nice easy spot is just outside of Chipping village (postcode for sat nav PR3 2NQ), which puts you right by the trailhead (note that there is only space here for 4 to 5 cars, so it's still worth having a Plan B).



DOVESTONE RESERVOIR

#3

GREATER MANCHESTER

Dovestone Reservoir lies at the convergence of the valleys of the Greenfield and Chew Brooks above the village of Greenfield, on Saddleworth Moor in Greater Manchester, England. The reservoir is on the western edge of the Peak District National Park. On a clear day it gives you great views back across to the city of Manchester. With an RSBP nature reserve next to the reservoir, there is plenty of birdlife to look out for in the area too.



The walk-in

Follow the edge of the reservoir until you see a track heading uphill, signposted 'Chew Reservoir'. From here there is a good wide track that is easy to follow, even at night. If you have plenty of daylight you can walk around to the other side of the reservoir and head up the trail that way. It's a good climb, but once at the top the views are spectacular.

Where to pitch

Up on top it is barren moorland, but there is a great walk along the edge of the Dove Stone Rocks, with some amazing views back down the valley to the city. Along here, head off the trail and there are lots of small gullies that are perfect for a discreet pitch. It's not too hard to find a nice raised peaty section sheltered by rocks, which makes for an epic place to watch the sunset and enjoy a night in the hills.

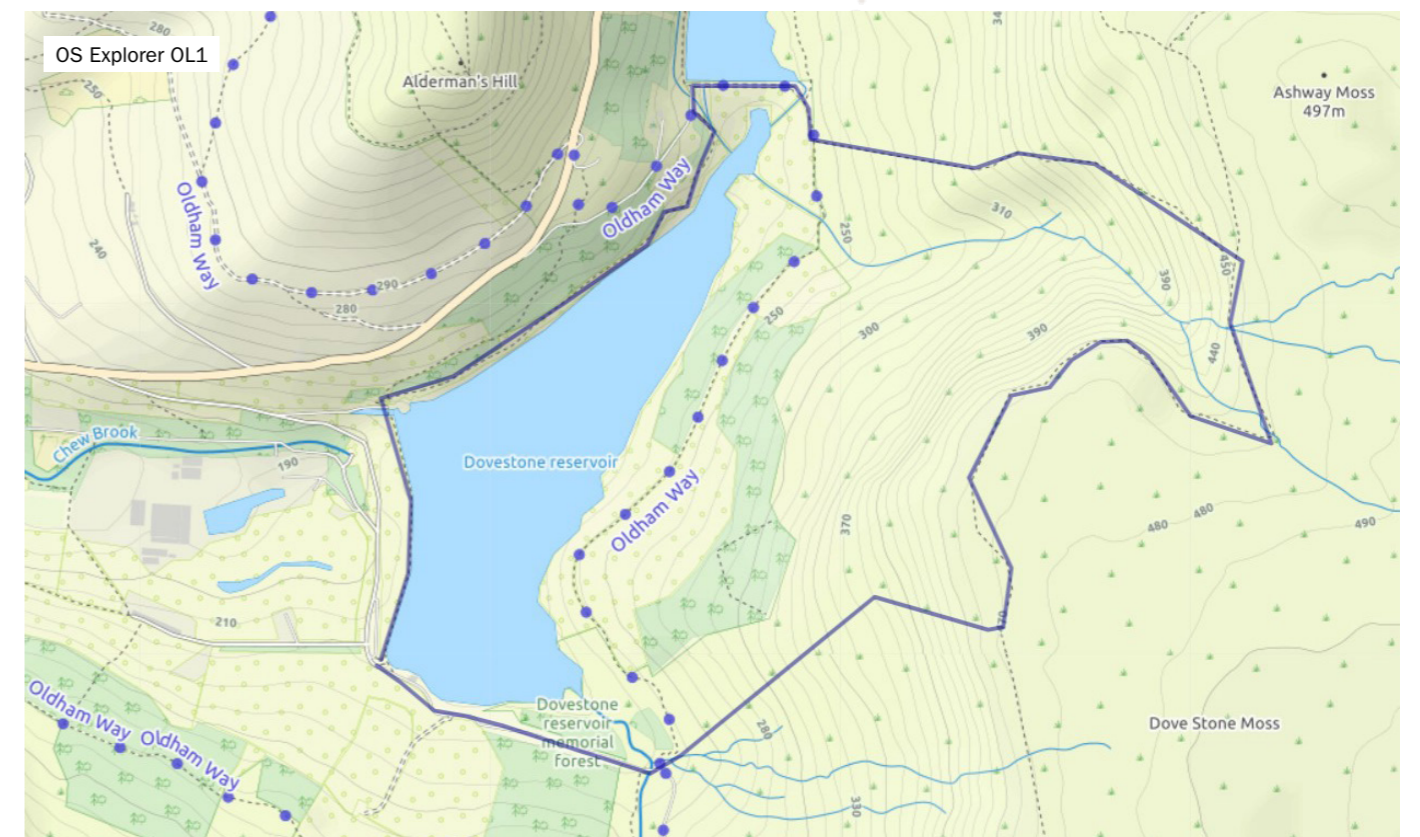
Local amenities

There's a Tesco in the nearby village of Greenfield, as well as some small local shops where you can stock up on food. If you drive, there is a great pub just up the valley on the A625 called The Huntsman Inn, which offers great food and has a nice beer garden with views of the Yorkshire moors. There is often an ice cream van in the car park too!



HOW TO GET THERE FROM MANCHESTER

You can get the train from Manchester Piccadilly to Greenfield (20 mins), then it's a five-mile walk to the reservoir from there. If arriving by car, it's usually a 45 to 50-minute drive from Manchester city centre, and there are three public car parks. If you choose to drive, note that it can get very busy at the weekends, so it's worth arriving later and leaving early.



GOYT VALLEY

PEAK DISTRICT

#4

The Goyt Valley, in many respects, represents the Dark Peak area of the Peak District National Park in microcosm. The upper four-mile section of this gritstone valley on the western edge of the Peak District shares many of the most typical features of the northern, eastern and western parts of the park, where the dark, brown grit is the dominant rock. The landscape is a scenic mix of high moorland, woodland, river and valley, with the man-made additions of the twin reservoirs of Fernilee and Errwood.



The walk-in

The car park runs all the way along the Errwood Reservoir. Here you will find trail markers heading into the forest. There are 3 main sections of woodland – Err Wood, Ladbitch Woods and Goat Forest. Various tracks go through these areas but it's easy to find hidden spots away from the trails.

Where to pitch

Use your judgement as to where is a good place to pitch. Make sure you're away from the roads and tracks, as these can get busy, but there is plenty of woodland to find a discreet spot to make your camp.

Local amenities

Buxton is the nearest town, which is 5.7 miles away. Here you can find a good mix of big supermarkets and smaller local shops. It's also a lovely Peak District town full of fascinating history and a great selection of cafés. For an epic breakfast check out The Green Pavilion or to try the famous Buxton pudding, pop into The Buxton Pudding Emporium.



Myths and legends

The Goyt Valley contains the remains of a great house as well as wild woods and bleak moors, so perhaps it's no surprise that it has been the scene of various ghostly goings-on. The focal point for supernatural activity is ruined Errwood Hall, the home of several generations of the Grimshawe family. Visitors have reported seeing apparitions of former inhabitants, including Victorian children, an ethereal butler and even a spectral horse and cart.

HOW TO GET THERE FROM MANCHESTER

It's about an hour's drive from Manchester city centre, and there are plenty of different car parks available. It can get busy on a sunny weekend, so again it's worth arriving later and leaving early.



CHROME HILL

PEAK DISTRICT

#5

Parkhouse and Chrome hills are two very recognizable hills in the Upper Dove Valley in the Peak District National Park. They're located just north of the River Dove, which forms the border between Staffordshire and Derbyshire. Chrome Hill is also known as 'The Dragon's Back', since its rugged, rocky silhouette resembles the scaly spine of a dragon – though we think it looks more like the curved back of a stegosaurus. Either way, the views from the top of these limestone hills are epic.



The walk-in

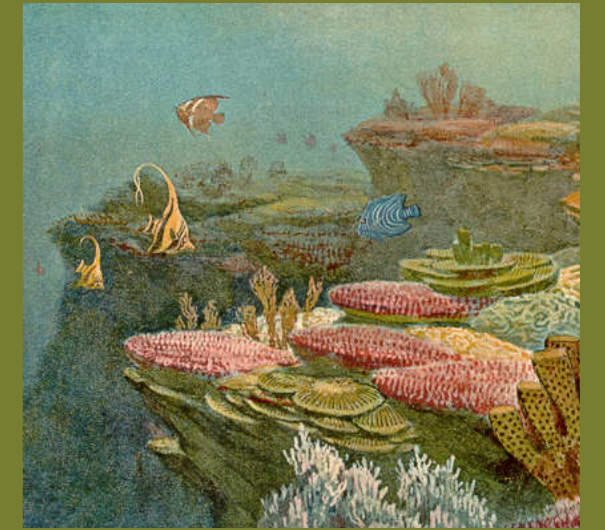
If you are starting from Hollinsclough, then you are right by the trailhead for Chrome Hill. If you arrive in daylight a walk along its rocky spine is not to be missed. If you are heading straight to set up camp, then follow the footpath along the River Dove. If you are coming from the direction of Buxton Raceway, follow the road/track south until you see the footpath, then join the path for the short descent to Parkhouse Hill.

Where to pitch

There are discreet places to pitch all over this area. This includes some spots off the track alongside the River Dove. If you arrive late then there are suitable sites along the Parkhouse and Chrome Hills.

Local amenities

The best ice cream in the Peaks is a short drive from here at Tagg Lane Dairy. If it's too early for ice cream then they also do great coffee! If you need to stock up on supplies, then Longnor is the closest village with a small general store.

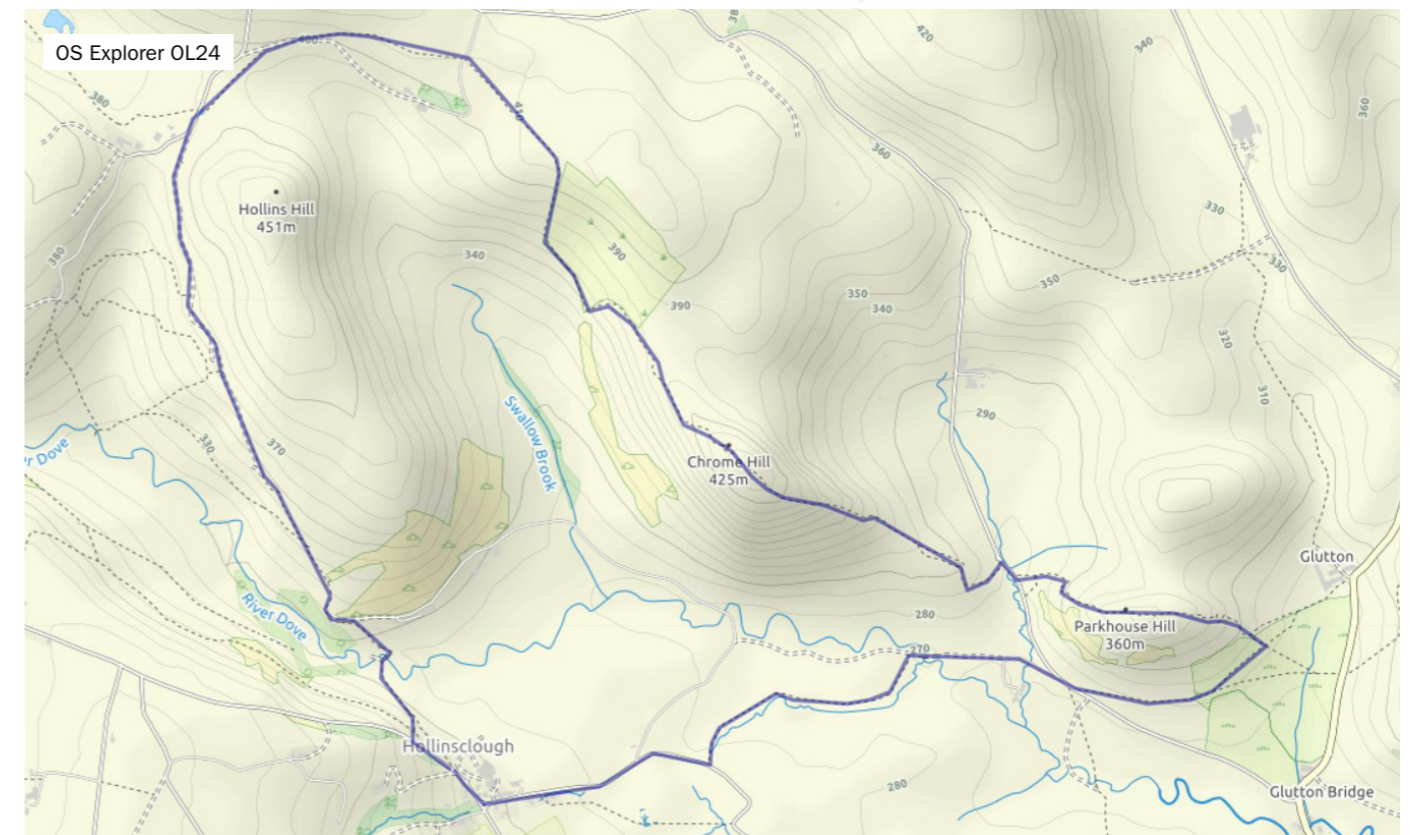


History and heritage

The sharp-edged limestone ridges of Chrome and Parkhouse Hills are actually reef knolls, which formed around 340 million years ago on the edges of tropical lagoons. They are comprised of prehistoric organisms and algae that once grew in a warm ocean, bound up with mud deposits. Later geological layers have been scoured away over time, so that the topography looks much as it would have done in the Triassic era.

HOW TO GET THERE FROM MANCHESTER

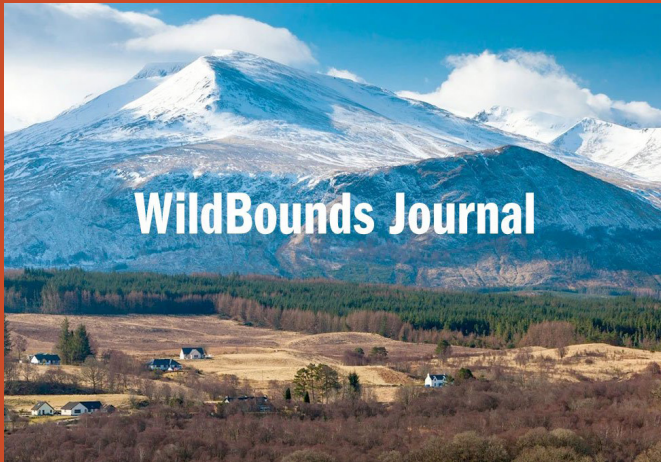
The Upper Dove Valley is a 1hr 20min drive from Manchester. There are a few options for parking, depending on where you want to start the hike. The first is in Hollinsclough Village (postcode for sat nav SK17 ORQ), where there is free on-street parking. Alternatively, there are a few roadside parking spots by the Buxton Raceway.





Coming soon...

WILD CAMPING ESCAPES: BRISTOL



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