

CHEVIN COUNTRY PARK

Hotel • Lodges • Spa

York Gate, Otley, Yorkshire LS21 3NU

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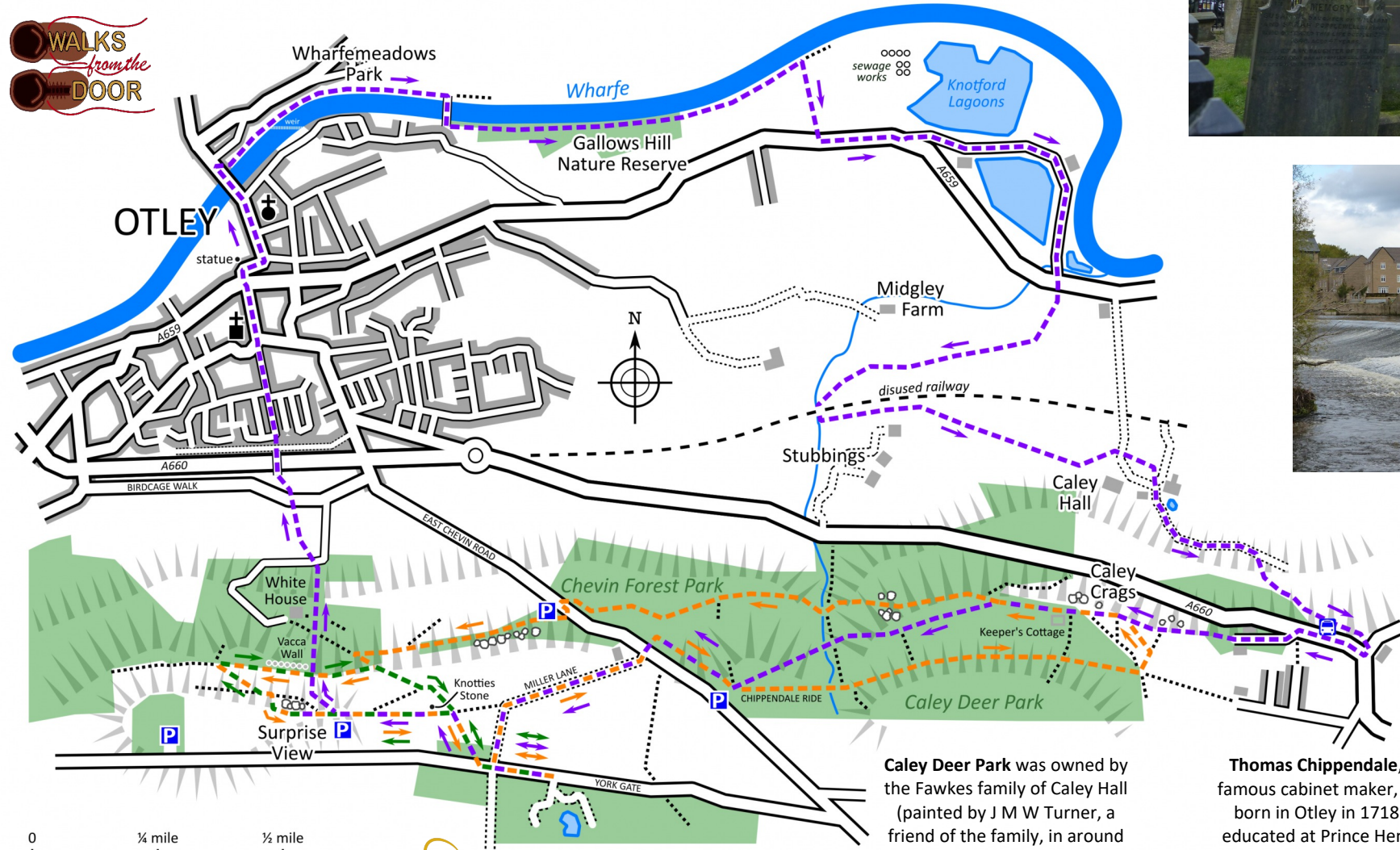
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Vacca or vaccary walls, left (from the Latin *vacca*, a cow) are a speciality of the Pennines and were used in the medieval period to contain cattle, though there is some doubt whether the example on the Chevin is genuinely ancient.

The **Navvies' Monument** in Otley (right) commemorates the railwaymen who died building the Bramhope Tunnel (1845–49).



Caley Deer Park was owned by the Fawkes family of Caley Hall (painted by J M W Turner, a friend of the family, in around 1818). As well as deer, the park was stocked with goats, wild boar...and zebras!

Thomas Chippendale, the famous cabinet maker, was born in Otley in 1718 and educated at Prince Henry's Grammar School, then housed in the C17 building next to this statue in the town centre.



Photo: Mick Melvin cc-by-sa/2.0

three circular walks from



THE

CHEVIN COUNTRY PARK

HOTEL • LODGES • SPA



Surprise View

1½ miles: Easy

A pleasant stroll to our local viewpoint, with a prehistoric cup-and-ring marked rock en route.

Chevin Forest Park

4½ miles: Moderate

An extended exploration of our local woods and crags, with superb views and historic monuments.

Otley and the River Wharfe

8 miles: Moderate

Stroll down into the historic town of Otley, returning via the River Wharfe and Chevin Forest Park.

Surprise View

1 ½ miles: Easy

Allow 1 hour. Mostly gentle gradients, and no stiles. Paths may be muddy and uneven in places.

1 From Reception, walk out to the road (York Gate) and turn left. **2** After 200 yards, a byway (Miller Lane) crosses the road, with a parking area on the left. Just beyond the byway, go through a stone squeeze stile on the right into Springfield Wood. **3** At the exit from the wood, cross the field ahead, crossing a shallow ditch to a pair of stone uprights near a wall corner on your left. *Nearby, look for the Knotties Stone, a cup-and-ring marked rock (below) just off the path to the right.* **4** Follow the main path left along the wall, passing the exit from the Surprise View car park on your left, to the remains of Jenny's Cottage and the rocks of Surprise View. **5** Beyond the rocks, follow the sandy path right and left as it descends to meet another path that runs below the boulders. **6** Bear left, with the stone wall still on your left, then leave the main path on a narrower path that drops diagonally down the slope to the right, above a bench. **7** The path passes into the woods, then joins a wider path just right of a wooden sign for Great Dibb Wood. **8** Turn right along this track, shortly passing the Vacca Wall (a line of upright stones) on your left. **9** Ignore a crossing path at the top of a flight of stone steps marked by a wooden carving, and pass a sign for White House Wood on your left. **10** When the track divides at a Geology Trail waymark, take the right-hand fork, which leads uphill through the trees and is occasionally rocky underfoot. **11** On leaving the trees you meet the bottom of a slabbed path coming from the right; ignore it and bear left, still climbing. **12** The path continues through heather and gorse to an open grassy area by the pair of upright stones you passed earlier, near the Knotties Stone. *From this point on, you are retracing your earlier steps.* **13** Carry straight on, crossing a shallow ditch and another path to enter the trees (Springfield Wood) once more. **14** At the end of the wood, go through the squeeze stile in the wall and out into York Gate. **15** Turn left along the road past the parking area on the right; the entrance to the hotel is on your right after a further 200 yards.



The Knotties Stone

Chevin Forest Park

4½ miles: Moderate

Allow 2–3 hours. Woodland paths may be muddy and there are some moderate gradients. No stiles.

1 From Reception, walk out to the road (York Gate) and turn left. **2** After 200 yards, turn right into a byway (signposted “Miller Lane”). **3** At a gate, follow the track right, descending to a house on East Chevin Road. **4** Cross the road and take a signposted bridleway opposite, which curves right and climbs the hill parallel to the road. **5** The path emerges at the end of a car park. **6** Turn left past the “Welcome to Chevin Forest Park” sign and take the level path ahead (Chippendale Ride). **7** Follow this broad path for a little over half a mile, ignoring turnings to left and right, until you pass a carved stump before the beginning of a boardwalk. **8** Turn left here (signposted “Public Footpath Ebor Way”) through a hand gate. **9** Almost immediately, turn right onto a grassy path. **10** When you meet a wider green track, follow it left, away from the power lines. **11** A path joins from the right at a grassy area above a crag with some benches; bear left along the obvious path. **12** Beyond a gate, ignore a track joining from the left and pass the ruins of Keeper’s Cottage. **13** At a fork after another 200 yards, take the right, lower fork (signposted “Public Bridleway”). **14** The track descends and another path joins from the right before you pass between large boulders on either side of the path. **15** The path continues gradually downhill and passes a bridleway on the right signposted “Leeds Road (A660)”, which you ignore. **16** Cross a rocky stream via a stone bridge and pass the foundations of a building on the right, then the site of an Iron Age settlement with an interpretation panel. **17** The path continues past a stone trough and later a memorial stone to a former head forester, before emerging into East Chevin Road. **18** Turn left up the pavement for a short distance, then cross into East Chevin Quarry car park. **19** Join a path beyond a kissing gate on the left of the car park, which climbs with views right over Otley and an old quarry face on the left and then passes above heathery slopes with further views. **20** Beyond a picnic table you meet another path by a carved wooden figure; turn sharp left here, uphill on the Chevin Geology Trail. **21** On meeting another track, turn right along the contour, passing a sign for White House Wood. **22** Ignore a flight of stone steps on the right by a wooden carving, continuing ahead with the Vacca Wall (a line of upright stones) on your right. **23** By a sign on the right for Great Dibb Wood, turn left and follow a path uphill through the trees, which emerges into open country and climbs the slope gradually to the rocks of Surprise View. **24** Follow the main path to the right of the rocks and past the ruins of Jenny’s Cottage. **25** Follow the wall along the ridge to a corner (*look out on the left here for the Knotties Stone – see photo, left*). **26** After the wall ends, bear right by a pair of upright stones across a grassy area. **27** After a shallow ditch the path leads into a wood, then emerges onto the road. **28** Turn left and follow the road back to the hotel entrance.

Otley and the River Wharfe

8 miles: Moderate

Allow 4–5 hours. There is a steep stepped descent to Otley. May be muddy in places. Several stiles, and livestock likely en route.

1 From Reception, walk out to the road (York Gate) and turn left. **2** After 200 yards, a byway (Miller Lane) crosses the road at right angles, with a parking area on the left. Just beyond the byway, go through a stone squeeze stile on the right into Springfield Wood. **3** Beyond the wood, cross a field to two stone uprights near a wall corner on your left. *Nearby, look for the Knotties Stone, a cup-and-ring marked rock (below) just off the path to the right.* **4** Follow the path left along the wall, passing the car park on the left, to the remains of Jenny's Cottage and the rocks of Surprise View. **5** Retrace your steps to the car park path, and take the path opposite, which leads obliquely down the slope below Surprise View before heading down to a wider track by a wooden carving, with the stones of the Vacca Wall running away to your left. **6** Cross this track onto a stone-stepped path that leads steeply downhill. **7** Cross another couple of transverse paths in the vicinity of the White House (refreshments) continuing downhill. **8** On meeting a tarmacked driveway, carry on down the narrow walled path ahead, still heading downhill. This leads between houses out to a public road (Birdcage Walk). **9** Cross and take the path opposite, which leads shortly to a footbridge over the A660 Otley bypass. **10** On the other side, walk down cobbled Station Road into Otley town centre. **11** Walk past the pillar box below the churchyard wall. *Beyond the churchyard gate, divert left into Church Lane briefly to view the Navvies' Memorial.* **12** Returning to the main road (Kirkgate), continue past the marketplace and Jubilee Clock to the junction with Westgate. **13** Cross straight over into Manor Square and follow the road round to the right past the Chippendale statue and adjoining plaque on the Old Grammar School. **14** At the next bend, bear left and walk down Bridge Street to the River Wharfe. **15** Cross the river via the footbridge to the right of the roadway and turn right into Wharfemeadows Park. **16** Follow the riverside path past the weir, and past a children's play area. Continue along the river past a skate park and tennis courts to White Bridge, where you return to the southern bank of the river. **17** Turn left beneath a pipeline (signposted "Gallows Hill Nature Park") and follow the path downstream with the river on your left. **18** After about half a mile, the path leaves the trees at the end of the nature park and runs alongside open fields. After two fields, turn right through a hand gate and follow the fence to the main road. **19** Turn left along the pavement, then shortly leave the main road to follow the old road on the left, which leads between Knotford Lagoons (fishing lakes). **20** When you return to the main road, cross carefully and take the footpath through the gate opposite. Walk up the side of the field then bear right to a gate, where you pass through into the next field. **21** Follow the field edge right to a metal kissing gate and continue to a stone squeeze stile and metal hand-gate. **22** Bear

half-left across the next field to a bridge under the old railway line. Pass under the bridge and turn left to a stile, with the disused railway on your left. **23** Part company with the railway and cross the field diagonally right to a stile by a gate in the far right-hand corner. Beyond this, follow the left-hand edge of a series of fields to reach a driveway, which you cross via a couple of wooden stiles. **24** Climb a stile in the fence on your right and cross a paddock to some farm buildings. **25** Follow the track right and left between the buildings, and above a pond on the left. After a stile and gate, the track continues above a wall with views ahead to the Wharfedale Viaduct. **26** By a footpath sign, leave the track before it starts to descend, and climb an indistinct path up a steep bank on your right to a waymark post. Beyond this, continue below a wood to a stile. **27** A short section of walled path leads along the bottom of the wood and into a field. Climb to a stile in the top right-hand corner, in front of a terrace of cottages with dormer windows in the roof, at the junction of Old Pool Bank and the main road. **28** Turn right along the pavement beside the main road, passing a stone bus shelter with a pitched roof. **29** After 150 yards, cross into a driveway signposted "Chevin Forest Park" (Quarry Road). Follow the driveway (ignoring a signposted footpath up steps on the left) to a couple of houses at the end. Take the path ahead, beyond the houses, into the trees. **30** Keep right of a fenced level area to a board for Chevin Forest Park Local Nature Reserve. The narrow path continues with occasional steps above and between crags and boulders, with wide views over the Wharfe valley. **31** Beyond some power lines, join a wider path by a bench and continue above Caley Crag, ignoring paths off to the left. After a gate, another track joins from the left and you pass the ruins of Keeper's Cottage. **32** At a fork, take the left-hand track, which climbs to a viewpoint before descending to a wooden footbridge over a stream in a ravine. **33** Climb the hill beyond then continue through open grassy areas to a car park. Just before the car park gate, turn right at a “Permitted Bridlepath” fingerpost and take the left-hand fork. **34** Follow this path downhill over a couple of footbridges, parallel to East Chevin Road on the left, until it meets the road at a Public Bridleway sign. **35** Cross into the track opposite (Miller Lane) and follow it past a house. **36** At Miller Lane Gate, turn left and follow the track to the road (York Gate). **37** Turn left to return to the hotel entrance on the right.



Surprise View