



THE BLACK HABITS BLACK DEEDS WALK

Cross the field, go left to a stile and enter the Blackbrook Estate. Follow the grass track to pass the ruins of Blackbrook Mill. Take the left fork and keep on to reach a gate. From here go diagonally left down to the brook and walk along the bank to a stile.

The present 19th century Blackbrook House occupies a site which has been inhabited over a long period. Tradition has it, that the place took its name from the religious order of Benedictine monks who dressed in black habits. Originally, the Black Brook was known as the Black Friar's Brook.

A previous residence was occupied by Sir Richard Morgan, the judge who passed sentence on Lady Jane Grey "to be burned alive on Tower Hill or be beheaded". The latter took place and her death is said to have preyed so much on Sir Richard's mind that he became mad. He was buried in London and in his will left 6s 8d towards the repair of Skenfrith Church.

Cross the stile, turn right, join the driveway and go through a gate on the left after the cattle grid. Go straight over the field to the right of a large oak tree;

pass through a hunting gate and cross the stream beyond it.



Pedunculate oak

Keep to the boundary on the left, go over a stile next to a gate and enter the wood. Take the right fork and follow the path through the wood to a stile.

Proceed slightly right, just above the pond, to cross a field and a stile. Go up diagonally left to a driveway, turn left, and follow it to the road (B4521). Turn left, pass Norton Baptist Church, and leave the road at a stile on the left near a road sign. Go along the tree-lined bank of a stream and over a bridge. A stile straight ahead gives access to the road near Norton Court. Turn right and then first left to follow the lane for about 1.5 kilometres.

Leave the lane at a stile on the right. Walk left across the field to get out onto the road near Drybridge House. Turn right to take the lane back to Skenfrith.

The dipper frequents the stretch of the Monnow immediately in front of The Bell. Look for the characteristic bobbing action of this small white-throated bird.



The Dipper



from the bell at skenfrith

Distance: 6 miles (9.5kms) Allow 3 hours
With two climbs of 180ft (55m)

Compiled by H&E Steggles · Printed by The Bell at Skenfrith
Skenfrith, Monmouthshire NP7 8UH
tel: 01600 750235 email: enquiries@skenfrith.co.uk www.skenfrith.co.uk
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Please be aware:
This is not 'Right to Roam' Countryside.
Please keep dogs on leads where there is livestock.

Local legends have it that beneath Skenfrith Castle there is buried treasure and that on nights when there is a full moon, the devil dances there with his damel

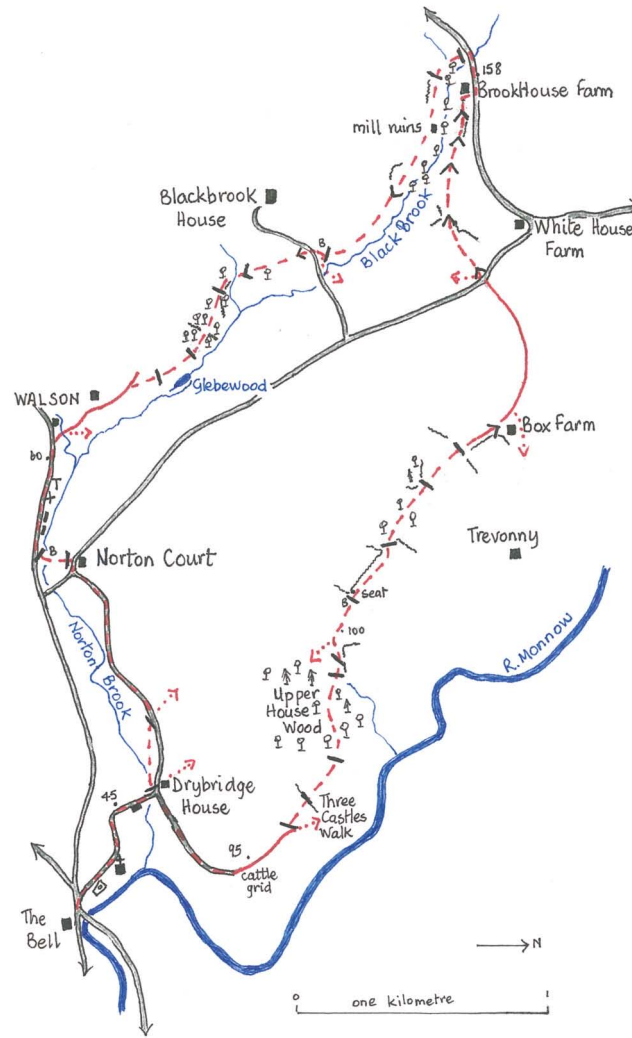
Take the road carefully through the village past the castle and church and keep on to reach a T-junction in front of Drybridge House. Climb the lane on the right and just before the top, cross a cattle grid. Some 200 metres down, leave the track via a stile on the left (with the heron logo).

Aim for the top telegraph pole. Use the stile in the fence and continue in the same direction to Upperhouse Wood, where a stile next to a gate affords entry.

Go down the grass track and keep straight on to get through the rest of the wood. A stile at the end and another on the left gives access to a small rough area and the open country.



This leaflet is based on Section 4 of the Monow Valley Walk book



Stile —
Gate > If you open one please close it.

Go straight down the slope, with the woodland over on the far left, towards a large tree in the field boundary. Over the small bridge and stile there is a seat. Follow the fence on the left to its end to go over a stile in the corner. Bear right through the scrubby wood and keep across the slope to enter and leave a small wooded area.

Walk across the slope to go over a stile next to a fenced-off wood on the left and then another by a gate in a hedge. Keep the hedge on the right and leave the field by a gate to

get out onto the driveway of Box Farm. Carry straight on along the drive to reach the road (B4347). Go over the road and through the right hand gate. Keep straight across the field to another in the far corner and then head for Brook



House Farm via three more gates. To avoid the farmyard, it is permitted to use the steps next to a barn to get to the lane. Turn left, go down and leave the lane at a stile on the left.



Brook House Farm steps