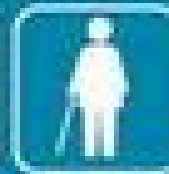
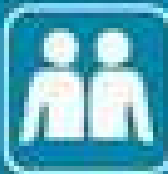



































You're Welcome

A guide to the
Peak District for new
and infrequent visitors





Key to all the Icons

	Location of easy access path		Refreshments
	Road		Woodland
	Private Access Road		Toilet
	Easy access, compacted stone path		Radar Key Toilet
	Tarmac Path		Accessible Toilet
	Other paths		Baby Changing Facilities
	Train Station		No. of Parking places
	Railway Line		No of Accessible Parking places
	National Trail/Long Distance Route		Gradient Up
	Short (<4m), uneven surface, i.e cross drain		Gradient Down
	Gate (Radar Key required to allow large mobility vehicles through)		Information Board
	Gate (two way)		Tourist Information Centre
	Kissing gate		View Point
	Bench		Children's Play Area
	Picnic Area		Cycle hire
			Cycle rack
			Served by Bus
			Town/City Centre

Manchester

Sheffield

Macclesfield

Buxton

Bakewell



Maplet on Line, Near Ashbourne

Introduction

Welcome to the Peak District National Park. This guide has been produced by the Peak District National Park Authority in conjunction with the Moors for the Future Partnership, and is designed to help first time and infrequent visitors to plan an enjoyable day out.

In particular, this booklet will aid disabled people, the elderly and families with small children to make informed choices, relax and enjoy this special place. Where possible, help to keep it special by reducing the impact of your visit by using public transport.

The National Park covers an area of 1500km², of which just over a third is moorland.

The Peak District was designated as the first UK National Park in 1951 to help protect its special landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage, and for its opportunities for informal recreation (such as walking, cycling or just relaxing and enjoying the scenery).



The National Park covers an area of 1500km², of which just over a third is moorland. These areas are often perceived as wild places, accessible to only the seasoned, or experienced rambler, but this guide highlights suitable places across the National Park where you can find the 'going a little easier'.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

How to Use this Guide

This booklet has been designed to let you see at a glance what the Peak District National Park has to offer and as such this guide divides it into five distinct areas; the Dark Peak, Hope and Derwent Valleys, Central, the South West and the South, to enable you to plan a great trip.

By using the information on the following pages, we hope you will be able to make informed decisions about which of the following facilities in each area will be suitable for your abilities and needs; car parks, toilet facilities, viewpoints, children's play areas and easy going paths.

Some of the toilets are part of the RADAR National Key Scheme. These toilets are available 24 hours, but many of the other accessible toilets are locked overnight. RADAR keys are available from all Peak District National Park Visitor Centres and local authorities.

The car parks listed are operated by the Peak District National Park Authority, unless stated, which provides free parking for Blue/Orange Badge holders. Annual car park permit forms for Peak District National Park Authority car parks are available from the National Park office in Bakewell (see inside back cover) and Bakewell Visitor Centre. 3 and 7 days Derbyshire Dales District Council permits are also available from Bakewell Visitor Centre.

Not all of the playgrounds in the Peak District are listed here, but just those that are secure (i.e. gated), safe to access and provide good play equipment (including benches) for a variety of ages.



Dark Peak

The northern reaches of the National Park are dominated by the untamed moorland summits of Kinder Scout, Bleaklow and Black Hill. These can be bleak environments, but this dramatic landscape provides a glimpse of real wilderness remaining in England.

However, two places in particular offer good opportunities to appreciate a true moorland experience without the need to brave the rough and damp ground of the peat bogs of this Dark Peak area. One is the Longdendale Trail on the former Manchester to Sheffield railway line, that forms part of a national coast-to-coast route called the Trans Pennine Trail that runs from Liverpool to Hull. The other is the circular footpath around the reservoir at Dovestone. Both provide accessible paths and details follow.



...this dramatic landscape provides a glimpse of real wilderness remaining in England.



Longdendale Trail



SK 025963 – SK 113998

Nearest toilets: **Torside car park**

This traffic-free route has a mostly smooth, level surface making it suitable for wheelchair users and people with restricted mobility, as well as families with small children and pushchairs. The Longdendale Trail is a section of the Trans Pennine Trail. It runs from Hadfield (accessible by train) to the Woodhead Tunnels, a distance of nearly 7 miles before crossing the A628 and climbing a steep moorland track towards the Yorkshire border at Salter's Brook. Access points are accessible to wheelchair and mobility scooter users, however, some gates need to be opened by a RADAR Key. You can get onto the Longdendale Trail at Platt Street, Hadfield and Torside Car Park. This popular site, which is served by a bus service, overlooks Torside Reservoir with its sailing club. Access to the Longdendale Trail is up a tarmac path, maximum gradient 1:15 (7%) or a steeper sandy track for cyclists and horse riders. A refreshment vehicle and room operate at times, from which leaflets can be obtained.



Dovestone Reservoir

P 125 **P & 2** Operated by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council   

SE 014035

Nearest toilets: **Dovestone Reservoir car park**

This mostly level 2.5 mile path around the reservoir has some ascents and visitors are advised to tackle the route in an anti-clockwise direction (setting off from the car park and up the road past the sailing club, returning via the path across the dam).

The majority of the route is along stone finished paths, but the steeper sections (up to 1:4 or 25%) have a tarmac surface.

What to see –

Dramatic and rugged scenery of the dark peak moorlands on all sides of the reservoir.



Hope and Derwent Valleys

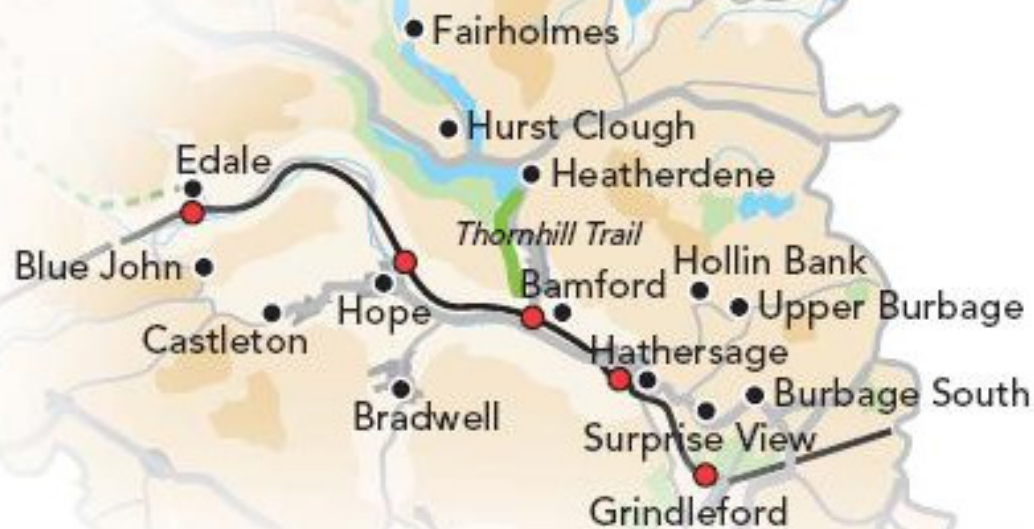
The Hope Valley has the only remaining operational railway line in the National Park, linking Manchester and Sheffield, and it is in this area that the limestone from the south meets dark gritstone from the north. The Derwent Valley is dominated by three large reservoirs fed by the moorlands above, made famous by its links with the Dambusters.

It is in and around the reservoirs and towns of this area where you will find many of the easy access moorland routes, particularly in the east, near Sheffield, where the moorland landscape is more forgiving. In addition, there are many places to take in great views and enjoy the changing landscape.

This area also contains the shortest of the five Peak District trails; the Thornhill Trail, near Bamford, and longest circular trail that circumnavigates the Ladybower, Derwent and Howden Reservoirs.



...the limestone from the south meets dark gritstone from the north.



Blue John Cavern

P35 P&4
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY DCC

Burbage South (Fox House Pub end)

P5 P&3
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Castleton Information Centre & Public Car Park

P100 P&8
 LOCKED AT NIGHT
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Edale Public Car Park

P100 P&9
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Hathersage Car Park

P40 P&3 200m
AWAY
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Heatherdene

P35 P&7
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY STW

Hollin Bank

P75 P&1
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Hope Car Park

P40 P&2
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Hurst Clough

P15
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Surprise View

P80 P&2
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Upper Burbage Bridge

P25 P&2
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY HPBC

Upper Derwent Information Centre, Fairholmes

P100 P&6
 CAR PARK OPERATED BY STW

Playpark areas:
 Bamford, Bradwell,
 Hathersage, Hope.



Upper Derwent Valley



SK 173894

The eighteen mile circuit around the Ladybower, Derwent and Howden Reservoirs now has an undulating, but almost continuous hard surface around its length, due to path improvements that includes the removal of steps leading up to the packhorse bridge at its northern end. Please note the north eastern edge is still quite challenging.

The road beyond Fairholmes is closed to traffic on Sundays throughout the year and Saturdays and Bank Holidays from Easter until the end of October (excluding badge holders). A frequent minibus service operates between Fairholmes and Kings Tree at these times.

Shorter easy access routes are available from Fairholmes. The Nature Trail meanders through woodland overlooking the reservoir and takes approximately 45 minutes. A 1.5km path links Fairholmes and Bridge End car park through the woods alongside the reservoir.

Hurst Clough is a scenic lay-by that overlooks Ladybower Reservoir and provides a tranquil spot to sit. The stone surfaced parking is fairly smooth. There are no easy walks except along the level, roadside, tarmac pavement.

What to see – The delightful mix of water, woodland, farmland and moors provide a spectacular setting for a variety of birdlife as you make your way around the circuit. You might be lucky and see Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Merlin or Peregrine Falcons.

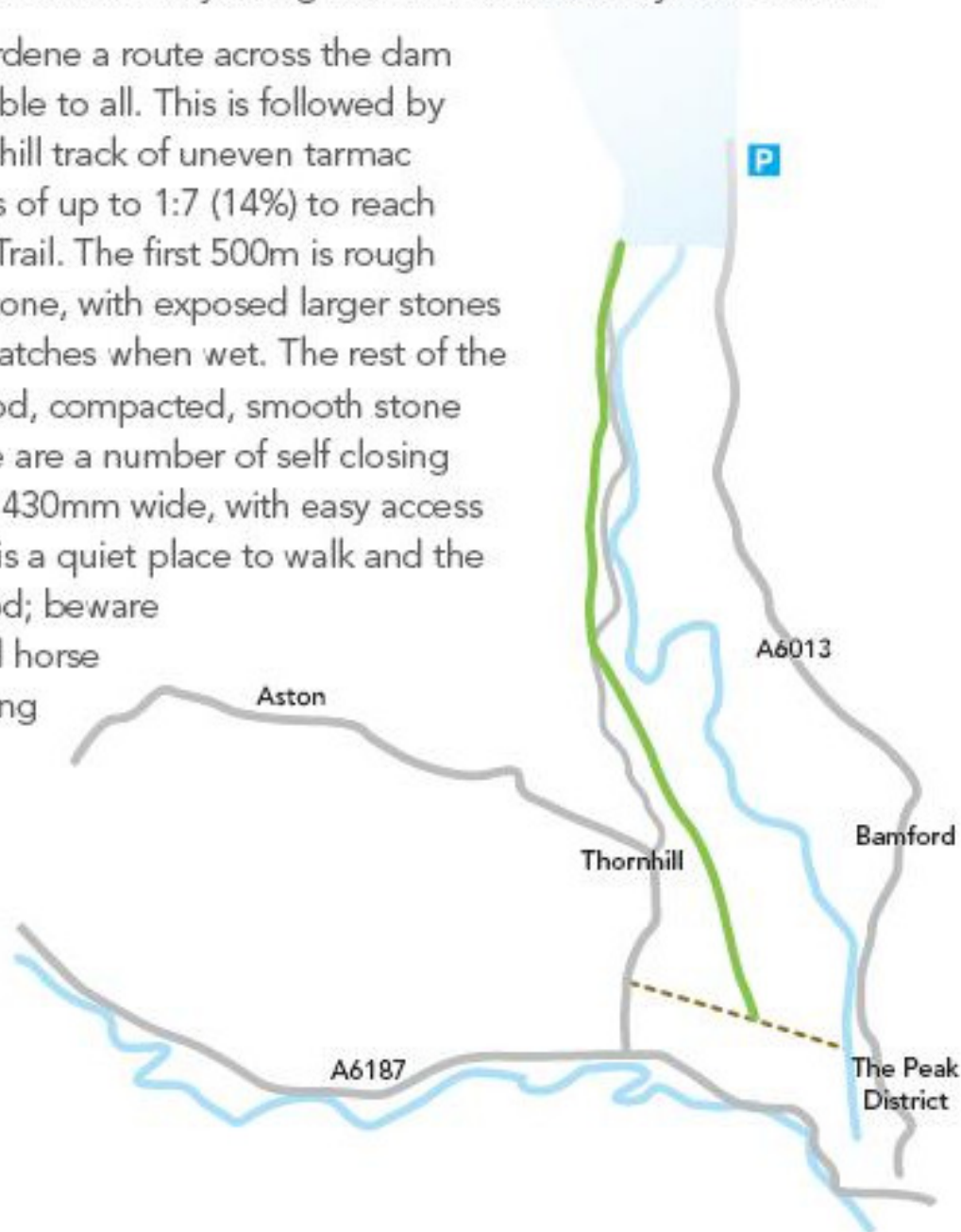


Thornhill Trail, near Bamford

SK 197853 - SK 202830

This narrow disused railway line runs in a north-south direction for 1½ miles, close to Thornhill to the west of Bamford, linking routes round Ladybower Reservoir. It does not have an associated car park, but can be reached from Severn Trent Water's car park at Heatherdene, overlooking Ladybower. Alternatively it is possible to drop people off half way along the route at a forestry turnaround.

From Heatherdene a route across the dam wall is accessible to all. This is followed by a steep downhill track of uneven tarmac with gradients of up to 1:7 (14%) to reach the Thornhill Trail. The first 500m is rough compacted stone, with exposed larger stones and muddy patches when wet. The rest of the trail has a good, compacted, smooth stone surface. There are a number of self closing bridle gates 1430mm wide, with easy access catches. This is a quiet place to walk and the views are good; beware of cyclists and horse riders also using this route.



Hope Valley

This popular valley contains a number of train stations (see page 43) along its length and two National Park Visitor Centres at Castleton and Edale. The villages here are generally accessible for pushchairs and wheelchair users.

Viewpoints are plentiful too, but the cul-de-sac at the top of the closed Mam Tor road (signposted Blue John Cavern) provides accessible parking and a great place to see the remains of the road which is steadily being lost in a landslip. A parking bay, at the bottom by the bus turn round, has been constructed to enjoy the splendid view over the Hope Valley, Win Hill and Mam Tor ridge (the site of a prehistoric hill fort).



Burbage Valley Area

During 2006, Moors for the Future were responsible for upgrading three moorland paths in this area to enable easier access for disabled people, the elderly and families with small children. Less than 6 miles from Sheffield City Centre, these popular sites can now be enjoyed by more people than ever before.



Surprise View

P 80 P & 2 Pay and Display
Free to badge holders  

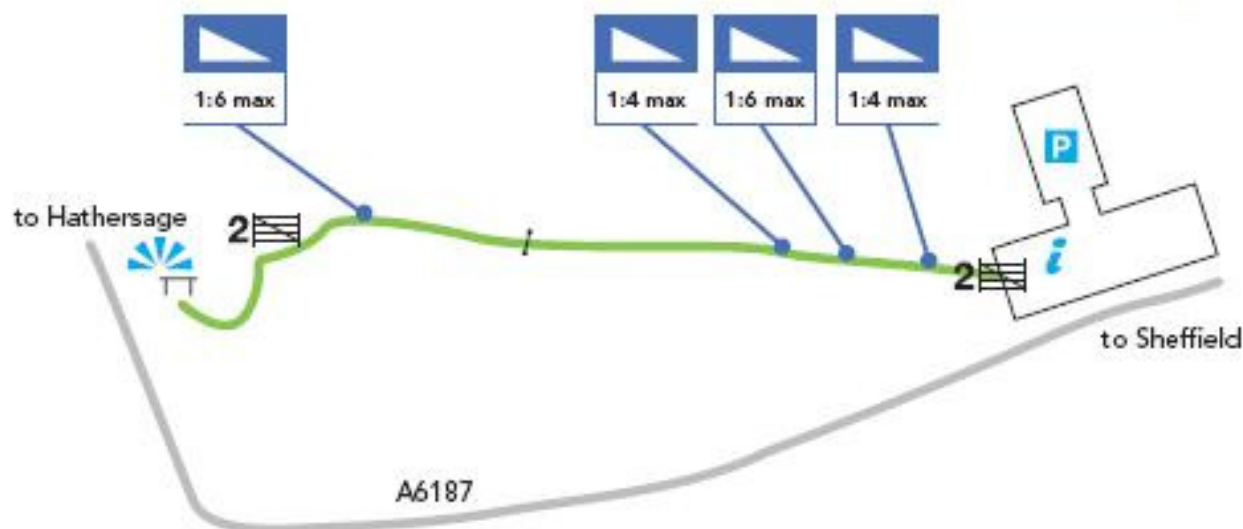
SK 252802

Nearest accessible toilets: **Hathersage**

This 300 metre, gently sloping path, comprises compacted stone. It takes visitors from Surprise View car park, just a few miles from Sheffield, to a breathtaking panoramic viewpoint across the Hope Valley and beyond. The path narrows to 800mm in many places due its location in a medieval holloway.

What to see –

The vegetation either side of the path boasts a vast array of moorland dwarf shrubs including heather, bilberry and crowberry – a great spot to improve your moorland plant identification skills



Hollin Bank

P 1 For badge holders.
Radar key needed for gate.   

SK 252802

Nearest accessible toilet: **Hollin Bank**
(200m along road, parking available)

This popular car park lies below Stanage Edge and offers good moorland views.



Green Drive, Burbage Valley

The former private drive of the Duke of Rutland is accessible from Upper Burbage Bridge to the north and Burbage South in the south. The middle section is not accessible for wheelchair users, and those with limited mobility due to many exposed rocks and an uneven surface.

Upper Burbage Bridge



SK 260830

Nearest accessible toilet: **Hollin Bank**

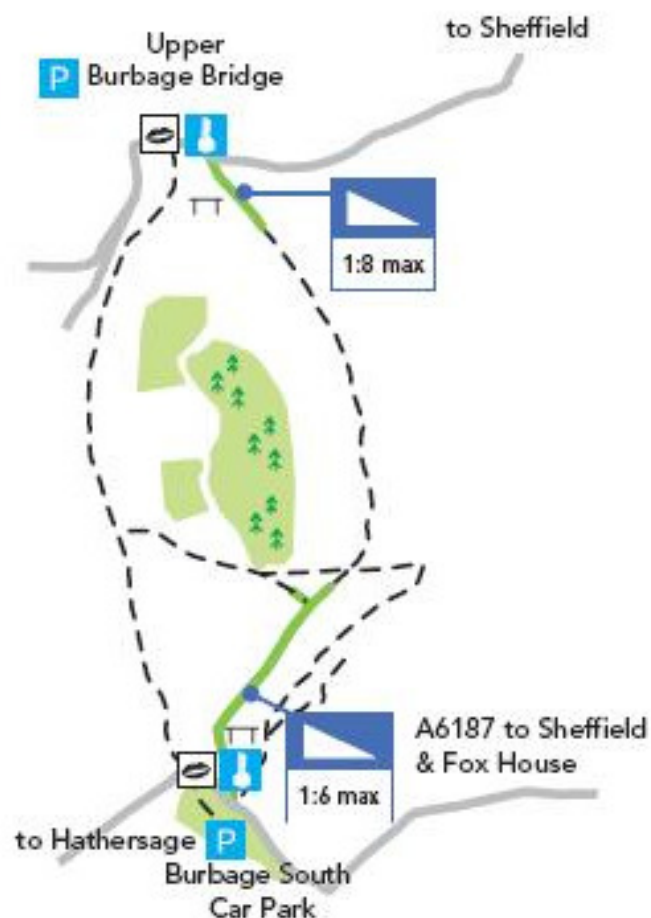
Burbage South (Fox House Pub end)



SK 262807

Nearest Accessible toilets: **Hathersage**

What to see - Exposed gritstone - two outcrops; Carl Wark and Higger Tor dramatically break the skyline, whilst the sheer edges and boulders are popular with climbers.



Central

From Buxton in the west, the limestone plateau eventually gives way to moorland in the east. Bakewell, famous for its pudding, is a popular tourist destination in the heart of this area which is also popular for its well dressing ceremonies.

The 8½ mile Monsal Trail that runs between Buxton and Bakewell, with its numerous access points provides the main accessible feature of this area, but two shorter moorland walks from Curbar Gap in the east offer breathtaking views over the surrounding area.

The small car park (reserved for blue badge holders) at Conksbury Bridge gives access to a 500 metres level riverside walk in the delightful Lathkill Dale.

You will have a good choice of play parks in the central area. Bakewell's park has a paddling pool and riverside walks, both the Chelmorton and Youlgreave play parks are in a tranquil and picturesque setting and Monyash's multi-sensory play park has a hammock swing suitable for disabled children.



...the limestone plateau eventually gives way to moorland in the east



Bakewell Station

P 25 **P 2** NO TOILET - NEAREST ARE IN BAKEWELL

Conksbury Bridge, Lathkill Dale

P 150 **P 1** OPERATED BY DDDC

Curbar Gap

P 40 **P 3** **ff** **X** **ff**

High Rake, Windmill

P 23 **ff**

Miller's Dale Station

P 80 **P 3** **X**

Moor Lane, Youlgreave

P 80

Monsal Head

P 25 **ff**

Shillito Wood

P 60 **P 3** **ff** **wo** **X** **ff**

Tideswell Dale

P 12 **P 3**

Upperdale, Monsal Dale

P 45 **ff** **wo** NO WASHING FACILITIES

White Lodge Car Park

P 28 **P 2**

Wyedale, Topley Pike

P 80



Playpark areas: Youlgreave, Monyash, Bakewell, Chelmorton, Tideswell, Grindleford

Monsal Trail

SK 104725 - 230680

This disused railway has been converted to an accessible track but it is interrupted by numerous closed tunnels. It runs 8½ miles between Topley Pike, near Buxton and Coombs Viaduct, a mile south east of Bakewell. Level access onto the trail is provided at Bakewell Station, south for 1 mile and north for 3½ miles, and also at Miller's Dale Station for ½ mile west and 2 miles east.

Please note access onto the Monsal Trail at Topley Pike is via steep steps and not suitable for wheelchairs users. Where tunnels are closed alternative paths are available, although these are not suitable for wheelchair and pushchair users.

The section from Bakewell to Little Longstone is suitable for cyclists and horse riders.



I visit the Park to reconnect with the Earth and countryside, for spiritual reasons, fun and relaxation"

Anonymous - from survey responses

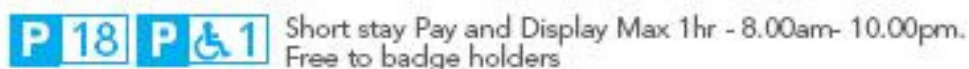
Tideswell Dale



SK 154743

This car park provides access on to an 'easy going' trail that leads into the dale. This pleasant, level tarmac path is approximately half a mile long and leads to a short loop on compacted limestone just before the wooden bridge. This wide path offers plenty of passing places for wheelchair users and several benches offer resting stops along the way.

Monsal Head Viewpoint



SK 185716

Nearest accessible toilets: **Monsal Head car park**

This level tarmac site in front of the Monsal Head Hotel has good views over Monsal Dale and viaduct. The walks from this site are steep and uneven. A Pub, café and ice-cream van in summer provide refreshments.

High Rake, Windmill





SK 165778

Nearest accessible toilets: **Tideswell dale or Hope car park**

Limited parking off the lane by this old lead rake now owned by the National Park and planted with trees. Good views over Little Hucklow and the rolling limestone landscape towards Bradwell Edge and Win Hill. Please ensure the farm access track is not blocked as access is required at all times.

Curbar Gap

P 40 **P & 3** Pay and Display
Free to badge holders  

SK 263747

Nearest accessible toilets: **Bakewell**

From the back left hand corner of the car park, a tarmac path provides access for wheelchair and pushchair users to a picnic area. A nine metre stretch of steep and uneven steps (1:2 or 45%), takes you beyond the picnic area onto a crushed stone path (max 1:4 or 27% slope) with cross drains for those choosing to continue 700 metres up to Curbar Edge, and then along to Froggatt Edge on a level unsurfaced path.

The car park also provides a 300 meter easy access route to Baslow Edge (signposted), but take **great care** when crossing the road.

A viewpoint lay-by, situated 1/2 mile down the road to Curbar village, is reserved for blue badge holders.

What to see - Excellent views over the Derwent Valley and beyond for those who travel just a few hundred metres from the car park.

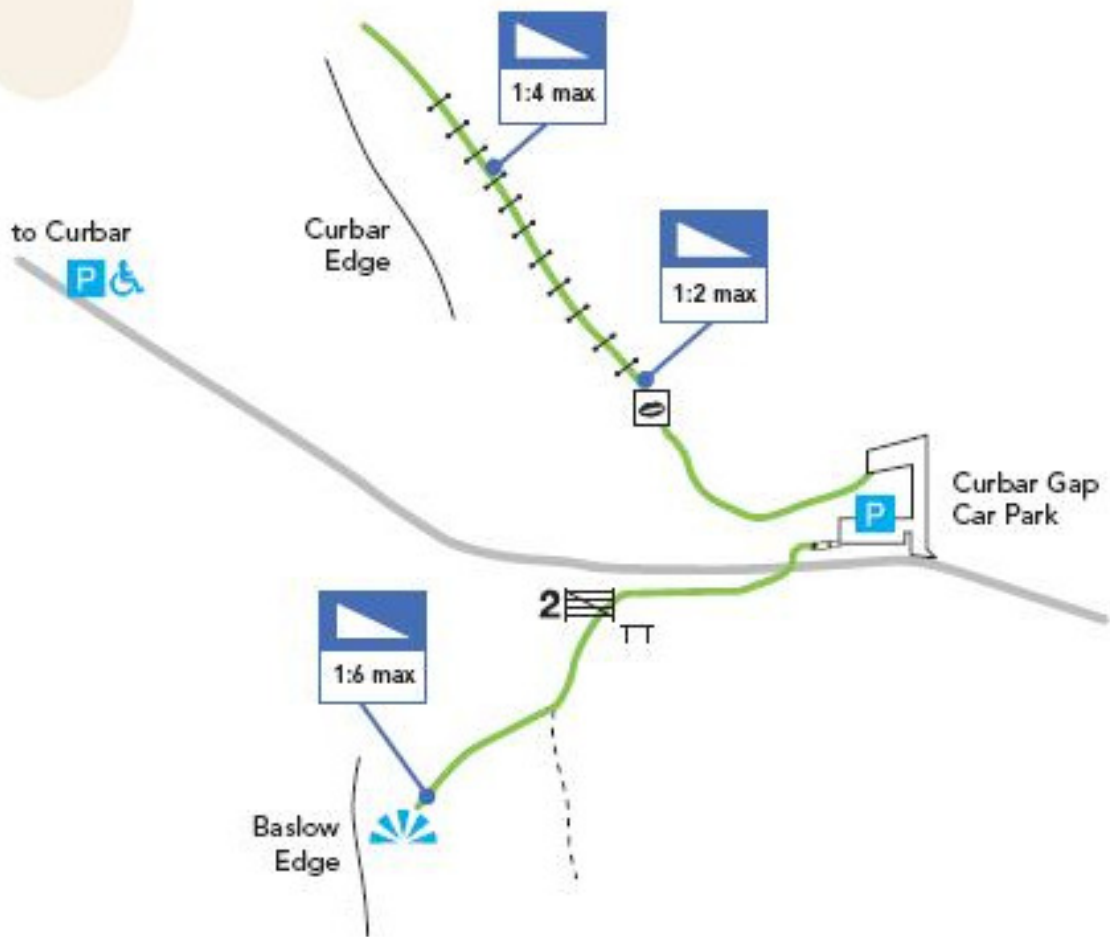
Shillito Wood

P 25 

SK 295750

Nearest toilet: **Baslow**

An informal car park with pleasant views across Ramsley Moor, and open access to an attractive mature conifer woodland which can be used for picnicking. The best access to the moor is to turn left at the car park entrance and head 50m down the road. Access can be gained via a gate to a level track, please note this can be extremely muddy in the winter.



South

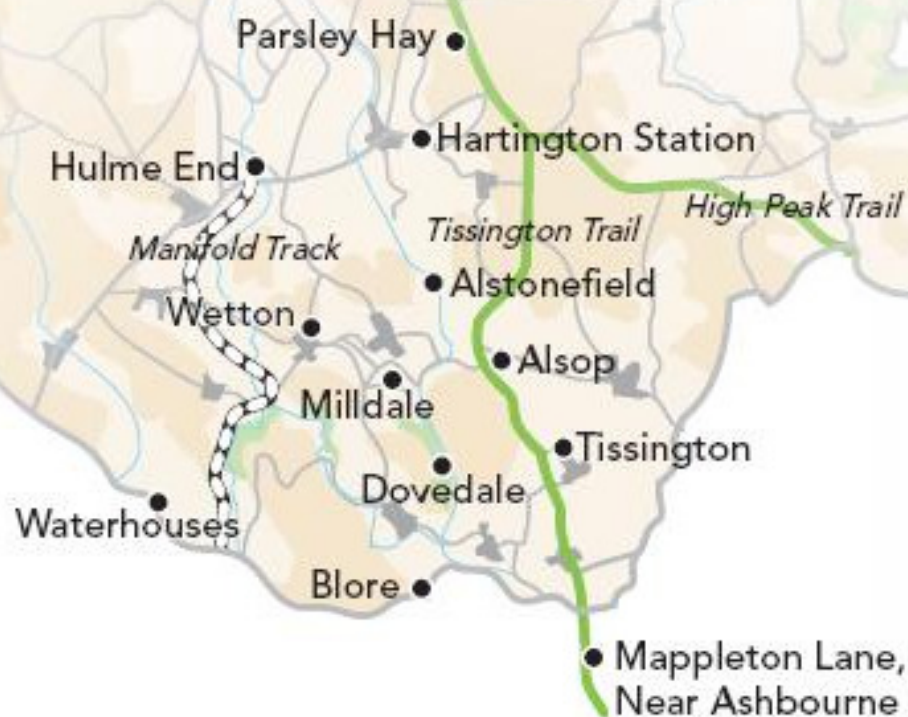
This area is located to the north of the market town of Ashbourne, with Dovedale at its heart. The dales, characterised by wooded or flower-rich slopes, cut through the limestone plateau with its scattered villages, while cows and sheep graze the fields between the hedgerows and dry stone walls.

This area is dominated by three long distance trails, two of which, the High Peak and Tissington Trails, join close to Parsley Hay. The third is the Manifold Track which runs from Hulme End to Waterhouses.



...wooded valleys are scattered with villages, and cattle graze amongst the hedgerows and dry stone walls





Alsop-en-le-Dale Station

P 50

Alstonefield Car Park

P 25 **P & 1** **W**

Blore Pastures

P 55 **X** **N**

Dovedale

P 200 **N** **I** PRIVATE CAR PARK - NO CONCESSIONS

Hartington Station

P 70 **P & 3** **X** **A**

Hulme End

P 60 **P & 4** INFORMATION CENTRE AND TOILETS MANAGED BY STAFF MOORLANDS DC

Mappleton Lane, near Ashbourne

P 25 **P & 3** **W** **I** **B** **X**

Milldale

P 40

Milldale Riverside

P 2 **P & 2** **I**

Parsley Hay

P 90 **P & 3** **N** **B** **X**

Tissington Station

P 70 **P & 3** **X** **A**

Waterhouses

P 90 **W** **B**



Playpark areas: Alstonefield, Tissington, Wetton

High Peak and Tissington Trails

The High Peak Trail runs 17 miles from near Buxton to High Peak Junction, Cromford. The Tissington Trail runs 13 miles from Parsley Hay to Ashbourne. These mostly level and compacted stone surfaces provide easy conditions for all users. Good views of rolling limestone hills, banks rich with wild flowers in summer. Car parks and picnic sites are provided at former stations. Peak District National Park Cycle hire available at Parsley Hay and Mappleton Lane, Ashbourne (see page 33.)



Blore Pastures



SK 135499

This well situated car park gives good views towards Dovedale and Thorpe Cloud. The access road is tarmac and the parking areas are stone and grass.

Manifold Track

This 9 mile tarmac track runs along the line of a disused former narrow gauge railway from Hulme End, near Hartington in the north to Waterhouses on the A523 Leek to Ashbourne road in the south. It provides a good level surface for wheelchair users, families with pushchairs

and for cyclists. However the section from Swainsley to Wetton Mill is used by traffic (single track) and contains a tunnel 100m long at Swainsley; this is illuminated but still quite dark – there are small passing places where people on foot can avoid vehicles but it is not recommended for wheelchair users or parents with pushchairs. A number of car parks give access to the Manifold Track including those at Hulme End and Waterhouses.



Dovedale

P 205

+ 190 in Overflow
Private car park - No concessions



SK 146508

A large, privately owned car park at the entrance to this famous and attractive valley has no concessions for blue badge holders. The limestone surface is fairly smooth. Overspill car park to the left (opposite pay booth). A RADAR key is available from the car park attendant when on duty.

Those who are unable to negotiate the steps, narrow bridge and uneven path on the east bank of the river Dove can use the tarmac road on the west bank to reach the Stepping Stones, a distance of about 500m.

South West

Leek, famous for its silk industry is where the hills of the Peak District rise from the Staffordshire Plain. Travel north to Whaley Bridge, and an area of dramatic gritstone 'edges' and windswept heather moors dominate the landscape, flanked by the spa town of Buxton in the east and Macclesfield in the west.

Goyt's Lane, near Buxton provides a fantastic moorland experience along a level, 'easy going', former railway track, and in addition there are many locations to take in the breathtaking views of this peaceful area.

...hills of the Peak District rise from the Staffordshire Plain.





*Outside of school hours.



Pym Chair



SJ 995768

Nearest accessible toilet: **Derbyshire Bridge**

High moorland views from this informal car park on the western side of the Goyt Valley looking out over Cheshire, and the eastern side looking into the National Park.

The Street



SK 013756

Nearest accessible toilet: **Derbyshire Bridge**

Car park with good views overlooking Errwood Reservoir. The separate accessible parking area at the bottom of the site is surfaced with smooth tarmac.

Errwood



SK 013748 Nearest accessible toilet: **Derbyshire Bridge**

A pleasantly located car park overlooking Errwood Reservoir. The car park surface is compacted stone and fairly uneven. Access to this car park is restricted due to road closure on Sundays and Bank holidays between 10:30 and 17:30hrs from 1st May to end of September.



Goyts Lane, Wild Moor

P5 P&5

SK 024752

Nearest toilet:
Derbyshire Bridge

This level path follows the line of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway, and takes you nearly 2km into wild moorland; a remote and tranquil setting. The car park is situated on the other side of the road.



What to see – Wonderful views of the Goyt Valley. During summer you will almost certainly hear the melodic song of the skylark as it ascends higher and higher out of sight only to plummet back down to earth.

Lamaload Reservoir

P30 P&3

SJ 975753 Nearest accessible toilet: **Derbyshire Bridge**

This car park in a quiet woodland setting close to Lamaload Reservoir is only open during the winter (ring 01629 816290 for details). To appreciate the views you will need to leave your car. The car park is somewhat uneven and surfaced with limestone chippings.