

## EASY ACCESS

Easy access is available for all visitors at Hassop, Bakewell and Millers Dale stations. Cyclists and horse riders can also access the trail south of Bakewell Station at Coombs Viaduct. Walkers and cyclists are advised to park at the pay and display car park at the Bakewell Agricultural Centre and access Coombs Road via the footpath at the back of the centre. You can follow the trail or branch out into the surrounding countryside along a network of footpaths and bridleways. Bike hire is available on the trail, look for the  symbol.

## SHARE WITH CARE

- Please share the trail with care:
- Keep to the left
  - Take all litter home and clean up after your dog.
  - Use the trail safely and be considerate to other users.
  - Cyclists please slow down and give way to walkers.
  - Horse riders please keep to a walking pace when passing other users and no more than a trot at other times.
  - Enjoy a picnic, but leave the BBQ at home.

## HAPPY TRAILS!

If you enjoy your visit to the Monsal Trail you might like our other scenic, former railway routes: the High Peak Trail and the Tissington Trail. For more information visit [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/trails](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/trails)

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A great deal of care has gone into preparing this publication, but the Peak District National Park will not accept any responsibility for the misinterpretation of route descriptions nor for any accidents resulting from use of these walks.

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# ON YOUR BIKE!

Cycle Hire for the Monsal Trail is available at Hassop, near Bakewell.

To explore more of the Peak District's traffic-free trails, why not visit our cycle hire centres. [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting)

## Discover the Monsal Trail

8.5 miles of tranquil trail between Buxton and Bakewell



[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk)



**LOOK OUT FOR DIPPERS** – around the size of a blackbird, plunging into the riverbed from nearby rocks, with their own special set of swimming goggle eyelids!



**TRACK THE UNMISTAKEABLE SMELL** of 'ramsons' or wild garlic, as you pass along the trail side



The summer-visiting willow warbler has a descending song, which **SOUNDS** like its battery is running out!



**FEEL THE BREEZE** pass through your hair atop the Headstone Viaduct, with unrivalled views across the valley below



**HAVE A WELL-EARNED REST** at the recently renovated Millers Dale station, and take a seat in the former waiting room or pull up your bike on the platform itself

**GIVE IT A GO!**

## A NEW HOME FOR NATURE

The trail sides – now reclaimed by wildlife, along with the limestone dales along the Monsal Trail boast unspoilt pastures, hay meadows and ash woodlands with plenty to discover. You can visit the 11 nearby nature reserves featured on our map from the trail.

Look out for early purple orchids and cowslips in May, followed by ox-eye daisies, common rock rose, bloody cranesbill and a lilac dusting of small scabious on many slopes. The ash woods provide their own flower show, with scarce lily-of-the-valley, and carpets of wood anemone and strong smelling ramsons (wild garlic) in spring.

Follow the flight of brown argus, common blue and green hairstreak butterflies and look out for distinctive white-bottomed wheatears on grassland, grey wagtails and dippers in the rivers, brightly coloured redstarts singing from tree tops and buzzards soaring overhead.

# Explore...

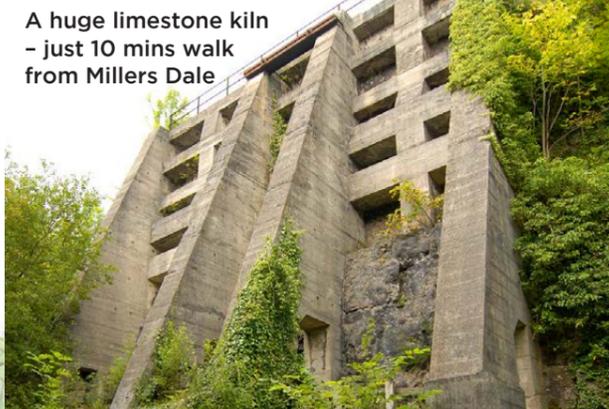


Take a trip to remember along the magical

# Monsal Trail...

Retrace the history of a Victorian railway, discover the wildlife and hidden secrets of the Wye Valley or simply enjoy the scenery through some of the Peak District's most spectacular limestone dales.

This 8.5-mile route opened in 1981, with the now popular railway tunnels opened as recently as 2011. An ideal introduction to the Peak District National Park, everyone is welcome on the trail from walkers to cyclists, wheelchair users and horse riders. The entire route is vehicle-free.



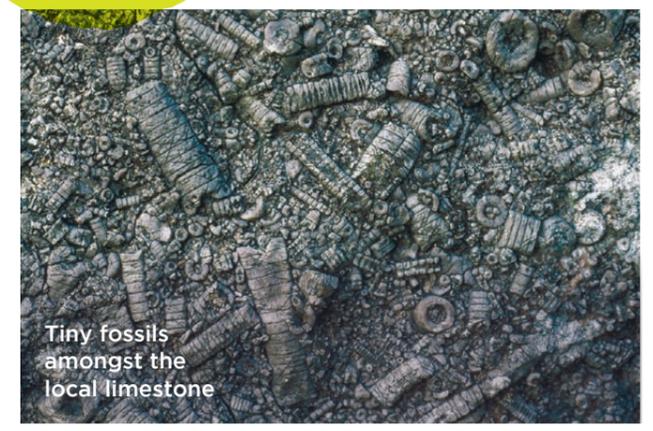
A huge limestone kiln - just 10 mins walk from Millers Dale

## INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

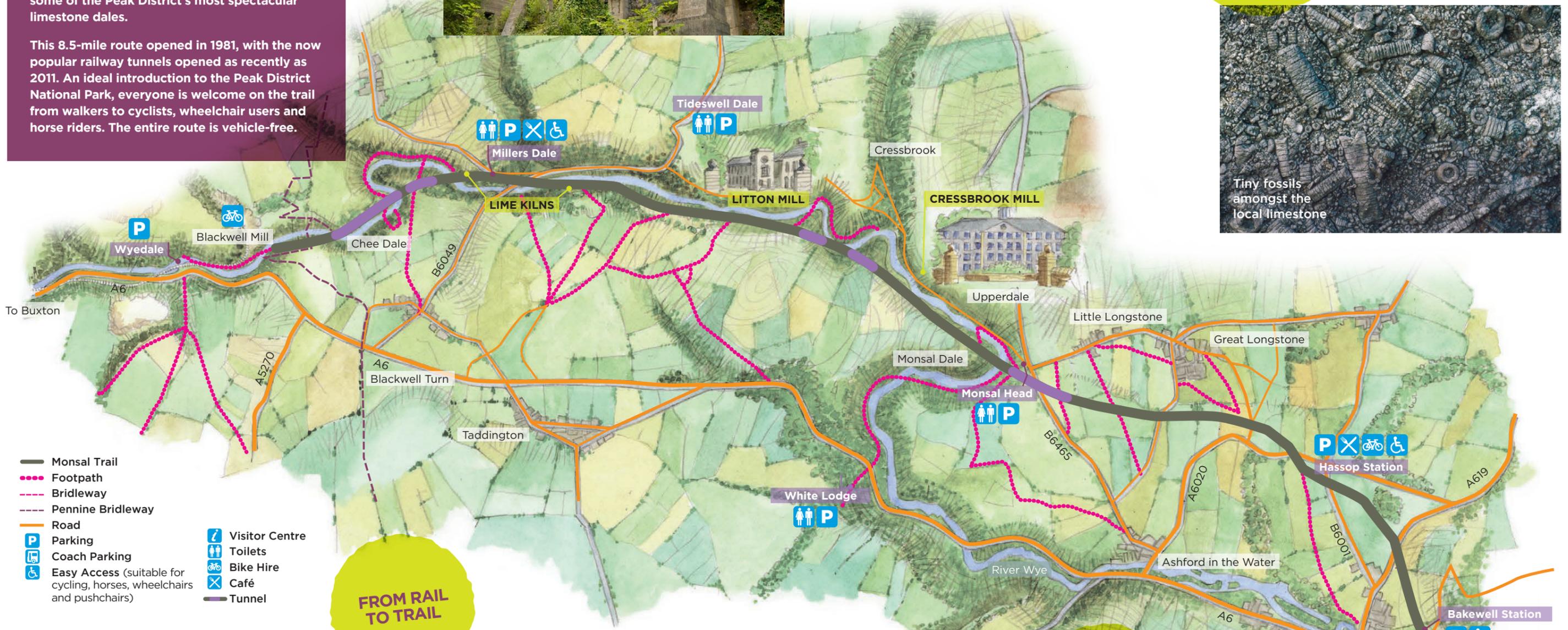
The force of the River Wye and its tributaries was used to power the waterwheels of cotton mills in the 18th century. Litton Mill opened in 1782 and Sir Richard Arkwright's Cressbrook Mill in 1783. Limekilns along the route burnt limestone from nearby quarries, with coal brought in by train, to produce quicklime. This was taken along the railway for use in the steel and chemical industries.

## PRECIOUS STONE

The trail cuts through limestone between Blackwell and Monsal Head. The rock was formed more than 350 million years ago when the area was part of a tropical sea near the equator and is rich with fossils. Shells, corals and mud built up on the seabed and eventually formed the limestone.

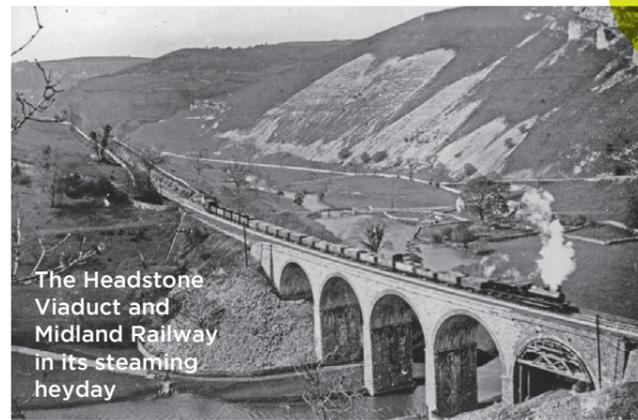


Tiny fossils amongst the local limestone

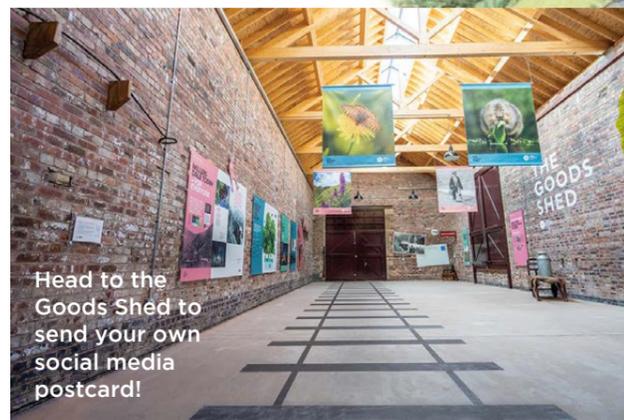


## FROM RAIL TO TRAIL

The Peak District stood in the way of the Midland Railway's ambition to create its own London to Manchester railway line in the 19th century. The company dug several tunnels and bridged the River Wye with the famous Headstone Viaduct (below Monsal Head) to complete the line in 1863. For more than 100 years it carried passengers and freight and Millers Dale Station was at the start of a branch line taking tourists to the fashionable spa town of Buxton. The line closed in 1968 and the Peak District National Park opened the Monsal Trail in 1981, creating a spectacular route between Blackwell Mill, in Chee Dale, and Coombs Road, at Bakewell.



The Headstone Viaduct and Midland Railway in its steaming heyday



Head to the Goods Shed to send your own social media postcard!

## MILLERS DALE STATION & THE GOODS SHED

A vibrant hub at the heart of the Monsal Trail, Millers Dale station offers the chance to get a bite to eat in the Refreshment Rooms café or take a break and picnic on the platform amongst the wildflowers. Why not step into history by exploring the beautifully renovated Goods Shed (new in 2022) and find out where else to explore nearby with the interactive displays.

BLACKWELL MILL >> 1.7 miles >> MILLERS DALE >> 1.4 miles >> LITTON MILL >> 0.6 miles >> CRESSBROOK MILL >> 1.1 miles >> MONSAL HEAD >> 2.3 miles >> HASSOP STATION >> 1 mile >> BAKEWELL STATION

Distances are given here as an approximate guide