



Purple Orchids



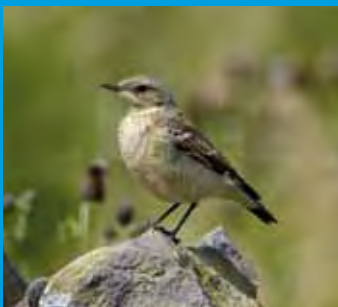
Dipper

A VALLEY OF FLOWERS

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 appears 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.

BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS

Many butterflies feed on these flowers. Follow the fluttering flight of the brown argus, common blue and green hairstreak. The Wye Valley resounds to the songs of many birds. Look out for wheatears on grassland, grey wagtails and dippers in the rivers, brightly coloured redstarts singing from tree tops and the impressive buzzard soaring overhead.



Wheatear

CYCLING ON THE MONSAL TRAIL

In 2011 the tunnels on the Monsal Trail were opened to produce a complete off road cycling route. This project was funded as part of the wider Pedal Peak District project to promote cycling opportunities in the National Park. To find out more visit www.peakdistrict.gov.uk



Bee on Scabious

GIVE THE DRIVER A BREAK

Please contact **Bakewell Visitor Centre** for public transport information and access to the trail. Bus times can also be obtained by **Traveline** www.traveline.org.uk and www.derbybus.info or **0871 200 22 33** National Rail Enquiries www.nationalrail.co.uk for trains to the Peak District.



ACCESS TO THE TRAIL

Easy access is available for all visitors at Hassop, Bakewell and Millers Dale stations.

Cyclists and horseriders 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.

COUNTRYSIDE CODE



Please respect other visitors on the trail. Please do not drop litter or cigarette butts. Dogs are welcome on the trail - please keep them under close control and clear up after them. Cyclists please slow down and give way to walkers.

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

Bakewell Visitor Centre, The Old Market Hall,
Bridge Street, Bakewell, DE45 1DS

Tel: 01629 816558

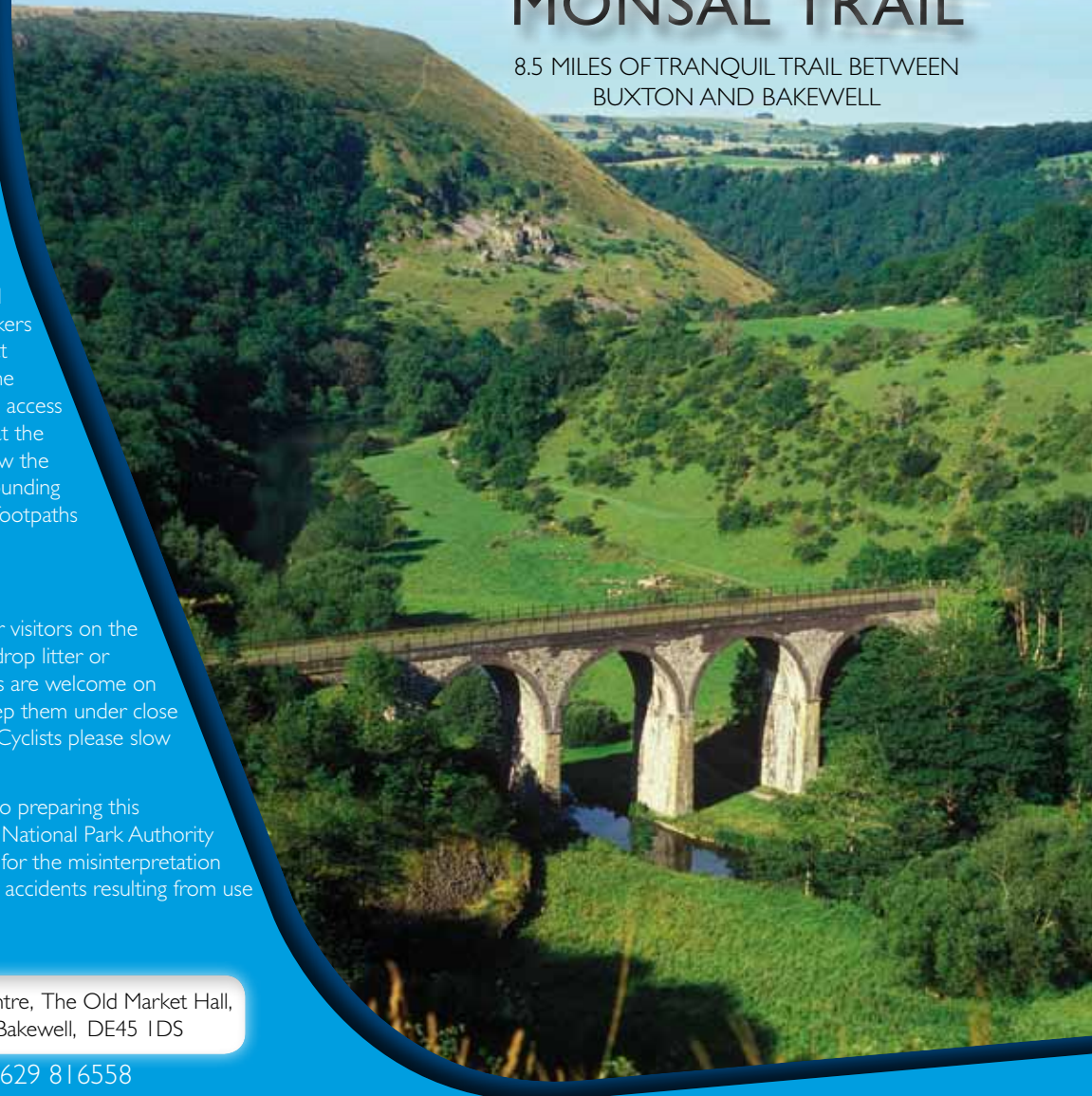
Email: bakewell@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Web: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting



WELCOME TO THE MONSAL TRAIL

8.5 MILES OF TRANQUIL TRAIL BETWEEN
BUXTON AND BAKEWELL



www.peakdistrict.gov.uk

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There is plenty to see and do along the Monsal Trail: Explore the wildlife and geology of the valley. Retrace the fascinating history of the railway and the old industries along its route, or simply take in the breathtaking views. The Peak District lay in the path 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 Monsal Viaduct to complete the line in 1863.

For over 100 years the line carried passengers and freight. 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 Authority re-opened the route for recreation in 1981.

THE TRAILS INDUSTRIAL PAST



Cotton Mills - 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 - These burnt limestone from adjacent quarries, with coal brought in by train, to make quicklime. This was taken along the railway for use in the steel and chemical industries.



Limekiln



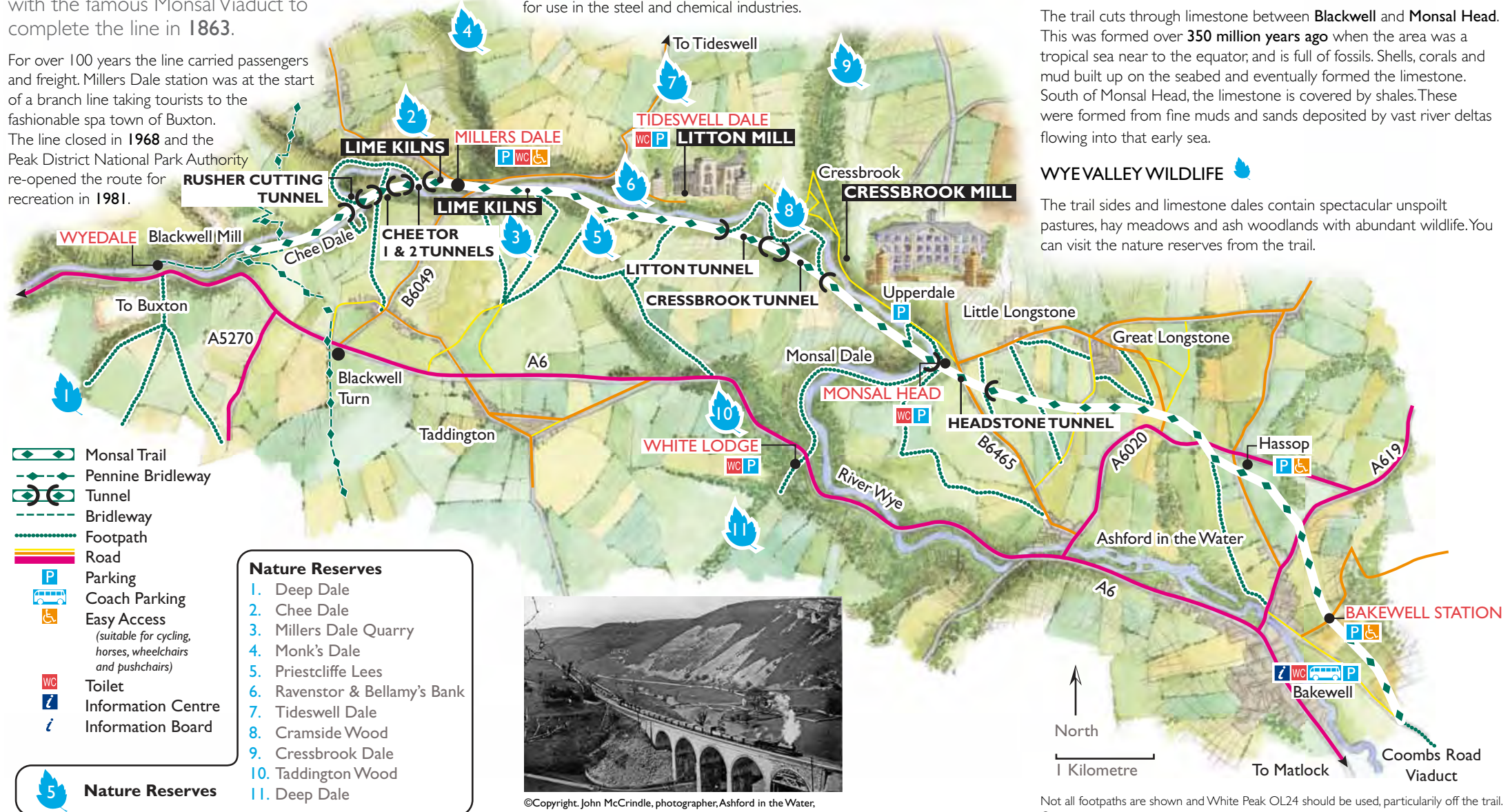
Crinoids

ROCKS FROM ANCIENT SEAS

The trail cuts through limestone between **Blackwell** and **Monsal Head**. This was formed over **350 million years ago** when the area was a tropical sea near to the equator, and is full of fossils. Shells, corals and mud built up on the seabed and eventually formed the limestone. South of Monsal Head, the limestone is covered by shales. These were formed from fine muds and sands deposited by vast river deltas flowing into that early sea.

WYE VALLEY WILDLIFE

The trail sides and limestone dales contain spectacular unspoilt pastures, hay meadows and ash woodlands with abundant wildlife. You can visit the nature reserves from the trail.



Not all footpaths are shown and White Peak OL24 should be used, particularly off the trail. © Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved. Licence 1000005734. 2010