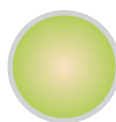
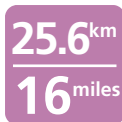


Trail Guide:



Water, water everywhere and . . . many drops to drink (7,800 million gallons actually!)

Bikes, birds, bats, boots, boats and watery wildlife

A wonderful day out for all the family

The 'Wow' Factor

The water is pumped from the River Derwent along a 6.5 mile aqueduct to the reservoir. It could keep one person drinking for 500,000 years.

It's as deep as 7 double decker buses and could fit 700 football pitches on its surface! Archaeologists found a Bronze Age burial mound near the current Visitor Centre as well as bombs and targets from the old WWII bombing range!

Carsington Water gives you everything you could wish for in a family day out. Come rain or shine, it has plenty to do and see, just 7 miles (10 Km) from Ashbourne along the well signposted B5035. On the drive there you pass a high spot called "Hognaston Winn" from where there are wonderful views of the north and you can look for a strange large round transmitter. It's an aircraft guidance beacon that makes sure planes don't get lost. When you return from Carsington travel back by the dam wall and the A517 for different views.

When you arrive go straight to the Visitor Centre to find out about the reservoir, its history and all the activities and trails on offer. There are also delicious food and enticing craft and specialist shops, a licensed restaurant and one of the best children's adventure playgrounds ever, for all abilities. And try spinning the one tonne "Kugel Stone" with one hand!

The waterscape is delightful, there are open air performances throughout the year and all generations can enjoy what's on offer. There is also a fantastic indoor play area called Zoom.

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks/cycling:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

If you walk the whole lake circuit (8 miles on good safe paths) it will take you 3-4 pleasant hours but there are also several easy short walks. One of the nicest is to wander out around Stone Island: its specially made range of stone sculptures point out features on the hills and continue the pre-historic tradition of Derbyshire hill-top monuments. Looking through the peepholes in the stones will direct your gaze to features in the landscape which you might have missed. Or you can follow the nature trail that gives you fascinating facts about the place and its wildlife.

Visit the **Wildlife Centre**: it's built from wood held together by the weight of the turf roof and not a nail or screw in sight! Here discover how Carsington's countryside is managed to encourage wildlife and plants to flourish. Discover bird watching and see birds through a remote-controlled camera on one of the islands, especially at nesting time! You will find 3 more bird watching hides and a wonderful variety of both common and rare birds. At the **Reservoir Tree** across the lake from the Visitor centre is a landscape sculpture built to encourage large birds like herons and ospreys to roost and nest.

Watery and wheely good sports

Hire a mountain bike and ride around the lake; there are bikes for all ages and abilities at the hire-shop near the Visitor Centre and if you have brought your own, no problem.

Bring a compass and try the orienteering course; you can't get lost with all that water to guide you.

If fly fishing is your sport then make use of the two miles of banks.

Or take advantage of the boats available for hire.

Enjoy doing things you never normally do: row a boat, learn to canoe or sail, to windsurf or even to flycast.

Even if you are not a keen walker make sure you visit the other 2 car parks, Sheepwash or Millfields so you can see the **bird hides**, the old World War II **brick observation tower**, the **Reservoir Tree** sculpture, and especially **the small shelter** and its funny wooden furniture built from the remains of the farm buildings flooded by the waters back in 1991! Children love it.

And if you are interested in conservation and ecology, you'll enjoy getting involved helping with this National Eco-Centre project: get stuck into woodland work such as coppicing, building bird boxes and hedge laying.

As a volunteer you will be more than welcome.

Access

Come along with a mixed ability group and you will have fun as there are mobility scooters and wheelchairs available for hire so that everyone can enjoy Carsington Water and all it has to offer, together or at their own pace.

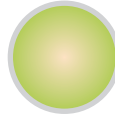
Return by driving along the reservoir water's edge by the dam wall and then turning right along the A517 back to Ashbourne.

Ashbourne Trail No. 27

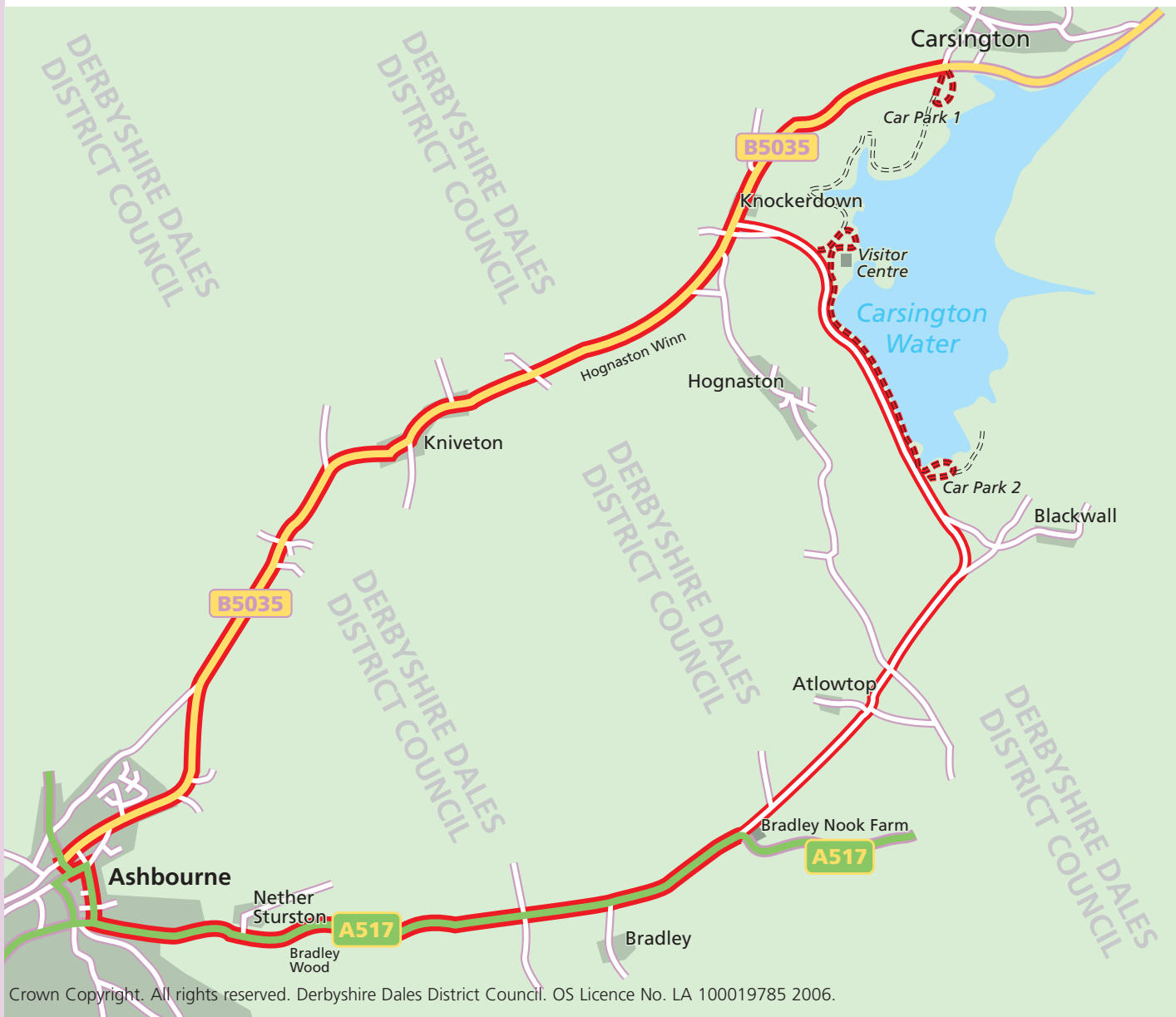
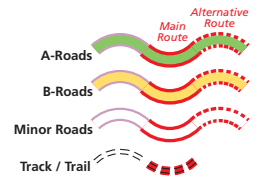
Water, Water, Everywhere



25.6 km
16 miles



Key



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This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

