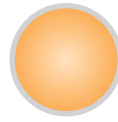


## Trail Guide:



**Distance is your choice: (1) Bakewell loop 3 miles, (2) continue to Monsal Head 4 miles or (3) to the end of Monsal Dale 6 miles (all day).**

**Catch the bus back at the end of the last two BUT check the bus times before you set out as services are irregular.**

**Tel Traveline on 0870 608 2608 or check the website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses)**

## The 'Wow' Factor

See an eyesore which became a listed monument and loved by thousands

Go walking on a railway line and enjoy the view

Find out what Dr Beeching did

See where Prince Arthur saw a vision of his own demise in 1501

Start the **Bakewell circular loop (1)** out of town over the **Old Bridge** and up to the now disused railway line which forms part of the "**Monsal Trail**". Look out for the gate marked "The Outrake" where you turn off onto a footpath.

The panel at the old **Bakewell Station** (where you could also start your walk as there's a small car park there) tells you how this section of the Midland railway line (built in 1863) was closed by Dr Beeching just over a century later. The Peak District National Park now owns the route and have developed this popular trail with its good views and a gentle

gradient. It's very popular and you will see many walkers and riders. So perhaps Dr Beeching wasn't so bad after all! You will go past the delightfully named Pineapple House Farm, and then Station Farm.

There are 2 other disused stations along the line. The first at **Hassop** is now a community bookshop and has a café that begs you to sit down and have a drink. The station was the Duke of Devonshire's! The classic **Hassop Hall**, built by the local Eyres family, is now a hotel. Prince Arthur, son and heir of Henry VII, is reputed to have seen a vision in Hassop in 1501, that his Spanish bride would soon be a widow. He

## Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

## Difficulty Rating for walks:

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

died a few months later. If you are taking the **short loop back to Bakewell** then you turn **left** soon after, opposite the picturesque **old toll house**. You then continue down the path to the River Wye, turning **left** back into Bakewell.

If you are **carrying** on to **Monsal Head (2)** then the path leads you gently along the line with glimpses of great houses such as **Rowdale House** and wonderful views. The next station is **Longstone** which served both the village and the grand Georgian **Thornbridge Hall**. Look at the grand entrance buildings to the Hall.

Shortly after this the line and tunnel are **blocked** and the Monsal Trail leaves the railway line and crosses fields to **Little Longstone**. Make sure you look at their ancient water supply and imagine having to break the ice on a winter's morning to get your drinking water! **Well-dressings** take place every July at Little and Great Longstone and the Pack Horse inn is a good place to stop.

It's then only a short uphill walk to **Monsal Head** with its pub, cafés, and the **bus stop** for you to catch the **4 or 173** bus back to Bakewell if you wish. The wonderful views down into Monsal Dale and the railway viaduct may make you change your mind . . .

This splendid piece of engineering caused uproar when proposed in the 1860's, John Ruskin being the chief agitator, and again when closed in the 1960's by Dr Beeching. Now it is a listed monument with wonderful views across the Wye Valley and Monsal Dale!

**(3)** From here you can choose 2 paths down to the river bank but the nicest is to follow the path **down and over the viaduct** turning right off the line and then back **under the viaduct**.

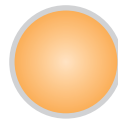
The last part of the walk down **Monsal Dale** is truly delightful as you follow the river Wye, see glimpses of a bygone age and if you are lucky the electric blue flash of a kingfisher. There is an old footbridge, weirs and the remains of at least 2 other structures in the water. You can also find the remains of a water wheel, which pumped water up to a higher level, rusting away and long unused. The limestone landscape formed over 300 million years ago when the whole area was under a warm shallow sea!

All too soon it's back to the main road where you can catch a bus to take you back to Bakewell where you must surely by now be in need of a Bakewell Pudding and perhaps a hot bath – from where Bakewell first got its old Anglo Saxon name – Bادهquelle – 'bath wells'!

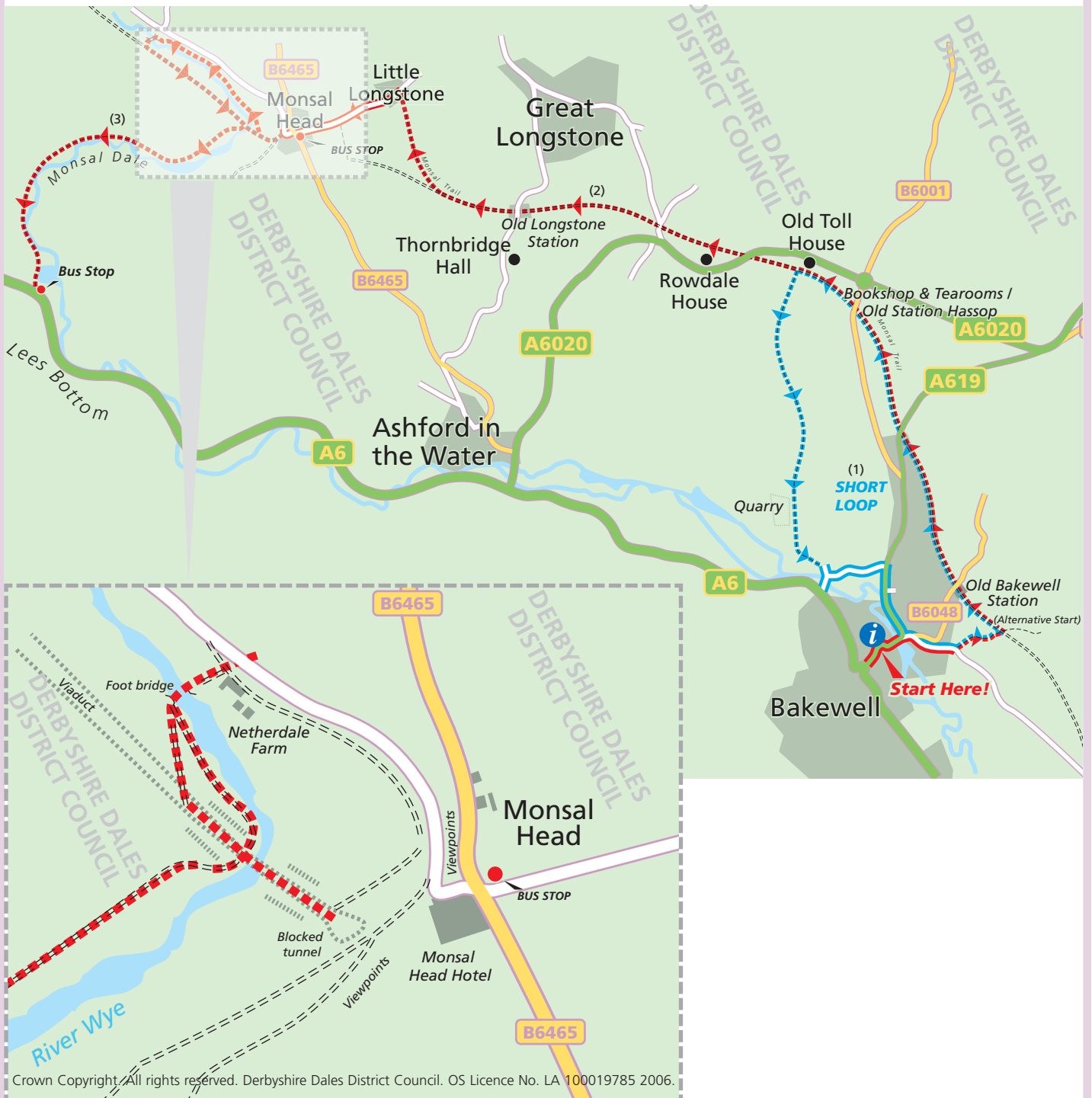
# Bakewell Trail No. 33

## Delightful Dales and Viaduct Rails

Key



Track / Trail



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