

Trail Guide:



The 'Wow' Factor

See where the 'mass trespassers' of 1932 began their protest and where they ended up!

Walk upon an elevated walkway high above 18th century cotton mills

Marvel at the wonders of Buxton's architecture and mineral waters

Find out about a long submerged gunpowder factory

Walk on the route of a 1796 horse drawn tramway

Leave **Glossop** south on the **A624** towards **Little Hayfield** and **Hayfield**.

Hayfield is a pretty town – with its centre containing a fine church, pretty cottages and is famous as the gateway to **Kinder Scout** and its celebrated 'mass trespass' of 1932, which ultimately led to the countryside access we all enjoy today. Its energetic calendar of **Fell Runs** contain wonderfully named events such as the 'Lambs Longer Leg' or the 'Kinder Downfall'. It was also home to the late Arthur Lowe, or 'Captain Mainwaring' and to the strange 18th century account of spirits rising from the Hayfield church to heaven in 1745!

Continue south on the **A624** to the **T-junction**, where you bear **left** following the signs to **Chapel-en-le-Frith** ('chapel in the wood').

The **Peak Forest Tramway Trail to Bugsworth Basin** passes through here on the route of an old horse drawn tramway built in 1796.

The original chapel 'in the forest' – (Frith) was built in the early 1200's but you must go into the centre of town to appreciate its medieval beginnings in its cobbled market square, where traditional annual **May Day** festivities take place. It was an important centre for the medieval Royal Forest of the Peak and in the Civil War, Cromwell imprisoned 1500 Scottish soldiers for 16 days in the church where 44 died. One of the

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

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

largest **well-dressings** takes place here in early July, and nearby is the **Chestnut Conservation Centre** (01298 814099 for information) on the Castleton Road, with many endangered species and nature walks.

Take the A6 south towards **Dove Holes**, where the Bull Ring, an ancient stone-age henge some 70 yards across has no standing stones left. It is feared, with some horror, that the stones were used as sleepers for the primitive 1790s Peak Forest Tramway which ends here. The town has some of the largest limestone quarries in the country but also sports an excellent beer and jazz festival every July.

From here continue to **Buxton**, 1000ft up, where Roman settlers first sampled its famous mineral waters which flow at a constant 27.5°C and the town has flourished as a resort from then on! Mary Queen of Scots was just one of many famous visitors. Its wonderful architecture owes much to the patronage of the Dukes of Devonshire and its Opera festival, its gardens and its heritage draw thousands to the town. The Devonshire Royal Hospital was founded on the Great Stables, and in turn has recently been taken over by the University of Derby. Be sure to see the famous Crescent designed by John Carr.

From Buxton take the **A5004** to **Whaley Bridge**. This winding road will take you past the **Errwood** (built 1967) and **Fernilee** Reservoir (1938) in the lovely Goyt Valley on your left. An old gunpowder factory lies under the Fernilee reservoir.

Whaley Bridge, 'Gateway to the Goyt' on the old Roman road from Buxton to Stockport, sits over the River Goyt and is an attractive town with free parking. The Peak Canal basin is very popular for walking and the *Judith Mary* allows you to cruise along while

eating a hearty supper. The *Whaley Water* weekend takes place here in June and is the starting point for the *Rose Queen Carnival* a week later.

Nearby is **Bugsworth Basin**, the terminus of the Peak Forest Canal commissioned in 1794, in the valley of the Black Brook. This was once a busy interchange with the Peak Forest Tramway for the transport of limestone and burnt lime and is now the only site of its kind left.

From Whaley Bridge, go north again and take the **A6** to **Newtown** and turn **right** on the **A6015** to **New Mills**, almost on the Cheshire border.

You will see the upper section of the Peak Forest Canal flowing parallel with the A6.

This is where in the middle ages, local tenants of the Duchy of Lancaster had to have their corn ground, in the mill on the River Sett. Gradually the area developed with abundant cotton mills and you can enjoy this heritage today – walk along the elevated **Millennium Walkway** on stilts opposite the **Torrs Mill**. Visit the **Heritage Centre** at the top of Union Road and see, opposite the library, the former Police Station, now private, where the ringleaders of the famous 1932 Kinder Scout 'Mass Trespass' from Hayfield were held. Thanks to them, the National Parks were later formed and we can all enjoy public access to our countryside.

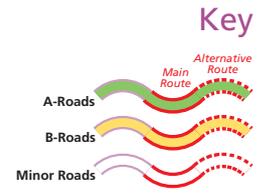
Leaving New Mills on the A6015 going east back to **Hayfield**, you will pass **Birch Vale**, and its 4 pubs. At the **T-junction** turn **left** onto A624 **Hayfield**, its nearby **Countryside Centre** and then back to Glossop.

Glossop Trail No. 43

Countryside, Canals and Peak Heritage



41 km
17 miles



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