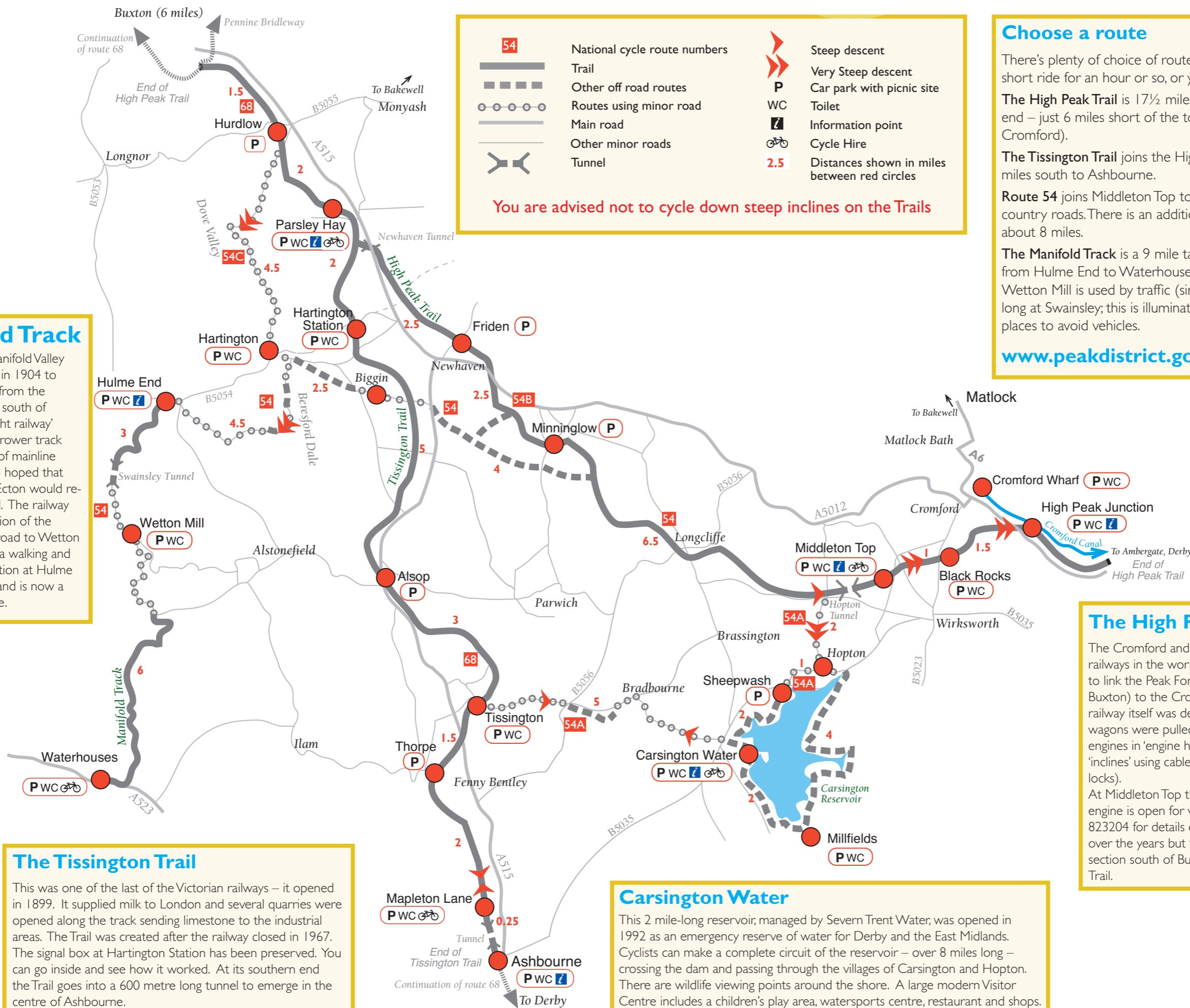


White Peak Trails and Cycle Routes



The Manifold Track

This was the Leek and Manifold Valley Light Railway. It was built in 1904 to transport dairy products from the valley to the main railway south of Waterhouses. It was a 'light railway' because it used much narrower track than the 'standard gauge' of mainline railways. The owners also hoped that the old copper mines at Ecton would re-open - but they never did. The railway closed in 1934. One section of the trackbed became a new road to Wetton Mill and the rest became a walking and cycling route. The old station at Hulme End has been preserved and is now a Visitor Information Centre.

The Tissington Trail

This was one of the last of the Victorian railways – it opened in 1899. It supplied milk to London and several quarries were opened along the track sending limestone to the industrial areas. The Trail was created after the railway closed in 1967. The signal box at Hartington Station has been preserved. You can go inside and see how it worked. At its southern end the Trail goes into a 600 metre long tunnel to emerge in the centre of Ashbourne.

Carsington Water

This 2 mile-long reservoir, managed by Severn Trent Water, was opened in 1992 as an emergency reserve of water for Derby and the East Midlands. Cyclists can make a complete circuit of the reservoir – over 8 miles long – crossing the dam and passing through the villages of Carsington and Hopton. There are wildlife viewing points around the shore. A large modern Visitor Centre includes a children's play area, watersports centre, restaurant and shops.

Choose a route

There's plenty of choice of routes to cycle whether you're planning a short ride for an hour or so, or you would like a longer outing:

The High Peak Trail is 17½ miles long between Dowlow (at the Buxton end – just 6 miles short of the town) and High Peak Junction (close to Cromford).

The Tissington Trail joins the High Peak Trail at Parsley Hay and runs 13 miles south to Ashbourne.

Route 54 joins Middleton Top to Tissington via about 10 miles of country roads. There is an additional route around Carsington Water of about 8 miles.

The Manifold Track is a 9 mile tarmac track along a disused railway from Hulme End to Waterhouses. A section between Swainsley and Wetton Mill is used by traffic (single track) and contains a tunnel 100m long at Swainsley; this is illuminated but still quite dark with small passing places to avoid vehicles.

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/cycle

The High Peak Trail

The Cromford and High Peak Railway was one of the first railways in the world. It was built between 1825 and 1830 to link the Peak Forest Canal at Whaley Bridge (north of Buxton) to the Cromford Canal – a distance of 33 miles. The railway itself was designed like a canal. On the flat sections the wagons were pulled by horses. Large steam powered beam engines in 'engine houses' pulled the wagons up the steep 'inclines' using cables (on a canal the inclines would have been locks).

At Middleton Top the engine house with its massive beam engine is open for visitors to wonder at (telephone 01629 823204 for details of open days). The railway was adapted over the years but finally closed completely in 1967. The section south of Buxton was then converted to the High Peak Trail.