

## Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service

We look after a wonderful variety of sites and facilities, ranging from local footpaths to national trails, from large country parks to small picnic sites, from amenity grasslands to flower-rich hay meadows, from reservoirs to ponds, to car parks, canals, wetlands, woodlands, visitor centres, greenways and even historic buildings and structures. The sites in the north-west of the County are covered from Hayfield.

We manage our sites to get the best for both people and wildlife. Achieving this balance is challenging, but our success is there to see, showing what can be done with the right skills, knowledge and investment.

We also work to promote sustainable and responsible use of the countryside for all. As well as the obvious benefits to the environment, landscape and wildlife of Derbyshire, our work impacts on quality of life and well being of both residents and visitors. This is also of major benefit to the local economy through promoting tourism and by making the County a better place to live and work.

In addition to running events and guided walks, we also provide opportunities for people to get involved with their countryside by volunteering with us.

### Contact us for information on:

- Discovering the High Peak.
- Discovering the Sett Valley Trail.
- Guided walks and events in the area and throughout the County.
- Volunteer opportunities.
- Links to countryside teams across Derbyshire.

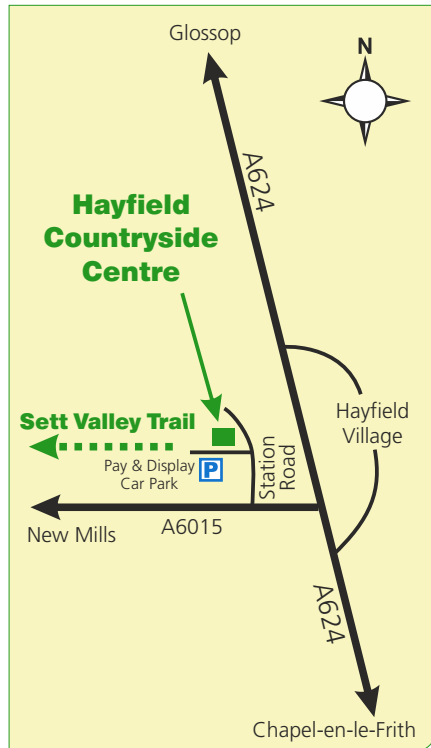
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### Public Transport

You can find out the most suitable bus and train service by contacting Traveline on 0871 200 22 33.  
For more details on public transport in Derbyshire, log on to [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport\\_roads/public\\_transport](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/public_transport)



# Discover The Sett Valley Trail The Gateway to Kinder



For this leaflet in other formats please contact **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

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County Council  
Improving life for local people

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside)

# The Sett Valley

The River Sett rises on Kinder Scout and flows through Hayfield to meet the River Goyt at New Mills



Pictured left to right: Kinder and Hayfield Station in the early 1900s.

Hayfield and the Sett Valley have been a focal point for accessing the Peak District hills for centuries, from the packhorses and railways of the past to today's visitors, walkers, climbers, riders and mountain bikers. Nestling in an area of rugged hills and steep-sided valleys, it is within easy reach of the great conurbations of the North. In the last century, thousands would come by rail, along what is now the Sett Valley Trail, to walk the hills and breathe the air. The valley played a key part in the movement to gain the right of access to Britain's mountains and moorlands, when the 1932 Mass Trespass of Kinder Scout set off from Hayfield to go up the hill.

Today the Sett Valley remains the gateway to Kinder, leading the eye and visitors into the hills and towards the western edge of Kinder Scout. The beauty of the valley is all the more remarkable given its industrial past.

Running up the centre of the valley, the Sett Valley Trail is a 2.5 mile traffic-free green corridor for people and wildlife. Being a former railway, the trail provides an easy access route and allows anyone to share in the hills, whether or not they are able to get into them.

## Heritage - The Valley

The Sett Valley was once heavily industrialised, and there is still evidence of several stages of the Industrial Revolution. From the 16th century, people were spinning and weaving their own wool in their homes as a means to augment poor agricultural incomes. Later, three storey weavers cottages were built, many of which are still found in the valley.

The fast flowing streams allowed the development of small water-powered spinning mills which dotted the rivers by 1800. The size and number of mills grew with technical improvements and the cottage industry declined.

The abundant water, a vital asset for both power and processing, attracted other industries, and eventually the valley had a number of large calico printing mills and paper manufacturing works, and, of course, a railway.

## Heritage - The Railway

The Hayfield Railway Line was opened in 1868. It carried coal, raw materials and workers to the mills and finished goods away. Summer Sundays were very busy and, in the 1920's, there could be 5,000 people getting off at Hayfield to walk in the hills. The line closed in 1970. Like many former railway lines around the County, it was acquired by Derbyshire County Council to convert into a multi-user trail, and in 1979 was opened as the Sett Valley Trail.

What is most striking is how the valley has recovered (with a little help from its friends) to be the glorious area of Peak District countryside it is today.

Pictured from left to right: Speckled Wood Butterfly, Scarlet Elf Cup, Common Carder Bee on Devil's Bit Scabious, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Bluebells and Marsh Marigold.



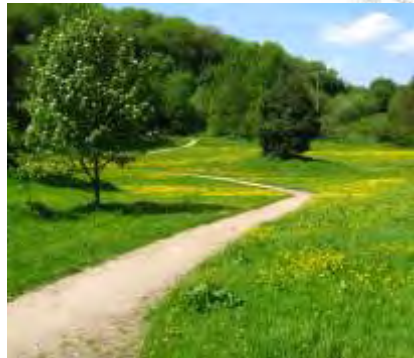


# The Sett Valley Trail Network



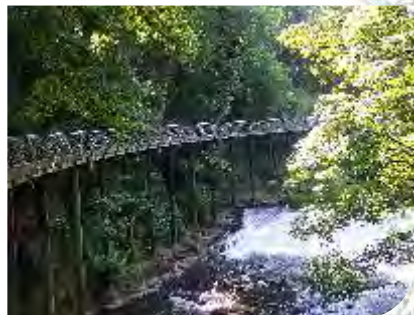
## Hayfield Countryside Centre

Located in the village of Hayfield, in north-west Derbyshire, facilities include a picnic site, pay and display car park, and information centre, bus station and public toilets with easy access toilet and baby changing facilities.



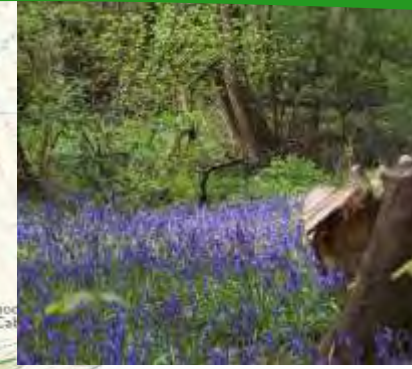
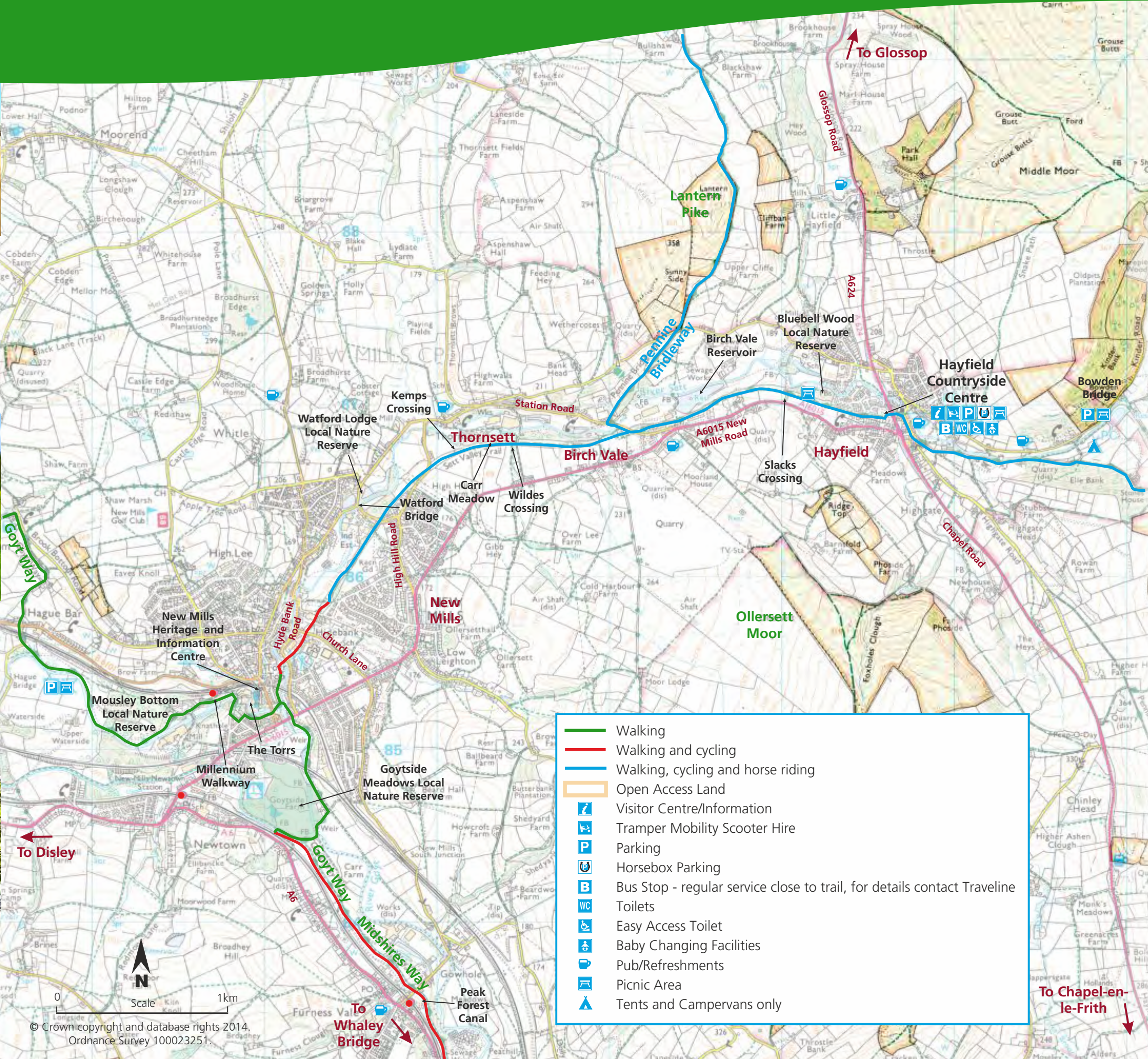
## Mousley Bottom Local Nature Reserve

From an unpromising past as a refuse tip, sewage works and gas works, this site has been transformed by the Countryside Service into a beautiful Local Nature Reserve with woodland, wetland and grassland.



## Millennium Walkway

160 metres long walkway clinging to the side of the gorge high above the River Goyt.



## Bluebell Wood Local Nature Reserve

A small ancient woodland close to Hayfield, with an easy access route from Hayfield Countryside Centre. The last few years have seen dramatic improvements for both people and wildlife with improved access and enhanced habitat. Much of the work is to create the conditions to allow a proper woodland structure to form.



## The Torrs

An extraordinary gorge below the town of New Mills where the rivers Goyt and Sett meet, containing remarkable industrial heritage.



## Pennine Bridleway

This long-distance trail offers horse riders, cyclists and walkers the opportunity to explore the Pennines' ancient packhorse routes, drovers roads and newly-created bridleways. [www.nationaltrails.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrails.co.uk)



# The Gateway to Kinder - The Sett Valley

