

welcome to the Upper Derwent Valley

The valley and its surrounding moorland contains a wealth of places to explore and enjoy. From the majestic reservoirs, quiet forests to the wild open moorland there is something for everyone.

Man's influence over the last 8000 years has left a rich cultural heritage. From ancient pre-historic settlements on the moors to the industrial heritage of the reservoirs there are lots of stories to discover.



Water

The reservoirs of Derwent and Howden were built nearly 100 years ago to supply the cities of Sheffield, Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. Over 1000 people were involved in building them and were housed in the temporary 'Tin Town' at Birchlee.

Ladybower was completed in 1945 to supply an ever increasing demand. This resulted in the flooding of the villages of Derwent and Ashopton – when water levels are low you may get a glimpse of the village remains.

A living landscape

With the combination of water, woodlands and high moorland, the Upper Derwent has become a unique place for wildlife. Go quietly and you may see some of the shy and uncommon species such as the sandpiper, goshawk or mountain hare. Much time is spent conserving these creatures and improving habitats.



A working landscape

Not everyone in the valley is a visitor. There are hill farms scattered about the area. Farming has been a key influence since prehistory and continues today. Traditional techniques such as hay meadow management help preserve the landscape and its biodiversity. These are supported by European initiatives such as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The White-faced Woodland sheep – the largest of the hardy hill breeds are associated with this area.

The Woodlands are managed for timber, recreation and conservation. Careful management away from a pure conifer crop to a more mixed woodland has enhanced their value for both wildlife and landscape. This is a sustainable source of timber that may one day find its way into your homes. Climbing above the farms and forest you reach the high moorland. This may appear to be wilderness but has been created through centuries of management for hunting and grazing. The grouse moors are carefully managed to maintain a patchwork of differently aged heather.

These moors are recognised internationally for their important blanket bogs and associated breeding birds such as the golden plover and merlin.

Biodiversity pole

The carvings on the pole at Fairholmes depict the rich variety of natural wildlife found in the Upper Derwent. How many different species can you see?

Dambusters

During the second world war the dams of Howden and Derwent were used for training by the 617 'Dambusters' squadron. This was because of their similarity to the Möhne and Eder Dams in the industrial heart of Germany. There is a memorial and museum at the West Tower of Derwent Dam (limited opening).



exploring the valley

Even if there are crowds around the car parks, you will be able to find your own quiet spot if you are prepared to look for it. There are many ways to explore the valley.

In the saddle

There is a wide range of easy going and more challenging routes for cyclists and horse riders in the area. Please remember that riding is only permitted on bridleways – not on footpaths or on the open moorland. Cycles for adults, children and people with disabilities can be hired from the cycle hire centre at Fairholmes.



On foot

The Upper Derwent has footpaths for everyone – from easy waterside strolls to strenuous hill walks. Follow some of the waymarked paths to explore the valley. The high moorland is Open Access, offering many challenging routes but they are not for the unprepared.



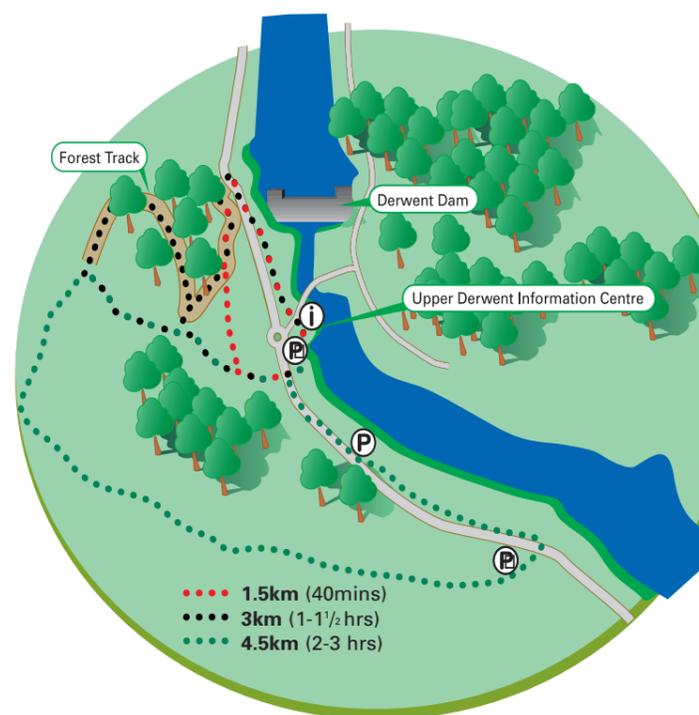
Please ensure you have a map, compass (and the knowledge to use them), suitable footwear and clothing to allow for the changing weather.

Walking and cycling guides, maps and advice can be found in the Information Centre.

Waymarked walks

There are several self-guided circular trails starting from the visitor centre at Fairholmes. Colour banded waymark posts mark the routes. All routes start from the far corner of the lower car park.

- **Red route** – a gentle stroll through the forest and returning past Derwent Dam wall.
- **Black route** – a moderate stroll up to the edge of the moorland with wonderful views across the valley to the Derwent moors.
- **Green route** – A slightly longer route taking in forest, views across to Kinder Scout and returning along the reservoir side.



Key

- Ⓟ parking
- ⓘ information
- waymarked walks
- road
- ▭ reservoir
- ⦿ roundabout
- ▭ forest track

help to keep it special

-  Disturbance to wildlife and sheep is a major problem - please keep your dog on a lead!
-  This area is vulnerable to fire – take special care to avoid starting fires!
-  Take your litter home, leave gates as you find them, protect wildlife, plants and trees!
-  Keep to footpaths and don't climb over walls. Don't pollute reservoirs and streams!
-  Beware of forest operations and timber lorries - look out for local signing.

Traffic management and car parking

To help protect and enjoy the valley there is a traffic management scheme in operation. Please park only in designated car parks and lay-bys, or better still leave the car at home next time you visit and use public transport. Bus and train links are available from surrounding villages, towns and cities.

The road north of Fairholmes is closed to motor vehicles at certain times to provide a traffic free area for walkers and cyclists (Disabled Badge holders exempt) – please observe local signing. A minibus service operates when the road is closed.



Like to do more?

The Peak National Park Ranger Service and Severn Trent Water provide a team of rangers to help care for the valley and make your visit more enjoyable.

Volunteer and part time rangers play a vital role in caring for this area. If you would like to find out more ask in the Ranger Office or contact 01629 816290.

The National Trust provides opportunities for practical voluntary conservation work - for more details contact the High Peak Estate office 01433 670368.

working in partnership

Over 2 million people visit the Upper Derwent each year. This means the valley needs to be carefully looked after if it is to remain as attractive as it is now. Since 1980 the valley has been managed by a unique and award-winning partnership, which represents the range of local interests.

The Upper Derwent Partnership works with local farmers, residents and visitors to:

- conserve and improve the valley's natural and cultural heritage
- provide better facilities for visitors
- support the needs of the local community
- improve public transport and manage the traffic in the valley

You are an important part of the Upper Derwent Partnership. Please help by following the advice in this leaflet. We hope you enjoy your visit and have a safe journey home.

websites: www.stwater.co.uk
www.peakdistrict.org
www.nationaltrust.org.uk
www.forestry.gov.uk

Severn Trent Water

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



THE NATIONAL TRUST



Forestry Commission

the Upper Derwent valley

discover & enjoy



essential information

-  **The Upper Derwent Information Centre**
Come and discover fascinating facts about the Upper Derwent through the informative, interactive displays.
The information assistants are able to provide help, information and advice to aid your visit. A variety of maps, books, postcards and other souvenirs are also available.
-  **Cycle Hire**
A range of bikes for all the family can be hired. The centre has bikes suitable for all abilities and needs, including disabled.
-  **Toilets**
There are toilets for all at Fairholmes and Heatherdene carparks
-  **Dams and Dambusters Museum,**
This interesting display is open in the West Tower of Derwent Dam, most Sundays and Bank Holidays throughout the year.
-  **Guided walks**
There is a full programme of guided walks and other events throughout the year. Join a local Ranger and discover the secrets and beauty of the Valley and the surrounding moorland in the company of a knowledgeable guide.
-  **Fishing**
Trout fishing is available on Ladybower reservoir. Permits can be bought from the Fishery Office next to Heatherdene Car Park.
-  **Planning events in the Upper Derwent.**
All organised events in the Upper Derwent require permission. Please discuss your plans with the Rangers or contact the National Park Ranger Service on 01629 816200
-  **Information**
For more information about the area, including events, guided walks etc.
Upper Derwent Information Centre 01433 650953
Ranger's Office 01433 659986
Upper Derwent Cycle Hire 01433 651261
National Trust – High Peak Estate Office 01433 670368
Fisheries Office 01433 651254
Travel-line (all public transport enquiries) 0870 6082608

