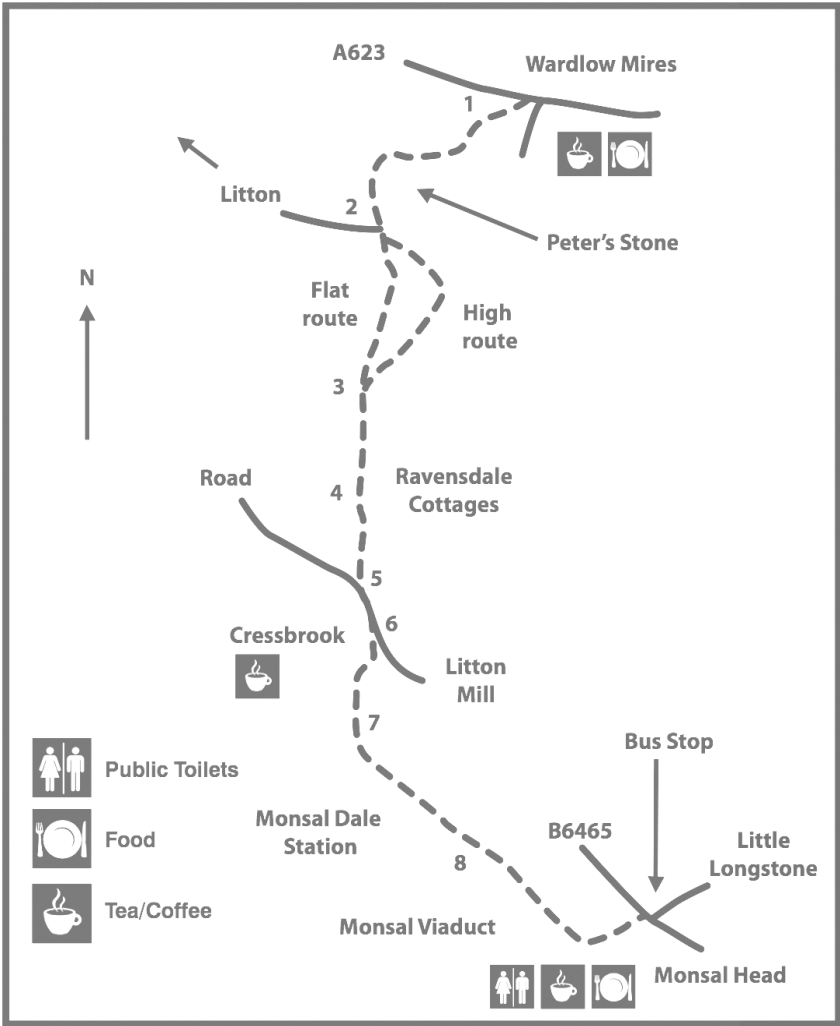
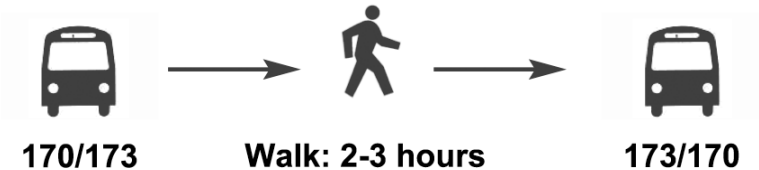


A series of 6 walks in the Peak District, researched and published by Transition Chesterfield, that can be reached by public transport from Chesterfield, for people without cars, or who want to leave the car at home. Unfortunately constant changes to the bus timetable, ticket costs, in some cases routes and even bus numbers make keeping this information updated impractical. Instead, we suggest you check the current status online at: <http://www.derbysbus.info/times/>. For the other walks see: www.transitionchesterfield.org.uk.

Walk No. 3: Wardlow Mires to Monsal Head via Cressbrook Dale

Summary: A generally easy walk through peaceful dales and woods, passing through the historic mill village of Cressbrook, then along part of the Monsal trail. Crosses the Monsal Viaduct and finishes after a steep path up to Monsal Head. Distance 6km/3.7 miles; 2 - 3 hours (depending on route).



Walk description

1: From the Wardlow Mires T-junction walk west (towards Tideswell) on the A623 for about 50 metres, to the combination gate/stile in the wall on your left. This is the start of the path, which goes straight across the field then through the gap in the wall, turning right and widening on the other side. The striking Peter's Stone is ahead of you; follow the path keeping the cliffs on your left until you pass it.

2: Continue until four large stone pillars (which are stepping stones when it's wet) cross the path. Carrying on in the same direction (the path on the right goes through Tansley Dale to Litton village) there are two options. Either continue straight on, following the path alongside the seasonal stream (when the ground may be boggy) going through the woods, or take the footpath on the left up the hill - they rejoin further on. The path up the hill is long and steep in parts, and the descent is a definite clamber at one place, but the reward is a joyous view of the dale below, sweeping from your right round to the wood-clad slopes on the left. If taking this path, when reaching the top, keep the field walls on your left and then descend gradually into the valley.

3: The paths join again in the woods; follow it until you cross a gated footbridge so that the stream (when running) is now on your left.

4: Follow this path through a gate and walk past Ravensdale Cottages, with views of the imposing crags on the left. The path joins a private road; walk up this until it meets the road.

5: Bear left onto the road and go downhill until you reach the historic mill village of Cressbrook.

6: On the left is a sign 'Concession Footpath' pointing across the road, but don't miss the impressive Litton Mill which is just a bit further along the road. Then come back and take the Concession Path; keeping on the left, follow it past the strange cottage / castle / teashop combination and a wooden bridge (all on your right), crossing the bridge next to the weir.

7: Go up the steps, to the sign that indicates you are on the Monsal Trail; keep left and follow the stony path along the side of the hill, with excellent views of Cressbrook Mill and the meandering River Wye.

8: Pass through another gate by the disused rail tunnel and turn left onto the old railway line, also part of the Monsal Trail. This straight, flat route goes past the old Monsal Dale Station, over the spectacular viaduct and up a long, steep path to the Monsal Head pub and a couple of cafes. The bus stop is in the road opposite the car park; there is also the Packhorse Inn in Little Longstone, about 5 minutes down the road from there.

Some paths may be rough or, if it has been wet, slippery, so wear appropriate clothing, especially footwear. Where there are steep or long hills this will be mentioned in the route description; however, it should be borne in mind that this is the Peak District and descriptions of conditions are relative to the area. The route map is very simplified so we recommend that you also carry an OS map, either Explorer OL24 (1:25,000) or Landranger 119 (1:50,000), which both cover all the walks in this series - maps can usually be borrowed from public libraries. Remember the Countryside Code: leave gates and property as you find them, protect plants and animals, take your litter home, keep dogs under close control and please consider other people.