

Conserving the Valley

Heather moorland is prevalent throughout the area and is burnt in rotation to encourage new growth which provides food for both sheep and grouse.

The moors support a unique birdlife of special international importance. Golden plover, curlew, meadow pipit and various birds of prey are all to be found breeding here. Mammals are occasionally seen and include weasels, hares and red deer.



Woodland & Forest

In contrast with the moorland, the valley slopes contain a variety of forest and woodland. These are managed by the Forestry Commission to provide not only a crop of home grown timber but also a good habitat for wildlife, recreation activities and quiet places for visitors to enjoy. Native species, predominantly oak, birch and rowan are mixed with introductions such as Sitka spruce, larch and Lodgepole pine. This mixture attracts a wide range of birds including woodpeckers, finches, crossbills and birds of prey such as Tawny owl, Sparrowhawk and Goshawk.

These share the woodland with fox, badger and hedgehog. Butterflies such as Red Admiral, Peacock and Tortoiseshell can also be seen.

The Goyt Valley also lies within the South West Peak Environmentally Sensitive Area, part of an initiative which encourages land managers to help conserve landscape and habitats.



The Peak District National Park

This is one of twelve National Parks in England and Wales - areas of beautiful scenery safeguarded from harmful change. The name 'National Park' can be misleading - the land is not owned by the nation - just like anywhere else it is mainly privately owned.

A full-time National Park Ranger is based at Derbyshire Bridge and is assisted by part-time Rangers at weekends. They work in close liaison with local farmers, landowners and visitors.



Sheep worrying by dogs is a major problem -
PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG ON A LEAD.

Moorland and woodland areas are vulnerable to fire - take special care to **AVOID STARTING FIRES**. In particular, do not drop lighted cigarette ends or stub out cigarettes on the ground. Please take your litter home, fasten all gates and use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls.

Your care will safeguard the valley for future generations

For more information contact:

Forestry Commission: 01623 822447 - www.forestry.gov.uk

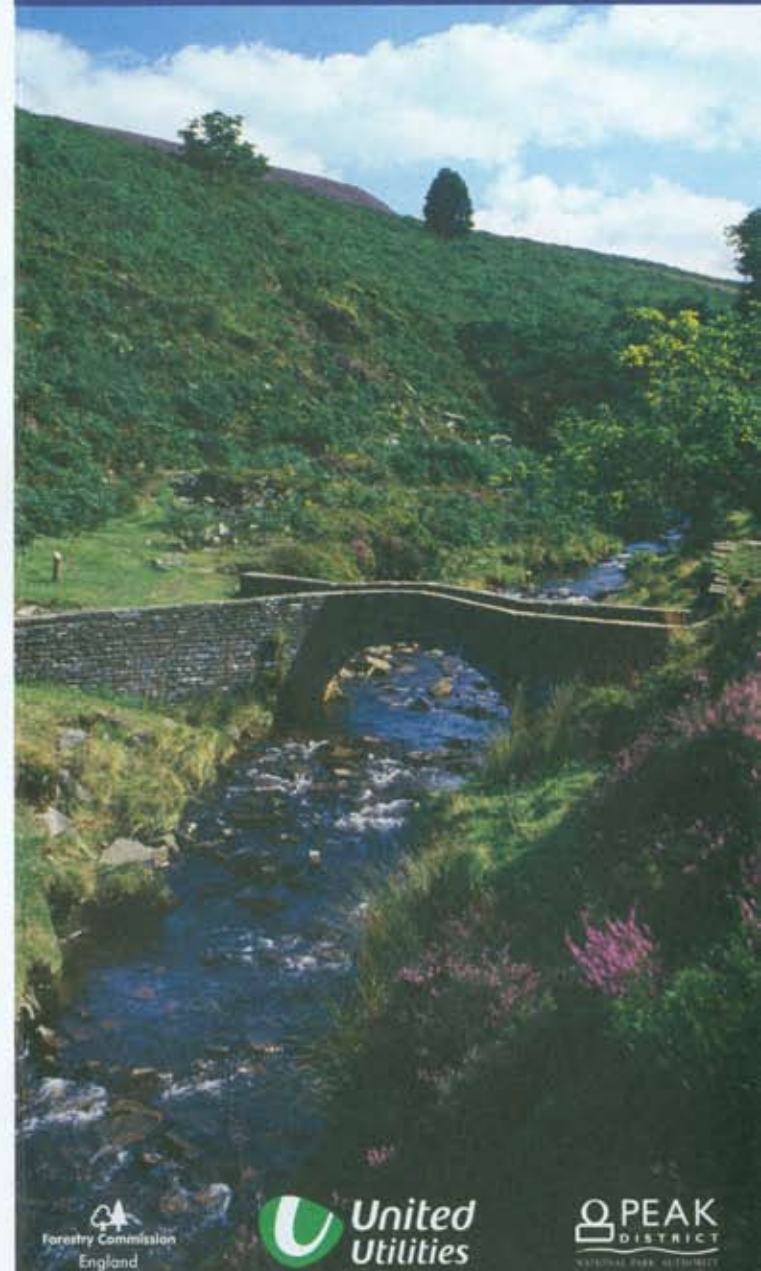
United Utilities: 01457 864187 - www.unitedutilities.com

Peak District National Park Authority: 01629 816200 -
www.peakdistrict.org

Visit the Goyt Valley by public transport- details from Traveline: 0870 608 2608 or the Peak District Public Transport Timetable (available from bus enquiry offices, TIC's or by post from Derbyshire County Council Public Transport Unit).

Goyt Valley

VISITOR GUIDE



Working together to care for the Goyt Valley

Routeways & Transport

Roman roads, medieval packhorse tracks and hollow ways cross the area showing the importance of the valley as a trade route.

Packhorses were used to carry salt from Cheshire across the Goyt Valley through Buxton to Sheffield and Chesterfield. The old packhorse bridge was dismantled when the reservoirs were built and rebuilt over the river at Goytsclough Quarry, further up the valley.



In 1670 Thomas Pickford turned to road mending after his estate was confiscated by Cromwell. Packhorse trains carrying stone from Goytsclough Quarry were found an alternative load for their return journey and hence the beginnings of Pickfords removal firm.

The packhorse was replaced by the train when the Cromford and High Peak Railway was built in 1830 to link the Peak Forest Canal at Whaley Bridge with the Cromford Canal at Matlock. The small reservoir near the

road at Goyts Lane car park once provided water for the steam engines which were used to haul the trains up the steep Bunsal Incline.

The railway was used as a freight line, primarily carrying coal, lime and agricultural produce. From 1833 to 1877, the line also carried passengers.

The Goyt section of the railway was closed in 1892 after a new link to Buxton had been completed.

Today, the easy access track can be enjoyed by walkers and is suitable for wheelchair users from Goyts Lane.



A LNWR Goods Engine pictured at Ludmanlow around 1899. This type of Engine worked the High Peak Line until the start of World War One.

Reservoirs

As the suburbs of Manchester began to grow in the early 20th century, there was an increased demand for drinking water.

Stockport Corporation acquired the Goyt Valley for the building of the two reservoirs - Fernilee and Errwood. By 1930 the farms and houses in the valley had been demolished to provide a water gathering area.

Industry

The Goyt Valley once supported thriving coal mining, quarrying and gunpowder production industries. Goyt's Moss colliery, sited near to Derbyshire Bridge was extensive.

The development of coalmining can be traced from the opencast workings in the 17th century, through 18th century bell pits, to later shafts in the earlier part of the 19th century.

Coal could be transported easily once the turnpike roads were built in the late 1700's. The coal was mainly supplied to fire the lime kilns at Grin Low, near Buxton.

There were several quarries in the Goyt Valley, some of which provided wall-building stone for the area, while others may have provided stone for turnpike roads. Later, stone was quarried for use in building embankments and trackside walls on the Cromford and High Peak Railway.

The Gunpowder Factory, which may date back to the 16th Century, reputedly supplied the ammunition for Sir Francis Drake to fight the Spanish Armada. The main buildings were sited where Fernilee Reservoir is now. There was a network of tramways and a narrow canal to transport the volatile materials needed to manufacture gunpowder.

The factory was active during the First World War (1914-1918) but closed soon afterwards.



Sailing on Errwood Reservoir

Fernilee Reservoir was completed in 1938 and Errwood Reservoir in 1967.

United Utilities now own the gathering area with water being supplied to the Stockport region. The reservoirs also provide recreational opportunities such as sailing and fly fishing.

Errwood Hall and Goyts Bridge



Errwood Hall in its splendour, showing the right wing which housed a small chapel. Stables were also built at the rear.

Built by the Grimshawe family in about 1840, Errwood Hall is now a ruin occupying an impressive site between two streams.

Its grounds still contain much of interest: dense pinewoods; rhododendron and azalea bushes, ruins of workers' cottages and the family cemetery.

There is also a shrine that is thought to have been erected on the instigation of the Spanish lady, Miss Dolores, who was a companion to Mrs Grimshawe.

The last of the family died in 1930, and the Hall was demolished when Fernilee Reservoir was built.



The scene at Goyts Bridge in the 1920's.

Photo's above courtesy G. Hancock

Traces of the small hamlet of Goyts Bridge can now be seen when the water level of Errwood Reservoir is very low. Situated at the meeting of two streams, it was a popular destination for Victorian visitors with cream teas being served at Hibberts Farm (left). A school for the Estate children was also set up nearby by Miss Dolores.

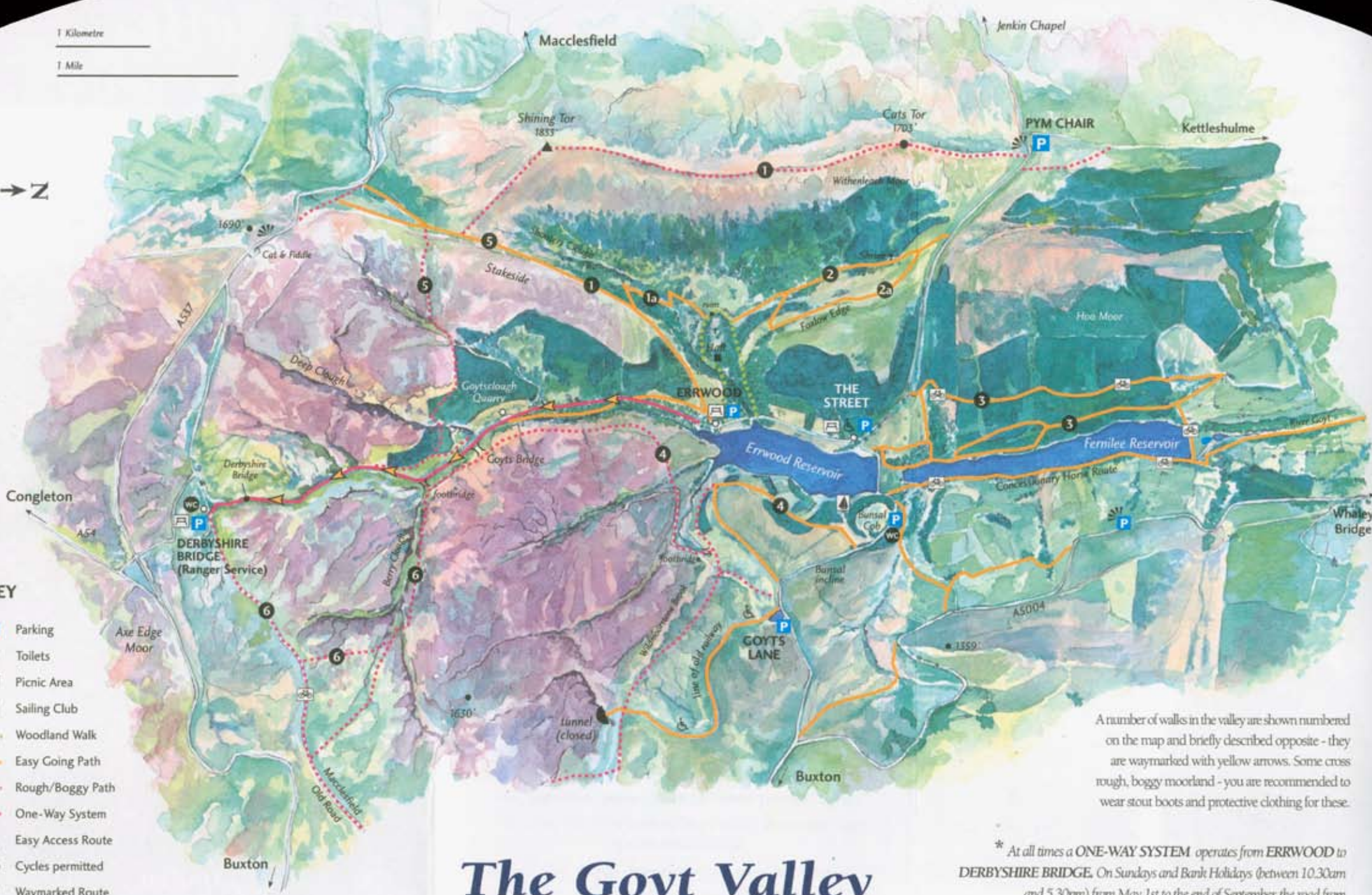
1 Kilometre

1 Mile



KEY

- Parking
- Toilets
- Picnic Area
- Sailing Club
- Woodland Walk
- Easy Going Path
- Rough/Boggy Path
- One-Way System
- Easy Access Route
- Cycles permitted
- Waymarked Route
- Viewpoint



A number of walks in the valley are shown numbered on the map and briefly described opposite - they are waymarked with yellow arrows. Some cross rough, boggy moorland - you are recommended to wear stout boots and protective clothing for these.

The Goyt Valley

* At all times a ONE-WAY SYSTEM operates from ERRWOOD to DERBYSHIRE BRIDGE. On Sundays and Bank Holidays (between 10.30am and 5.30pm) from May 1st to the end of September, the road from THE STREET to DERBYSHIRE BRIDGE is closed to visitor traffic, except for emergency services, special permit holders, cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

Walking Routes

THE STREET CAR PARK

WALK 1 Via The Street to Pym Chair; then along the ridge via Cats Tor and Shining Tor to Errwood Hall. An alternative (1a) down Shooters Clough to Errwood Hall. Return to The Street by road. Circular route 5 7/8 miles.

WALK 2 Up The Street and then down a wooded valley to Errwood Hall. An alternative is via Foxlow Edge (2a). Return to The Street by road. Circular route 2 1/2 miles.

WALK 3 From Errwood Dam along the track below Hoo Moor as far as Oldfield Farm, return via the west edge of Fernilee Reservoir. Circular route 3 miles.
Walks 4 and 5 can also be started from here.

ERRWOOD HALL CAR PARK

The Forestry Commission's Woodland Walk starts from this car park. The walk includes the grounds of Errwood Hall. A series of information plaques on the route help the visitor.

The road to Goytsclough Quarry provides a pleasant walk in peaceful wooded surroundings. Distance to Goytsclough and back to Errwood 2 miles. Longer walks (No's 1, 2, 4 and 5) can also be started here.

GOYTS CLOUGH QUARRY

WALK 4 Over a moorland path above the River Goyt down the valley of Wildmoorstone Brook to Errwood Reservoir and then climbing gradually to the road at Bunsal Cob. Return by road by Errwood Dam and to Goytsclough Quarry. Circular route 4 1/2 miles.

WALK 5 A fairly strenuous climb across open moorland towards Shining Tor. From Stakeside follow Walk 1 to Errwood car park. Return to Goytsclough Quarry by road. Circular route 3 1/2 miles.
Walk 6 can be started from here.

DERBYSHIRE BRIDGE CAR PARK

WALK 6 Up Old Macclesfield Road across open moorland and down Berry Clough, then following a moorland path above the River Goyt to Goytsclough Quarry. Distance 2 1/2 miles. Return by the road.

EASY ACCESS ROUTES



THE STREET TO ERRWOOD - only available when the road is closed to traffic from the start of May to the end of September (between 10.30am and 5.30pm). A level metalled road along the western bank of Errwood Reservoir gives excellent views across the water and of the sailing.

GOYTS LANE (at all times). Park at Goyts Lane, where there is an area reserved for disabled people - take care when crossing the road. A level surface along the former Cromford and High Peak Railway leads into open moorland and peaceful surroundings.

Welcome to the Goyt Valley in the Peak District National Park

The Goyt Valley is rich in industrial heritage, wildlife, farming and recreation opportunities. The Peak District National Park Authority, United Utilities and the Forestry Commission work together to provide access and conservation management for the benefit of people and wildlife.



The landscape you see today has been shaped and carved out by successive Ice Ages and the River Goyt. The Valley is both a living and working landscape - high moorland, woodland, river and farmland contrast with the man-made Fernilee and Errwood Reservoirs.

Human activity has influenced the shape of the Valley. Neolithic farmers in prehistory were the first to start felling trees and clearing the ground for cultivation. The Goyt Valley was a flourishing community from the

1500's until the early 1900's, supporting about 15 farms mainly stocked with sheep. Sheep farming is still the main agricultural activity in the valley especially on the high moorland.