



Key:

- Starting Point (car park)
- Woodland Walk Route
- Extended Parkland Walk Route
- Public Footpath Great Longstone FP3
- Viewpoint
- 1 Bluebell Wood
- 2 Pine Stand
- 3 Cascades
- 4 Water & Wildlife
- 5 Pig Experience
- 6 Historic Kissing Gate
- 7 Boathouse
- 8 Vista to Thornbridge Hall
- 9 Vista to Ashford in the Water
- 10 Vista across Parkland

The owners and custodians of Thornbridge Hall, Emma and Jim Harrison, have invested significant funds, energy and commitment into the hall and its immediate formal gardens and in doing so have created a high-quality visitor attraction that is becoming increasingly popular. With its rolling topography, majestic parkland trees and lakes, the wider parkland provides a stunningly appropriate setting to the hall. Walkers on the public footpath and visitors to the property can see and experience the parkland, however in many cases, its fuller extent and qualities are not always appreciated.

In addition to proposing an initial phase of succession tree planting within the parkland, Emma and Jim are excited to provide a peripheral parkland walking route that provides a sequence of amazing views and experiences with associated interpretation and an element of fun.

Starting close to the car park, the proposed route tracks through the woodland on the northern boundary of the parkland. This section of the walk will involve some minor clearance works to create a pathway with a no-dig construction in order to prevent/minimise disturbance to the root protection areas of adjacent trees. In addition, some selected areas of the woodland will be subject to improvements to diversify the species content in terms of both trees, understorey and ground flora, with the intention of creating an attractive woodland walk with features such as a 'Bluebell Walk' and glimpsed views across the parkland to the south.

To the eastern boundary, the route tracks along the edges of the two easternmost lakes and their cascade, before following the edge of the woodland and allowing walkers to meet the pigs that live therein.

After making a wish when passing through the historic kissing gate, fantastic views can be experienced back toward the Hall. The old boathouse sits alongside the lake where the ducks and other birdlife can be enjoyed.

The route then follows the original driveway up towards the Hall and subsequent to a short woodland walk, a fabulous view back down the driveway to the lake and the entrance lodge beyond can be experienced, before entering back into the formal gardens to the Hall.

An occasional/optional extension to the walk (identified by the yellow dashed line) will take in the southernmost sections of the parkland. This secluded part of the parkland provides a number of amazing views, including of the Hall, the elevated ground associated with the wider Peak District beyond and an elevated, expansive vista over the nearby village of Ashford in the Water, that epitomises the natural beauty of the Peak District.

Awareness of the trail could be enhanced by the availability of a leaflet and associated signage/wayfinding, with intermittent elements of interpretation along the route.

