

Cromford, Intake Lane, Homesford and Gregory's Tunnel.

Walk Information

Walk Area:	Cromford	OS Map:	Explorer OL24
Distance:	5.0 miles		White Peak Area
Start Point:	Cromford Wharf		1:25000
Map Ref:	SK 300 570		
Post Code	DE4 3RQ		

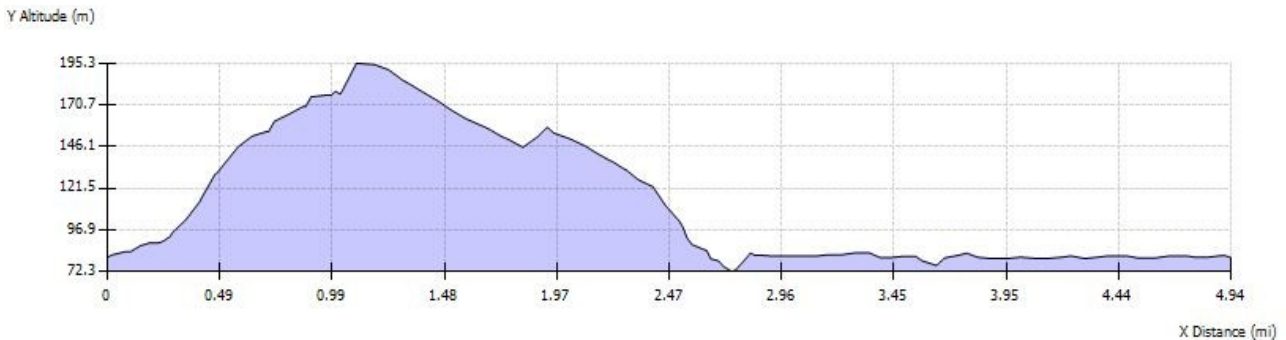
General Information

Parking:	Pay And Display
Tea Shops:	Two
Duration:	2 Hours 10 Minutes

Altitude Data

Start:	262 ft (80m)
Minimum	232 ft (71m)
Maximum	643 ft (196m)

Altitude Profile



Cromford Meadow

A five mile stroll with all of the up and down in the first half of the route. The uses a selection of footpaths, roads, avenues and canal tow-paths, with only one short section where a degree of dexterity when negotiating tree root's is required. The route has two tea stops, on at the start finish (Cromford Wharf) the second at High Peak Junction during the period Easter to October. Toilets are available at several points along this route, these being at the car park (start/finish of the walk), inside the Awkrights Mill complex and at High Peak Junction Workshops.

Getting There:

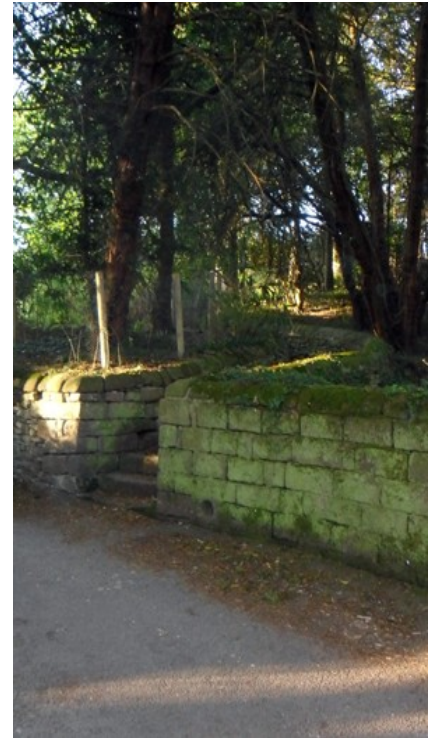
Cromford is located just over a mile to the south of Matlock Bath along the A6 . At the staggered traffic light controlled junction on the A6 do not take the road into Cromford Village, instead take Mill Lane to the side of Sir Richard Awkrights Mill. Car-parks are to be found on either side of the at end of the Mill buildings.

Cromford, Intake Lane, Homesford and Gregory's Tunnel.

The Walk:

From the car park walk upto the canal side then along to the old warehouses and the canal terminus. Note how the canal terminus is covered to allow loading and unloading in all weathers. On reaching the end of the canal turn left and walk along the feeder stream to a private road on the left. Walk up this road a few yards and look for a narrow footpath between the garden walls on the right. Follow this path until it brings you to the A6 opposite Intake Lane. Cross the A6 and walk up Intake Lane. During busy periods it may be quicker to walk down to the traffic lights at Cromford to cross the A6. Walk up Intake Lane for a round a third of a mile until it leaves the housing estate behind and becomes a well used vehicle track. Continue along Intake Lane for a further quarter of a mile noting the fine views across the Derwent Valley until the lane passes below The High Peak Trail.

A few yards after passing under the High Peak Trail there is a path up to the right that gives access to the Trail, and the route of this sites first Cromford walk to Black Rock.



Walled Path To The A6

Continue along the lane until it turns sharp right at a paddock boundary then left after around eighty or ninety yards. Just before the lane resumes it's original direction it appears at first sight to be blocked by a gate and metal barrier. This is not the case, pass between the left gate post and the wall, then through the gap between the post and the metal barrier. The only reason I can think of for the existence of this barrier is to slow or stop cyclists. Having passed this barrier the walk reaches it's high point after a further hundred yards or so. Continue along the lane passing through two further gates until once more Intake Lane bears right and begins to rise. The short climb and Intake Lane both end when the B5035 is reached. Turn left and descend along the B5035 for just under



Crossing Under High Peak Trail

half a mile, this road has no footpaths, so take care along this stretch. The section of this road this route covers is mainly a long sweeping right hand bend, as a result walking toward oncoming traffic means you will probably not be seen until traffic is quite close. Fortunately the verge is wide enough to walk on for most of the way.



Odd Field Structures

Follow the road down hill until a field is seen to the left with two odd stone/brick structures in a rise, the footpath's route is signposted at the end of the field.

Cromford, Intake Lane, Homesford and Gregory's Tunnel.



Homesford Cattle Creep

Walk along the footpath between two fields, the path then enters some woodland and after a short distance approaches the rear of the houses at Homesford. Here the foot path continues to the left, but exits on to the A6 on a bend making crossing the road almost suicidal at this point. Instead turn right and walk down the vehicle track behind the houses until it too reaches the A6.

Crossing the A6 at this point is far safer as there is a good view of the traffic in both directions. Cross the A6 and continue directly ahead into the driveway ahead, turn right and around the metal barrier and down the tarmaced stretch of drive. This drive ends at Homeford

cattle creep, using the creep pass under the railway to a footbridge over the River Derwent (the bridge is the lowest point of the walk). After crossing the bridge the path turns left to the roughest section of the walk, although some effort has been made recently to make the path more passable, it remains rough underfoot, and includes a climb through tangled tree roots along the way. Thankfully this section is quite short and the path soon passes through a patch of fragrant ransom (wild garlic) before splitting. At this point there are two options, turn left and join the tow-path of the Cromford

Canal, or turn right. Taking the right path rises over a small hill to exit onto the canal tow-path on the far side of the tunnel at Gregory's Dam; a former marshalling area for barges wishing to pass through the tunnel. Then turn left and pass through Gregory's tunnel towards High Peak Junction. This section of tow-path is part of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, continue west for three-quarters of a mile to Wigwell Aqueduct and Leawood Pump House.

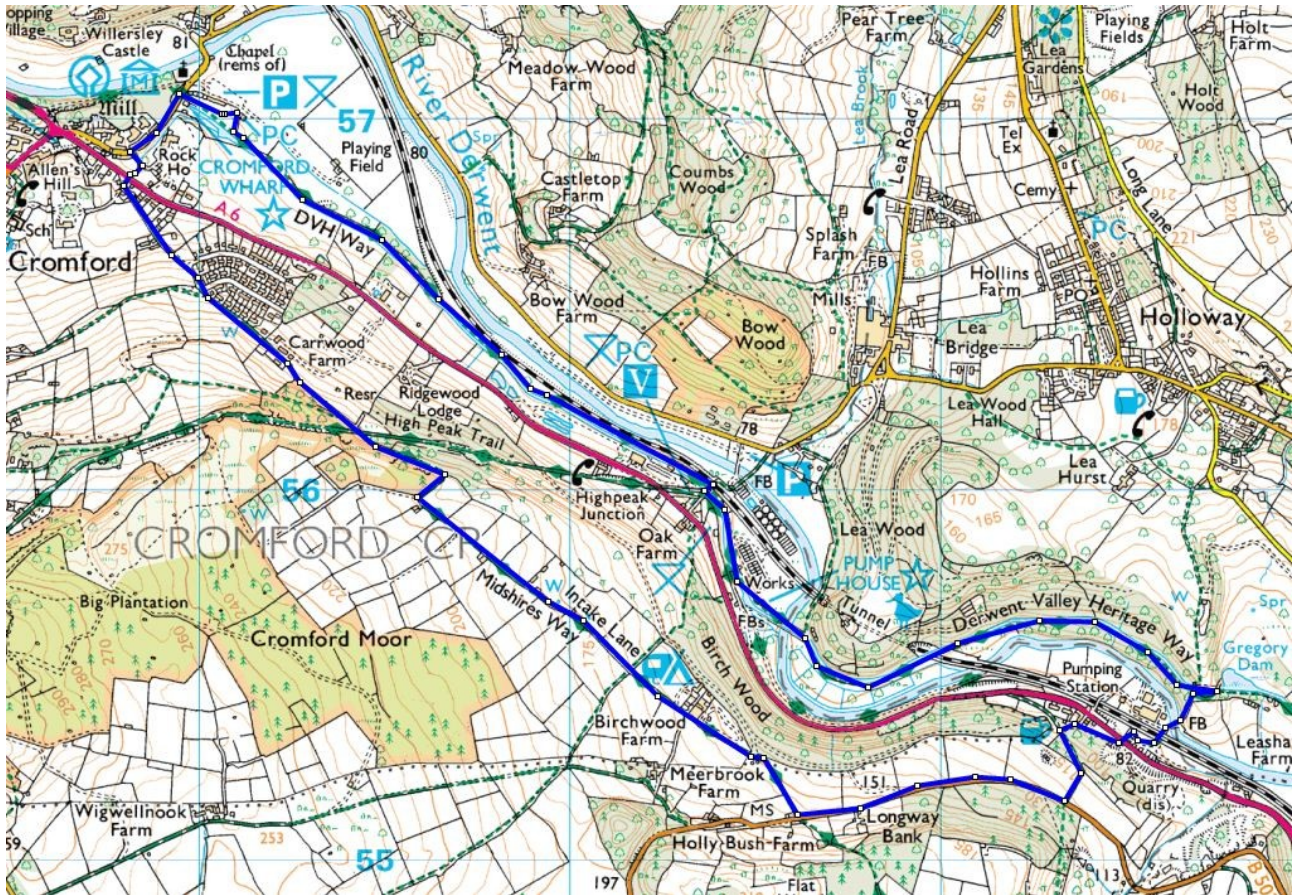
Before passing over the aqueduct cross the canal via the swing bridge, at this point can be seen the now derelict junction keepers cottage, (lived in until the mid 1950's) and the now disused Nightingale arm of the canal. Cross the River Derwent via the aqueduct to Leawood Pump House. The pump still steams on weekends throughout the summer, steaming dates are usually displayed on the gate. Continue to follow the tow-path for a further quarter of a mile to High Peak Junction Workshops.



Gregory's Tunnel

High Peak Junction is the second tea stop, as coffee and a limited selection of snacks are available from the visitors centre. From the workshops carry on along the tow-path for a further mile to the car park and the start point of the walk. This section of the canal is particularly rich in wildlife. As Cromford Wharf is approached you may note a strange tunnel leading off the canal into the rock face opposite. This was during the Mill's peak the entrance to Sir Richard Awkright's private boathouse.

Cromford, Intake Lane, Homesford and Gregory's Tunnel.



Map courtesy of Mapyx Quo