

Ambergate - Whatstandwell & Whatstandwell - Cromford: Walks 5 To 8

1. Lea Green

Lea Green, dating back to the fifteenth century, was once a farmhouse which has been added to and extended by subsequent owners. Under John Marsden-Smedley it achieved the grand house status that can be seen today. After his death in 1960, the buildings and grounds were taken over by Derbyshire County Council to become a sports and environmental centre.

10. Florence Nightingale

The Nightingales were an old established family in this part of Derbyshire. They built the woollen mill at Lea Bridge in the late eighteenth century. This was then taken over by the Smedley family to consolidate their business. Established in 1784, the John Smedley factory is the oldest manufacturing factory in the world and is world renowned for its knitwear.

The most famous member of the Nightingale family is Florence, who became a nurse and tended the wounded and dying on the battlefields of the Crimean War. Her house, Lea Hurst, can be seen in the distance on this walk.

9. Cromford Canal

Weaving up the Derwent Valley, for five and a half miles of its length, the Cromford Canal passes through stunning countryside. Sponsored by local businessmen, including Richard Arkwright, the canal was engineered by William Jessop, whose son Josias went on to engineer, amongst other projects, the Cromford and High Peak Railway, now the High Peak Trail.

Opened in 1794, the canal was effectively cut in two by the collapse of the Butterley Tunnel near Ripley circa 1900. The top section of the waterway to Cromford remained navigable into the 1940s. In 1974, Derbyshire County Council purchased five miles of the canal from Cromford to Ambergate, for a dual recreation and conservation purpose.

8. Crich

The inhabitants of Crich, like those in many of the limestone upland villages, made a living out of taking stone from the ground. Lead ore, or galena, was the initial extract to be followed to the present day, by limestone quarrying. Grit or millstone, was also quarried locally.

Crich Stand, a memorial to the dead of the Sherwood Forester Regiment, stands at the top of the quarry first started by George Stephenson. Crich Tramway Village is located in part of the old quarry.

2. Cromford

Historically, Cromford is a very important village. It is classed as a birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Arkwright's first cotton mill is still standing and is open to the public. It is well worth a visit to find out more about where it all began!

3. Intake Lane

Many of the villages locally have an Intake Lane. These were the roads leading to common land, especially the moors. After the Enclosures Acts of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries much of this land was taken into private ownership. These lanes then led to the "Intake", hence the name.

4. Lead Mining

Lead has been mined from this area probably since pre-Roman times. At the height of the lead boom, mines were driven deeper and so had to be drained. This was done by tunnels called soughs. These honey-comb the locality. One of the largest, the Meerbrook Sough, lies deep underground here. The water supplies the towns of Heanor and Ilkeston several miles away.

5. Alderwasley Hall

Alderwasley Hall and Park were owned by the Hurt family. The family fortune was built upon iron foundaries supplied by local ironstone and fuelled by timber and charcoal from local woods. Families of charcoal burners lived in the adjacent woodlands. One family inhabited an ancient yew tree, now known as the Betty Kenny tree, within Shining Cliff Woods. Here several children were raised and one branch was hollowed out to accommodate the latest born. This could be the origin of the nursery rhyme "Rock a bye baby, in the tree top..."

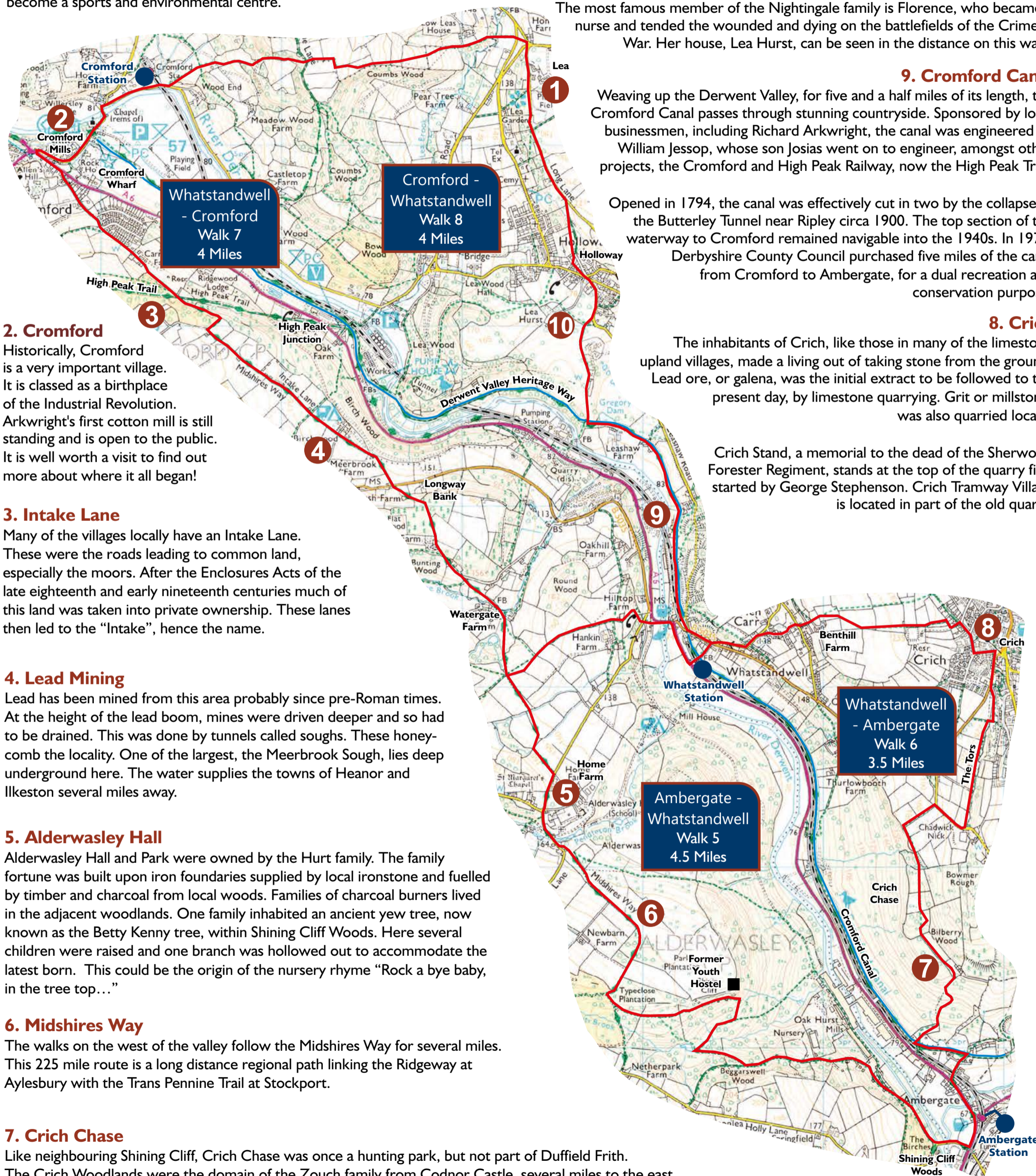
6. Midshires Way

The walks on the west of the valley follow the Midshires Way for several miles. This 225 mile route is a long distance regional path linking the Ridgeway at Aylesbury with the Trans Pennine Trail at Stockport.

7. Crich Chase

Like neighbouring Shining Cliff, Crich Chase was once a hunting park, but not part of Duffield Frith. The Crich Woodlands were the domain of the Zouch family from Codnor Castle, several miles to the east.

The Chase supports a varied wildlife with the wood consisting of mainly birch, oak, hazel and, from more recent times, a large amount of sycamore.



AMBERGATE - WHATSTANDWELL
WALK 5
DISTANCE 4.5 MILES

An attractive walk through ancient woodland, old parkland and open farmland with excellent views. There are no really steep climbs.

Out of the station, turn left and left again to the A6 at the Hurt Arms. Take care crossing the road and turn left, past the cricket ground, to turn right on to Holly Lane. Go over Halfpenny Bridge and turn right along a rough road into Shining Cliff Woods. Follow the unmade road, past houses, to its end. Continue into the woods and turn right going downhill at a signposted junction. Turn right at the next junction to eventually pass the former Youth Hostel and on past the rock outcrops, after which the woods are named, to join the route of the Midshires Way heading uphill.

This long distance path can now easily be followed out of the wood, across open parkland to Alderwasley village. Emerge on to the road near the hall and turn right downhill for a short way then uphill, past the road junction and Home Farm then take the first path left across the fields.

At the top of the hill, leave the Midshires Way by turning right, descending the hill to follow the path to the righthand side of Lambert's Cottage and on down to soon reach the A6. Cross over the Derwent Bridge to Whatstandwell Station 200 yards on the left.



CROMFORD - WHATSTANDWELL
WALK 8
DISTANCE 4 MILES

A walk combining steep climbs through woodland and the level towpath of the Cromford Canal. The views of the Derwent Valley are spectacular.

Leave the station, turn left along the road, under the bridge to a footpath on the left. This climb leads past old lead workings on the right to find a stone step over a stile in a wall alongside a farm track. Carry on uphill over a stile into the wood and follow the well walked path to meet Hearthstone Lane. Turn left here for 75 yards then right to take a footpath across open fields which soon begins the long descent to Nether Doe Carr Wood below.

Enter the wood and carry on to the Littlemoor Brook, which is crossed by stepping stones, continue uphill and cross the road, into a small field to emerge at a crossroads. Cross over and bear right onto Long Lane, past the Rhododendron Gardens to eventually find a bridlepath on the right. Descend into Holloway and then Bracken Lane to find a footpath, just past a cottage, on the right. This leads across open parkland and down, over Gregory Tunnel, to the Cromford Canal.

Turn left to the towpath, keep the canal to the left and progress to Whatstandwell. At the third bridge (one metal, two stone), pass under the road and at the next bridge turn right to cross over the railway bridge to the station.

WHATSTANDWELL - AMBERGATE
WALK 6
DISTANCE 3.5 MILES

A steep walk uphill, across farmland to the old village of Crich and down through the woodlands of Crich Chase to the level towpath of Cromford Canal.

Leave the station by using the footbridge over the railway and Cromford Canal. At the road turn right and then immediately left into Hindersitch Lane. Continue uphill and, after Yew Tree Farm on the left, fork right on to the narrow road and continue uphill into Glen Road which becomes a narrow path between houses. On reaching the T-junction with Top Lane, turn right then immediately left to climb the steps. At the top of the steps cross the track (to Benthill Farm) and go through a stone squeeze, fork right through the fields towards a flat topped reservoir and masts. Then follow a narrow track which emerges into houses. At the road turn right down Coast Hill into Crich village and the Market Place.

From here go right up Sandy Lane ignoring the first footpath on the left to leave the road by taking the second path left which leads to an area known as The Tors. There are excellent views over the Derwent Valley and the old coalfields areas from here.

The path eventually descends to Chadwick Nick Lane, turn right along the lane and then take the footpath to the left as the road bends right. On reaching the woodland turn left, then continue straight ahead downhill carefully keeping to the main path and eventually over the bridge to the Cromford Canal towpath. Proceed with the canal on the left to the next bridge where Chase Road must be joined to finally reach the A6 below. Turn left to find the station at Ambergate.

GENERAL INFORMATION

These walks in the beautiful Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site have been designed to link together the stations along the scenic Derwent Valley Line. Choose one or more walks to create a circular route or use the train to get back to the start.

The train service through the Derwent Valley provides a great opportunity to leave the car at home, relax and enjoy the great views along the way. Trains on the Derwent Valley Line operate a frequent service between Nottingham, Beeston, Attenborough, Long Eaton, Derby and the local Derwent Valley Line Stations.

However, if you do travel to the Derwent Valley by car, there are car parks at each of the stations, from where you can start your circular or linear walk and travel back by train or on various bus services.

For train times call National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk
Alternatively, for local bus times, call Traveline 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses

All walks have been carefully waymarked by green discs bearing a coloured arrow. Yellow indicates footpath status to be used by walkers. Blue arrows indicate bridleway status and can be enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and horseriders. All the discs bear the legend Derwent Valley Walks.

The four walks in this leaflet are part of a collection of 12 walks exploring the Derwent Valley. The other eight walks are detailed in two more leaflets.

HAPPY WALKING!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Middleton Top Visitor Centre,
Tel: (01629) 533298

This leaflet was produced by Derbyshire County Council for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

WHATSTANDWELL - CROMFORD
WALK 7
DISTANCE 4 MILES

This walk has an initial steep climb up the valley side followed by undulating farmland with an easy walk along a track into Cromford.

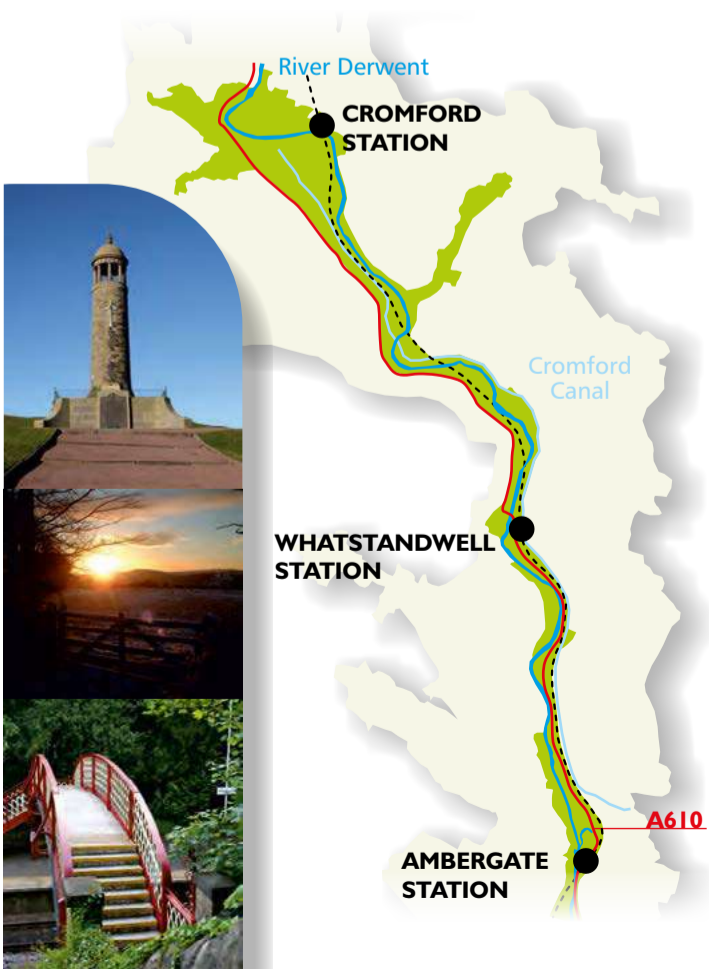
Leave the station and turn right on to the A6. Cross the river bridge and immediately take the path waymarked on a fingerpost, uphill left and across the road, following another fingerpost. Shortly, turn left up the bank, cross the driveway and take the path left of the driveway for Lambert's Cottage and enter farmland.

Continue straight ahead until the path joins the route of the Midshires Way. At this point turn right (without going through the stone stile) and proceed downhill.

The old rag mill (now a house) is ahead with Watergate Farm to its left. Cross the stream on a fine walled footbridge and bear left up the bank and across fields to a lane.

Turn left and then turn right off the lane after a fork in the lane and proceed uphill with farm buildings on the left. The path continues through coniferous woodland. It soon reaches a junction. Go left downhill to a paddock and onto Longway Bank. Cross the road onto Intake Lane and follow this track all the way to Cromford passing through attractive fields, turning right on entering the woods and continuing under the High Peak Trail to emerge into houses on the outskirts of the village. Descend still further to the A6, turn left, then right at the crossroads to find the railway station.

Explore
THE
DERWENT
VALLEY



4 scenic station to
station walks

