

There are excellent views of Crich Stand and the valley.

7. Follow the path as it travels to the left of farm buildings through a gate and 2 stiles. Continue down the hill away from Whatfield Farm entrance and turn right to follow the adjacent track. After approximately 1/4 mile climb the stile on the left and cut through the field to cross the Mere Brook via the stepping stones.

8. Go over the stile and continue straight up the edge of the field, keeping the wood on the left. About 20 metres short of the second electricity pole, turn right to follow the path into the centre of the field to an old gatepost. Then continue uphill towards the top right corner. Halfway up there is a crossroads of paths. Turn left here and head for the left hand end of the wood at the top of the hill. About 30 metres below the top left corner of the field there is a stile in the stone wall. Go over the stile and continue ahead to a stile in the top corner.

9. Turn left and follow the path over 2 stiles as it travels beside the wood, along the valley - there are good views of Crich Stand and Holloway Village.

10. Go over the stile and through the wood. Once in the field keep the fence immediately on the left for about 100 metres. Then follow the main path, which comes to a blue metal farm gate.

11. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead, keeping the wall/hedge on the right. Travel through the next 4 fields, Crich Stand will be directly ahead.

12. At the fourth field, follow the path as it runs to the right of a house, over 2 stiles. Go down the verge on the right hand side of the drive. At the bend, cross the drive to continue down hill. Turn right, to follow the path running beside a stone wall. Cross the road and 2 stiles to drop down to the A6. Take care crossing the road, the pavements are narrow. Follow the road over the river, past the Derwent Hotel and up Main Road to the start point.

The map in this leaflet has been produced to show the route of the walk and should not be used for any other purpose.

WALK TYPE Hilly countryside with several steep climbs

DISTANCE 4 miles (6 1/2 km)

TIME 2 1/2 - 3 hours

BUSES For up-to-date information call Traveline on 0870 608 2608

TRAINS For up-to-date information call rail enquires 08457 484950

WAYMARKING



OS MAP Explorer OL24 (1:25,000) The Peak District, White Peak.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work. Guard against all risk of fire. Fasten all gates. Keep your dogs under close control. Keep to public paths around farmland. Use gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls. Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone. Take your litter home. Help to keep all water clean. Protect wildlife, plants and trees. Take special care on country roads. Make no unnecessary noise.



Tourist Information Centre, Ripley
telephone: 01773 841 488

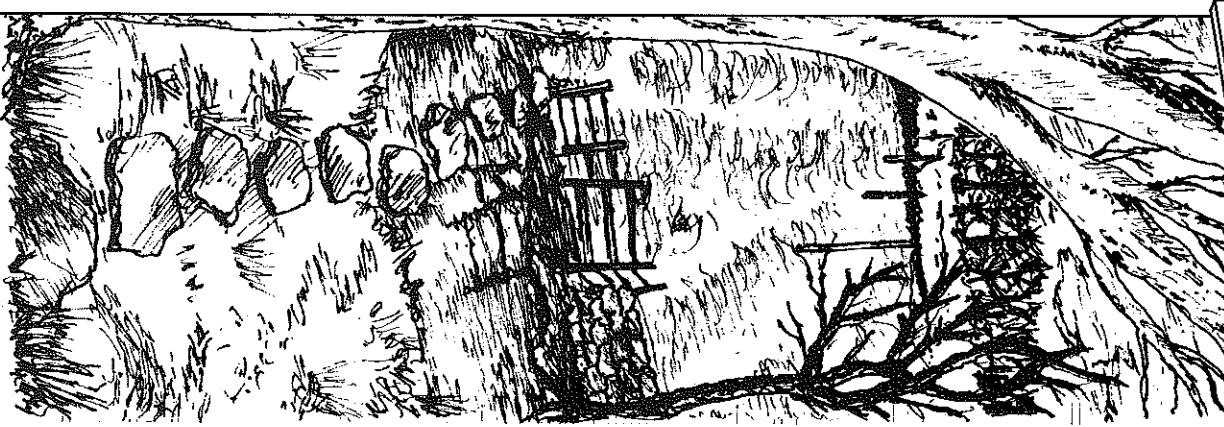
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AMBER VALLEY ROUTEWAYS

Circular

Walk 19

Whatstandwell & Alderwasley



This walk takes you along the Cromford Canal, which lies within the internationally recognised Derwent Valley Heritage Corridor. The route climbs through woodland and traditional farmland, crossing briefly into the Derbyshire Dales.

Start: Car park just beside Cromford Canal, on Main Road: turn off A6 just before the Derwent Hotel. Whatstandwell railway station is only 5 minutes walk away.
Grid Ref SK 332544

1. Turn left to walk ¾ mile along the Cromford Canal towpath in a northerly direction, going under 2 bridges. Just short of Gregory Tunnel either go left, up and over the tunnel, or proceed directly through the tunnel itself.

Along the canal keep an eye open for Water Vole, the non-poisonous Grass Snake and the noisy water bird the Little Grebe.

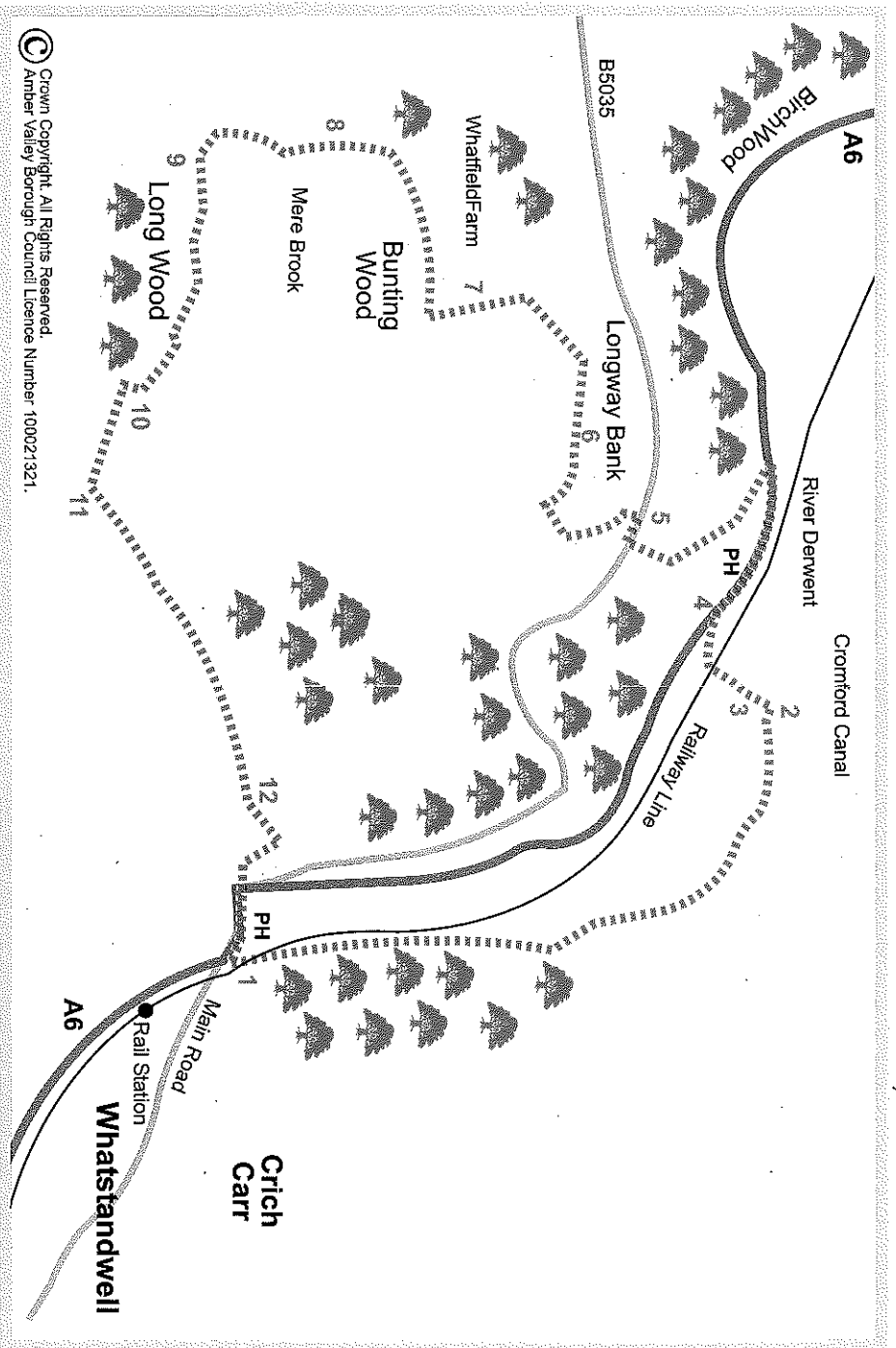
2. Whichever route was chosen, at the far side of the tunnel turn left to follow the public footpath through the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's Derwent-side Nature Reserve. Take care on the very uneven path.

The reserve is a mix of wetland, woodland and grassland. The highlight is its wild daffodils which border the path in spring but also look out for birds such as Pied Flycatcher and butterflies such as Small Tortoiseshell, Comma and Holly Blue.

3. Turn right to cross the bridge over the River Derwent passing beside Homesford Waterworks. Follow the path as it travels under the railway through



Crich Stand



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a low archway. Continue to follow the road as it climbs up to the main road (A6).

4. (*Beware of traffic*) Do not cross the road at this point but turn right to travel along the pavement for 300 metres, passing Homesford Cottage public house and several houses. Approximately 30 metres short of the 'Conservation Crafts' sign, cross the road and follow the footpath uphill (ignoring all branches off) to travel up through Birch Wood. The path continues uphill bearing right with walls on either side up to the B5035 road.

On the right are some beehive shaped cairns. This is the traditional way of covering shafts from the old lead workings.

5. Turn right at the road taking care to face the oncoming traffic. After 50 metres cross the road and climb the stile into Kings Lot Wood. Follow the path as it bears left up through the wood. After approximately 150 metres, turn right to travel up steps on a concessionary path. After about 75 metres the path passes right through the stone wall and continues through the wood on a path marked by posts with a red stripe.

6. The path skirts the woods with open fields immediately to your left and after about ½ mile links to a public footpath which is part of the Midshires Way. Turn left and follow the path along the edge of the woodland.