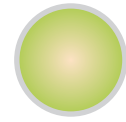


Trail Guide:



A half day's drive and walk

The 'Wow' Factor

The story of all factories began here - we're going to spin you a yarn on this trail!

Find out about the Arkwright dynasty and how it changed the world

Learn about carding, picking, doubling, roving, warping, pirn-winding and more

See where 680,000 bobbins – all different – are stored

This trail takes you **south by car** from **Matlock** down the **A6** alongside the **River Derwent** through **Matlock Bath** to historic **Cromford**. Then **by foot** around the Cromford Mill and Cromford village with its still working water wheel and many excellent shops and hotels. Then back to the canal with its warehouses and finally to St Mary's church. The walking is easy on good footpaths and will take two hours at the most but longer if you take the guided tour of the mills. The stop at Masson Mill on the return journey will take 1 hour if you just go around its Working Textile Museum but much longer if you have a credit card!

In 2001 the **Derwent Valley** was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, of which Cromford is the significant heart. On your drive to Cromford you'll pass **High Tor** on your left and the **Heights of Abraham** on your right where cable cars go up to the 60 acre summit and there are two show caves to visit.

At Matlock Bath is **Gullivers Kingdom** a family theme park, with Jacobs Well and the Royal Cave. You will also find Derwent Gardens & Lovers Walks; Peak District Mining Museum; Matlock Bath Aquarium & Hologram Exhibition; Life In a Lens; Whistlestop Wildlife Centre; rowing boats on the river & Matlock Bath Illuminations and Venetian Nights held every year in September and October.

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Past **Masson Mills** – Arkwrights' famous 1783 showpiece mill and now also a shopping mecca– resist the temptation to go in until your return journey and after **Willersley Castle**, begun by Sir Richard Arkwright, on your left you arrive in Cromford. **Parking** is signposted – both free and 'pay and display'. The **map** shows you the recommended trail.

Richard Arkwright invented a cotton spinning machine powered by horses in 1769 and set up a small factory in Nottingham. He realised that horses alone could not provide enough power for his ambitions and looked for a place where he could use water to run the machines more effectively. In 1771 he moved to **Cromford**, then a small lead-mining and farming village, where he harnessed two streams, Bonsall Brook and Cromford Sough, to turn the great water wheels of the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill. Cromford and the world would never be the same again.

Cromford is an attractive place with the Derwent flowing through and the high Black Rocks. Arkwright's dam provided a constant water head for the mills and houses. Shops, a school and a church rapidly followed for his workers, hotels for his visitors and quickly Cromford became a thriving village and Arkwright a rich man. Indeed in 1779, the same year that the world's first iron bridge was being built in Shropshire, there were riots by cotton workers who worried they were being put out of work. Arkwright prepared to defend his mills but the riots gradually subsided. For the first time all the stages for producing cotton cloth were located in one place, earning him the name "the father of the factory system" and a knighthood in 1786. In order to transport his raw materials and finished goods he wanted a canal to be built linking Cromford to the Midlands canal system. He did not live to see this completed and died in 1792.

Now the mills are being restored by the Arkwright Society and visitors come from all over the world.

The **Cromford Mill complex** has a small exhibition about cotton spinning and the mill, a café and several shops. There are panels that explain all about the site and daily guided tours that provide an excellent insight into Arkwright, his family and how the mills worked.

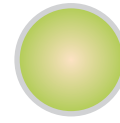
Cromford Village has many excellent shops selling crafts and local produce. Make sure you walk up to **North Street** to see the fine examples of mill workers house built in 1776 and the forerunner of planned towns such as Bournville Village and Saltaire. Make sure you see Arkwright's hotel, the **Greyhound**, built for his business visitors of the day, the working water wheel and the unique **Scarthin bookshop** where you can buy a book at any time of the day or night. It takes its name from the **Scarthin Rock** above the Mill Race, where an earlier mining community once lived.

The Cromford Canal was completed in 1794, it is 14 1/2 miles long and stretches from Cromford to Langley Mill. The canal warehouses contain a shop and café and many books on the history of the area, Arkwright and the canal.

Last on the walk is **St Mary's Church** which contains the magnificent tomb of Sir Richard and his family and well worth a visit.

Driving back to Matlock gives you the chance to visit historic **Masson Mills**, (car park is pay and display) which is now an outlet centre with many shops and a good café. It also contains a superb and comprehensive museum collection of working mill machinery and textile history. Discover what it was like to work in the cotton spinning industry and look out for Sir Richard's ghost which is said to still walk the wooden floors of the old mill!

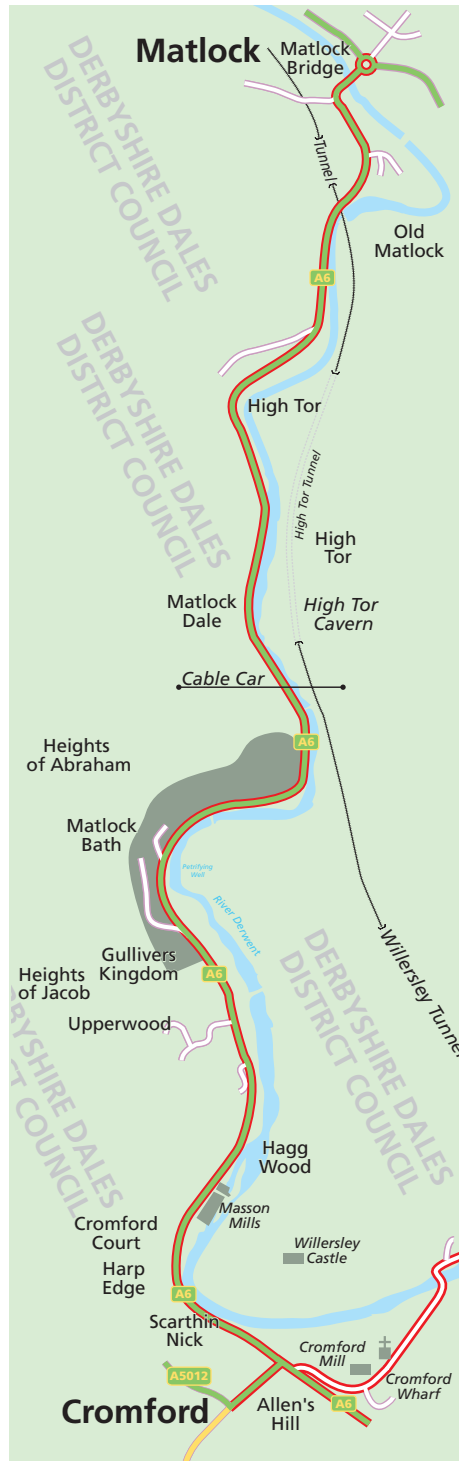
Return to Matlock - glad that you weren't a carder in the mills in the 1700s!



Key

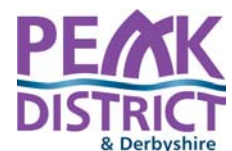
- A-Roads: Main Route (solid green), Alternative Route (dashed red)
- B-Roads:
- Minor Roads:
- Track / Trail:

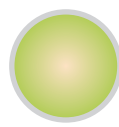
Map 1 - Driving Route



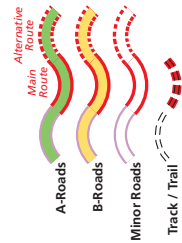
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This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

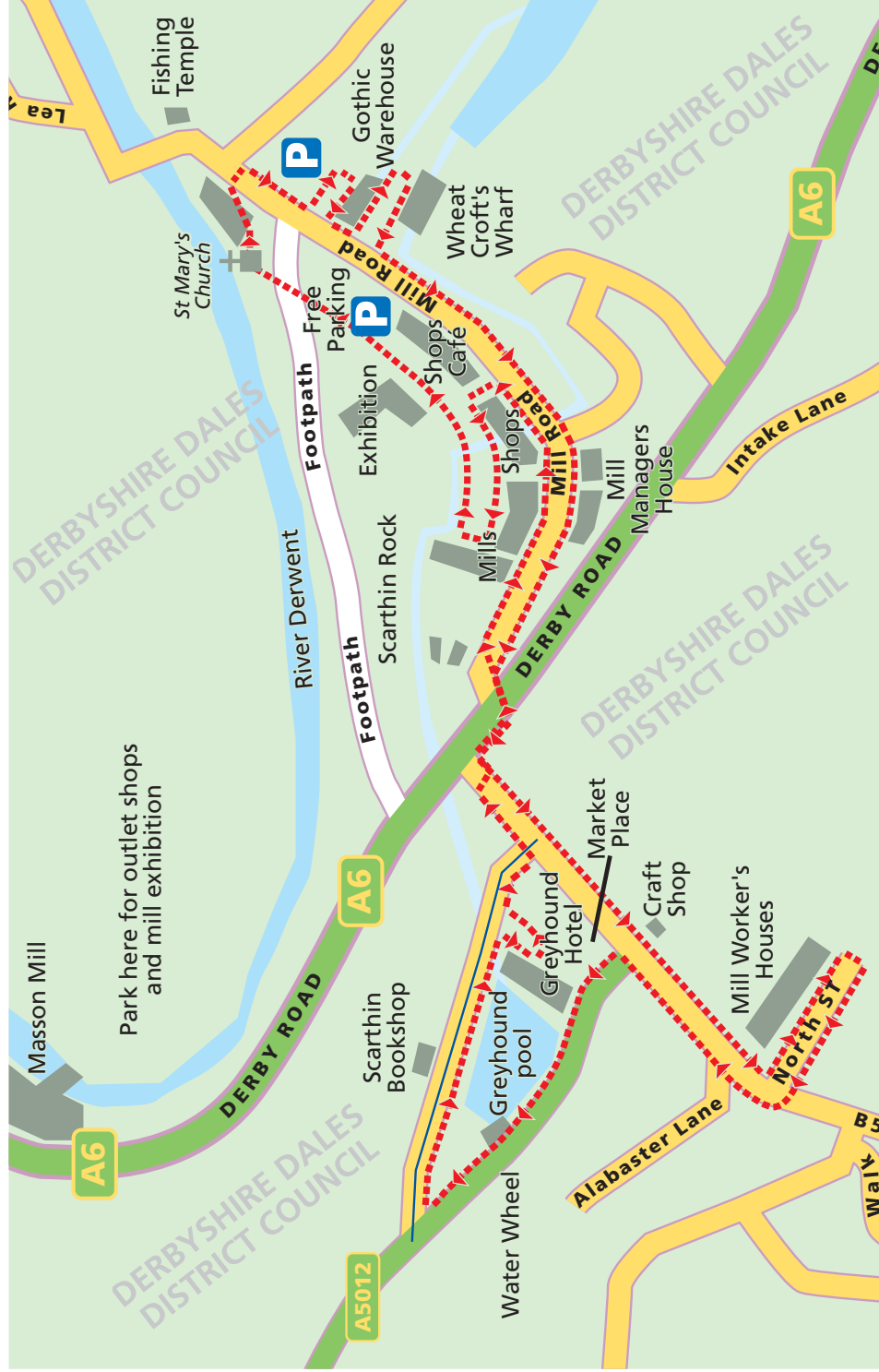




Key



Map 2 - Walking Route



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