



PLEASE FOLLOW THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

- Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

WALK TYPE: A challenging but interesting walk with wonderful views travelling through beautiful countryside with lots of natural history interest and local heritage features. Several steep climbs and a small section of road walking.

DISTANCE: 7.8 Miles (12.5 kilometres)

TIME: Allow 4 to 4.5 hours

BUSES: Traveline on 0871 200 2233

TRAIN: Rail Enquiring services on 08457 484950

PARKING: Whatstandwell Station Car Park (Pay and Display)

WAYMARKING: Routeway 22

OS Map: Explorer (1:25000 scale)
The Peak District OL24

For further walk and visitor information go to www.visitambervalley.com

If you have any comments about this leaflet, contact Groundwork Greater Nottingham on 01773 841 566 (Registered Charity No. 1003426)

Produced by Amber Valley Borough Council in conjunction with Groundwork Greater Nottingham
www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/eastmidlands/

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AMBER VALLEY ROUTEWAYS

LEA, DETHICK AND HOLLOWAY



Start: Whatstandwell Station car park, Derby Road (Nearest Postcode DE4 5EE Grid Reference SK 333 542).

1. Cross the ornate footbridge over the railway line. Halfway up the steps bear right onto the canal towpath. Turn left to follow the route of Cromford Canal, eventually passing under stone bridge. Once through the bridge continue along the towpath for a further 250m.

The Cromford canal was completed in 1794 and ran for 14.5 miles between Cromford and Langley Mill. Only a small part of the canal at the Cromford end is still usable by narrow boats. The section of canal between Cromford and Ambergate is now a haven for wildlife, including little grebes and water voles.

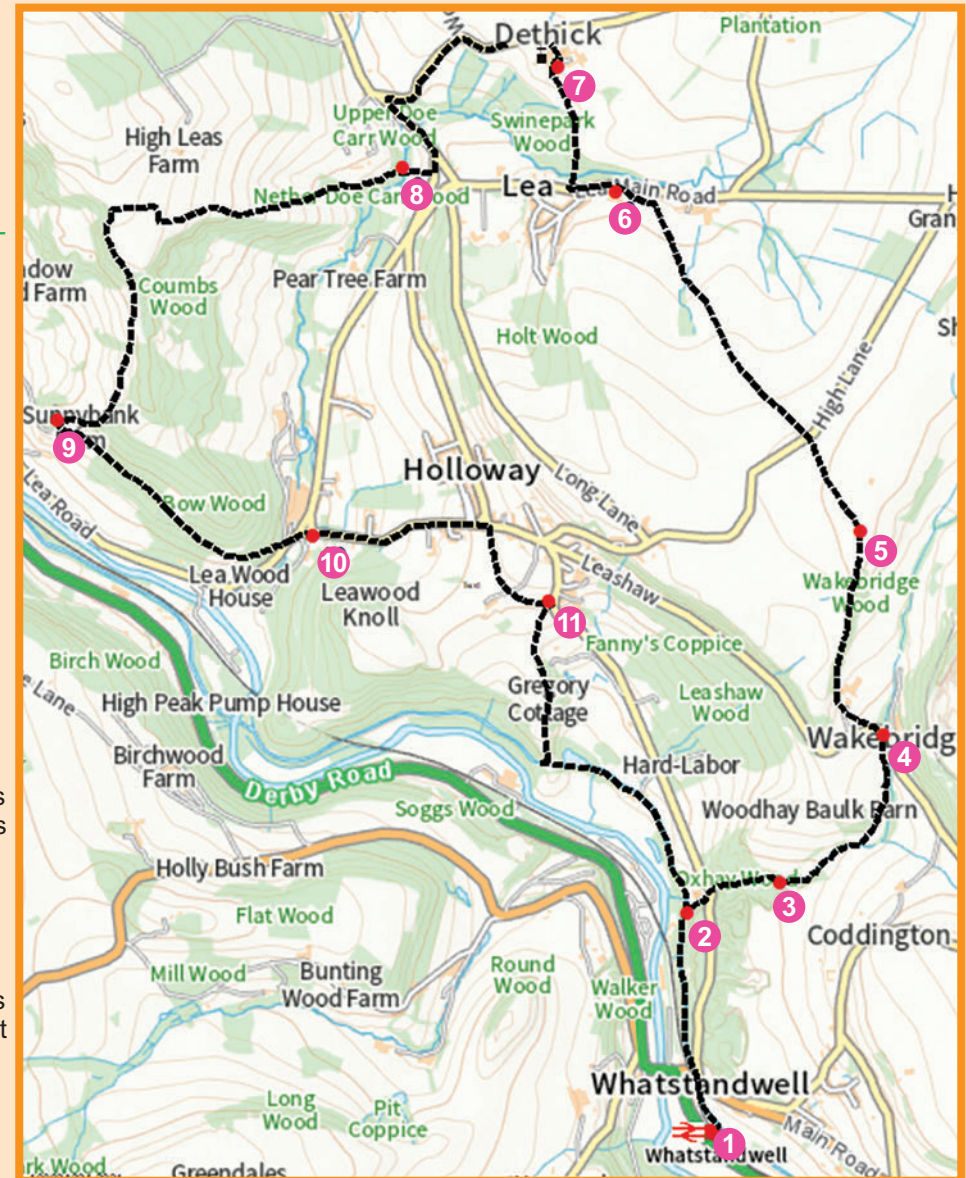
2. Turn left through the gap in the wall and follow the path over the bridge. Turn left to follow the path uphill through the wood. Go through the metal gate, cross the road (beware of traffic) and continue along the path opposite.
3. Follow the path as it weaves uphill through the wood, passing impressive old quarries on the right. Cross the bridge over a picturesque stream and continue ahead, with the wall on the left, through the kissing gate. Continue through the meadow to the next gate. Go through the wood to the stile. Continue along the path to an open field. Go straight on across the field to reach a stile by the road.
4. Turn left and follow the road around the corner. Cross the road opposite the footpath sign and go through the wall to enter the field. Go straight on to follow the path and then track as it bears right, to the left of Wakebridge Farm. The track divides

in two. Follow the left track up the hill through the wood. Continue along path with the wood on the right. Continue along the path as it travels between the stone walls. Turn left over the stile into the field.

From here you can see three well-known Derbyshire landmarks. To the southwest is Alport Heights, a hill topped by five large radio masts. To the northwest is Riber Castle, a manor house built in 1862 by John Smedley. To the southeast is Crich Stand. The current tower was built in 1923 as a memorial to soldiers of the Sherwood Foresters.

5. Cross the field diagonally to the far corner to join a track leading to the road. Cross the road to the footpath opposite (beware of traffic). Follow the footpath through two fields to reach a stone squeeze stile. Continue across another two fields. Bear slightly left to cross the field to wooden gate. Cross the stream. Continue diagonally left to go through the gate and into a sunken lane. Turn right and, after a short distance, exit the lane on the left through the gate. Cross field diagonally right to the next wooden gate. Go through two squeeze stiles. Cross the next two fields diagonally down to the metal gate.

6. Follow the track to the road. Cross the road (beware of traffic) at the red phone box. Turn left to follow the road downhill through Lea Village. At the metal kissing gate and footpath sign, turn right and descend the steps to the bridge. Follow the path up through the wood to the stile. Cross two fields uphill to Dethick church (with the wall on the left).



Dethick Manor, now a farmhouse, once belonged to Sir Anthony Babington (1561–1586). In 1586 Babington plotted to rescue catholic Mary Queen of Scots from nearby Wingfield Manor and ultimately assassinate protestant Queen Elizabeth 1st. The plot was discovered and both Queen Mary and Babington were executed.



Cromford Canal at Whatstandwell

7. Pass to the right of the church and follow the path to the lane. Turn left along lane to the road. Turn left and walk along the road for approximately 650m to the bottom of hill (beware of traffic). At the junction turn left and follow the road past several houses. At the fork in the road follow the road on the right. Turn right off the road at the footpath and follow the path downhill to stepping stones over the brook.



Stepping Stones

8. Cross the stream and follow the path through the squeeze stile. Follow the undulating path through the wood. Beware of trip hazards and slopes. Go through the squeeze stile onto the lane and turn left. Beware: narrow path. Cross into the field and climb up steep hill through three fields. At fourth continue ahead with boundary on the left. At fifth field, head diagonally to the top right-hand corner. Go through the gap and continue with the hedge on the left. Cross the stile to emerge onto an old walled lane (Hearthstone Lane). Turn left and follow the lane. At the fork take right path downhill to the metal gate.

From here there are good views over Cromford. The village was significantly developed by Sir Richard Arkwright (1732–1792), a pioneer of industrial cotton mills, to provide housing for his workers.

You can see several local historic landmarks. Cromford Mill was built in 1771 and is recognised as a World Heritage Site for its role in the industrial revolution. Willersley Castle was built as Arkwright's



home, although he died before it was completed in 1796. The Cromford Wharf was used to transport goods to and from the Mill. You may also see Black Rock, a local beauty spot popular with walkers and climbers. Slightly further along the route you may see Matlock Bath and its famous cable cars.

9. Follow the path straight on, to gently travel downhill, through the fields. Castle Top Farm sits on a hill to your right.

Castle Top Farm was the childhood home of famous children's author Allison Uttley (1884 –1976). She wrote over 100 novels, including Little Grey Rabbit. Her book A Traveler in Time tells the story of a time travelling young girl who becomes involved in the Babington Plot.

Go through the metal gate and continue, bearing right along the lane to pass between buildings. (Look to your right for a Blue Plaque). Turn left at the drive. At Sunnybank entrance take the footpath straight ahead. Follow the path through the gate into the wood. At the wooden fence and Bow Wood sign continue ahead. Follow the path downhill through the wood to eventually reach Lea Road near Smedley's Mill.

Lea Mills (Smedley's Mill) was founded in 1784 by John Smedley and Peter Nightingale and has been in operation ever since producing a range of textiles products. The company claims to be the world's longest running factory manufacturer.

10. Turn left to walk along the road (ignore both road turnings off to the left) and head uphill along Mill Lane. Cross the road (beware of traffic) and take the footpath on right which is opposite Hollins Wood Close. Turn left to follow the path with a stone wall on the left. Go through the gate and continue between the tall fence and wall. Go through wood and cross the large stone stile. Continue with the stone wall of Lea Hurst on your right.



Glimpse of Lea Hurst

Lea Hurst was built by the Nightingale family in 1820 as a modest country retreat; and was a childhood home of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale took part in the Crimean war as a volunteer nurse, and contributed to revolutionising the care of wounded soldiers, saving many lives. Her habit of patrolling the wards after dark earned her the nickname 'the Lady with the Lamp.'

11. Continue through the stile with the boundary on the right. Go through the wooden gate and immediately right to pass through the double kissing gate. Continue through the deer park with the stone wall on the left. Go through a second double kissing gate and turn left to follow the path down to the Cromford Canal. Turn right and follow towpath to start of walk. Enjoy views of the River Derwent to your right.