



## Walk 3: Whatstandwell and Crich - Directions

**Start Point:** Car park (free), at side of Cromford Canal where it goes under the B5035, Main Road, Whatstandwell. Map Reference SK332544.

**Maps:** 1:25000 Explorer Sheet OL24, Peak District, White Peak Area or 1:50000 Landranger Sheet 119, Buxton, Matlock & Dovedale.

**Distance:** Five miles.

**Time needed:** Two and one half to three hours.

**Description:** A walk of medium difficulty, with some fairly steep climbs and descents, along tracks and public footpaths. There are some stretches on quiet country lanes and also along pavements in the villages themselves. There are good views of the quarries in the area. Other industrial architecture includes that associated with old water supplies, canals, railways and lead mining.

### Route Directions:

(1 – Start) Walk back onto the road from the car park and turn left, uphill, over the canal bridge. Ignore the left road junction at the side of the school, continuing up the main road. About 300 metres further along the road is (2) Beech Cottage on the left. Next door but one, on the uphill side, is (3) Broom Cottage, which has an even larger quarry face as its rear garden boundary.

Continue uphill a little further to a public footpath post signed to Hindersitch Lane, on your left. Go up the steps that form this path. When the steps turn right you can see much more of the (3a) old quarry in the garden of Broom Cottage. At the top of the steps turn left along a track/unmade lane. Pause here and look to your left over the Derwent valley. The large white building on the far hillside (4).

Walk to the junction of the track with a tarmac lane, where you should turn right, uphill. Notice the old chapel opposite and downhill of the junction. Fifty metres uphill the lane forks. Take the right, narrower fork, which soon joins another, wider road (Glen Road). Turn right onto Glen Road and continue along it. The road begins to climb steeply, then levels slightly and narrows into a footpath by the side of a driveway to a house called “The Willows”. Continue ahead, along the path that ends in a flight of steps leading up to another tarmac lane.

When you have climbed the steps you will see a (5) stone built water tank on the opposite side of the lane.

Turn right and walk about twenty metres along the lane to a public footpath sign on the left. This footpath begins with another flight of steps, seventy-six in fact! Climb the steps to a squeeze stile. Go through the stile onto a second, shorter, flight of steps that lead up to a track. Cross the track and go through another squeeze stile leading into a field.

Continue ahead, uphill and pass to the left of a large tree. The path levels slightly once you have passed the tree. A few metres further along is a squeeze stile giving access to a much larger field. The path forks in this field and you should take the left fork, walking straight ahead, towards a squeeze stile in the far boundary wall. (The top of Crich church steeple is just visible on the horizon and you should head towards it.) (6) Crich Stand can be seen on the horizon to your half left, with the face of Cliff quarry below it.

Continue heading towards the steeple, walking through three more fields, via squeeze stiles. The path then heads downhill towards the village of Crich, and a new housing development. You should see a four fingered public footpath post, near to another field boundary wall. Go down to the post and take the path signed to Cromford Road, keeping the wall on your left.

A few metres further along is a metal field gate with a stile at the side. The stile leads onto an (7) old stone bridge that crossed the tramway to Cliff quarry. The track bed is still visible to your left as you cross the bridge. Walk to the street, turn right and then right again onto Hodder Close. Bear left at the end towards some older houses. Go to the left corner at the end of the cul-de-sac, by No.15 and continue along the pavement. Turn right to cross the fronts of Nos. 17 & 19. Ahead is a wooden stile and steps leading onto a bridge that crosses another old tramway to a local quarry. Look down to your left from the bridge to see the

entrance to an (8) old tunnel (now part of a garden). The course of the tramway can also be seen to the right.

Cross the bridge and walk up through the archway between buildings to a narrow lane. Turn left and then left again onto a road. Follow the road up to its junction with Dowie Way, on the left. Opposite is the church. Cross the road to a lane next to the churchyard wall, which has a sign "Access to Burial Ground". Go down the lane to a point where it is narrowed by a wooden field gate. Turn left here, to go through a kissing gate into the churchyard. Walk ahead to a public footpath sign at the far side of the churchyard (Crich Stand should be in front of you). Go through a second kissing gate into the fields. Keeping close to the left sidewalls, cross three fields, via squeeze stiles, to a road.

Turn right and walk along the road for about fifty metres, to where the road bends sharp right, at the entrance driveway to Crich Stand Memorial Tower. Go up the driveway to the end, where you should pass through a gate onto a path leading up to the Tower (take note here of a public footpath signpost on your right.) The Tower (9) itself is worth exploring. The fence at the top of the bank to the left forms the boundary to Cliff Quarry (10). There are extensive views into the quarry, and the surrounding countryside, from this fence line. At the fence corner behind the Tower is a Triangulation pillar, with old lead mine shafts (11) near to it.

Go back to the footpath signpost (indicating Wakebridge and Plaistow) and take the path, which eventually follows the course of a wall on its right. The path turns right to go downhill for a short distance after which, it turns left. The fence on the left is the boundary to Cliff quarry, and the path goes alongside it, right round to the far face of the quarry. There are extensive views into the quarry (12). Continue along the path to the side opposite the Tower. Here the path leaves the edge, going right, downhill, to cross tramlines (13) from the National Tramway Museum.

Cross the lines diagonally to your right and continue downhill for fifty metres, through woodland. Here the path bends sharp left, to follow the edge of the wood. One hundred metres further along a clearing opens up to your left, with a rising grass bank. A careful scramble up the bank will reveal the entrance to an old lead mine (14) in the hillside. Extreme caution is required if a closer examination is required, as there are large boulders and holes near the actual entrance. The roof props are still in place.

Return to the path and continue down hill to a path junction with a signpost. Go straight ahead towards Wakebridge. The path joins a tarmac drive to a farm. Turn left onto the drive and walk down it, passing a side junction on your right, to a main road (Crich to Holloway). The buildings visible on the hillside to your right were once part of a mine. (15)

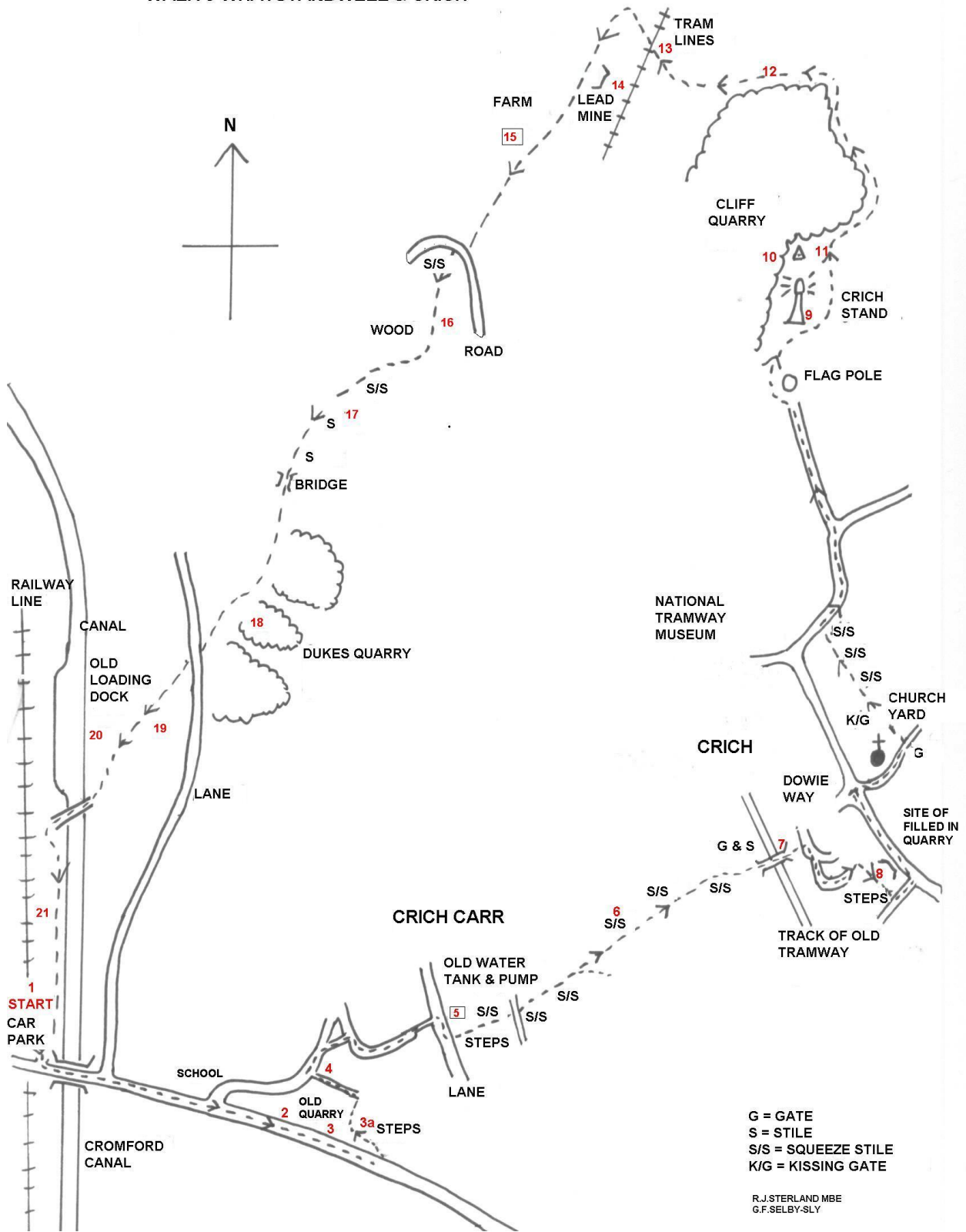
Walk diagonally right across the road to a footpath post signed to Cromford Canal. Go through the squeeze stile and keep to the left edge of the field, alongside the shoulder of a stream valley. There are large piles of boulders along the edge (16).

At the end of the field the path becomes a track, which goes to the left of the wood in front of you. The track curves slightly right round the edge of the wood, passing through some rough ground, following the course of the valley. It enters a wood, via a squeeze stile in a stone wall, to go alongside a field boundary fence. Near to the far end of the wood you will see a large stone, dam type building on the left. The stream runs through a stone culvert under the structure (17). Continue to the fence at the end of the wood and cross the stile into pastureland.

Ahead is another wood, with a fence/stile. Once inside this wood you will see a large metal pipeline crossing the valley from your left. A little further along the path widens and crosses the stream on a stone bridge. The track surface over the bridge is made of several layers of thick wooden beams. You are now in the area of Duke's Quarries (18), where extensive working took place. The path continues downhill, with several branches off to the left. A walk up each of these will reveal numerous old quarry faces.

The main path bends left just before it joins a tarmac lane. Cross the lane to continue down the track on the other side. (19) The path nears Cromford canal, where it turns left to run parallel to it. A few metres further along is a junction to the right, leading down to a bridge over the canal. Go onto the bridge. To your right is (20) a large loading dock in the canal. Cross the bridge and turn left to join the canal towpath, which leads back to your starting point. Below, to the right, is the railway and below that the river Derwent and the main A6 road. Near to the starting point are the remains of the old Whatstandwell station and the portal of a tunnel (21). The line is still in use between Derby and Matlock.

WALK 3 WHATSTANDWELL & CRICH



### Walk 3: Whatstandwell and Crich – Points of Interest

- 1 **Start:** Cromford Canal.
- 2 Beech Cottage. Note millstone wheel in front garden and waterfall down old quarry face.
- 3 Quarry face continues from Beech Cottage to Broom Cottage (next door but one)
- 3a Another view of old gritstone quarry from top of steps.
- 4 To the left of the path is view over the valley. The White building is Alderwasley Hall, now a private school.
- 5 Stone built water tank at side of road. Includes the metal remains of the pump by which the locals drew water.
- 6 Looking forward and slightly left the view Crich Stand (see 9) and Cliff Quarry (see 10).
- 7 Bridge over site of old tramway.
  - Built to carry limestone from Crich Cliff Quarry through to Ambergate Lime Kilns.
- 8 A branch of the old tramway, now part of a private garden.
  - This branch ran under the main road through Crich to join a quarry to the main section of the tramway. The quarry is now completely filled in.
- 9 Crich Stand –
  - Erected 1923 on the site of a previous tower which was demolished in 1922. The memorial to the Sherwood Forrester Regiment.
  - It is said that one can see 5 counties from the top of the stand on a clear day.
- 10 Cliff Quarry –
  - There has been quarrying on this site since 1734.
  - In 1841 George Stevenson used the limestone from this quarry to supply his lime kilns at Ambergate - he constructed a tramway from the quarry to the kilns.
  - The quarry is still extracting limestone but the kilns have been demolished.
  - The strata are Carboniferous fossiliferous limestone with the lower strata containing bryozoa, crinoid and brachiopods. With clay wayboards from volcanic ash.
- 11 Disused lead mine shafts.
- 12 A view of the face of Cliff Quarry.
- 13 Tramway – Part of the National Tramway Museum. Renovated trams from around the country run on these tracks.
- 14 To the right of the path and up a steep incline is the entrance to a disused lead mine. The '*Good Luck*' Mine one of many sunk in this area.
- 15 In a field on the right side of the path are some buildings and part of the headstock of a disused mine.
- 16 This field was the site of a mine -
  - Until recently the headstocks were in place but the field has been cleared and all that is left are some large boulders at the edge of the field.
- 17 Water treatment buildings
- 18 Dukes Quarry -
  - Gritstone quarry gives appearance of three quarries.
  - The third section of the quarry is still in operation, but only as the stone is required for building projects.
  - Youth groups use the other sites at times for climbing and abseiling.
- 19 An old paved cart road from Dukes Quarry to the Cromford Canal.
- 20 Loading dock on the Cromford Canal.
- 21 To the right of the path is the site of the old Whatstandwell station. The new station is situated south of the start point of this walk.