

Fantastic Transport

A Teachers Guide for a KS1 pick and mix day of self-led and guided activities along Cromford Canal

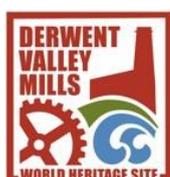


A WOW day to remember which could include a ride on a train or a bus, a 'cruise' on a canal boat, a wonderful walk through nature and a chance to explore High Peak Junction, one of the oldest remaining railway workshops in the world.

The northern part of the Cromford Canal and the High Peak Junction sit with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site near Cromford Mills and it has so much to offer you and your class.

This guide aims to give you a sample 'timetable' for a day's visit with suggested activities either self-led or with a third party provider. Where the activities are self-led we have given basic information to help with planning in addition to the downloadable Activity Guides and resources needed to complete them, where the activity is provided by a third party, we have included a brief description of the activity along with contact details and prices, where applicable.

Full information and downloadable Activity Guides from: [High Peak Junction - Derwent Valley Mills](#)



Sample timetable for a day visit

This guide has brought together a selection of activities that we believe will make the most out of a visit to this special place.

All the activities are designed to be mixed and matched and could fit into 1 hour sessions and 3 sessions would fit into the sample timetable below.

10.00	Arrive at Cromford Wharf or High Peak Junction (public toilets are available at both sites)
10.15	Session 1
11.15	Break at High Peak Junction (toilets, picnic facilities and limited indoor space available)
11.30	Session 2
12.30	Lunch at High Peak Junction (toilets, picnic facilities and limited indoor space available)
1.15	Session 3
2.15	Conclude the day and prepare to leave
2.30	Depart Cromford Wharf or High Peak Junction

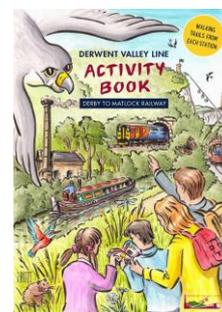
Getting to and from Cromford Canal or High Peak Junction

There is a great opportunity to travel either to or from Cromford Canal by train as Cromford Railway Station is only a short 10-15 minute walk from Cromford Canal Wharf.

Alternatively, there is a large car park suitable for coaches at Cromford Canal Wharf and another car park within 5 minutes walk from High Peak Junction.

For information about train opportunities including discounted group rates and this great Activity Book follow this link

<https://www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk/routes-destinations/community-rail-lines/derwent-valley-line>



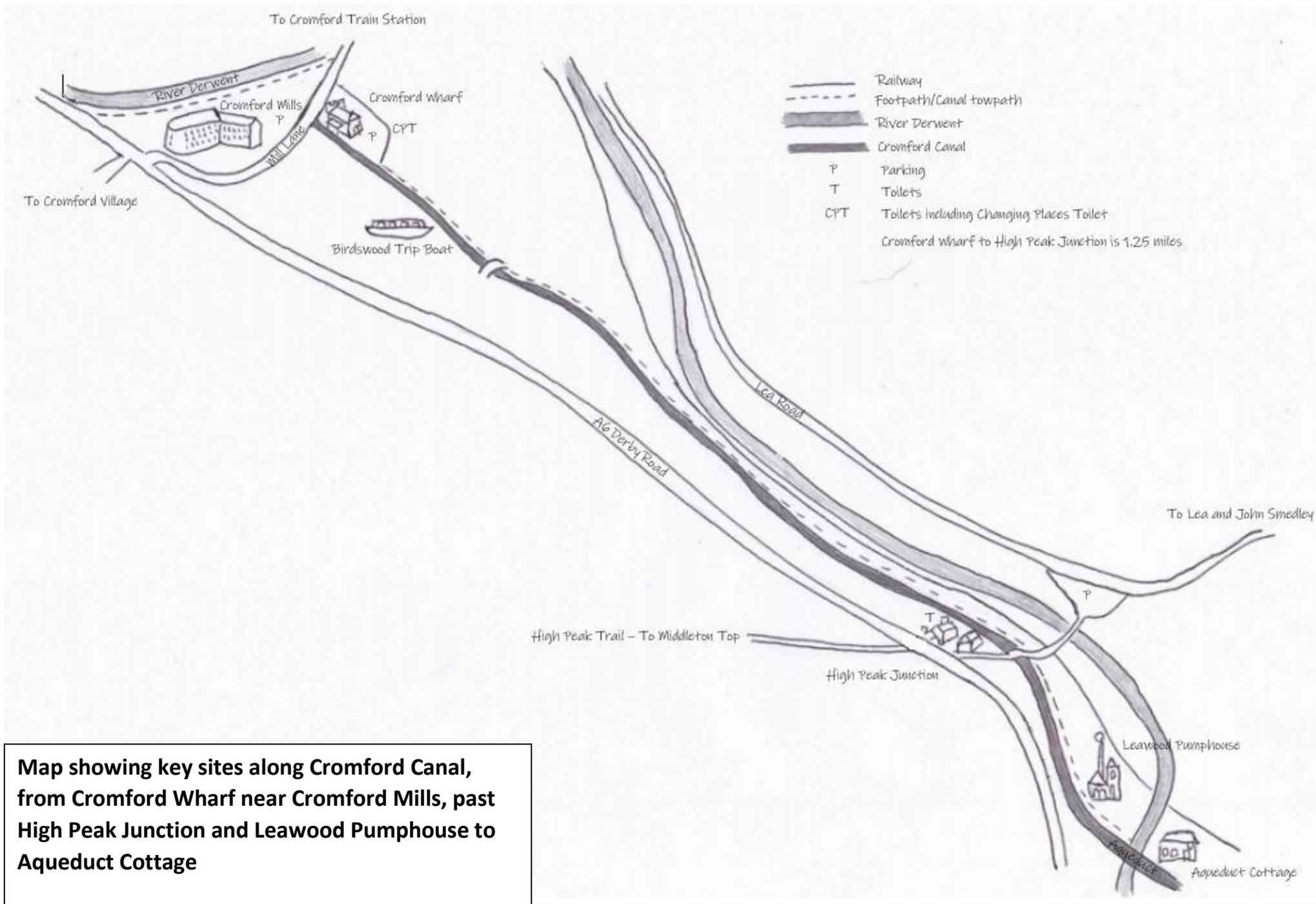
About the sites

Birdswood Historic Canal Boat is 72ft long narrow boat that is fully insured for 40 passengers and is ideal for carrying a full class of pupils and their accompanying adults.

High Peak Junction Workshops were built in 1825 to serve the Cromford and High Peak Railway, the buildings were last used in 1967. They have been preserved in their original state and have lots to offer the inquisitive visitor, including a working forge.

Cromford Canal was built in 1794 and was once a buzzing transport hub of Derbyshire, its construction displayed many feats of engineering and hydraulics. These days it's more known for its picturesque walks along the towpath where there is a wide range of wildlife, including water voles, ducks and dragonflies.

Leawood Pumphouse was built in 1849 to top up the canal with water from the River Derwent following a water shortage in 1844. The restored steam engine can lift 4 tons of water each minute up to a height of 30 metres. There are 'in steam' days open to the public throughout the year.



Map showing key sites along Cromford Canal, from Cromford Wharf near Cromford Mills, past High Peak Junction and Leawood Pumphouse to Aqueduct Cottage

General Activity Ideas and Information

Birdswood Historic Canal Boat		
Activity - A guided canal boat trip.	Contact / Booking details	Cost
A magical and exciting opportunity for all, take Birdswood from Cromford Wharf to its turning point at Lewood Pump House, a short walk from High Peak Junction (it is also possible do the journey in reverse). Many aspects of the National Curriculum can be covered during the trip, the focus of which can be discussed on booking.	https://www.birdswood.org/	On request
High Peak Junction		
Activity - Self-led variety to choose from.	Contact / Booking details	Cost
Choose from a selection of activities to make the most of your time here. You could use a timeline and historic photos to bring High Peak Junction to life. Your pupils can learn how a canal became the first long distance railway in the world and go on a photo hunt to learn more about one of the oldest surviving railway workshops in the world. See below for more detailed information.	To book the resource box and / or to notify of your planned visit contact: dvmwhs@derbyshire.gov.uk	Free
Activity - A guided firing up of The Forge and the making of a class poker.	Contact / Booking details	Cost
Have-a-go at being a blacksmith on the historic forge and make a class poker to take back to school and keep.	Mark.Brailsford@derbyshire.gov.uk	£144
Cromford Canal		
Activity - Self-led walks along Cromford Canal.	Contact / Booking details	Cost
Follow in the footsteps of thousands of horses that in the past walked along the tow path pulling along a laden down barge full of coal or limestone. Why not take your class on a sensory nature walk along the tow path between High Peak Junction and Cromford Canal Wharf or vice versa (1.25 miles). Alternatively take an 'eye spy' walk from High Peak Junction to Aqueduct Cottage and back (3/4 mile), taking in railways, rivers and bridges. See below for more detailed information.	To notify of your planned visit contact: dvmwhs@derbyshire.gov.uk	Free

Self-led activity ideas for High Peak Junction

The activity ideas below have been designed to complement each other and can be mixed and matched, lengthened or shortened to suit the needs of your group.

There are detailed downloadable 'Activity Guides' with associated resources for each activity. A resource box containing laminated copies of the 'Activity Guides' and most resources needed to complete the activities is available to borrow from High Peak Junction (HPJ). It is indicated where you need to bring additional equipment or resources from school to complete the activities.

Activity	Purpose	Time	Resources
Timeline	To begin to understand why and when the Cromford and High Peak Railway (CHPR) was built, how it was linked to the canal and what all these buildings were used for.	30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline cards and supporting photos • A bottle of water, plastic tray and model canal boat
Photo Hunt	To explore specific parts of HPJ, to learn about them and be able to explain what they have learnt to others.	30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photo Hunt cards with photo on one side and information on the reverse
Picture the Past	To use historic photos to bring the site to life and to enable a better understanding of the different people who worked here in the past.	30 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Photo' map of HPJ with corresponding photos with information on the reverse
Art collectors	To use photography to start to create a piece of artwork.	20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital cameras or tablets (from school) • Various photo examples

Self-led activity ideas for Cromford Canal

There are detailed downloadable 'Activity Guides' with associated resources for each activity. It is indicated where you need to bring additional equipment or resources from school to complete the activities.

Activity	Purpose	Time	Resources
Sensory Exploration	To use all your senses to record a nature walk along Cromford Canal between High Peak Junction and Cromford Canal Wharf.	60 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory sheet per group (printed from school) • 'Life on the canal' photos
Eye Spy - Transport Engineers	To spot and photograph all the amazing engineering objects / structures linked to transport during a walk from High Peak Junction to Aqueduct Cottage and back. Discover Leawood Pumphouse, walk over the aqueduct where the	60 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital cameras or tablets (from school) • 'Spotters Guide' and map

	canal crosses the river Derwent or cross the footbridge over the railway and see where the railway crosses the river all in one place.		
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Additional resources and useful websites

[Leewood Pumphouse - Derbyshire County Council](#)

[High Peak Junction Visitor Centre - Derbyshire County Council](#)

[Cromford Canal - Derbyshire County Council](#)

[Home - Derwent Valley Mills](#)

[Birdswood Historic Canal Boat, Cromford Canal, Matlock, Derbyshire](#)

Books available from Birdswood shop,

[Products Shop | Birdswood](#)

