

Natural Cromford Mills

Richard Arkwright didn't choose to build his ground-breaking 1771 cotton mill here because of its wildlife value. But his legacy has created a beautiful place for nature to thrive.

The rock face and some walls in the **Mill Yard** are clad in bridal swags of *white rock* in springtime, and delicate *harebells* in summer. The ruins of the **barracks** are home to *cowslips* and *orchids*, and become a sea of *harebells* and *marjoram* in early summer. They create a valuable source of nectar and attract a wide variety of bees and butterflies. We often see grey *wagtails* and *kingfishers* on quiet days.



Old watercolours show hay crops being taken off **Scarthin Rock**, which is now quite wooded. It is a steep climb with spectacular views. The *stinking hellebore* growing here was chosen for Kew Gardens' Millennium Seed Bank Project.



Smelting Mill Green was cleared in the 1790's as part of the landscaping works for Willersley Castle. St Mary's Church was built and the stream that powered the smelting works was culverted into the river. It still runs under the meadow, and you can see historic evidence of molten lead slag at the outflow. The meadows are full of wildflowers from early spring right through till the late summer, and are mowed yearly to encourage this. *Dipper* and *kingfisher* are often seen from the riverbank, and in wintertime, you may also be lucky enough to see *hawfinch*.

The **Canal Peninsula** behind Wheatcroft's Café is a haven for bees, butterflies and nesting birds. We are managing the area to encourage wildflowers such as *red campion*, *knapsweed* and *meadowsweet* to thrive, whilst at the same time making space for you to relax with a coffee and cake!



Why not plan a return visit, leaving time to explore the **towpath** beside the Cromford Canal to High Peak Junction. This is one of the best places in Derbyshire to get close to *water vole* and *little grebe*.

Beyond the Mill Walls

Come and experience all there is to discover beyond the mill walls. There is something for everyone!

Take a gentle riverside stroll through our **wildflower meadow** and get to know the birds and minibeasts that live here.



Rustic benches provide somewhere to pause and enjoy the views across the river.

Forgotten your lunch? Our accessible **picnic tables** are all within easy reach of the new **Counting House Coffee Stop**, and both **Arkwright's** and **Wheatcroft's Cafés**.

Our **Scavengers' Scramble** trail runs along Church Walk, with all kinds of sculptures for youngsters to clamber over.

Kids can also explore the **Dogwood Tunnel**, which is being woven into the planting that skirts the car park. It recreates the culvert that runs from the mill, under the meadow to the River Derwent.

Spend time building your best den ever in the **Doffers' Den** area, or play in our own **living willow cottage**.



Hidden away is our **Storytelling Glade**, a quiet place to sit and get close to nature.

Finally, don't miss the steep steps up to **Scarthin Rock**, leading to beautiful views of Cromford Mills and Willersley Castle.

Please visit our website to find out more about the history and wildlife beyond the mill walls.

This project has been funded by Postcode Local Trust, a grant giving charity funded entirely by the players of the People's Postcode Lottery



Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills, Mill Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RQ
www.cromfordmills.org.uk

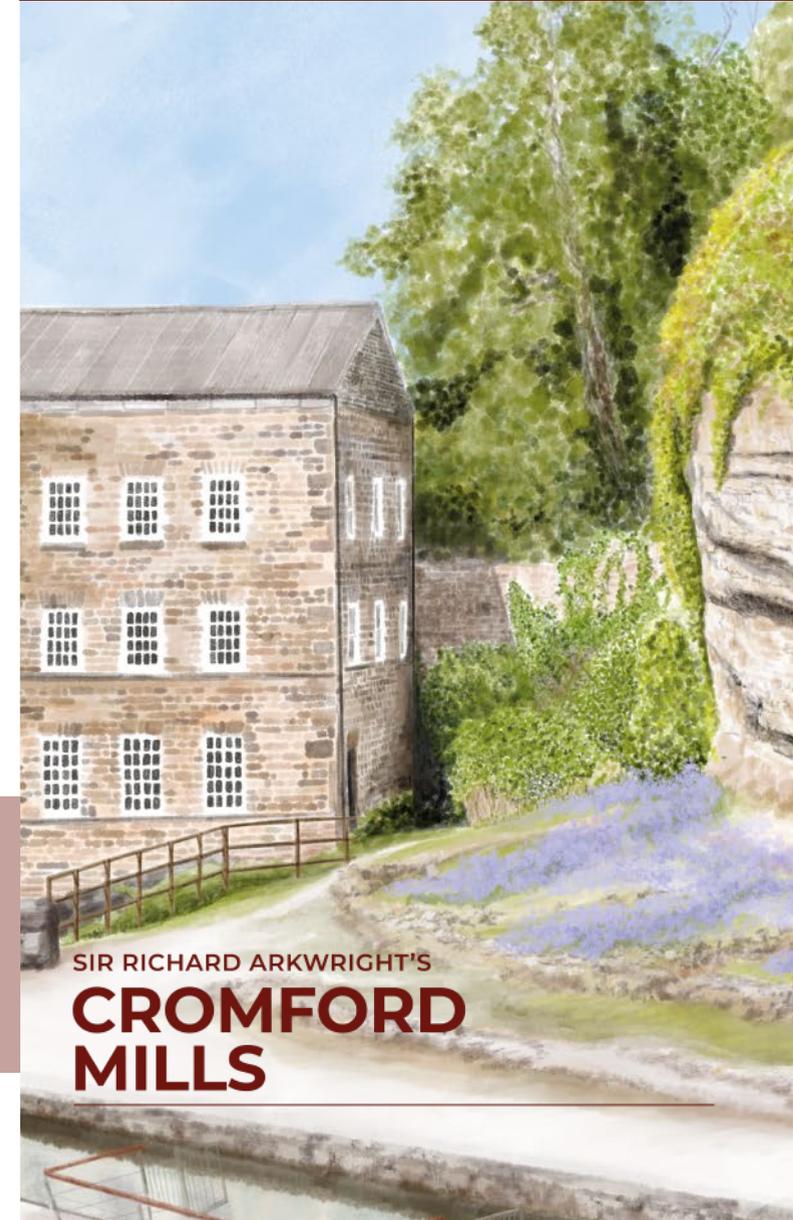
Follow us on Twitter @CromfordMills | Follow us on Facebook @CromfordMills | Follow us on Instagram @CromfordMills1771

The Arkwright Society is a registered charity (no.515526). The Arkwright Society Ltd. is a company registered in England and Wales (Company no. 01630237). Registered with Entrust as an approved environmental body no. 337946. Cromford Mills are part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.



Natural Cromford Mills: Beyond & Within the Mill Walls

Enjoy picnics, wild-play, riverside strolls, exploration, wildlife and more!



SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT'S
**CROMFORD
MILLS**

