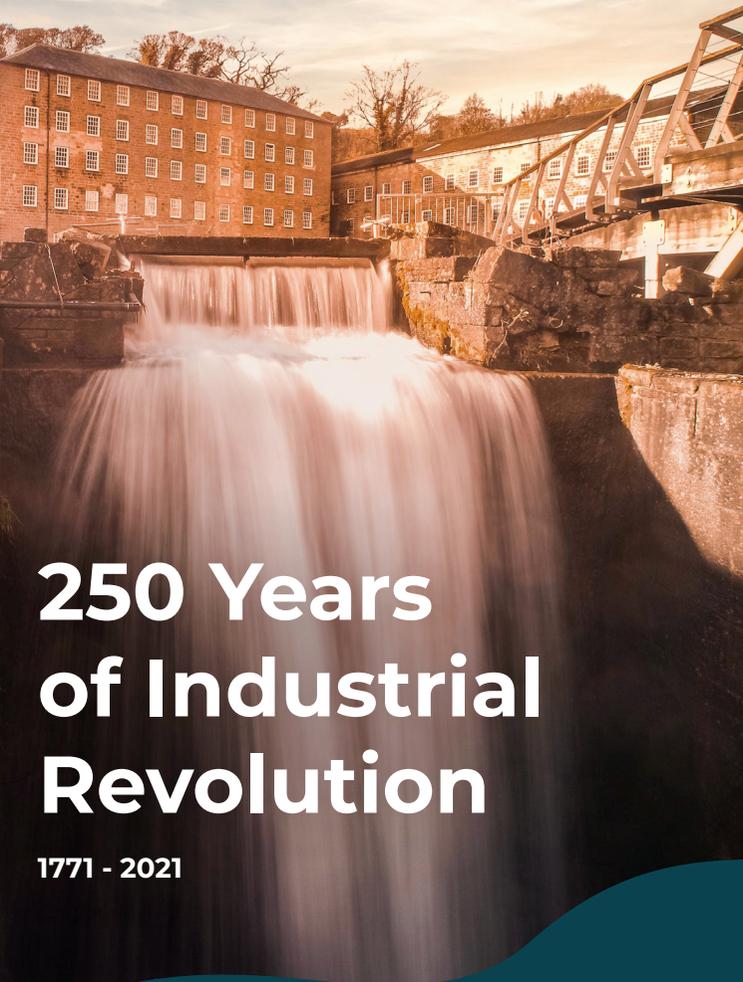


SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT'S  
**CROMFORD  
MILLS**



# 250 Years of Industrial Revolution

1771 - 2021

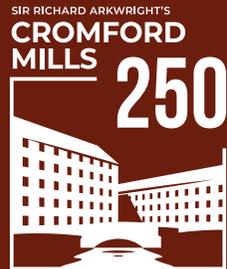
## Visitor Guide 2021



Visit [cromfordmills.org.uk](http://cromfordmills.org.uk)

@cromfordmills1771 CromfordMills CromfordMills

# Discover How Cromford Mills Shaped the World

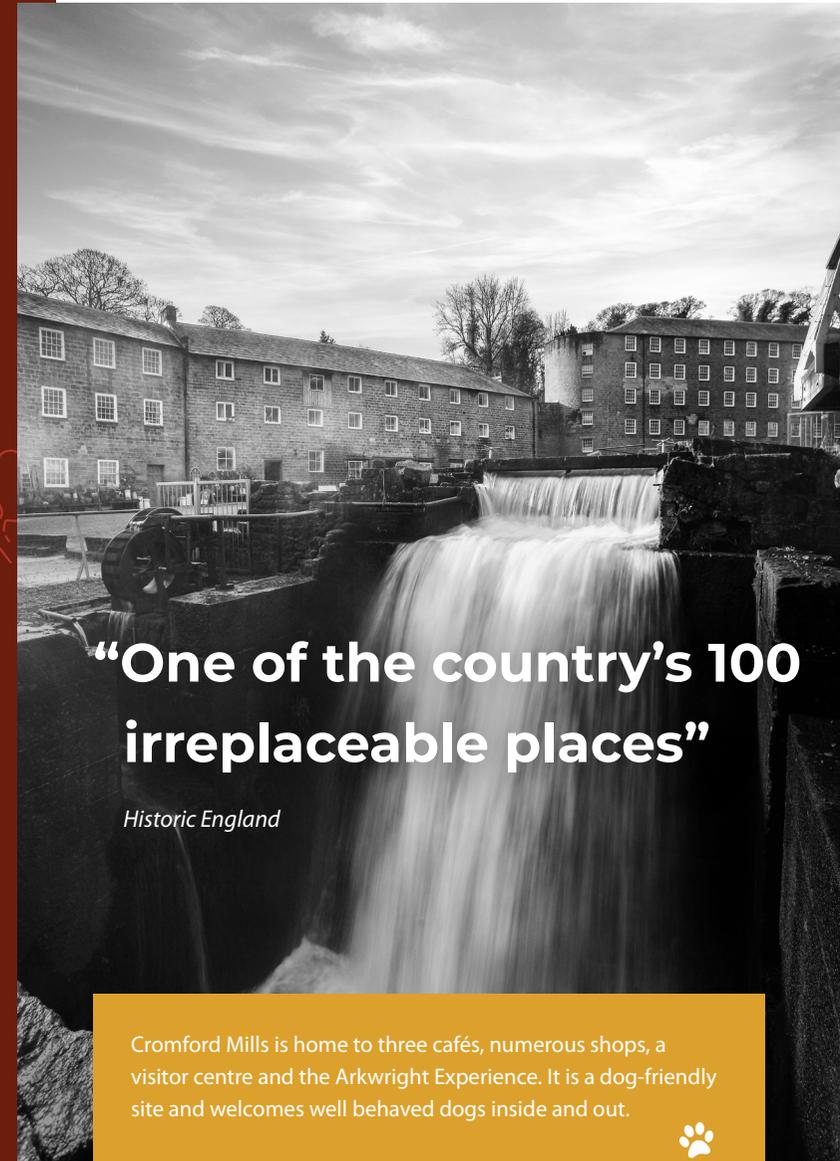


Visit Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills and surrounding area for a full day out. Grade 1 listed and the Northern Gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cromford Mills has something for everyone – indoors and out.

Built in 1771 to house the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill, Cromford Mills became the birthplace of the modern factory system.

Start your day by exploring the mill yard, where you'll see Arkwright's original buildings and discover the captivating story of how the Derwent Valley changed the world in the 18th century with the growth of the British cotton industry.

**Have a great day out!**



**“One of the country's 100  
irreplaceable places”**

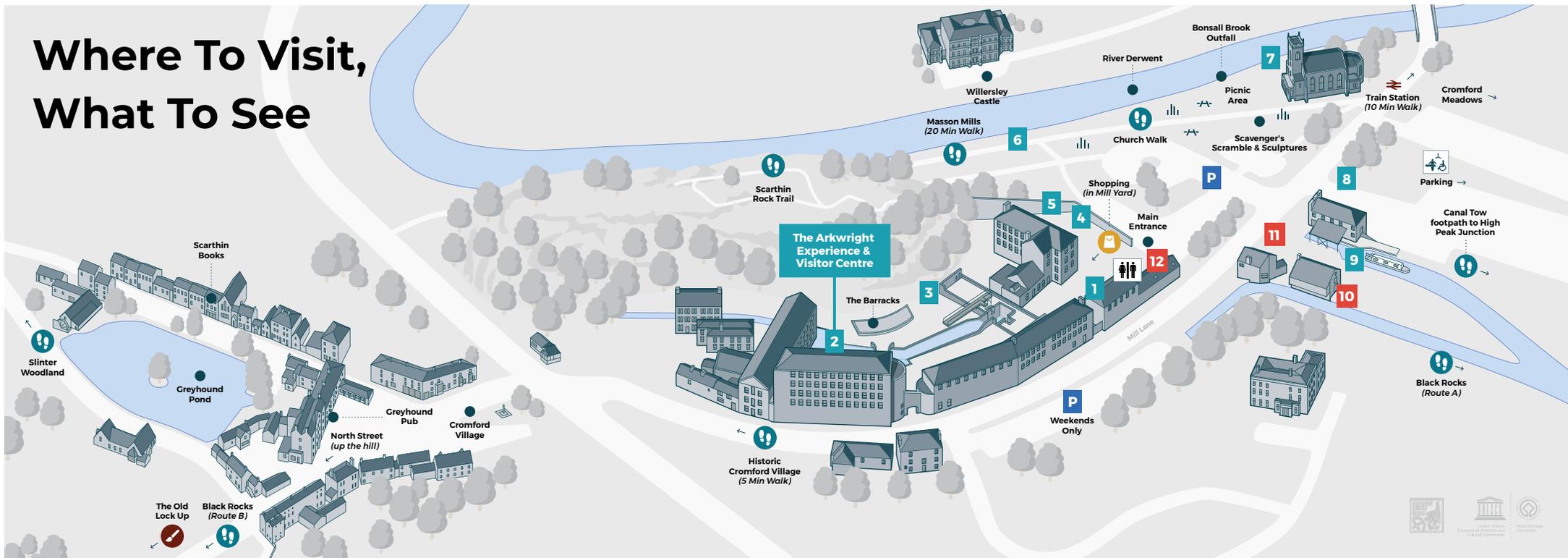
*Historic England*

Cromford Mills is home to three cafés, numerous shops, a visitor centre and the Arkwright Experience. It is a dog-friendly site and welcomes well behaved dogs inside and out.

*Retail shops on site operate individual dog policies.*



# Where To Visit, What To See



## 1 Mill Shop

Start your visit here and find out more about our Visitor Centre, The Arkwright Experience, Tours and tickets.

## 2 The Arkwright Experience & Visitor Centre

Immerse yourself in the site's history, find out more about the Derwent Valley, and see Sir Richard Arkwright come to life in his first mill.

## 3 Second Mill Viewpoint

Experience the vastness of Arkwright's second mill building and its internal wheel pit. Once a 7-storey building that was 120 feet long and an ambitious project, now it lies in ruins.

## 4 Education Room

Education visits, workshops and events are held in this room. Find out more about educational visits at [cromfordmills.org.uk/learning](http://cromfordmills.org.uk/learning)

## 5 Exhibition & Tour Room

A dual-purpose room for exhibitions and tours. Meet outside the Mill Shop for the start of your tour and learn more about the mill's history. A great chance to see a small scale, replica water frame and learn more about the process of spinning cotton.

## 6 Beyond the Mill Walls

A great area to take a riverside stroll, discover local wildlife, follow our Scavengers' Scramble Sculpture trail and enjoy a family picnic. There's something for everyone!

## 7 St Mary's Church

Explore the church where Sir Richard Arkwright was interred and see beautiful Victorian wall paintings by A. O. Hemmings. This family chapel was started by Arkwright in 1786 and completed by his son in 1797.

## 8 Gothic Warehouse

Built in 1794, the canal warehouse was designed for goods coming into Cromford. It is now used for a variety of events throughout the year.

## 9 Canal Boat Trips & Towpath

Book a canal trip with Birdswood or explore the canal by foot on the Towpath Walk to High Peak Junction. The walk is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Visit [birdswood.org](http://birdswood.org) for bookings and times.

See page 5 for Ticket Options

Scavenger's Sculptures

Picnic Tables

# Shopping

Are you looking for a special gift or struggling to find that present for someone who appears to have everything?

Opening times may vary. See website for more details.

There's never been a better time to 'shop local' and support small businesses, and shopping at Cromford Mills offers **something a little bit different.**



The Mill Shop



Cromford Mill Cheese Shop



The Cromford Mill Antique Centre



Susanna Greening Designs



The Old Lock Up



Arkwright's Attic



Makers Creative



Rachel Emmerson Jewellery



Countryside Books



YES Bridal Studio



Heritage Antiques



Overton Clocks Ltd



Peaky Print Shop



WeaveKnitit



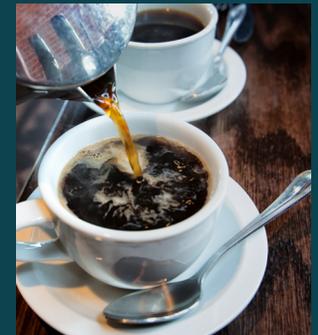
## Food & Drink

### 10 Wheatcroft's Wharf Café

A great place to take a break while exploring the famous Derwent Valley. Take in the picturesque views from our canal-side cafe and relax with a lovely slice of cake and a coffee.

### 11 Counting House Coffee Stop

Ready to hit the trail or looking to grab a sandwich on the go? Visit our new coffee stop, a great place to find tasty treats while you are on the move.



### 12 Arkwright's Café



Soak up the history of the mill in our licensed café and experience the best scones in Derbyshire! Enjoy a lovely breakfast, light bite or a range of seasonal dishes. Indoor and outdoor seating is available. **Well-behaved dogs are welcome at all our cafés.**

# Explore Nature & Embrace Our Heritage

Nestled in the heart of the Derbyshire Dales, Cromford Mills and the surrounding area are among the UK's best-loved places to visit. Some of our walks are out in the open, some are in deep in the valley, and some are set in woodland, but wherever they are, there's no getting away from the fact that they are stunning.

## Beyond the Mill Walls



Scavenger's Scramble with wooden sculptures and more in our riverside meadow area. It is a great place to enjoy wildlife and nature while having a picnic near the River Derwent or adventure up the steps to Scarthin Rock.

## Cromford Canal

Last used as a working waterway in 1944, the canal is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Take the 5 mile walk along the canal from Cromford Wharf to Ambergate. Sites of particular interest along the way include Leawood Pumphouse, built in 1849 and still in pristine working order and Aqueduct Cottage, once part of Florence Nightingale's family estate and poised for restoration. Don't forget to look out for Arkwright's ducks, furry water voles, moorhens and many other birds along the way.



## Black Rocks

Originally mined for lead, Black Rocks offers fantastic views of Matlock Gorge, Cromford Mills, Carsington Reservoir and the Derwent Valley. Start your walk at Cromford Canal and follow the High Peak Trail to Black Rocks (*Route A*). You can then head across Cromford Moor with its woodland trails and heather moorland. Alternatively, take *Route B* from Cromford Village.

There's something for everyone from family-friendly nature trails, wild-play and picnic areas through to a gentle stroll along Cromford Canal, once the hub of Derbyshire's industry.

## Cromford Village

Arkwright developed the village by building houses with a well-lit third storey, many of which survive today. By 1782, there were 5,000 people involved in spinning locally. There are a number of shops and places to eat and drink. Guided audio tours are available from the Mill shop.



## Dunsley Meadows

The meadows, which adjoin the Slinger Woodland, consist of seven small fields that once were part of the upland commons of Cromford and Middleton villages on which the villagers had grazing rights.

## Slinger Woodland

A beautiful landscape of ancient ash woodland and rich flowering woodland floor. Take the path that follows the famous Bonsall Brook (which supplied Arkwright's Mill) and discover old water features, the corn mill and more. This area is abundant with wildlife and is a Special Area of Conservation.

# Enjoy Your Visit Safely

Please refer to our website for up to date Covid-19 information and how you can enjoy your visit safely.

Cromford Mills is usually open all year round (except Christmas day). Admission to the site is free, with ample pay and display car parking. There is a small charge for access to the Arkwright Experience, Visitor Centre and for audio and guided tours.

## Easy to find



### Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills

Mill Lane, Cromford, Matlock Derbyshire, DE4 3RQ

Email us at

[info@arkwrightsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@arkwrightsociety.org.uk)

Or call us on 01629 823 256

### By Car

Cromford Mills is located just off the A6 and is within walking distance from Cromford village. We are approximately 16 miles north of Derby and within easy reach of the M1 (approx. 20 mins).

### By Bike

We have bike racks, on-site and shower facilities.

### By Train

We are a 10-minute walk from Cromford train station. Call National Rail for more information 03457 48 49 50.

### By Bus

Convenient bus stops are located just outside the mill. Visit [traveline.info](http://traveline.info) for bus timetables.



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.

Book Online

# Ticketed Attractions

Immerse yourself in the remarkable history of Cromford Mills and discover what life was like in the 18th century. There's something to interest visitors of all ages

## Arkwright Experience & Visitor Centre

Sir Richard Arkwright himself comes to life inside the world's first successful water powered cotton spinning mill, courtesy of the award-winning Arkwright Experience and ground breaking CGI technology.

## Guided Tours

Our tour guides take you back in time as they explain why Arkwright chose Cromford and how he used revolutionary techniques to turn the site into an unrivalled, international success.

## Self-Guided Audio Tours

Available from the Mill Shop, our one and a half hour extended tour of the mills and Cromford Village traces the footsteps of hundreds of Mill workers and explores 18th century village life.

You can also buy tickets on site at the Mill Shop.

Depending on prevailing government Covid-19 restrictions, access to our visitor centre and guided tours may change. **Please check our website to see what's on offer.**

# Events



## What's On

Outside **family fun events**, open air **exhibitions**, **children's activities** and **online lectures**, we have an exciting variety of events planned for our 250th Anniversary Year. You can find out more on our website and book tickets online.

**In response to government guidelines for Covid-19, we will continue to review what's on offer.**



For up-to-date information, please visit [cromfordmills.org.uk](http://cromfordmills.org.uk).

# Derwent Valley Tours

Understand the significance of the Derwent Valley through guided mini-bus tours. Run by a new non-profit organisation, the tours are designed to be fun and educational, giving guests a very personal introduction to a very special valley.

There are three tours available, departing from Derby and Matlock railway stations. Guests staying at participating hotels in the area can arrange to join en route.



Please see our website for more details.



Book tickets online or purchase at our mill shop  
[derwentvalleytours.co.uk](http://derwentvalleytours.co.uk)

# THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN A DERBYSHIRE DAY OUT DISCOUNT



**Explore Derbyshire and  
get more for your money  
with the Derbyshire Day  
Out Discount.**

Present a valid 2021 ticket from any of the participating attractions and receive a discount during your visit.

**One discount per transaction may be used against reciprocal tickets. Offers cannot be combined.**

BAKEWELL OLD HOUSE MUSEUM • DERBY MUSEUMS  
CRICH TRAMWAY VILLAGE • WIRKSWORTH HERITAGE CENTRE  
SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT'S CROMFORD MILLS • STRUTT'S NORTH MILL, BELPER  
PEAK DISTRICT LEAD MINING MUSEUM, MATLOCK BATH

**VISIT INDIVIDUAL ATTRACTIONS  
WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

## Experience more as a Member

Join today and help us to preserve Cromford Mills, the Northern Gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site, for future generations.

Joining the Arkwright Society is one of the best ways to support the local heritage and community. Now in its 50th year, your membership helps us to continue to restore and protect Cromford Mills, as well as our wider estates, for future generations.

**Enjoy free car parking, exclusive events and special offers.**

For further information, please visit [cromfordmills.org.uk/membership](http://cromfordmills.org.uk/membership) or phone **01629 823256**.



**Celebrating the 50th Anniversary  
of The Arkwright Society**

## Ways to Volunteer

Every year, we are very fortunate to receive help from a wide range of friendly volunteers who, like us, care deeply about our special sites.

Spend time in a fantastic setting, meet new people and learn about the history of the mills. Enjoy special discounts, social events, free parking and more. We have a wide variety of roles available across our sites. Check our website for more details.

Email [volunteering@arkwrightsociety.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@arkwrightsociety.org.uk) to find out more.



#DYK

# Did you know?

FACT

Within **20 years** of building Cromford Mill, there were almost **150 Arkwright style** mills across the country.

By the early 1800's the UK was **nationally reliant on cotton** which was Britain's **IMPORT AND EXPORT #1**

FACT



Despite no formal education, **Arkwright** died the **richest commoner in the country** and boasted he had **enough money** to pay off the **National Debt**

#DYK

The rescue of the mill site began in the 1970s after the site had been occupied for over 50 years by the colour works that manufactured pigment for paint. **The movement to protect this historical site was driven by volunteers who successfully saved the site from demolition.**



FACT

Arkwright's production methods earned him the title "**Father of the Factory System**"

"I know no man who has done more honour to his country than Sir Richard Arkwright, not excluding our military heroes like Nelson & Wellington"

*On his death, Sir Robert Peel (MP for Tamworth)*



#DYK

Did you know that every visitor plays a crucial role in preserving Cromford Mills? **Every pound spent by our visitors** helps the **Arkwright Society** to continue to **restore and develop the site.**



FACT

It is estimated that around

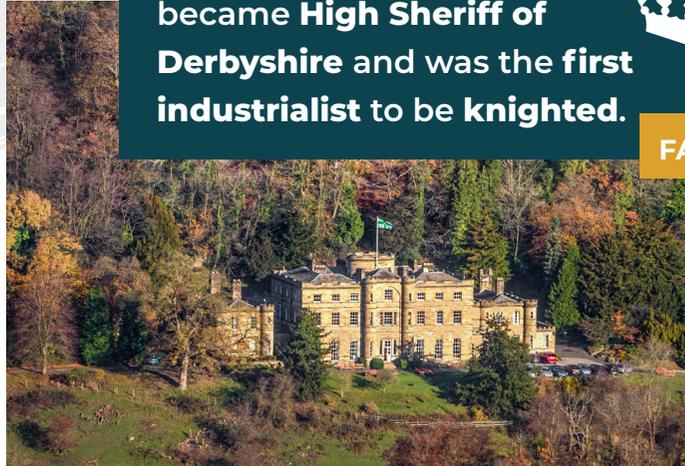
**1 MILLION MILES**

of cotton yarn was spun in Arkwright's mills each year. Enough to stretch to the moon four times over!

He built his own castle, became **High Sheriff of Derbyshire** and was the **first industrialist to be knighted.**



FACT



SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT'S  
**CROMFORD MILLS**

**250**



**#250YearsofCromfordMills**

**#IndustrialRevolution**

**#FabricatingTheWorldWeLiveIn**



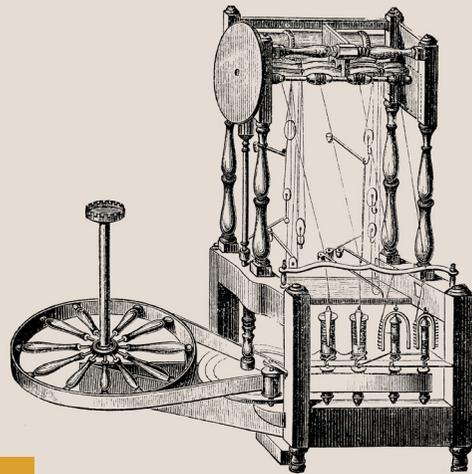
@cromfordmills1771



CromfordMills



CromfordMills



FACT

Cromford Mills was the

**1st**

**SUCCESSFUL  
WATER-POWERED  
COTTON SPINNING MILL**

that kick-started a transformation in the textiles industry.



**#DYK**

The Arkwright Society's tireless efforts have restored the site from its dilapidated and derelict state into the heritage attraction you see today. However, **we still have a long way to go to finish the complete restoration.** We would like to **thank you for your help in preserving this fantastic site for future generations.**