

Follow the Countryside Code

Respect, Protect, Enjoy!

Respect other people:

- consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- leave gates and property as you find them and follow paths, unless wider access is available

Protect the natural environment:

- leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home
- keep dogs under effective control

Enjoy the outdoors:

- plan ahead and be prepared
- follow advice and local signs

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code



Cycle Hire

Do you prefer to cycle rather than walk? Visit our Cycle Hire Centre at Middleton Top. The High Peak Trail offers 17.5 traffic-free miles of cycling through beautiful countryside, and connects with the Tissington Trail at Parsley Hay. www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/cycle_hire or call 01629 533294.



Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

High Peak Junction is in the heart of this World Heritage Site. This international designation confirms the outstanding importance of the area as the birthplace of the factory system where, in the 18th century, water power was successfully harnessed for textile production.

www.derwentvalleymills.org

Walking Around Wirksworth

With a fascinating history, and a maze of back streets to explore, Wirksworth is a thriving, vibrant and welcoming place to live and visit. There are plenty of cafés, coffee shops and pubs to help revive the weary walker.

The paths on this route may be rough and muddy at times, so be prepared and wear appropriate footwear. The route should be easy to follow, and is waymarked with "Circuit Walks around Wirksworth" discs. Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure Map No. 24 is recommended to enhance your walk.



How to Find High Peak Junction

High Peak Junction car park is located near Lea Bridge, just off the A6 at Cromford. Look out for the brown tourist signs. There is ample pay and display parking, as well as toilet facilities and a seasonal shop selling refreshments and drinks.

Public Transport

For details on public transport in Derbyshire, visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/transport_roads/public_transport



More Information

If you need to find out more, please contact: **Middleton Top** on **01629 533298**, or **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

For information on all our Countryside Sites go to: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside

If you have difficulty reading this leaflet, it can be made available in other formats. Contact **Call Derbyshire** on **01629 533190**.

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Circuit Walks Around Wirksworth

2

High Peak Junction - Wirksworth - High Peak Junction 4.75 miles

High Peak Junction



www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside

Circuit Walks

Around Wirksworth

High Peak Junction to Wirksworth

2

This walk is one of a series of waymarked and easy to follow walks around Wirksworth and the surrounding area. Allow 2.5 to 3 hours.

1 From the Workshops take the footpath to the left of the Brake Vans which rises up to the A6 road. Cross with care and then turn left before climbing over a stile into the field.

2 Head diagonally up the hill along the obvious path, to a wicket gate into the woodland. Go straight ahead, ignoring the other tracks. The path from here is an ancient sunken way, which rises steeply through the woods. At the summit, continue straight ahead over the well-worn path that crosses your route, and through the stile ahead of you.

3 The path now leaves the woodland and goes directly ahead across the field to meet another old trackway, known as Intake Lane. Cross over this lane, up over a stile and keep straight on ahead for two more fields, through a series of stone squeeze stiles.

4 Go through another stone stile, and walk on for another 20 yards along a narrow path (keeping the stone wall to your left) to the next stile. Go ahead now and take the stone stile to your right into the open field.



From left: Sunken ancient trackway, view towards Crich, the Wirksworth townscape.
Bottom of page: Ecclesbourne Valley Railway.

It is worth looking back as you climb the hill for a fine view of the Derwent Valley overlooked by Crich Stand - a monument to the Sherwood Foresters Regiment - on the cliff above the quarry.

The path now heads straight uphill across the fields in a straight line for the next 1 mile. Follow the path through a number of gates until you are faced with a patch of gorse.

5 The path heads straight through the gorse, and is often muddy as cows sometimes seek shelter here. Once you have emerged from the gorse thicket, you will be on a wide farm track. Continuing uphill, follow the track past Wigwell Nook Farm and out onto Oakerthorpe Road.

6 Cross the road with care and turn left along the road, using the pavement. **The view along the road here opens out to give fine panoramic views over Wirksworth and down the Ecclesbourne Valley.**

7 In a few hundred yards, after passing 'Spitewinter' house, turn right down Stoney Hill. Look out for houses on your left and just after Number 3, turn down the drive to Ash Farm House.

8 After a few steps you need to turn right down a steep footpath that leads to a stone squeeze stile on the right.

Pass through the stile and head towards the farm in front of you. Before the farm you will reach another stile on your left next to a gateway with a waymarker. The footpath heads off across the field and down the hill, passing under electricity pylons and indicated by several waymarker posts.

9 There is a fine view of St. Mary's Church in Wirksworth ahead of you.

At the bottom of the field you will find a small brook which rises from springs in the hillside. Ignore the obvious footbridge in front of you, and turn left onto a grassy track. Initially boggy by a gateway, the track soon improves and eventually emerges between houses on the road at Wash Green.

10 Into Wirksworth Town

This is the Wash Green area of Wirksworth. Cross the road and turn right on the narrow pavement. A short walk down this road will bring you into the town centre, passing the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway as you go.



Circuit Walks

Around Wirksworth

Wirksworth to High Peak Junction

2

Pictured from left: High Peak Junction, View from Sheep Pasture Incline of Matlock Bath and High Tor, view from Black Rocks of Cromford and the Matlock Gorge.



If you visited the town, or have started your walk from Wirksworth, follow the detour shown on the map past the Railway Station and immediately over the bridge look for the signs to the Junior School on your left. Go up to the school at the end of the cul-de-sac. The footpath is to the left of the two houses facing you.

11 With the railway to your left, follow this path until it emerges into a field. Head diagonally to the right across this field, towards another stile in the hedgerow in front of you. The path now drops down to the same brook you crossed earlier, and a footbridge that you will need to cross.

After a small patch of blackthorn, head straight uphill. At the top of the field do not go through the gap in the hedge, but veer left through an old gateway, indicated by a waymarker post. It can be quite boggy here. Go through the gap and continue uphill.

At the top of the field the footpath passes under an overhead power line and through the remains of an old hedgerow. This can also be quite a muddy section. Now head off towards the cottages situated up the hill to your left, emerging through a stone stile and a metal gate onto a quiet lane.

12 Turn left here, and keep to this lane as it winds through the village via Bolehill Road and Nan Gells Hill to eventually join the main road. Keep to the left and walk downhill for about 160 yards. As the road bears sharply to the left, take the turning to your right under the old railway bridge towards the car park at Black Rocks.

13 Turn right into the entrance and then immediately right again up the short section of bridleway that leads to the High Peak Trail. Here you will find toilets and a seasonal snack shop. Turn left on the trail. The High Peak Trail follows the route of the old Cromford and High Peak Railway, and will lead you back to your starting point at High Peak Junction.

Along the way there are many features of interest, including the impressive Black Rocks on your right, and expansive views to your left, especially at the top of Sheep Pasture Incline.

14 This incline was one of the nine inclines on the railway, and was by far the longest... 1320 yards at a gradient of 1 in 8½! Near the bottom of the incline is a very unusual feature - the Catch Pit. This was used to stop runaway waggons destined for High Peak Junction.

Now you have explored this route try one of the others available from our Visitor Centres. There are 4 'Circuit Walks around Wirksworth' leaflets in total.



KEY

	Start and finish		Disabled toilets
	Walking route		Refreshments/snacks (seasonal)
	Parking (Pay and display, Honesty box at National Stone Centre)		Picnic area
	Toilets		Information (seasonal)
			Railway station

Scale: 0km to 1km

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