

Black Rocks and the Railway

Black Rocks has been a tourist destination for many decades - chiselled graffiti on the rocks goes back hundreds of years and could claim to be some of the earliest examples of this 'art form' in the area.

The coming of the railways to Matlock and Wirksworth in the middle of the 19th century led to a large increase in not only casual visitors, but also those with more strenuous activities in mind. The sport of rock climbing flourished at such sites as these being easily accessible to local cities and their populations, some of whom yearned for the adventure of the great outdoors.

It is fair to say that not everyone welcomed these visitors, the Cromford and High Peak Railway (now the route of the High Peak Trail) ran beneath the rocks and some visitors were prosecuted for trespassing on the line.

Cromford Moor

250 years ago Cromford Moor was a wild place of heather and peat moorland, but gradually the area was enclosed for grazing and forestry plantation, today very little of the original habitat remains.

Much of the moor belonged to the Wigwell Estate who needed timber for their iron foundries, other parts belonged to the Arkwright family who also planted many trees on the site.

In the early 1960s the Forestry Commission acquired the land and planted stands of woodland. Areas of this have now been cleared to allow natural regeneration. Please be aware that sheep may be grazing in the fenced area.

Today the Forestry Commission view the moor as a dual asset - a commercial woodland and a very important recreational site for walkers. Unfortunately cycles and horses cannot be allowed onto the moor.

Easy to follow circular routes

Green route: 1.46 km: 0.9 miles. Allow 30 mins.
Blue route: 3 km: 1.9 miles. Allow one hour.

2 coloured waymarked trails (green and blue) have been marked out for you to enjoy with colour coded posts positioned at changes of direction.

Start at the gate from the car park and select the colour route of your choice. Please do not pick or uproot any plants as these may be rare or protected.

Make sure you have good footwear. Mud and steep slopes may make the walks difficult for some people.

Always be aware of fire risk in dry weather.

Car Parking & Bus Information

There is car parking at Black Rocks and public toilets are located just off the High Peak Trail.

A bus stop is located on the main road just outside the site. Bus times are available by calling Traveline on 0871 200 22 33 or online at www.derbyshire.gov.uk

For further information on the High Peak Trail or Cromford Moor please contact Middleton Top on 01629 823204 or Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058.

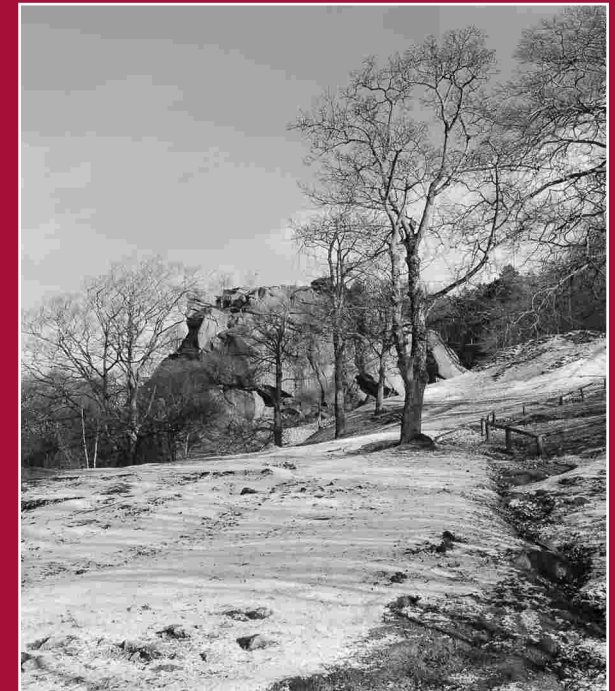
If you have difficulty in reading this leaflet it is available in other formats. For details telephone the above number.



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Countryside Walks in Derbyshire

Black Rocks The Two Walks



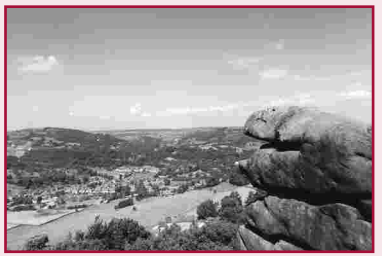
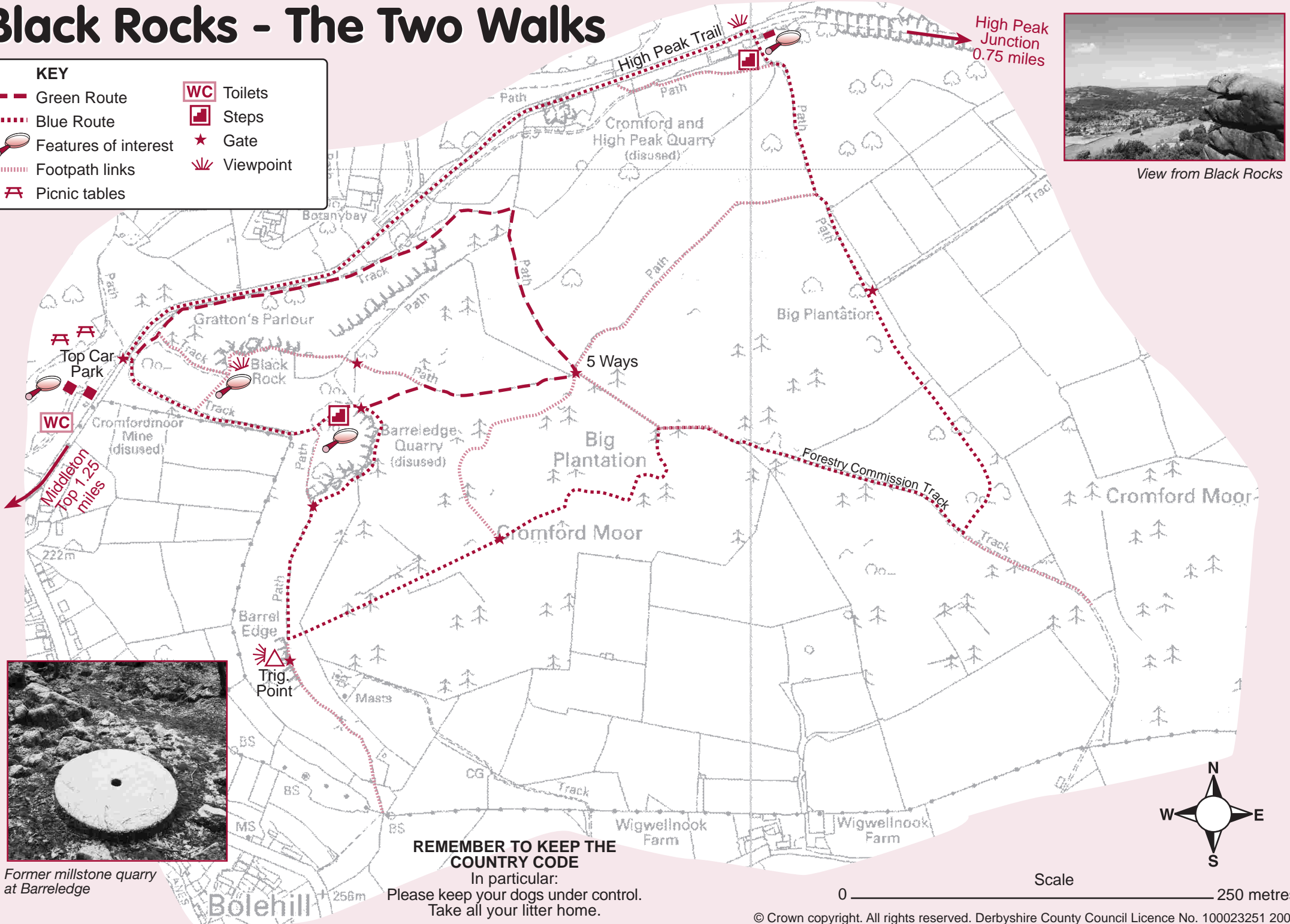
Black Rocks

2 circular walks from
Black Rocks car park
around Cromford Moor

Black Rocks - The Two Walks

KEY

- Green Route
- ⋯ Blue Route
- Features of interest
- ⋯⋯⋯ Footpath links
- Picnic tables
- WC Toilets
- Steps
- ★ Gate
- Viewpoint



View from Black Rocks



Former millstone quarry at Barreledge

REMEMBER TO KEEP THE COUNTRY CODE
 In particular:
 Please keep your dogs under control.
 Take all your litter home.