

En Route.

Creswell Crags is an enclosed limestone gorge on the border between Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, England, near the villages of Creswell and Whitwell. The cliffs in the ravine contain several caves that were occupied during the last ice age, between around 43,000 and 10,000 years ago. Its caves contain the northernmost Cave art in Europe. The evidence of occupation found in the rich series of sediments that accumulated over many thousands of years is regarded as internationally unique in demonstrating how prehistoric people managed to live at the extreme northernmost limits of their territory during the Late Pleistocene period. The caves contain occupation layers with evidence of flint tools from the Mousterian, proto-Solutrean, Creswellian and Maglemosian cultures. They were seasonally occupied by nomadic groups of people during the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods. Evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Roman and post-medieval activity has also been found there. There is evidence of Neanderthal occupation 50,000–60,000 years ago, a brief Gravettian occupation around 32,000 years ago and use of all the main caves during the Magdalenian around 14,000 years ago. The site is open to the public and has a visitor centre with a small museum of objects associated with the caves, including a stuffed cave hyena.

Route Description – Section 7A

1. From the checkpoint, return to the lane and **bear right(ish) to continue walking along this lane**. After approximately 120m beyond where the road bends round to the left, you will see a fingerpost with a Robin Hood Way marker on it and a wooden sign for the church. **Turn right here to walk up this lane** which will take you past the nice little church in Holbeck. This very pretty lane is bordered either side with hedgerow and trees. At the far end of the lane you will come to a road junction opposite Hillside Cottage. **At this point turn left to walk up the lane for about 15-20m, and then turn right onto the lane as indicated by the footpath fingerpost**. Don't walk up the driveway but walk up the path to the left of the driveway. You will have fence on your right and wall on your left. The path rises gently to meet a relatively new kissing gate. **Pass through this and continue straight ahead**, open field on your right, fence on your left. At the top of this field you will meet another metal kissing gate, **pass through and continue straight ahead**; again open field on your right and fence and hedgerow on your left. At the far end of this field you pass through a gap in the fence next to a stile to drop down to another field. **Continue straight ahead as if across the middle of this field** Once across the field you will see a stile, **cross over and continue straight ahead** along the obvious track with hedgerow and trees on your right, open fields on your left. After a short while, the track starts to rise gently as you pass through the third field. At the apex of the hill the track levels out and you head towards a wooden fence which crosses the field and you will be accompanied by a wall on your right. At the wooden fence, **pass through as indicated by the Robin Hood Way marker**. **Continue straight along the less obvious path** and you have in front of you magnificent views across to Creswell and the former Creswell Pit Tip and beyond that towards Whaley Wood. After a short while the path starts to descend and the path turns 90° right, the path descending all the time until you reach a stone stile in a wall. **Cross over and continue down the steps**, the path winding its way through a small thicket to emerge at a junction of very wide paths above a gushing stream. **Here turn left. Walk for a few paces until you meet the main path**. At this point **turn left to walk along the lane (heading away from the Crags)**. Pass a metal horse gate and onto a tarmac road with pavement on the left. Pass Crags Cottage and meet the junction with the main road.

- 2.** Here, cross the road and turn right. Walk up the grass verge for about 100m. Turn left into the entrance towards the Coloured Cob Stables. After about 40m turn right to walk up the path; this is "Tommy Moors Lane" The path gently rises. As you reach the top of the hill turn left and the path almost doubles back for a short distance (25m) then this path turns 90° right. You will have a wall on your left and fencing on your right. You are now positively on the final stretch of the Heritage route – 40 - mile walk - and you are encircling the quarry bund as you head back to Whitwell. To your left across the fields is the village of Creswell. On reaching a fence pass through the gap on the right and continue straight ahead, still with fence on your right and open fields on your left. On meeting a wall, pass through the narrow gap and continue straight ahead, still with fence on your right and open fields to your left.
- 3.** The path finally reaches its end at a bench and beyond that is the railway line (the Robin Hood Line). Turn 90° right to walk up the obvious path and up some steps. Fence on your right and left. Once at the top the path levels out for a while before a short 20m rise at the top of which you will meet a wall and a sign saying Keep Out. Here you turn 90° left. This section of the path is crossing over the tunnel which the Robin Hood Line runs through. After approximately 30m take the path down to the left. Do not turn right, but turn left to go downhill, fence on your right and metal fence/hedgerow on your left. The path descends and bends round to the right. The path meanders slightly uphill and eventually comes to a wall and takes a 90° turn to the right. Still a very wide track, bordered either side by hedgerow. After a further 160m you will see a [wide] left turn.
- 4.** Turn left to walk down this lane which leads to the road from Boaler's Corner to Bakestone Moor and to your right is a renovated farmhouse. On reaching a stile, cross over and continue for a few paces to reach the road. Here turn right to follow the road into the village of Whitwell. Once in the village and after passing the first few houses (terraced then semi det.) the road bends sharply right. 300m beyond this is the Royal Oak public house....your destination.

THE END!

Possible consumption of some liquid refreshment.

Well Done