

The Walk

Accessibility:

On the west side of the River Derwent, there is generally good level access for walkers throughout. There is wheelchair access from Froggatt Bridge southwards, as far as the footbridge over Stoke Brook.

On the east side of the River Derwent, there is largely resurfaced path from Froggatt Bridge to New Bridge, providing level riverside access for walkers, although there are stiles and steps to negotiate at each end of this section. From New Bridge to Calver Bridge, the path as far as Calver Weir provides good level access. After the weir, access is more challenging, and muddier underfoot. This section includes some steep steps, (partly without handrails); steep or narrow paths; a large drop to the river, and a narrow plank bridge without handrail.

On both sides of the river, care must be taken when crossing the busy A625 at New Bridge.

WALK DETAIL:

Calver Bridge to Froggatt Bridge and back is 2.5 miles.

Starting at Calver Bridge (1), cross to the west side of the river, and turn immediately right next to Calver Mill Gallery. Follow the Derwent Valley Heritage Way northwards, passing the entrance to Calver Mill (2) on your right (the mill is now private apartments). At Stocking Farm and Caravan Site you will see the Old School House (3). The track is to the right of the farm. Go through the gate and cross the field. You will see the goit (4) on your right. Follow the footpath through the woodland. There is a small quarry face (5) on your left as you reach the Shuttle House (6). Pass the Shuttle House and arrive at the road at New Bridge (7).

If you wish, you can turn left at this point and walk about 1/4 mile into Calver Village (8). To view Calver Weir, turn right across New Bridge and take the footpath on your right along the east bank.

To continue along the Derwent Valley Heritage Way, stay on the west side of the river at New Bridge and cross the A625 to the footpath that continues beside the River Derwent. This area is known as Calver Marshes. On your left you will pass some ponds, before crossing the footbridge over Stoke Brook, and then continuing next to an area of wet woodland (9). Continue along the footpath until you reach Froggatt Bridge (10).

If you wish, you can cross the bridge to go and look at Froggatt Village (11). The walk now leaves the Derwent Valley Heritage Way and returns in the direction of Calver Mill along the other side of the river.

Cross Froggatt Bridge, turn right, and walk a short way down the road until you find a step-over stile on your right. Take this, then continue along the riverside path until you reach the A625, with New Bridge to your right. Cross the road, and carry straight on beside the river, passing Calver Weir (12) on your right. At the end of the path, exit onto the road via a gate. After about 250 yards you will come to the Bridge Inn. Turn right to your starting point at Calver Bridge.

 Audiotrail listening point
(see www.calverweir.org.uk/audiotrail)

11 Froggatt village: Once owned by the Duke of Rutland, the old stone cottages built to house his farmers and stonemasons can still be seen.

10 Froggatt Bridge: An extra arch was added when the building of the weir caused the widening of the River Derwent upstream.

9 Wet Woodland: The water held back by Calver Weir helps to support the wet woodland, a habitat that is rare in the Peak District National Park.

12 Calver Weir: Built in the late 1840s, it is a Grade II listed structure, 106 metres long and constructed in an unusual inverted S-shape. It raises the water level behind it by 3.5 metres, supporting important wetland habitats upstream.

8 Calver village shops and services.

7 New Bridge: Built in 1781 to carry the new Sheffield - Calver turnpike road across the River Derwent

6 Shuttle House: Once housed the sluice machinery to control the flow of water down the goit. An earlier weir once stretched across the river at this point.


5 Quarry: Here you can see the spot where stone was quarried for the new Calver Weir in the 1840s.


4 The Goit: water is held back by the weir and forced down this channel, called a goit. The force of this water turned the mill wheel, which powered the factory.


3 The Old School House: Built in 1817 as a Sunday School, it became a day school after the 1833 Factory Act required better care of factory children.

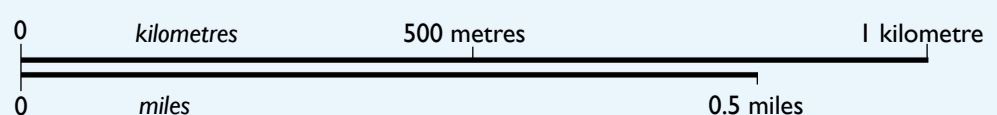
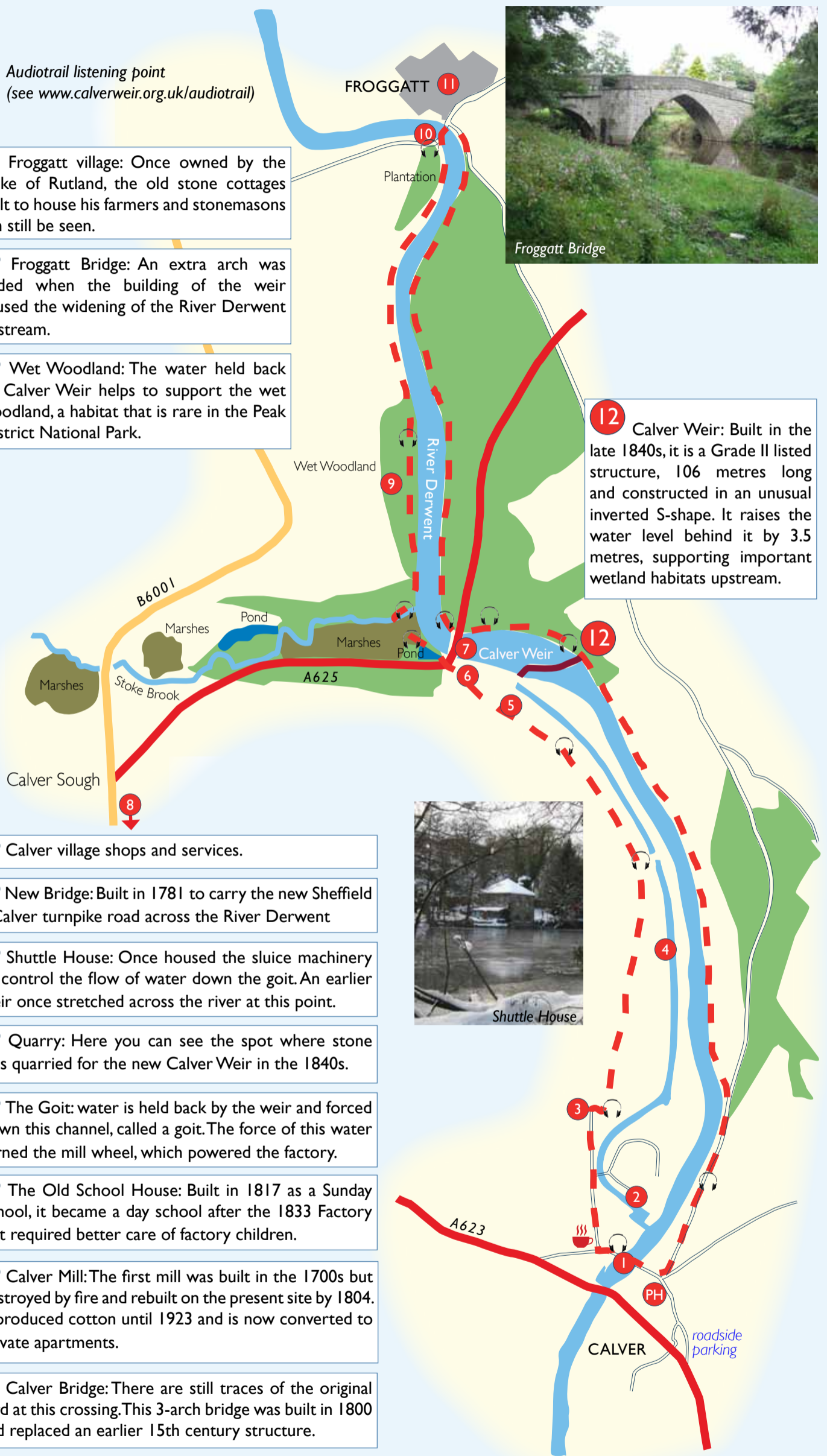
2 Calver Mill: The first mill was built in the 1700s but destroyed by fire and rebuilt on the present site by 1804. It produced cotton until 1923 and is now converted to private apartments.

1 Calver Bridge: There are still traces of the original ford at this crossing. This 3-arch bridge was built in 1800 and replaced an earlier 15th century structure.

 The Eating House and Derbyshire Craft Centre (short stay parking for customers)

 The Bridge Inn (parking for customers).

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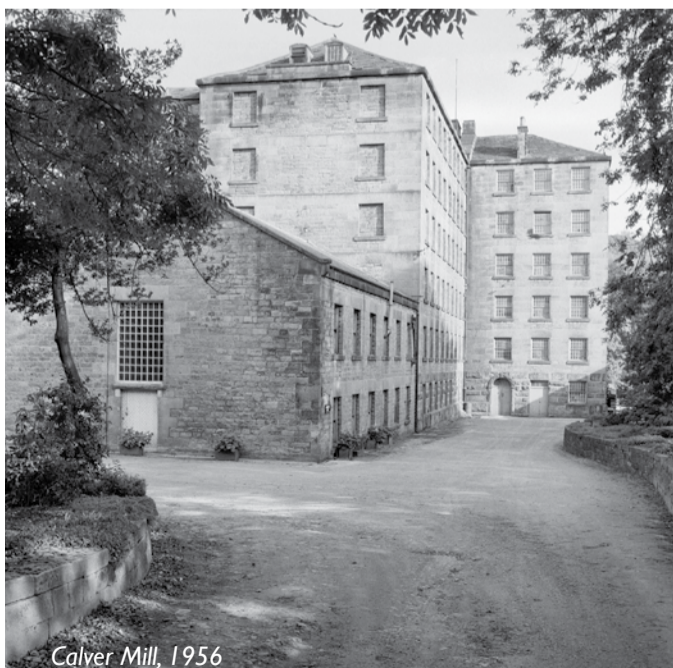


Self-Guided Walk



History

From the 1770s, water was used to power the old mill at Calver, a cotton mill that was part of the new industry sweeping through the Derwent Valley, pioneered by Richard Arkwright. Children were used as workers, partly because of their small hands. Children's families were housed nearby in homes that can still be seen to this day. Cotton production changed the face of the Derwent Valley. Eventually though, changes in technology meant that industry became less dependent on water as a power source, and there was no longer a need to build mills on rivers like the Derwent.



Calver Mill, 1956

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Welcome to the Calver Weir Restoration Project's guided walk, a chance to discover a beautiful and tranquil part of the Peak District National Park.

The Walk

Taking in both sides of the River Derwent, the walk is a circular route between Calver Bridge and Froggatt Bridge, and includes a section of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. The complete route is a distance of 2.5 miles, although the walk can be shortened by crossing New Bridge and then turning back towards Calver (a distance of 1½ miles). The complete route takes in Calver Mill and the Old School House, the unusual S-shaped Calver Weir, the mill race (or goit) that channels water to Calver Mill, and the wetlands of Calver Marshes. See overleaf for walk detail.



New Bridge



The restored Calver Weir

The Weir

Calver Weir is a Scheduled Monument, and was built in the 19th century to provide water to power cotton spinning at Calver Mill, under licence from Richard Arkwright. There had been two earlier weirs, but neither survive. The first weir, built in the 1770s, was swept away in the Derwent floods of 1799. The second weir, built upstream at the Shuttle House, was demolished in the 1840s and replaced by the present weir, constructed from gritstone from the local quarry.



Coot

Wildlife

The quietness of the river means that there are lots of opportunities to see wildlife. You should see moorhens, coots and mallards on the water and sometimes kingfishers, dippers and goosander might be spotted. Under the surface, there are brown trout, bullhead and grayling. The river banks, lined with willow and alder trees, are home to the shy water vole.



Water Vole

Calver Weir Restoration Project

Calver Mill ceased operating as a cotton spinning mill in the 1920s, by which time Calver Weir was already in a poor state of repair. Calver Weir Restoration Project (CWRP) was set up as a registered charity in 2004, with the objective of saving the weir from collapse. Restoration work began in October 2009 and was successfully completed in August 2010. CWRP is now working hard to attract a greater range of visitors to the area, improve access, and carry out important conservation work. The total cost of the project will exceed £1.8 million, and has been largely funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.



Before...



... and during restoration