



WALK 1

Froghall Industrial Heritage

2 Kms, Easy, Allow 1 hour

Start – Froghall Station



- 1 Leave Froghall Station and walk up the access road past the Railway Inn.
- 2 Turn right and cross the bridge over the river.
- 3 When it is safe, cross the main A52 road and continue until you reach a turning on the left signposted to "Ipstones".

On your left is the site of Thomas Bolton's Copper Works. Established in Froghall and nearby Oakamoor in the late 18th century, these works processed copper to make, among other things, copper cable. The first transatlantic telegraph cables were made here. The works finally closed in 2015 and the site is now used by a military supplies company.

- 4 Take the turning and walk uphill for 150 metres until you see a track heading down on your left to the canal. Don't take this track but cross the road, taking great care as visibility is poor here. You will see a track heading away from the road.

This is the tow horse lane which passes alongside Froghall Tunnel. Boats were "legged" through the tunnel by boatmen lying on planks across the bows of the boats.

- 5 Follow the towpath along the Caldon Canal, crossing a spillway and eventually coming to a lock on the right. Cross the lock by the black and white footbridge.

Froghall Tunnel is low and narrow and only certain boats can successfully navigate through it. The lock leads to Froghall Basin where there is mooring for several narrow boats. This basin was once the start of the Uttoxeter Canal, now derelict.

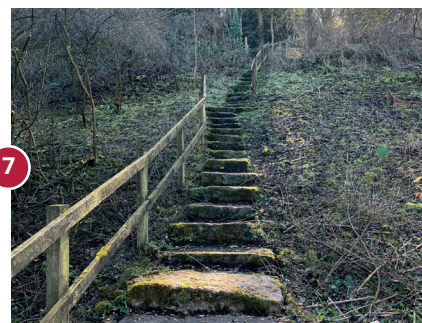
- 6 After crossing the lock you will see three small, brick buildings ahead. One of these is occasionally open as a visitor information centre. Walk towards these and cross the road to the Froghall Wharf picnic area.

This was once a hive of industry. Limestone was brought down from Cauldon Low quarry via tramway and here, it was either burned in the kilns to produce quicklime or loaded onto barges for transportation to the Potteries. The massive limekilns on the right date from Victorian times. Notice boards explain how the kilns worked.

- 7 Just beyond the kilns you will find some stone steps. Climb these to reach one of the tramway levels. Be careful on these steps as they can be slippery in wet weather.

The first of four tramways was built in 1778. The tramways were an early form of railway, usually worked by horses but later by gravity with the full wagons descending pulling up the empty wagons for re-use.

- 8 At the top of the steps turn left and walk towards the cottages. Continue past them for about 50 metres and you will come to a footpath which climbs steadily, following the path of the fourth and final tramway. Do not continue in this direction unless you have lots of spare time, as it will add additional distance and time to your walk.



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9 Retrace your steps until you see two massive stone structures lying in the ground.
These were the base stones of the winding mechanism used to lower wagons full of limestone down to the wharf.

10 Walk down the inclined plane to the picnic area.
On your right are the remains of earlier lime kilns.

11 Walk over to the canal wharf to see the building used to load the limestone into barges.

This building is now “Hetty’s Tearoom”.

12 Retrace your steps to Froghall station, remembering to take extra care crossing the Ipstones road.

13 For those with the energy, several signposted longer walks start from the picnic site. An information board at the bottom of the stone steps details these.

