

Roll: **20231006-20315**

Camera: **Canon EOS 5D Mark III: E53**

Film: **Full frame digital**

**Subject:**

Cromford Canal.

**Notes:**

Friday 6th of October was the last day of our holiday in Matlock Bath. In the evening we would need to start packing for the 10 o'clock departure in the morning. I wasn't expecting a great deal from the walk and decided to limit it largely to the Cromford Canal rather than looking for more hill so climb.

We started with the short climb to through Upperwood and followed the track to where it appeared to end among peoples gardens. I think I was turning left prematurely anyway when we were hailed by a lady in her garden who recognised us from seeing us on a walk earlier in the week. What a very friendly bunch the natives of Matlock Bath seem to be. I realised almost immediately we were descending too early but I think I was reluctant to turn back and reveal myself as being something of a muppet. The upshot was that we came down still in Matlock Bath at the New Bath Hotel, rather than at Cromford as I had planned.

We crossed the road and walked down the Dove past Willersley Castle on the opposite bank. The Castle was built for Sir Richard Arkwright to a William Thomas design. A fire delayed finishing work on the building in 1791 and Arkwright (senior) died before it was completed the following year.

We then passed through an environmental cum play area and exited that just before St. Mary's Church. Interestingly the OS map shows the building as the remains of a chapel. The Church, which depending on who you believe, was built by the Arkwrights either for the workers at Cromford Mill or as a family chapel for Willersley Castle, was completed in 1797. In the mid nineteenth century it was redesigned and Gothicised.

In search of a lavatory along Mill Road I found that we were about to miss the end of the Cromford Canal. Once on the tow path of course maps were only needed to check our progress.

The route was far prettier than I had supposed. By contrast with our tor walking through the week when we saw no one on the Heights of Abraham side and only two or three on the High Tor side, we met with many fellow walkers.

We stopped for a very pleasant break, with tea, crisps and ice cream at High Peak Station. Shortly afterward we stopped at pump house which raised water from the Dove up to the canal. Reading the sign board I discovered that the pump still worked and was fired up at weekends for the entertainment of visitors. Seeing a chap fetching coal from the bunkers we ventured down to the pump house to see if we could sneak a pre-view out of opening hours. Once again the local was most welcoming. He was firing up the boiler to start getting up pressure to start the pump the following Saturday morning. We were invited to tour the building unaccompanied and the chap assured me that even on weekends when the pump would be operating such tours were still allowed.

Shortly after the pump house is Peter Nightingale's Aqueduct Cottage which is now used as exhibition space for wildlife art. Two of the artists were present and would both continue to work and to talk about their art.

Ever onward. We tried to pick up speed in order to make the Whatstandwel cafe "The Family Tree" in time to enjoy tea and cakes. We made it at about ten to four. At eight minutes to four the staff declined my order for a toasted tea cake, because the kitchen was closing shortly and there wasn't enough time remaining to put it in the toaster. There were I might mention three people stood around in the kitchen chatting. How, I wonder, do these people make a living?

We finished our tea and took the short stroll along the canal to Whatstandwell Station to wait for the train. I was a charming little unmanned station that was for the most part well maintained.

**Dates:**

Dates and times are verified from original exif data.

**Frames:**

F47B7511 20231006 11:47:26 St. Mary's Church.  
F47B7512 20231006 13:35:09 Beam engine 1849.  
F47B7513 20231006 13:35:29 Beam engine 1849.  
F47B7514 20231006 13:35:52 Beam engine 1849.  
F47B7515 20231006 13:36:12 Beam engine 1849.  
F47B7516 20231006 13:36:41 Beam engine 1849.  
F47B7517 20231006 13:37:35 The gubbins.  
F47B7518 20231006 13:38:39 Pump 1849.  
F47B7519 20231006 13:39:04 Pump 1849.  
F47B7521 20231006 13:40:29 Pump 1849.  
F47B7522 20231006 13:41:09 Pump 1849.  
F47B7523 20231006 13:41:43 Pump 1849.  
F47B7524 20231006 13:43:01 Midland Railway locomotive boiler.  
F47B7525 20231006 13:43:11 Midland Railway locomotive boiler.  
F47B7526 20231006 13:44:56 Chimney stack.  
F47B7527 20231006 13:45:07 Leawood Pump House.  
F47B7529 20231006 15:34:07 Rural Station.  
F47B7530 20231006 15:35:18 Rural Station.



F47B7511 - St. Mary's Church.



F47B7511.jpg



F47B7512.jpg



F47B7513.jpg



F47B7514.jpg



F47B7515.jpg



F47B7516.jpg



F47B7517.jpg



F47B7518.jpg



F47B7519.jpg



F47B7520.jpg



F47B7521.jpg



F47B7522.jpg



F47B7523.jpg



F47B7524.jpg



F47B7525.jpg



F47B7526.jpg



F47B7527.jpg



F47B7529.jpg



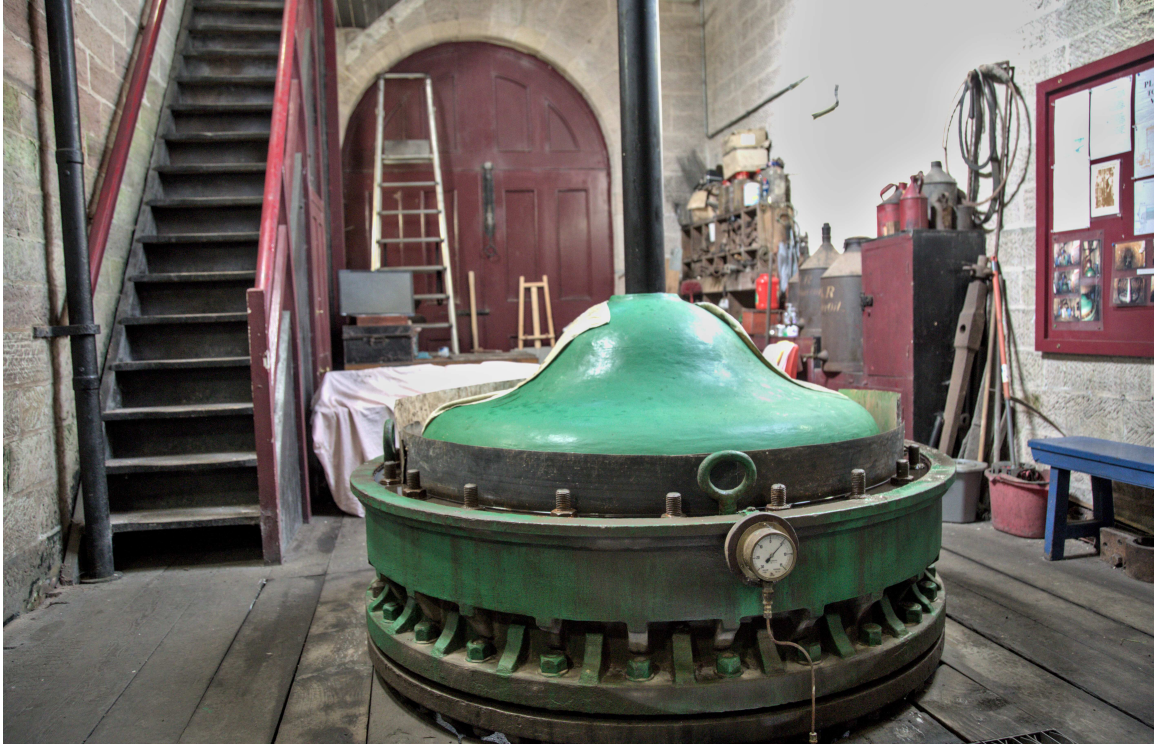
F47B7530.jpg



F47B7513 - Beam engine 1849.



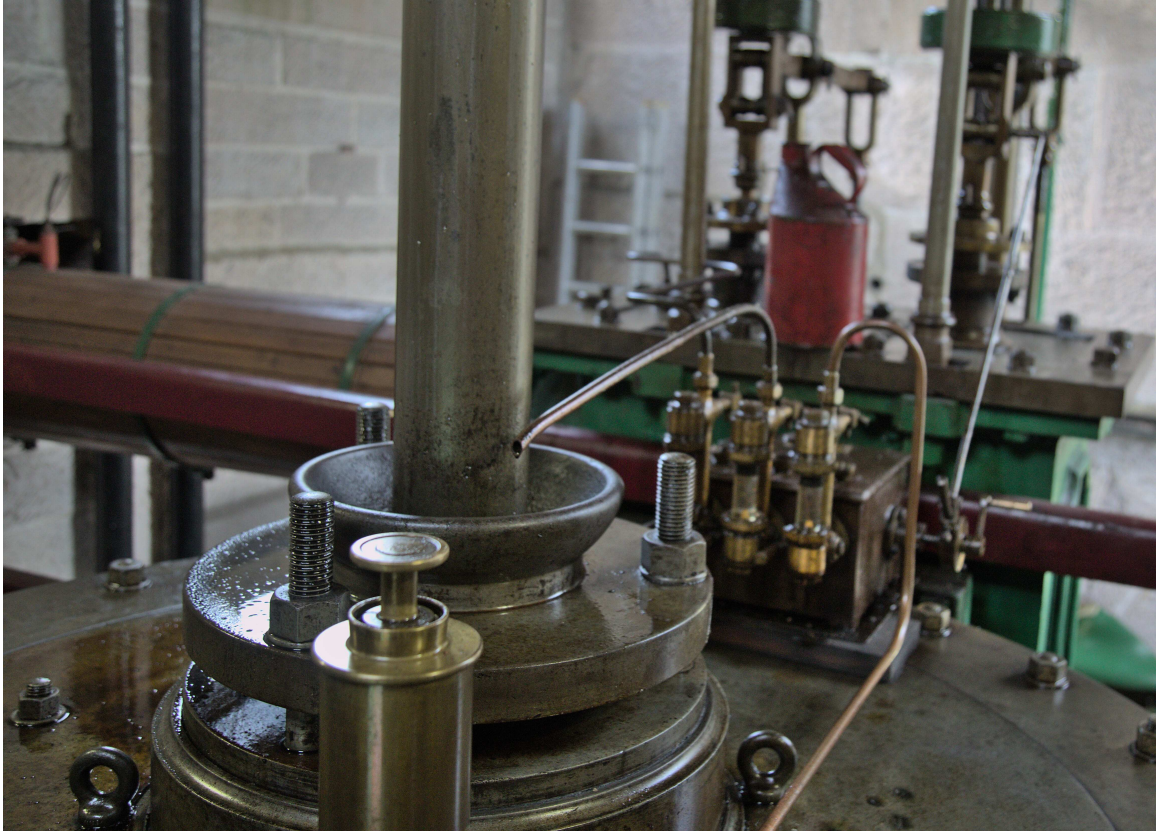
F47B7517 - The gubbins.



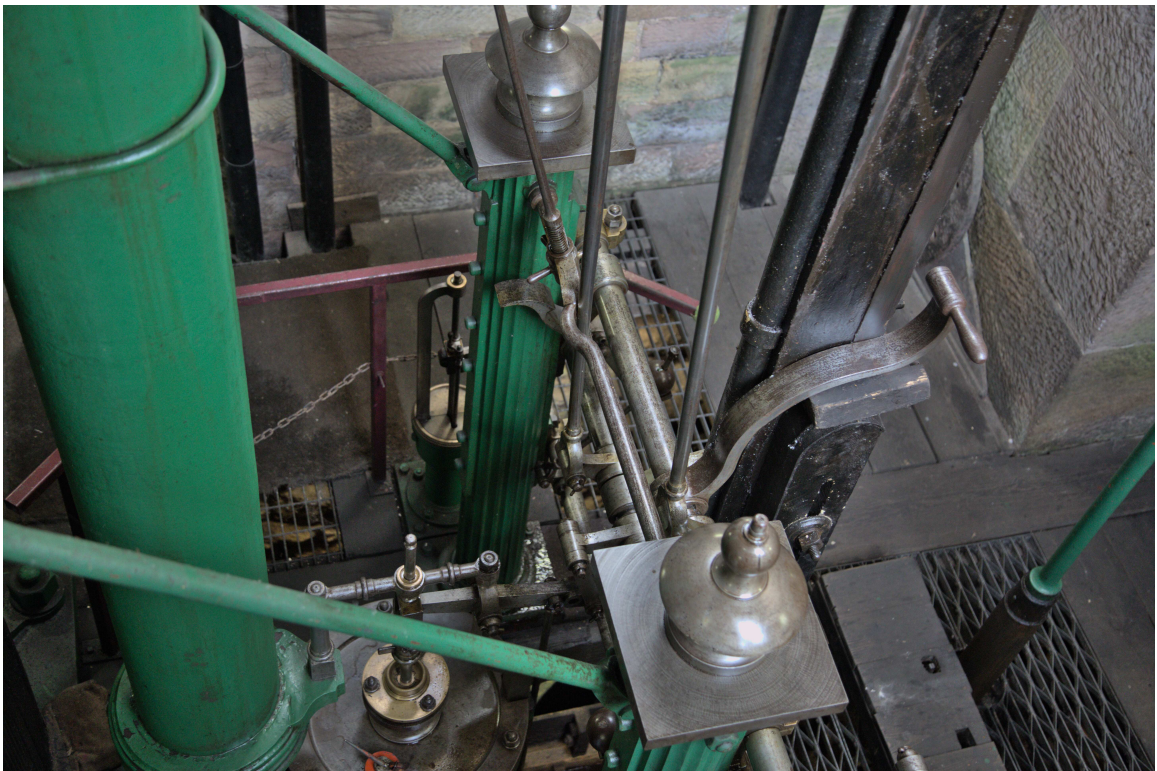
F47B7519 - Pump 1849.



F47B7521 - Pump 1849.



F47B7522 - Pump 1849.



F47B7523 - Pump 1849.



F47B7524 - Midland Railway locomotive boiler.



F47B7526 - Chimney stack.



F47B7529 - Rural Station.