

# RED ROUTE - 3.5KM, 4600 STEPS

**1** From the Car Park, enter the Park heading left. Follow the path past the bowling green, play area and sports courts to Mossgate Rd. Turn left.

**2** At the junction with Rochdale Rd, cross directly ahead onto Samuel Lane. Continue through fields until you reach a stile on your left. Cross the field towards a signed footpath. Follow the path past the back of the houses until you reach Thornham Rd.

**3** Turn right down the road towards a white house. Just before the house there is a stile and signpost labelled "Crompton Circuit". Cross the stile into the fields, keeping near the fence on your right until you reach the farmhouse at the bottom.

**4** Turn left and walk past the farmhouse, through the farm and over the stile into the field. Follow the faint path (or telegraph poles) until you reach Low Crompton Rd.



**5** Cross the stile and turn left past the stables, following Low Crompton Road until you reach Thornham Rd again.

**6** Turn right. Take care crossing the road as there is no footpath for a few yards. Continue along the road to meet Rochdale Rd at the Post Office. Turn left.

**7** Traverse along Rochdale Rd until you reach a mini roundabout. Turn right onto Rushcroft Rd, past the church and school, until you reach the car park.

## Key

- A** History fact (see reverse side)
- P** car park
- Stile
- Toilet

## BLUE ROUTE (2 LAPS) - 1.6KM, 2000 STEPS

**1** From the car park, turn onto Rushcroft Road and walk along the right hand side of the park towards the North Star pub.

**2** Opposite the pub take the path going through the Park, and at the play area turn right until you reach Mossgate Rd. Turn left and continue down the pavement until you meet Rochdale Rd.

**3** Turn left at the junction, and after some twenty yards turn left back into the Park, between the gardens and bowling green.

**4** From here take the path away from the bowling green, past Park Cottages on your right, towards the park exit. You will reach the car park once again.



# THE WALK - SOME FACTS

**A** High Crompton Park covers 5.7 hectares of playing fields, gardens, playground and bowling green. It was firstly financed by Sir William Hopwood and opened in 1920. He was knighted in 1921. Parallel with one side of the bowling green are Park Cottages in a designated conservation area.



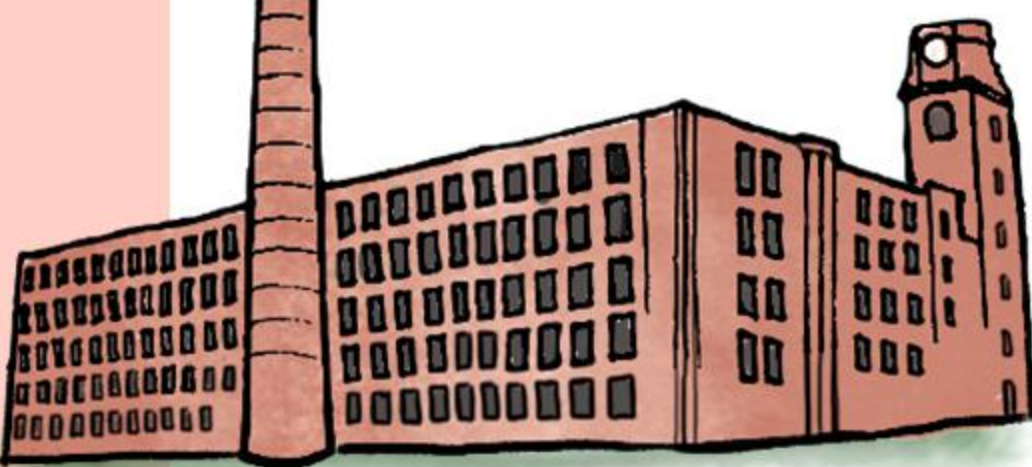
**B** At the corner of Mossgate Rd and Rochdale Rd stood the former Greenhill Chapel opened in 1871 and demolished in the 1960s. Diagonally across the road is the building which housed the Crompton Provident Society built in 1868. Note the inscription on the front. It's members received a form of social security payment in times of difficulty.



**C** Around this area lie a number of coal pits. They were liable to flooding and the quality was poor. All were abandoned before 1900. Pit Lane and the ex Colliers Return are evidence today.

**D** In the fields as you approach Low Crompton are numerous springs and patches of marsh, leading to the source of the River Irk. A defunct sewerage works and the remains of a quarry are also here.

**E** At the time the industrial revolution there were a number of mills built around the junction of Thornham Rd and Rochdale Rd such as the Old Brox and Springfield. The rising value of these mills, and others in Shaw and Crompton contributed to the claim that the area had the largest number of millionaires per capita in the country. Further down Rochdale Rd is Crompton House School, the former home of the Crompton family.



**F** Along Rushcroft Rd is St Mary's Church, constructed in 1872, and consecrated in 1878. St Mary's School, just across the road, is the associated School.



## DID YOU KNOW...

Walking can help reduce your stress levels, improve your mood, keep your bones healthy and strong & help manage your weight. A great stress buster for all the family.

# HIGH AND LOW CROMPTON HISTORY

Situated approximately 3 miles to the north of Oldham and on the border of Lancashire and Yorkshire, High and Low Crompton were small hamlets with no manorial status. The area was made up of forest, farms and swamps reaching a height of 800ft above sea level. The area of Crompton was a collection of estates with absentee landlords, which lead to a degree of self sustenance, thus creating a small population of hardy laborious people.

Due to the rugged upland areas, crop growing was not possible and the land was mainly used to farm sheep, leading to the production of woollen cloth. This was sold to the merchants of Manchester and Rochdale, helping Crompton to become a relatively well- off area. In the 15th century the main occupation of the inhabitants was farming and wool weaving. In the 18th century small factories sprang up, powered by water wheels, for the production of woollen cloth. To ensure the buoyancy of this market there was a law passed in 1675 that all deceased were to be buried in woollen cloth.

The woollen cloth industry was followed by the production of cotton yarn during the Industrial Revolution and a number of mills were built, largely around the Rochdale Road and Thornham Road junction. The stone built Old Brox and The Springfield Mill are shown in the painting by J Holland in 1870.

## HOW TO GET THERE

**Bus:** Services traveling from Oldham & Rochdale include the 403, 408 and 435.

**Metrolink:** The closest Metrolink stop is Shaw & Crompton.

**Car Park:** There is a visitors car park located on Rushcroft Road, labelled on the Map.

For up to date travel advice please visit:  
[tgm.com/plan-a-journey](http://tgm.com/plan-a-journey) Or call TfGM on 0161 244 1000

## A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

This self-led walk has been created by the collaborative working of Active Oldham Outdoors, with three members of HMR Circle who live in High Crompton, Mike Dodd, Barbara Smith, and Jean Kay, together with local community members, Martin Riley, Footpath Inspector, Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, Alan Travis, St. Andrews Church, and local historian and author, Frances Stott.

A special and big thank you goes to the Ambition for Ageing project and the National Lottery community as their funding will allow individuals and families to enjoy this scenic stroll.



# HIGH & LOW CROMPTON SELF-LED WALKS



RED ROUTE: 3.5 KM (4600 STEPS)  
BLUE ROUTE: 0.8 KM (1000 STEPS)