

## CIRCULAR WALKS IN CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH

### WALK 8

#### ECCLES HOUSE VIA THE COURSES RETURNING VIA ECCLES PIKE

A mixture of paths, roads and bridleways with extensive views approximately 5 miles

The walk commences in the Market Place by the Post Office. Go towards the church and just before the church gates on the left is a narrow road called Church Lane.



Eccles House gates

*There is a collection of interesting old cottages and yards at the top, the remnants of a small community.* Proceed down Church Lane, turning right at the top where it meets the railway embankment, and pass the Courses allotment gardens on your right. Now go under the railway bridge, following the track to the left for 40 metres until you come to a stile on the right up on the bank. Cross the stile and follow the path upwards with the wall on your right, until you reach a stile in the corner in a wall. Cross this stile and go straight ahead across the field, passing a solitary old tree to a stile set in the hedge. Cross this stile and drop down onto the driveway of Higher Courses. Cross the drive and go down the field with the hedge on your right to a stile in the hedge on the right. Climb the stile and turn left. Keeping the hedge on your left go to the gate into a green lane, go ahead to the next gate and onto Charley Lane. Turn right on the lane and go downhill passing under the bypass bridge. In 30 metres turn left onto a signposted path and go ahead with the sewage works on your right. *You are now walking along the old Peak Forest Tramway track which brought limestone down to Bugsworth Basin for loading onto narrow boats.* The lane continues past the sites of old mills to join the main road from Chapel to Chinley. Turn left up the hill and go through the Hamlet of WHITEHOUGH, passing the old chapel, Old Hall Inn and the Paper Mill Inn. *Note the Latin inscription PAX VOBISCUM -'peace be with you' -on the stone near the well on your right.*

After passing over the bypass bridge, turn right along Eccles Terrace. At the end of the lane turn left up a field to a tree lined lane. Turn right. This lane passes the fine entrance gates to ECCLES HOUSE with their castellated twin round towers and goes on to the tiny hamlet by Moulton Farm Cottage. Eccles House is the large white house on the right. Turn left behind Moulton Farm Cottage and go through a bridle gate onto National Trust land and follow the bridleway uphill. In approximately 300 metres you join another track coming from your right. At this junction turn right and walk along the track above the one which you have just come up. In about 300 metres you arrive at a point with a gate 20 metres in front of you. Do not go through this gate but turn left uphill with the wall on your right and climb towards the viewpoint of ECCLES PIKE. On reaching the viewpoint you will find on the summit a viewpoint indicator which tells you what you are looking at in the panorama around you.

From the viewpoint go downhill in the opposite direction from where you came up, noting the stand of ancient pine trees on your right, go through the gate onto Eccles Road. Turn left and follow the road downhill to the cross roads at Higher Crossings. Turn right and in about 200 metres on your left is a railed enclosure which houses NANNY'S WELL. This well supplied the area with water prior to mains water being installed. The water from this well is said to possess healing powers

Continue down to the main road and turn left. This is the Manchester Road which, in approx. half a mile, will bring you back to your starting point at the Market Place.

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR CAMERA ON THIS WALK TO RECORD THE WONDERFUL VIEWS YOU WILL SEE FROM THE VIEWPOINT ON ECCLES PIKE.

### STARTING POINT AND GETTING THERE

The walk starts from the Market Place in Chapel-en-le-Frith which can be reached by train and bus from both Stockport and Buxton. By car on the A6 road turning off the bypass into Chapel.



Combs Reservoir, Ladder Hill



Poppy with flies



Well sign



Winter

