

walks around Chapel-en-le-Frith

Capital of the Peak



Chapel-en-le-Frith nestles within the dramatic landscape of the Peak District providing a welcome respite from the moorland peaks with its acclaimed restaurants, traditional pubs, shops and fascinating history.

 more info: www.visitchapel.com



Key to the walks' Points of Interest

Walks are described overleaf

- F Five Halls Walk
- B Bradshaw Hall Walk
- W Wash Walk
- M Martinside Walk
- R Ridge Hall Walk
- E Eccles House Walk

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|--|---|
|  Church | P Parking |
|  Post Office |  Park |
|  Restaurant / Café |  Tourist Information |
|  Public Toilets |  Railway Station |
|  Inn / Public House |  Bus Stop |



Travelling to Chapel-en-the-Frith

Chapel-en-le-Frith nestles within a dramatic landscape and provides a welcome respite from the moorland peaks with its acclaimed restaurants, traditional pubs, shops and fascinating history.

Arriving by Car and Parking

The town is situated just off the A6 six miles north of Buxton and 15 miles south of Stockport. It lies 12 miles east of Macclesfield and 24 miles west of Sheffield. Parking can be found on the cobbles in Market Place and the car parks on Thornbrook Road and behind Co-op supermarket.

R Chapel-en-le-Frith Railway Station

This train line runs between Manchester and Buxton and the station is a mile from the town centre. More information about the station and the fatal collision there in 1957 can be found in the shelter on Platform 2.

Chapel-en-the-Frith Town centre and heritage trail

All of the walks start from the Market Place in the centre of town.

Heritage Trail

The town's Heritage Trail is a gentle 1½ miles taking about an hour to explore the historic places of interest around the town centre. Printed leaflets can be found in local bars, cafés, shops and information centres in the town and around the Peak District as well as online at www.visitchapel.com.

Market Place

The town grew up around the church, and the market place became an important stopping point for pack horses carrying salt, coal and lime between Cheshire and Yorkshire. The the

town was at the junction of many important routes and there were ten licensed premises in the Market Place. Chapel-en-le-Frith was an administrative centre with courts and council chambers, becoming the "Capital of the Peak", and the town stocks still stand on the cobbles. The cattle market used to be held here and now there is a weekly Thursday market. The Market Cross is believed to be a 13th century preaching cross and the War Memorial has the unusual feature of bearing the names of all the local men who served.



St Thomas Becket Church

Located at the north-east end of Market Place, this interesting Parish Church is worth taking the extra time to explore. Dating back to the year 1225, it gave the town its name "a church in a clearing in the forest". Historic events here include the time when over a thousand Scottish troops were imprisoned during the Civil War. There are twelve Commonwealth War Graves, and at the eastern end of the graveyard there is a stone known as the Woodcutter's Grave, a simple slab which bears only the letters PL and a crude depiction of an axe marking the grave of a thirteenth-century forester. Following the western boundary,

W E Church Lane is one of many paths which started life as the route from small hamlets to the Parish Church.

Wells and Well Dressing

There are seven wells around Chapel-en-le-Frith, with the town's well dressing annually at the beginning of July. This ancient custom is the art of decorating wells and springs with pictures made using only natural materials and can be found across the Peak District during various weeks over the summer.

E Nanny's Well supplied the area with water prior to mains water being installed, and the water is still said to possess healing powers.

Historic halls and estates

The Parish of Chapel-en-le-Frith is home to numerous old halls, many of which are still inhabited today. The circular walks take you past many of these historic buildings.

F Bowden Hall

This hall was built in Tudor style in the first half of the 19th century. The clock face on the hall was originally on the parish church. On the stable block end are the arms of Bowden.

F Ford Hall

The hamlet of Ford is believed to be the oldest part of the Parish. It was on the route of a Salt Way from Cheshire to Yorkshire. Ford Hall dates back to at least

the reign of Henry III (1216-1272). The south west side of the Hall is the oldest portion and was rebuilt between 1575 and 1585 in the shape of a letter E, said to be a compliment to Queen Elizabeth. Traces of earlier work are to be seen at the rear in what were formerly the kitchens. During the 19th century rebuilding in the Gothic style changed the shape of the Hall.

B Bradshaw Hall

Bradshaw Hall dates back at least to the 12th century and remained in the ownership of the same family for 800 years. As you reach the grounds of the Hall you will see a fine stone gateway with the arms and initials of Francis Bradshaw, who in 1619 started to rebuild the Hall. Later the Hall fell into disuse. It became two farmhouses and in the 18th century, many of the windows were bricked up to avoid the window tax. In the 1960's the Hall was carefully restored. Opposite the gateway, note the old trackway leading back up the hill to join the road over Eccles Pike, which would have been the main entrance.

R Ridge Hall

Twelve generations of the Bagshawe family lived at Ridge Hall between 1135 and 1742, when it was sold to the Gisbones of Yoxhall. The major

part of the old Hall was demolished in 1818 and much of the stone was used for buildings elsewhere in the Parish. The Farm was once a model farm. In 1886 it was advertised to let with a 100 ton silo, fixed mills and machinery, and a dairy with milk cooler.

F Bagshaw Hall and New Slack Hall

Today, Bagshaw Hall is a farm house but its origins date back to the 14th century. The house set in the gardens is New Slack Hall, known locally as Prettyfields.

M Lower Eaves and the Eaves Estate

Lower Eaves formed part of the extensive Eaves estate of which mention is made in 1381 as being in the possession of William Orme. As you walk up the hill here you are now almost on the line of a Roman road which is thought to have been built to link Buxton with the Roman fort of Melandra at Glossop.



Only 25 miles from Sheffield, and less than 20 miles from Manchester, Chapel-en-le-Frith is a hidden gem of a market town, surrounded by the Peak District National Park, nestling within a dramatic landscape. Chapel provides a welcome respite from the moorland peaks with its acclaimed restaurants, traditional pubs, shops, and fascinating history. 7 local walks from 1 to 5 miles Quality pubs, cafés and restaurants Fascinating historical heritage



High Peak Borough Council produced this leaflet with the assistance of Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council and Chapel Community Group.

more info: www.visitchapel.com

Hamlets and villages



F Malcoff

At bottom of the hill below Bowden Wood, the remains of fish farming ponds on the right are much the same as they were in the 14th and 15th centuries. As you enter the hamlet, the cottage on the left with the date 1711 over the door was the meeting place for the Non-Conformists until they were run out at the beginning of the 18th century.

F Slack

Slack was a Quaker stronghold for several centuries. There is a small Quaker graveyard here, dating from the 17th century when the burial of Quakers was not permitted in consecrated ground.

W Wash

Until the 17th century this area formed part of the Legh estate whose ancestors had come across from France with William

in 1066. Parts of the estate were gifts from the King. As you leave the hamlet there is a landscaped spoil heap from the Cowburn Tunnel on your left, built in the 1890's by the Midland Railway Company as part of the Manchester to Sheffield link.

M Martinside

Martinside was known as far back as 1259. Fox House was built in 1839 by Adam Fox, whose name appears on the tablet above the door of the Hears House on Market Street. Mostly built of timber, this former house had twenty six rooms.

E Whitehough

In Whitehough you walk past the old chapel and two Inns. Note the Latin inscription PAX VOBISCUM (peace be with you) on the stone near the well on your right. The Old Hall Inn dates from Elizabethan times.

Local Industry

W Peak Forest E Tramway and the Tramway Trail

This was an early gravity tramway from Bugsworth to Dove Holes. Built between 1796 and 1800 by Benjamin Outram, it continued in use for 120 years carrying limestone from quarries around Dove Holes to the Peak Forest Canal at Bugsworth. Now it forms the Tramway Trail and parts of it are followed or crossed on the circular walks.

W Ferodo

Ferodo (now Federal Mogul) moved to Chapel in 1902 and were the town's major employer for many years. They were the first company to introduce friction surfaces for car brakes. Herbert Frood made woven cotton breaks for horse drawn carts from his garden shed at Combs and formed the company in 1897.

F Mills

The bridge across the brook at Hayfield Road once spanned the Mill Pond for the old Bowden Hey Wadding Mill

W There used to be a big house on the right of the stream, originally the Mill House with the right to grind corn for the Parish. A cotton mill was later built on the site but it fell into disuse and was demolished in 1947.

W The flats at Bridgehom Green were once a water powered mill, one of five in the area manufacturing paper and then textiles.

E The new housing estates along the Tramway Trail sections are on the sites of old mills.

E Kings Mill stood alongside the Black Brook for around 700 years but was destroyed in 1946 to build a water treatment facility for Ferodo.



Significant landmarks

E Eccles Pike

B Eccles Pike has a topography map at the top which shows 360° details of the surrounding area. The Eccles Pike Fell Race is held in August each year and is thought to date back to the 19th Century, setting the format for how races are run today.

B Chapel-en-le-Frith High School

The school was established in 1952 as Chapel-en-le-Frith Secondary Modern. The four school houses, Bowden, Combs, Hollins and Kinder, are named after local hills in the area. Paralympic triple Gold Medallist Anthony Kappes MBE went to the school and his gold post box can be found near the Town Hall.

R Target Wall

The Target Wall was part of a 30 yard safety rifle range built in 1910 to replace the old Volunteer Rifle Range built by the Volunteer Forces but was closed in 1899 by the War Office. Old stone butts from the first range were used in its construction. The wall in the new range was not to carry targets but to stop stray bullets and ricochet. It was demolished in 1991, but part of the wall can be found in Memorial Park.

B Combs Reservoir

E This was built in 1797 as the first reservoir to feed the Peak Forest Canal which opened in 1800 at Whaley Bridge. The canal was critical for transporting goods to and from the corn mills, cotton factories, collieries and other local industry, as well as connecting to the Ashton Canal for the nearby limestone quarries.

R Cowlow Hill and Ventilation Shaft

Note the Lego type bricks on the ventilation shaft, which were used for lifting gear when repairs were being carried out on the tunnel. If you look towards the railway, you will see where a landslide occurred shortly after the railway opened in 1866 which blocked the line for six months.

White Gates

The white gates mark underground oil storage facilities built from 1938 when supplies to the RAF were threatened. After the war the pipelines were taken over by the Ministry of Defence and extended for commercial use. These oil pipelines were a closely guarded secret, and until the network was sold in 2015 the RAF flew the entire 2,400 km length of the pipeline each day to check for damage.

F The Five Halls Walk

Distance: **5 miles, 2 hours.**
 Terrain: Paths, roads and bridleways.
 940 ft ascent.
 Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.



Halls of the old 'Squires' of the area and lovely views of pretty hamlets.

From **Market Place** head alongside **St Thomas Becket Church**. At end of railings turn right on downhill path to houses. Turn left then right to continue downhill. Stay on footpath, crossing brook right at first bridge then cross Hayfield Road into The Crescent. Walk ahead on footpath crossing Bowden Lane, stile and **Peak Forest Tramway**. !!!

Cross bypass with care !!! Continue ahead to Bowden Lane. Turn right to **Bowden Hall** on right.

Walk up hill on road to Bowden Head. Right of T junction, go through gate onto footpath, with wall on your left to Bowden Wood. Take path through wood to cross stile. Go downhill with fence on your right, cross bridge over stream, take track up hill and turn left through corner gate. Turn right along road to **Malcoff**, then onto Ford and **Ford Hall**.

Follow road over stream and hill to Slack. Turn left at top to **Slack Hall**. Cross main road and head uphill, after ½ mile turn right on road to Mag Low (prehistoric tumulus) and along lane to Stoneyard. Turn right at junction and head downhill to Bagshaw. As road bears left turn right downhill past Methodist Chapel, and on to **Bagshaw Hall**. Continue ahead on track, through gate. Follow path right then left, with wall on right, to Sheffield Road. The house on right is **New Slack Hall**. Turn left downhill on Sheffield Road, turn right at T junction and uphill back to town centre.

B Bradshaw Hall Walk

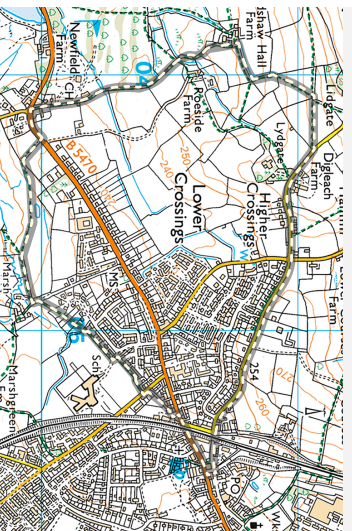
Distance: **3¼ miles / 1½ hours.**
 Terrain: Paths and roads.
 300 ft ascent.
 Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.

Lovely views of Bradshaw Hall. See Combs Moss and Reservoir and take in Eccles Pike with its full panorama.

Follow Eccles Road between Kings Arms and Co-op and continue, over cross-roads at Higher Crossings and straight, uphill past Digleach Farm and Lydgate House to signposted footpath on left *. Walk diagonally across field and over wall stile, then diagonally left across field to the corner to cross stile by remains of stone wall. Over stile keep straight ahead, with ditch and trees on your right through next stile. Turn immediately right, keep close to hedge, follow the path to squeeze stile at **Bradshaw Hall**. Turn left through wooden gate onto the lane that passes the front of Hall.

Leave Bradshaw Hall by access lane and follow, passing the golf course on your right to main road. Turn left and walk for 150 metres, cross road to join signposted footpath, then straight ahead to the next stile onto the golf course. Cross golf course diagonally left, keeping left of drainage ditch and following marker posts towards corner formed by the hedge on the far side.

!!! Keep your eye open for golfers and golf balls while on the course !!!



Cross stile in the hedge and go straight ahead keeping hedge on your left, over stile

alongside gate, through next gate and over next stile at end of field onto lane. Turn left then soon right onto next path, along back gardens of houses. Continue ahead to school fence, turn left with fence then right to go alongside school field with houses on your left. Turn right at small parking area to follow path to Long Lane. Cross road and turn left to soon join footpath on right to main road and turn right, under railway bridge back to **Market Place**.

* **Eccles Pike** is a further half a mile up the hill and offers far-reaching views of the surrounding area.

W Wash Walk

Distance: **3 miles, 1½ hours.**
 Terrain: Paths, roads and bridleways.
 475 ft ascent.
 Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.



Beautiful views of the Hamlet of Wash with views of St Thomas Becket Church.

From **Market Place** head alongside **St Thomas Becket Church**. At end of railings

turn right on downhill path to houses. Turn left then right to continue downhill, straight across quiet road, following stream to main road. Turn left along road, right at roundabout, then left into Bowden Lane.

Follow past cottages, passing Stoddart House on left. Just before bypass bridge turn right through wall stile. Walk straight up two fields and turn left on path beyond gate to follow path along brook, cross wooden bridge over stream into the hamlet of **Wash**. Wash can be explored by turning right and walk continues left uphill on the road.

Keep left on road at first junction and before second junction turn left through wall stile onto public footpath, through gate and across old recreation ground to Chapel Milton. Turn right at track and left at main road. Cross road to lane under viaducts to stream. Follow path under viaduct, through gate and across field to **Bridgelm Green**. At road turn left, past **Peak Forest Tramway** * on right to continue on road under road bridge past Laneside House. After 150m take footpath on left at bend into fields. Pass through two gates keeping hedge on right, and cross stile on right before third gate. Follow hedge, now on left, then fence up hill and cross over drive by entrance to The Courses. Continue uphill, over stile, straight ahead past lone ash tree, up field and over wall stile (note holes in stones). Walk straight down hill with wall on left and over stile into lane. Turn left and follow path under railway bridge, then right to keep allotments on your left, and along down hill to **Church Lane** and back up to **Market Place**.

* From Bridgelm Green the tramway is now a footpath which can be followed past the water works and on into Chinley (1½ miles).

M Martinside Walk

Distance: **3¼ miles. 1½ hours.**
Terrain: Paths and roads.
500 ft ascent.
Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.

From Post Office leave **Market Place** right of Old Cell Ale Bar down Penny Lane then left along cobbled Terrace Road. At end turn right then left along Market Street, passing Town Hall on right, petrol station on left, and further on to Methodist Church in Town End. Turn right to pass between Church and former Sunday School buildings and follow footpath past to Warmbrook Junior School and Infants School. Keep ahead then take left into Moss View Road, then right into Thorrell Close. At end of Close take footpath on left, passing left of Warmbrook Barn.

Follow path uphill with wall on your right to stile in the wall opposite **Lower Eaves**. Cross stile and turn left uphill. Follow wall right round rear of Lower Eaves and continue ahead across field*, cross wall then walk diagonal left and behind Eaves Hall. Over stile to railway line. Turn left before bridge and follow wall uphill to stile alongside a gate. Go over stile and ahead onto Ashbourne Lane. Turn right on lane and follow round a right hand bend to reach Windy Walls Farm on right, and continue to Paradise Farm also on right. Immediately after Paradise Farm turn right onto lane and follow round to left to hamlet of Martinside.



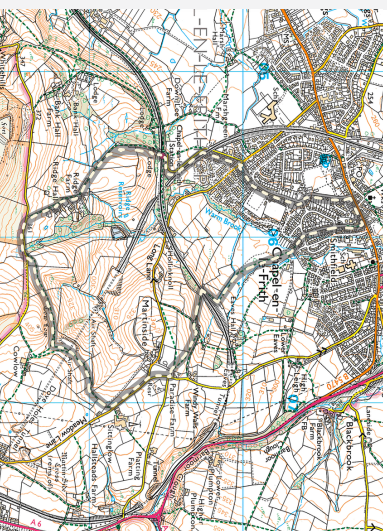
Martinside. Lovely views of the Hamlet of Martinside.

Turn right and walk down road. At signposted track on right, follow this track down to bend right, straight past cottages on left and down drive to Higher Eaves Farm. Go through Farm's gate on right then keep left on footpath immediately next to farmhouse, through gate onto field path. Walk straight ahead passing through gate in wall to wall stile onto railway bridge. Cross bridge and go ahead to pass back round rear of Eaves Hall bearing left through gate to join footpath right down Eaves Drive to Park Road. Go straight through to Market Street and turn left back to **Market Place**.

* If this field has cows, for alternative route carry on lane up hill and round to right to join Ashbourne Lane.

R Ridge Hall Walk

Distance: **4¼ miles. 1¾ hours.**
Terrain: Paths and roads.
650 ft ascent.
Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.



Ridge hall via sittinglow. Lovely views. Cowlow, ventilation shaft.

From Post Office leave **Market Place** right of Old Cell Ale Bar down Penny Lane then left along cobbled Terrace Road. At end turn right then left along Market Street, passing Town Hall on right, soon after which turn right at bollarded entrance into Park Road. Go ahead to end of Road onto narrow lane leading to stream. Go through metal gate on right, then bear left following marker posts up field passing the site of now demolished **Target Wall**. Head for top right hand corner of field, keeping left of hedgerow. Turn right following path alongside railway embankment, left under bridge and up old Green Way.

At Higher Eaves pass to right of the house to lane. Go left for 30metres then through very narrow slot stile in wall on right*. Go left keeping approx 15m out from wall. Walk ahead to stile at junction of wall and fence. Cross stile and go diagonally right up field to right hand corner with gate and step stile to left. Cross stile and turn left at track to join Ashbourne Lane at Paradise Farm. Turn right on lane and follow round to join another lane, just above hamlet of **Martinside**. Turn left and walk up road to Sittinglow Farm on your left. Opposite farm entrance turn right through metal gate onto signposted path. Follow path to **ventilation shaft** for railway tunnel.

Follow path to right around the base of **Cowlow Hill**, ahead crossing two wall stiles and one wooden stile then left down to wall stile and turn right onto Cowlow Lane. In about 200 metres turn right down signposted tarmac lane, leading down to **Ridge Hall**. Bear left at Hall and continue the walk down lane to **Railway Station**. Cross the railway by crossing and go down station approach road to Long Lane. Take Alston Road ahead and go through housing estates where Rowton Grange Road brings you out opposite where you started.

*If this field has cows, alternatively continue on road and turn right at Ashbourne Lane.

E Eccles House Walk

Distance: **5 miles. 2 hours.**
Terrain: Paths, bridleways and roads.
830 ft ascent.
Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.

The walk commences in **Market Place** by the Post Office. Go towards church gates and just before on left go down narrow **Church Lane**, turn right at the top by railway embankment, past the Courses allotments on right. Under railway bridge, follow track left for 40 metres to cross stile on right, and follow path upwards with wall on your right to wall stile in corner. Cross stile and go straight across field, passing solitary old tree to stile in hedge. Cross stile to go down straight across Higher Courses driveway and down field with hedge on right to stile in hedge on right. Over stile turn left, keep hedge on your left to gate into a green lane. Go ahead to next gate and onwards to turn right on Charley Lane. **!!! Road can be busy !!!** Go downhill under bypass bridge. In 30 metres turn left onto signposted **Peak Forest Tramway** and ahead past sewage works on right. Continue on track to main road from Chapel to Chinley. Turn left up hill through the Hamlet of **Whitehough**.

Over bypass bridge, turn right along Eccles Terrace. At end of lane turn left up field to tree lined lane. Turn right past gates to Eccles House and go on to tiny hamlet and turn left behind Moulit Farm Cottage, through bridle gate onto National Trust land to bridleway uphill. In approx 300m join another track coming from right. Turn right and walk back along track above. In 300m ignore gate 20m in front of you, but turn left uphill with the wall on your right and climb to viewpoint of **Eccles Pike**. From viewpoint go down opposite side from where you came up, with ancient pine trees on right, through gate and turn left onto Eccles Road. Follow road downhill to crossroads at Higher Crossings. Turn right and in 200m on left is railed enclosure for **Nanny's Well**. Continue down to the main road and turn left on Manchester Road back to your starting point at the Market Place.



Eccles house via the courses returning via eccles pike. Lovely views. Nanny's Well, Whitehough and Peak Forest Tramway.