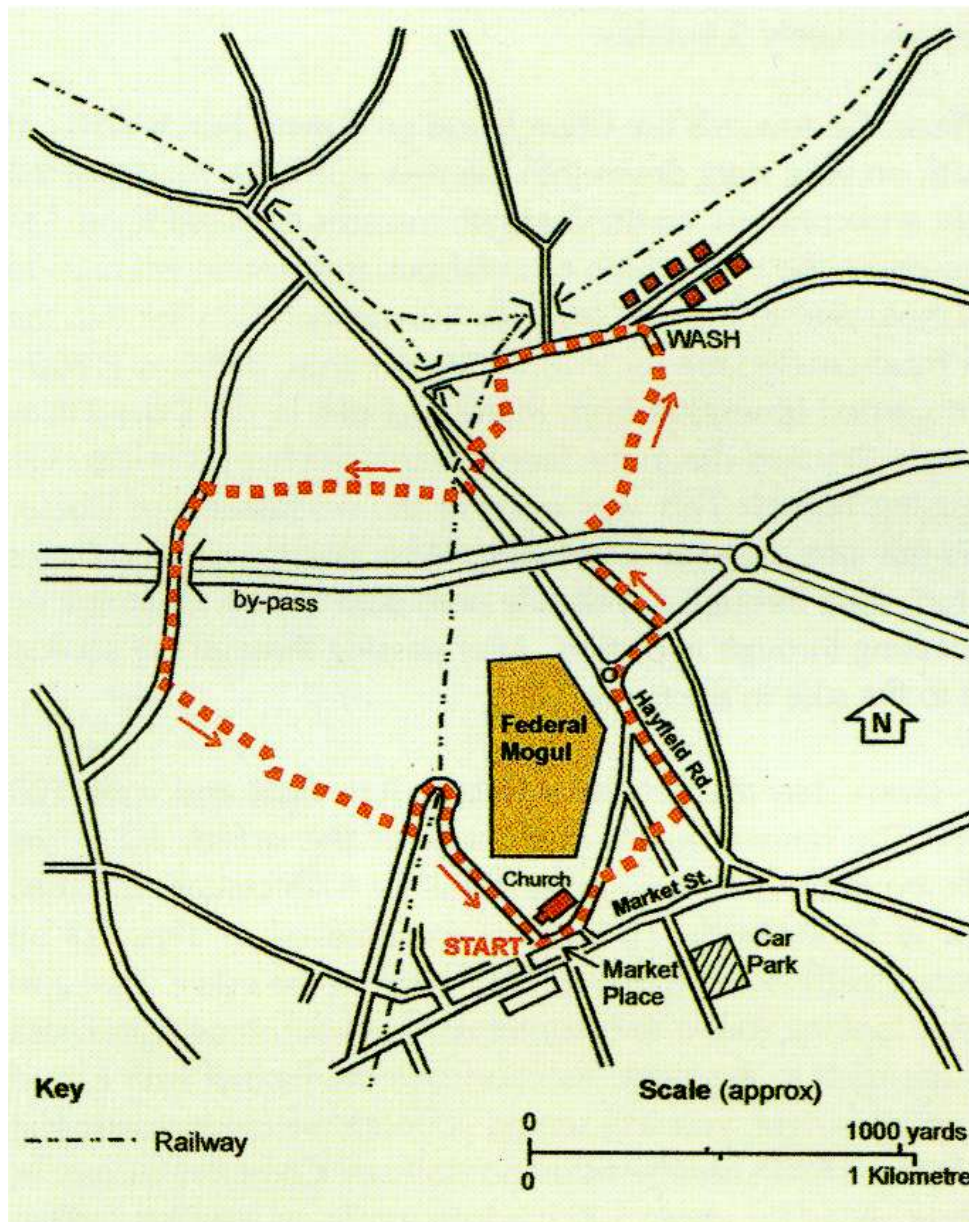


CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH CIRCULAR WALKS

A series of walks starting from the town centre.

WASH



Directions

From Market Place head alongside St Thomas Becket Church (1). 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 (2), then left into Bowden Lane. Follow past cottages, passing Stoddart House (3) 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 (4). 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 (5). Follow path under viaduct, through gate and across field to Bridgeholm Green (6). At road turn left, past Peak Forest Tramway * (7) 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 (8) and back up to Market Place.

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



CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH CIRCULAR WALKS

A series of walks starting from the town centre.

WASH

Distance – 3 miles. 1½ hours.

Terrain – Paths, roads and bridleways. 475ft ascent.

Parking – Town centre and Thornbrook Road.

Points of interest – Hamlet of Wash, lovely views:

(1) St Thomas Becket Church

As you walk alongside this early 13th century church's railings note the old sexton's hut on the right. It has a lintel detailing the past sextons. 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, which marks the grave of a thirteenth-century forester.

(2) Ferodo Roundabout

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

(3) Stoddart House

Now a nursing home, this was once in the occupation of Doctor Clegg who was not only a medical man but also a parson and farmer.

(4) Wash

The houses on the south side of the stream are in the Chapel Parish whilst those on the north are in the Chinley Parish. Until the 17th century this area formed part of the Legh Estates (Legh of Whitefield). Their arms were based on those of an ancestor who had come across from France with William in 1066 and parts of the estate were gifts from the King for services rendered. As you leave the hamlet with a road junction going over the railway bridge on your right, you will see on your left the landscaped spoil heap from the Cowburn Tunnel, built in the 1890's by the Midland Railway Company as part of the Manchester to Sheffield link.

(5) Mill House

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

(6) Bridgeholm Green

The flats on the right were once a water powered mill and was one of five in the area engaged in the manufacture of paper and then latterly textiles. The small humpbacked bridge down the road on the right is known locally as the 'elephant's hump'.

(7) Peak Forest Tramway

The tramway is now only visible in parts, and was crossed earlier at Bowden Lane. This was an early gravity tramway which ran from Bugsworth to Dove Holes. Built between 1796 and 1800, by Benjamin Outram, it continued in use for 120 years. It used to carry limestone from many quarries in the Dove Holes area to the Peak Forest Canal at Bugsworth.

(8) Church Lane

This path is one of many which started life as the route from small hamlets to the Parish Church.

[Find walks and more information about Chapel-en-le-Frith at Chapel Town Hall.](#)

