

Circular Walks in Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish

Walk 4

Bradshaw

Roads, field paths and a golf course take you on this 3.5 mile walk.

The walk starts on the Market Place at the Post Office. Leave the Market Place by Eccles Road between the Kings Arms and the Co-op Shop, and go ahead on Eccles Road ignoring all turnings for approximately 700 metres to reach the cross roads at Higher Crossings. Go straight across and continue ahead up Eccles Road, *this road was once the main road from Chapel to Whaley Bridge before the lower road past Combs Reservoir was built as a turnpike in the 18th century. Crossings Road was part of the road from Buxton to Glossop.* Continue up the hill and at the top of the this rise, DIGLEACH FARM is on your right and LYDGATE HOUSE on your left. *Digleach [or Diglatch] was owned by the Vernons of Haddon in the 16th century and was sequestered by Cromwell in 1664.*

After about 150 metres take the signposted footpath on your left and walk diagonally across the field to a wall stile. If you look to the south, you will see Combs Moss with the ridges of its Iron Age hill fort plainly visible. Slightly westwards is Combs Reservoir. This was built in the first decade of the 19th century to provide a water supply for the Peak Forest Canal. Behind the reservoir is Ladder Hill, now topped by a TV transmitter mast.

Climb over the wall stile and walk diagonally left across the field to the corner and cross the stile by the remains of a stone wall. Over the stile keep straight ahead, keeping the ditch and trees on your right to the next stile. Cross this stile and turn immediately right, keeping close to the hedge, and follow the path to the squeezer stile at BRADSHAW HALL. Turn left through a wooden gate onto the lane that passes the front of the 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 so as to avoid the window tax. In the 1960's the Hall was carefully restored and is once more a fine home of note. Opposite the gateway, note the old trackway leading back up the hill to join the road over Eccles Pike. Before the turnpike was built this would have been the main entrance to Bradshaw.

Leave Bradshaw Hall by its access lane. Follow this lane, passing the golf course on your right as far as the main road. Turn left and walk for about 150 metres. Now cross the road and join the signposted footpath. Go straight ahead to the next stile onto the golf course. Cross the golf course diagonally left, keeping to the left of a drainage ditch and following marker posts, towards a corner formed by the hedge on the far side. [keep your eye open for golfers and golf balls while on the course]. Here you will find a stile in the hedge. Cross this stile and go straight ahead keeping the hedge on your left to the next stile along side a gate at the end of the field. Climb this stile and go onto the lane. Turn left for 15 metres, then turn right on to the next path. This path takes you across the back gardens of a development of houses and bungalows.

Continue ahead to the school fence then turn left with the fence and then right to go alongside the school field with houses on your left. On arriving at a small parking area turn right and follow the path to Long Lane.

On reaching Long Lane, cross the road and turn left. In 20 metres join the footpath on your right. Follow this to the main road and turn right. Go under the railway bridge and back to the Market Place.

