

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

### WALK 3

### WASH

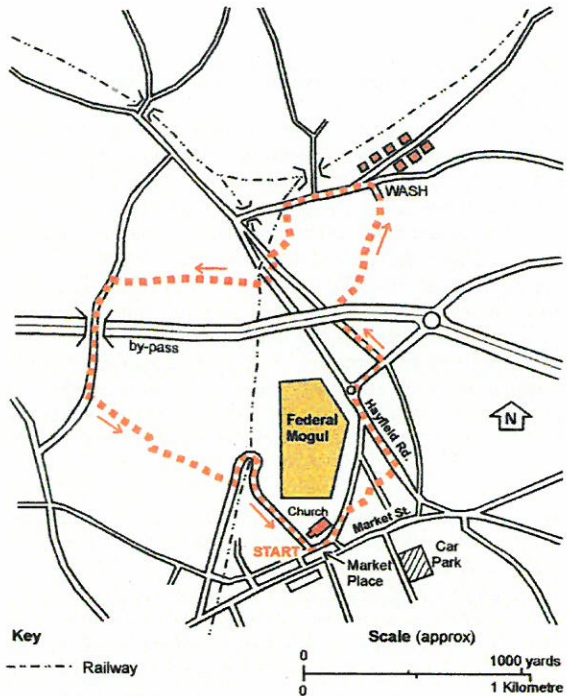
A mixture of paths and roads encompassing the village of Wash approximately 3.5 miles.

Start at the Post Office on the Market Place. Go towards the Church and go straight down Church Walk. At the end of Church Walk, after 100 metres take the footpath on your right, before the modern houses, down into the Burrfields Estate. At the road turn left for 25 metres then turn right and continue on the footpath passing to the left of Morrisons supermarket, straight across a quiet road and follow the stream to a main road. Turn left and go down the road to the roundabout at the main entrance to Federal Mogul. Turn right at this roundabout and follow the road for 100 metres then turn left into Bowden Lane. *At this point you will have crossed the route of the Peak Forest Tramway [1800 1930] now only visible in parts, which carried limestone from many quarries in the Dove Holes area to the Peak Forest Canal at Bugsworth.* Proceed down the lane towards the bypass bridge. *On your left is 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.* After passing some cottages on your right and reaching the bridge, turn right through a wall stile onto a path. Continue up the field with first a wall and then a hedge on your right to reach a stile. Climb the stile and turn diagonally left across the field to the stile in the far corner.

Climb the stile and turn left along the brook crossing the larger stream by the wooden footbridge into the hamlet of Wash. Turn right and walk 100 metres along the road to see the hamlet. *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.* After looking round the hamlet retrace your steps to the path where you joined the road and follow the road uphill. *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.* Continue ahead for about 150 metres to a stile on your left [before you reach the bridge]. Turn left through the wall stile and cross the old recreation ground to enter Chapel Milton. Turn right at the track and proceed to the main road. Turn left and in 50 metres cross the road and take the lane down to the stream under the viaducts. *There formerly was a big house on the right, 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 part of this century and was demolished in 1947.*

Follow the path under the viaduct, go over the stile and follow the faint path across the field to Bridgeholm Green. *The flats on your 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.* Turn left up the road [notice the small humpbacked bridge on your right, known locally as the 'elephant's hump'] and noting the information board on the right about the Peak Forest Tramway continue up the road. Pass under the road bridge and pass Laneside House on your right. In approximately 150 metres turn left onto the signposted path. Pass through two gates and then with the hedge on your right after 100 metres cross an obvious stile to put the hedge on your left. Follow the hedge and then the fence uphill and cross the drive by the entrance to The Courses.

Continue uphill to a stile in the corner and cross into a field. Continue straight ahead, pass a solitary ash tree, up the field to a stile in the wall ahead. Cross this stile and go straight down the hill with the wall on your left to the bottom of the field and another stile. Cross the stile onto the lane and turn left. Go under the railway bridge, and then turn right and with the allotments on your left follow an obvious path which leads you to Church Lane and back to the Market Place. This path is one of many which started life as the route from small hamlets to the Parish Church.



Winter scene



Sheep



Bees - flower



Wash village