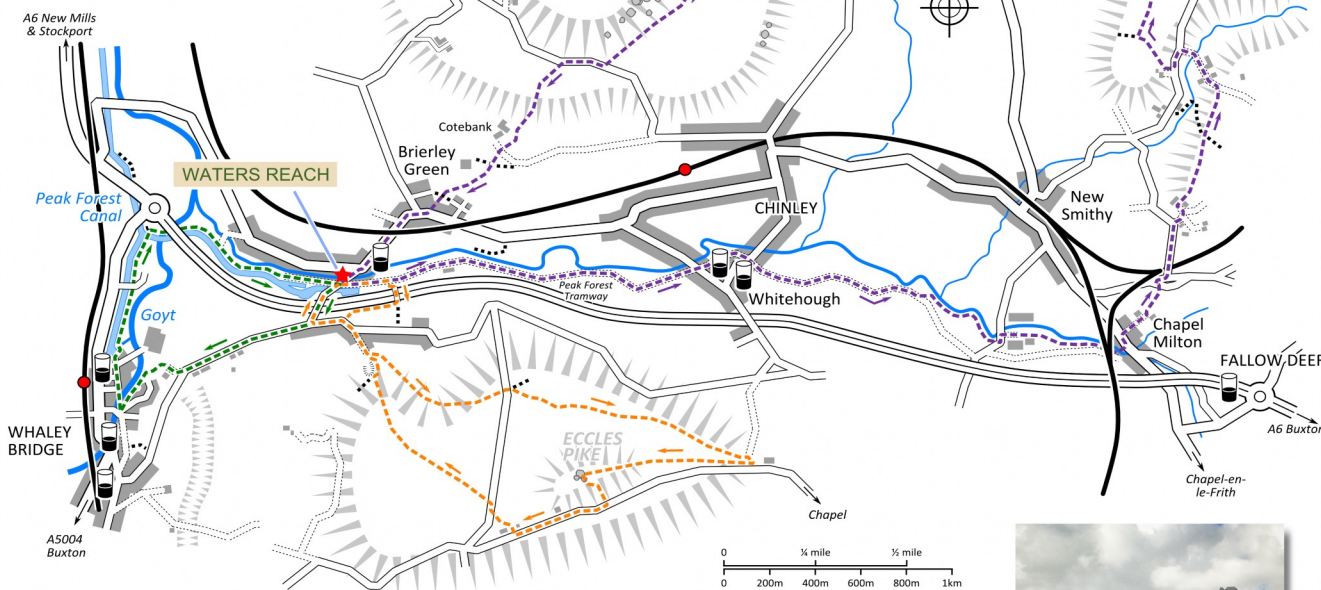




Cracken Edge was quarried until well into the 20th century for flagstones and roofing slabs. The remains of a winding house stand at the top of a steep incline, among other relics. As well as from the open quarry faces, stone was also extracted from underground mines.



The **Peak Forest Canal**, with transhipment basins at Bugsworth and Whaley Bridge, was opened in 1796.



The topograph on the summit of **Eccles Pike**, with panoramic views and **Coombs Reservoir** below.



Looking towards **South Head**, from where there are spectacular views of Kinder Scout.

three circular walks from

WATERS HOLIDAY COTTAGE BUXWORTH REACH

Whaley Bridge & Peak Forest Canal 2 miles: Easy

Over the hill to the historic canal town of Whaley Bridge, with an easy return along the towpath.

Eccles Pike 3½ miles: Moderate

A short but energetic stroll to a prominent local landmark, with glorious views in all directions.

South Head & Cracken Edge 8½ miles: Fairly strenuous

A hilly all-day walk with pub stops available at various points along the way.

Whaley Bridge & Peak Forest Canal

2 miles: Easy

Allow 1–1½ hours. One moderate climb. Surfaced paths throughout.

1 From the front door of the cottage, turn left and walk past the Navigation Inn. **2** Cross the canal and then the A6 overbridge. **3** Turn right up Silk Hill, and follow the narrow lane uphill for a little over quarter of a mile. **4** Just before the top of the hill, by a telephone kiosk, turn right into a farm drive (signposted “Shepherd’s Cottage”). **5** Bear right past the farmhouse and a stone barn conversion, and exit via a hand-gate at the bottom of the yard. **6** Cross a field and join a tarmac path leading downhill above an industrial site. **7** Turn right through a metal kissing gate and descend to an enclosed path alongside the River Goyt, where you bear left. **8** On emerging into Woodbrook, turn right over the first bridge over the river, the old tramway bridge. **9** Pass a car park to reach the canal basin. **10** Pass to the right of the wharf building and cross a footbridge over a spillway to join the canal towpath. **11** Follow the towpath under a modern bridge carrying the Tesco access road. **12** When you reach the canal junction, cross the footbridge on your right and turn right to follow the Bugsworth Arm, shortly passing under the A6. **13** Follow the towpath back to the Navigation Inn. **14** Turn left to return to Waters Reach.

Eccles Pike (3½ miles: Moderate)

Allow 2–2½ hours. Some steep climbs and occasionally rocky underfoot; field paths may be muddy after rain.

1 From the front door of the cottage, turn left and walk down to the Navigation Inn. **2** Turn left into the car park, with the canal basin on your right. **3** Beyond the end of the basin, turn right and walk over to a footbridge which crosses the A6. **4** On the other side, turn right and follow a short path below the A6 to reach Western Lane. **5** Turn left and walk a short distance up the road to a left-hand bend, where you turn right, up a steep metalled driveway. **6** Beyond the last house, follow the footpath to a gate. **7** Turn left and follow a path to the left of a wall. **8** Descend diagonally across the field to a stone step stile through a wall in the far corner. **9** Continue to cross a small stream close to the wall at the top of the next field, and then follow the wall uphill out of the valley. **10** Below a farm, leave the wall and cut the corner half-left to another step stile in the wall at the end of the field. **11** Cross a narrow lane, and take the right-hand (upper) of the two paths opposite. **12** Beyond a gate, follow a walled track for a quarter of mile, with wide views over the Blackbrook valley to the left. **13** Beyond a second gate, continue ahead across the open hillside, descending a little before meeting a track joining from the left and climbing to a point just below a road and farm. **14** Don’t go through the gate into the road, but instead walk up the grassy ridge to the rocky summit of Eccles Pike. **15** From the top, drop off left to the road, then turn right. **16** Pass Top Eccles Farm on the right, then turn right into the next farm entrance, where a public footpath leads

through a hand-gate and up to and past a small disused quarry. **17** The path passes behind the farm buildings and through a metal gate into a field, where you head half-right to a road. **18** Turn right and, after a few yards, leave the road via a stile on the left by a gate. **19** Do not follow the obvious green quarry track away to the left and uphill, instead passing under the power lines and then bearing left. **20** The path initially runs just below and approximately parallel to the power lines and passes a stile then, beyond some oak trees bounded by a broken wall, turns right and heads firmly downhill. **21** Having passed through a walled belt of trees, head straight down the field beyond, parallel to the right-hand wall and aiming to the right of the small quarry at the bottom. **22** Beyond the quarry, go through a gate and follow the walled path and drive beyond to return to Western Lane. **23** Turn left and follow the road to a junction (ignoring the path you used earlier), where you turn right to cross the A6 and return to Waters Reach via the canal basin.

South Head and Cracken Edge

8½ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 4–5 hours. Long climb to South Head; rocky ground in places. Refreshments available at Whitehough, near Chapel Milton and below Peep-O-Day (Lamb Inn).

1 From the front door of the cottage, turn left and walk down to the Navigation Inn. **2** Turn left into the car park, with the canal basin on your right. **3** At the end of the car park bear left to join the Peak Forest Tramway Trail. **4** Pass a tramway arch on your left, and some houses on your right. After ¼ mile, beyond an industrial site, cross a road (for the pubs in Whitehough, turn right) and then another after a further 300 yards. **5** After ½ mile, shortly after the Forge Mill board, leave the trail on a footpath on the left, between stone gateposts. **6** Follow Black Brook upstream, below a water treatment works, to Charley Lane via a stone footbridge over a pipeline. **7** Turn left then immediately right, passing between the buildings to a narrow stile leading into fields. **8** Continue towards the viaducts via a gateway. **9** Go through a wooden gate and (ignoring a footbridge on your left) pass under the viaducts before crossing the stream. **10** In Chapel Milton turn left. (For the Fallow Deer, follow Bowden Lane opposite, passing under the A6, then turn left, returning the same way.) **11** Pass Milton House then turn right into a driveway. **12** At the last house, go through the wall on the left, and bear right to a gate and out to the road. **13** Turn left then immediately right and follow the road left over the railway bridge. **14** At Breck Corner, turn right into a driveway. **15** Turn left and left again at PNFS sign No. 231. **16** Turn right into the farmyard and exit between the buildings in the left-hand corner. **17** Cross a stile into a field and a stone stile opposite, then bear left to a second stone stile (PNFS 440). Cut the corner to a third stone stile, then head for PNFS sign No. 441 by a gateway. **18** Ignore a gate on the left, keeping above and right of the stream valley to another step stile. **19** Aim for the farm buildings beyond to another wall stile into a farm lane. **20** Turn left and walk out through

the farm buildings, descending to the stream and climbing to the road beyond. **21** Turn left along the lane for a short distance, then take a path over a slab stile right of the entrance to Redgate End Farm. **22** Beyond the farm buildings a stile and a short walled track leads into open fields. **23** Keep left to a wall corner, then turn right following the Concessionary Path sign across the field to a gate. **24** Follow the wall on your left up the ridge, then switch to the other side via a stile and keep on up the wall. **25** Leave the wall briefly to go through a gate in a cross-wall, then return to it as you continue up the ridge. **26** Beyond a stone step stile, keep to the right of the quarried area, until you eventually cross rough grazing and another wooden stile to the summit. **27** Turn left and descend steeply to the saddle between South Head and Mount Famine. **28** Turn left along the Pennine Bridleway and pass a gate by a National Trust sign (*shortcut to the Lamb Inn – see map*). **29** Beyond a further gate, turn right at a junction of tracks. **30** When the Pennine Bridleway turns right, turn left down a side track to the A624. **31** Turn left along the near verge for 100 yards, then cross over into the lane past Peep-O-Day Farm (for the Lamb Inn, follow the main road downhill for ¼ mile, returning the same way). **32** Beyond the farm, take a track straight ahead through a gate. **33** Pass some farm buildings on the left, then turn left onto a side track through a gate. **34** After two more gates, pass Whiterakes farmhouse on your left, then follow the obvious path along the hillside and below the quarries of Cracken Edge. **35** Descend a landslipped area above the winding house and continue as before, ignoring paths to left and right. **36** The path eventually descends through gorse and spoil heaps to the road. **37** Turn right (uphill) for 200 yards, then turn off on a footpath through a gate on the left. **38** Descend to Cotebank Farm, passing through the garden down some steps. **39** Cross the drive and go over a stone step stile. **40** Head down the field, keeping right of a walled trackway which can be boggy. **41** At the bottom, climb a stile by a gate and cross an overgrown field with houses to left and right. **42** Exit via a grassy driveway to the road. **43** Turn right past the end of Dolly Lane, then bear left to pass under the railway bridge. **44** Beyond the Primary School, turn left to return to Waters Reach.

Waters Reach

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