

# Walking in the Area

You may also be interested in these other walks in surrounding areas.

## Ecclesfield

Three leaflets outlining historical walks have been produced by Ecclesfield Conservation Group, see [www.conservation.ecclesfieldgroups.com](http://www.conservation.ecclesfieldgroups.com)

- Discover Ecclesfield's working past 1. The Village Core
- Discover Ecclesfield's working past 2. From Whitley to Smithy Wood
- Discover Ecclesfield's working past 3. Nether Lane to Butterthwaite Dam

## Grenoside

Two leaflets outlining historical walks have been produced by Grenoside and District Local History Group, see [www.grenosidelocalhistory.co.uk](http://www.grenosidelocalhistory.co.uk)

- A Historical Walk around Grenoside Village.
- Wheata Wood Archaeology Walk.

## Tankersley

A leaflet outlining two walks around Tankersley has been produced by Tankersley Parish Council, entitled Tankersley Trails.

## Bradfield

A series of ten short and longer walks around Bradfield and the surrounding areas in the parish have been produced by Bradfield Parish Council and Bradfield Walkers are Welcome. All walks are available for download from [www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk](http://www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk)

## Trans Pennine Trail

The Trans Pennine Trail crosses the Ecclesfield Parish. This is a coast-to-coast route for walkers, cyclists, horseriders and people using pushchairs and wheelchairs. For further information visit [www.transpenninetrail.org.uk](http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk) or telephone 01226 772574.

## Walks in the East Peak

The East Peak Innovation Partnership LEADER programme has funded a variety of walking projects across the East Peak area. As well as maps and directions for walking routes, the projects also provide information on public transport and local facilities. The leaflets are available to download from:

[www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org](http://www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.org)  
[www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk/walksandtrails.aspx](http://www.denbydale-kirkburton.org.uk/walksandtrails.aspx)  
[www.upperdenby.org.uk/ddpwg](http://www.upperdenby.org.uk/ddpwg)  
[www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk](http://www.kirkburtonparishwalks.co.uk)  
[www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk](http://www.stocksbridge-walkers.org.uk)  
[www.stonetosteel.org.uk](http://www.stonetosteel.org.uk)  
[www.penline.co.uk/walks.htm](http://www.penline.co.uk/walks.htm)  
[www.visitpenistone.co.uk/walks/walks.html](http://www.visitpenistone.co.uk/walks/walks.html)

# Circular Walks Around The Parish

## A Walk From Ecclesfield Church to Whitley

This leaflet is one of a series of 8 walks published by Ecclesfield Parish Council. The aim is to provide information to walkers, to encourage them to enjoy walking in our beautiful area and stay and enjoy the facilities that local businesses can offer.

### The walks in the series are:

- Ecclesfield Common to Horbury Lane
- High Green to Wortley
- Potter Hill to Greno Woods
- Charlton Brook and Thorncliffe Pond
- Mortomley to Thorncliffe Woods
- Grenoside to Whitley
- High Green to Tankersley
- Ecclesfield Church to Whitley

Ecclesfield Parish Council seeks to promote responsible walking. Please follow the Countryside Code when visiting the area.

- ✓ Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs.
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you found them.
- ✓ Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- ✓ Keep dogs under close control.
- ✓ Consider other people.

Great care has been taken to ensure that the information in this leaflet is accurate. Ecclesfield Parish Council accept no liability for any claim, loss, damage or injury (howsoever arising) incurred by those using the information provided.

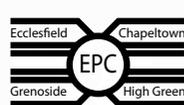
If you have any comments about the walks, encounter any difficulties or would like information on other activities in the Ecclesfield area please contact Ecclesfield Parish Council, Council Offices, Mortomley Lane, High Green, Sheffield S35 3HS. Tel. 0114 2845095, email [ecclesfieldPC@aol.com](mailto:ecclesfieldPC@aol.com)

## Acknowledgements

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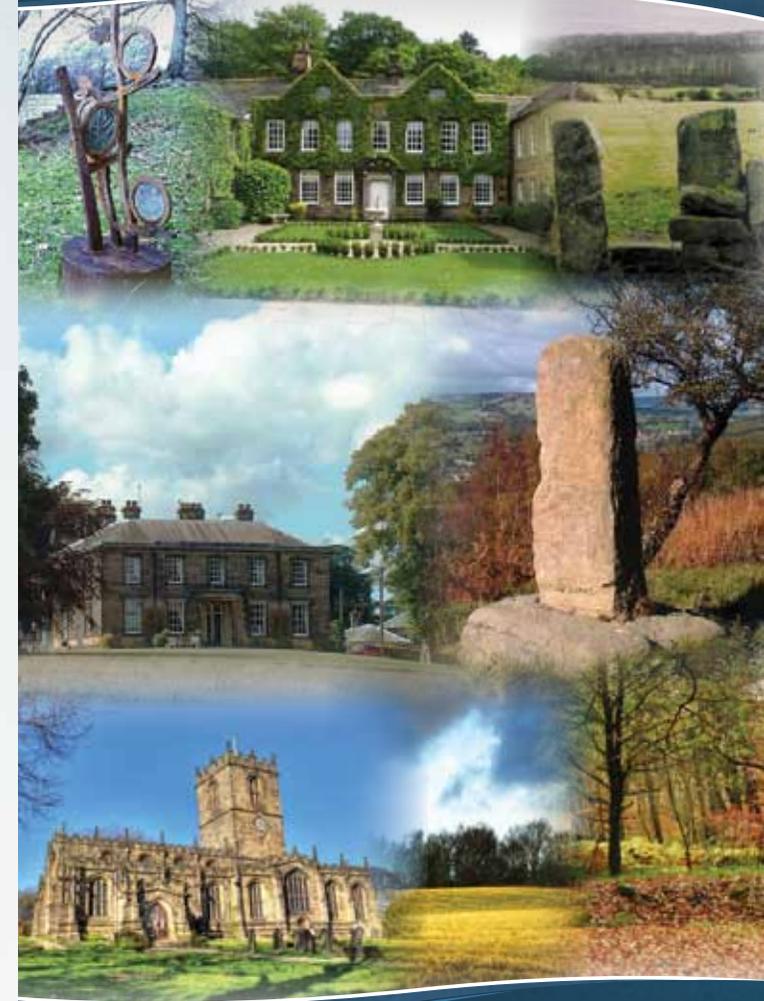


# Circular Walks Around The Parish

8

## A Walk From Ecclesfield Church to Whitley

A walk of around 2 miles through woods and across fields. Some surfaced paths or roads, but with some uphill sections and stiles. Good views across farmland near Ecclesfield.



ECCLESFIELD  
PARISH COUNCIL

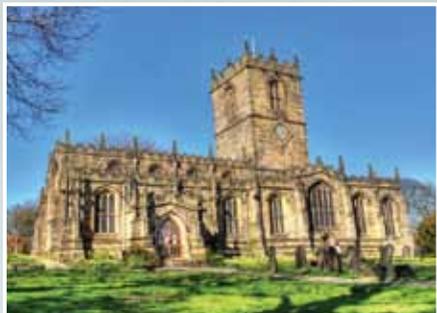


# Points of Interest

## Ecclesfield

The name Ecclefield, which may mean 'Church in the Field', is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

## Ecclesfield Church and churchyard



The Church of St. Mary, Ecclesfield, is a Grade I listed building. It was originally the parish church for Hallamshire, one of the largest parishes in England, and in the 17th century was known as the 'Minster of the Moors' due

to its then rural situation. The earliest mention of a church here is in 1141 and traces of the Norman church still exist in the interior of the present building. The oldest parts of the church are the pillars in the nave. Construction of the present church began in 1478.

The churchyard contains the graves of some well-known people. They include the eminent historian Joseph Hunter in the north east corner. On the north side of the church is the vault of the Reverend Alexander John Scott D.D. He was chaplain to, and personal friend of, Lord Nelson, who died in his arms on HMS Victory, at the battle of Trafalgar. Dr Scott died at Ecclesfield in 1840, aged 72, on a visit to his daughter, Margaret, wife of the Reverend Alfred Gatty.

## Ecclesfield Priory

The Priory can be seen from the graveyard behind the church. In 1142 Ecclesfield Priory and church were in the possession of St Wandrille's Abbey, a Benedictine Order in Normandy. The surviving building consists of a hall with the chapel connected to its south-east corner. The main block was substantially altered in the c17th and c19th. One first-floor room has a barrel vaulted ceiling with relief panels and the original doorway into the chapel survives. The chapel also contains more mediaeval work, including original lancet windows and a piscina. The whole building is Grade II\* listed.

## Gatty Hall and the Gatty Family

The Gatty Memorial Hall was built in memory of the Reverend Dr. Alfred Gatty (1813 – 1903), who was vicar of Ecclesfield for 63 years and a notable author. His most famous works were 'Hallamshire', a second edition of the work by Joseph Hunter, published in 1869, and 'A life at one living', published in 1884.

The wife of the Reverend Gatty, Margaret Scott Gatty, was an editor, writer of children's books and landscape artist. She was also an authority on seaweeds. The couple had six sons, two of whom died in infancy, and four daughters. Their daughter Juliana (1841 to 1885) was a writer of children's books and produced over 100 stories for children, as well as establishing Ecclesfield village library. In 1867 she married Captain Alexander Ewing and lived in Canada, Malta and Ceylon in the course of his military career. She is buried at Trull, near Taunton.

For more information see J. Jones (2003) 'The Remarkable Gatty Family of Ecclesfield' and M. Jones (2007) 'The Story of a Nomadic Wife.'

## Jeffcock Memorial

The Jeffcock Memorial, in polished black granite, was constructed in 1903 and was formerly a fountain. It commemorates Maria and Thomas William Jeffcock, J.P., D.L. who died in 1883 and 1900 respectively. William Jeffcock became the very first Mayor of Sheffield in 1843.

## Whitley

The name means 'a bright woodland clearing'. J. & M. Jones, in their book 'Whitley Hall – an illustrated history', also note that in the c19th, although this was an agricultural area, there was also a strong tradition of metal-working. People produced goods such as nails, forks and files in small workshops attached to their cottages. The farms and cottages of Whitley once formed part of the Whitley Hall estate.



## Whitley Hall Hotel



Records show a house called Launderhouse occupied the site of the present Whitley Hall as early as 1406 but the oldest surviving part of the present building dates from 1584. From the early c17th to the late c18th the hall was the home of the Shirecliffe family, until it was sold and became a boy's boarding school for some 80 years. Whitley Hall became a hotel and restaurant in the late 1970s. For more information see J. & M. Jones, in their book 'Whitley Hall – an illustrated history'.

## Walking Information

### Walking with Dogs

There are things to consider when walking in the countryside to ensure you, your dog, other rural users and landowners can all enjoy the countryside. The Countryside Code advocates keeping dogs under 'effective' or 'proper' control – where they stay close by and you are confident they will respond to your command – but there are certain situations, and times of year, such as when birds are nesting, when specific rules apply that require dogs to be kept on a lead.

Dog walkers should take extra care when walking dogs around livestock (especially young farm animals) and horses, where there are ground nesting birds, near reservoirs and streams used for public water or by the coast. There may also be local restrictions banning dogs from areas that people use.

If you find yourself being threatened by cattle – which can become unsettled by the presence of a dog – while out walking it is always best to release your dog from its lead. The dog will be able to run away and the cattle's interest will be diverted from you to the dog.

Remember to clear up after your dog, even on farm land, as dog faeces can carry diseases that can affect humans, farm animals and wildlife. It is also worth remembering that some people are wary of dogs and may find even your friendly dog intimidating!

### Public Rights of Way

The information below is intended to give general guidance only about public rights of way – it is not intended as a definitive guide to the law. Always observe any signs when you are out walking.

**Public Footpaths**- are for walkers only.

**Public Bridleways**- can be used by walkers, cyclists and horseriders BUT NOT motor vehicles, including motor bikes.

**Restricted Byways** – can be used by walkers, cyclists and horseriders BUT NOT motor vehicles, including motor bikes.

**Permissive paths** – are paths which an owner has given the public permission to use, but it can be withdrawn at any time. Usually they are for walkers only.

**Cycle tracks** - are usually specially created paths, over which there is a right of way on pedal cycle and possibly also on foot.

For more information see Ramblers website – [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

### Reporting Problems on paths

If you encounter any problems when using public rights of way, please contact Ecclesfield Parish Council or Sheffield City Council Rights of Way Unit.

# A Walk from Ecclesfield to Whitley

Distance: **2 miles** Time: **Allow 1 hours**

**Map:** Ordnance Survey Explorer 278 Sheffield and Barnsley

**Start:** Priory Road, by Ecclesfield Church S35 9XZ

**Public Transport:** For information on public transport ring the South Yorkshire Traveline on **01709 515151** or visit **www.travelsouthyorkshire.com**

**Car Parking:** On Priory Road at Ecclesfield. Please park sensibly.

**Public Toilets:** None on route.

**Refreshments:** There are numerous public houses in Ecclesfield.

**Level of Difficulty:** Easy. Some stiles and slopes across fields, but also along roads. Boots or stout shoes are advisable.

## The Route

Points of interest are shown in bold

**1** From Priory Road, above the **Gatty Memorial Hall**, continue up the road onto a well used track. Follow the track to where it forks and take the paved public footpath on the right down the hill between the fields. There are views here across to Greno Woods in the distance. Cross the stream at the bottom and go up the other side. The paved surface ends here but the path continues across the field to emerge on the drive leading to Hole House Farm. Follow the drive round to the left on to Whitley Lane.

**2** Continue up Whitley Lane to the junction with Elliott Lane and carry straight on up the hill. Hoyle House at the junction is a very old building with a half-timbered and brick frontage. **Whitley Hall Hotel** is on the right through the trees. As the road bends left into the small hamlet of **Whitley**, past Holly House, there is a good view back across the fields to Ecclesfield.

**3** In the middle of Whitley take the public bridleway on the left (this is also the Trans Pennine Trail) leading towards a yellow house (Oak Cottage) and carry on along the track between the houses, through the trees. The tree-lined track leads into a field. Keep the hedge on your right to skirt the edge of the field and emerge through a gateway at Cinder Hill Lane

in the small settlement of **Middleton Green**. In the middle distance to the left you can see the large buildings of a new business development built on the site of the former **Smithy Wood Coking Plant**. The row of houses on your right once housed a school.

**4** Turn left on Cinder Hill Lane and go down the lane, passing Whitley Hall Cricket Club on your left, and emerging at the junction with The Wheel. Turn left down this road.

**5** After 50 yards turn left on a public footpath which goes between the houses. The path emerges into a field. Bear diagonally to the right across the open field and go over the stile, heading towards the top of the hill. Follow the path round to the left back to the junction with the paved path. Continue round to the right to emerge on to Priory Lane and the starting point.

### Possible extensions to this walk

You may wish to take time to explore **Ecclesfield Church and village**. This walk can be combined with the historical walk produced by Ecclesfield Conservation Group around Ecclesfield Village.

See **www.conservation.ecclesfieldgroups.com** or the leaflet *Discover Ecclesfield's working past 1. The Village Core*.

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