

Follow the A636 as far as Kiln Lane. Turn left up Kiln Lane, then on the apex of the first left-hand bend take the public footpath on the right, through the hedge. Continue straight ahead past Gillcar Farm.

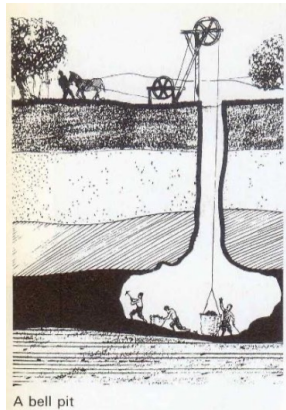
The name Gillcar means wet woodland in a deep, wooded ravine.

Go straight across the next two fields. As you enter the next field, the land slopes upwards. You will see Yew Tree Farm top left, but instead bear slightly right up to the gap in the hedge above the field. This brings you onto the top of a level field. Go straight forward, passing the sheds of Woodhouse Farm on your right. You will then see the stile which takes you along the backs of the farmhouses. Skirt these into Woodhouse Lane.

At the bottom of Woodhouse Lane many bell pits, once exploited profitably by the monks of Byland Abbey, survive and are registered as ancient monuments.

Cross over the lane with care and continue straight on across the land behind the houses. At the top of a bank the path forks. Bear left and go down along the field edge, with the hedge to your left. Cross Little Dike and continue 100 metres to the next "crossroads" of paths. Go straight forward over the next three fields.

Up to your left you will see mounds by the trees in the field above. These are all that remain of High Trees. They were medieval bell-pits for iron ore. Bell pits were sunk to a depth of 20 feet and worked outwards from the bottom of the shaft until either the ventilation became too poor or the roof began to collapse or water flooded the works – then a new pit was sunk and the old one filled in. The iron ore was taken to the nearby furnace in Bank Wood.



You now come to the end of a lane wrongly named Leisure Lane – it was Lezzes Lane, from the Middle English lazars for a leper colony that stood nearby.

Go straight on across the end of the lane into the next field, with the hedge on your right, forward over the next stile and down to a stone stile on the bottom right. Cross this and go over a stone clapper bridge into the next field and across to the big tree. Turn left and follow the hedge over the next stile, passing below Furnace Grange and into the concrete lane. Turn left and go up some 75metres, following the lane round to the right and up a steady climb right up to Clough Road.



Millennium Green

Cross over diagonally right and turn left into Kirkby Lane. With the buildings on your left, follow this pleasant wooded lane for about a kilometre. As you breast the slope it levels out and, going round a left-hand bend, you will see Upper Crawshaw Farm buildings in front of you.

Emley Moor and Crawshaw were originally moorland but were eventually enclosed and sold in 1818 to meet demand for extra food for a growing local population. The old field patterns are visible as irregular shapes and old hedgerows. The new enclosures are identified by regular field divisions.

Just before the buildings is a stile on the left. Go over this and down the well-trodden path for 200metres, round the wall and over the stone stile into the next field. Follow the path left along the side of the field and round along to the spring, where the path turns left to give you a good view of Emley church.

Continue straight down, over the beck and up into the field behind the graveyard. Follow the path over the stile into the lane and after 100metres enter Church Street by the War Memorial.

The Church of St. Michael, part of the Manor of Fitzwilliam, was built in the 12th century. It is in the Norman style, with thick walls. The south wall is older than the remainder of the building.

Turn right up Church Street back to your starting-point.

This trail was devised by the Denby Dale Walkers are Welcome group, updated in October 2023.

The leaflet was financed by the East Peak Innovation Partnership (EPIP) via the Rural Development Programme for England, jointly funded by DEFRA & the EU & managed by Yorkshire Forward and with a grant from Denby Dale Parish Council.

Emley Circular Trail



The pack horse bridge, Clayton West

Getting Here

Emley is well connected by Bus services. We would encourage you to travel by public transport so as to minimise your environmental impact



Emley is served by buses from Huddersfield and Wakefield

There is a small village car park opposite Village Stores

Look out for the Emley Circular Trail waymarkers to help guide you around the trail.



Denby Dale walkers are Welcome

Please check out our website for further information. We are supported by Denby Dale Parish Council.



Walking in the East Peak



Walking in and around Denby Dale

Emley Circular Trail

Emley: the medieval town that never grew



The Emley Circular Trail is approximately 6 miles long, though shorter alternatives are available. Stout footwear is advisable.



Emley Circular Trail

Emley: the medieval town that never grew.

It was bypassed by the Industrial Revolution as it had no water power. Emley was granted a Royal Charter in 1253 to hold weekly markets. The Stone Cross is the remains of the Market Cross, the upper part of which was destroyed during the English Civil War.



Start: Emley Cross by Village Stores

Cross the main road (Upper Lane) and take the lane between two buildings which leads to Emley football ground. Follow the path straight ahead through the open car-park area and then along the back of the housing estate. Walk diagonally across the next field and you will arrive at Emley Millennium Green.

The Green is well worth a stop to see the viewpoint and compass, as well as the mining machinery relics from Emley Moor pit – and it offers a wonderful picnic spot.

Follow the path which goes to the left of the green's entrance, continuing up between the houses and the hedge of the green.

A wonderful panorama of the Upper Dearne Valley lies before you.



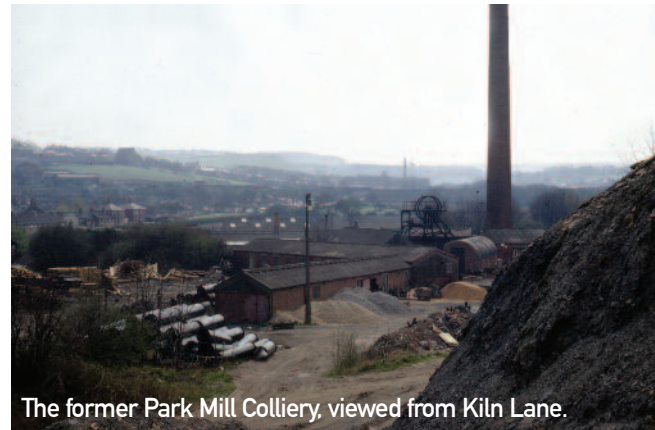
At the end of the path go over the stile, turn immediately left, then over the next stile (at the end of Warburton road) take the right fork down the farm track towards Church Hill Farm. At the foot of the hill take the left fork, which goes straight forward over the wooden stile and along the next field, with the hedge on the right. At the end of the field, by the holly bushes, go over the stone stile and continue straight down the next 2 fields, then across an open field, over the stile and down until you cross a stone-slab bridge over the ochre waters of a beck. This takes you into Frank/ Langley Lane. Turn left down this lane, eventually crossing the Dearne bridge, and follow the lane round to the left and on to the rear of the Junction Inn, Clayton West.

Point A - Alternative starting point

At Wakefield Road there is a Metro Bus stop, there are services here between Huddersfield, Holmfirth, Denby Dale and Wakefield.



Otherwise, turn left along Wakefield Road and go past the industrial estate of Colliers Way, on the site of the former Park Mill pit.



The former Park Mill Colliery, viewed from Kiln Lane.

On the opposite side is "The Woodman" pub (Tel:01484 863298), associated with woodcutters who coppiced local woodland to fuel furnaces.

Notice too the ancient packhorse bridge, also on the opposite side of the road. This was built in the 16th century by the public subscription of Emley people. It was on the main medieval packhorse way from Emley and Skelmanthorpe/Shelley to High Hoyland. People from Skelmanthorpe and the surrounding district would travel this way to High Hoyland church for marriages, christenings and burials. The bridge was repaired in 1927 after it had fallen into decay.

