

Eccles Pike from Combs Reservoir

Summary

A relatively short and easy circular walk around the southern end of Combs Reservoir before heading over Eccles Pike.

Start/Finish

Combs Reservoir Car Park – Postcode: SK23 9UN; What3Words: ///outbound.inhaled.jars

1. From the car park exit, cross the road and follow the edge of the reservoir in a southerly direction. Keep the reservoir on the left and a stream on the right. There are good views across the reservoir towards Eccles Pike.



Combs Reservoir

2. At the southern end of the reservoir the path goes across a meadow and crosses a flat bridge covered in shale. Follow the path sharply to the left and cross a narrow footbridge. Walk through a meadow and cross another narrow footbridge and a stile before reaching the road.



Eccles Pike behind Combs Reservoir

3. Turn left and follow the road for about a km to the B5470. The Hanging Gate Pub is here should refreshments be needed.



The Hanging Gate Inn

4. Cross the road and follow the well-made track opposite, passing first through some cottages, then the golf clubhouse on the left and Roeside Farm on the right. Continue to Bradshaw Hall Farm and turn right. Bradshaw Hall Farm is a fine 17th Century Manor House with a Grade II listed ornamental stone gateway.



Club House



Bradshaw Hall Farm

5. Having turned right, cross the stile in the dry-stone wall and follow the fence to the left for about 100m and at the next field boundary turn left crossing a stile. Continue ahead to the next stile and then cross the field diagonally. On the far side. At the corner of the wall (to the right of a gate) cross the wall on the right via a stile, and follow the dry-stone wall on the left. Keeping the wall to your left, cross a small stile into, what looks like, an orchard and continue ahead, through a gate to a road.



6. Turn left onto the road, pass Lidgate farm cottages on the right and turn right onto the National Trust open access land, and follow the path uphill alongside the fence on the left to the rocky summit of Eccles Pike. There are wonderful 360° panoramic views at the top and also a Toposcope on the ground pointing out the surrounding hills.



Path to Eccles Pike



Eccles Pike



Chinley Churn from Eccles Pike



view across railway viaduct to Mam Tor



Toposcope



view across Combs Reservoir to Combs Edge

7. To return, descend the path heading south for about 150m to the road. Turn right and follow the road for about 500m downhill passing Top Eccles Farm on the right. Soon after there is a lay-by on the left, and take the path here heading downhill. (There is a second public right of way here, marked by a footpath sign. Take the path which forks right directly downhill).



8. Head downhill towards Woodside Farm. At the gate in the far corner of the second field, cross the track leading to the farm and follow the path on the left following the wall. This will take you behind the farm buildings and then keep straight ahead on the metalled road to the pretty hamlet of Sparkbottom.



9. Continue straight ahead on the metalled road to reach the B5470. Cross the road and take the footpath opposite. Follow this park to the reservoir dam. Turn right and return to the car park

Walk details

Grade – easy

Distance – 6.7km/4.2 miles

Ascent - 185m/610 ft

Walk time- approx. 2 hours

