

Buxton to Macclesfield		
1 st walk check	2 nd walk check	3 rd walk check
27 th July 2021		
Current status	Document last updated Wednesday, 27 th March 2024	
<p>This document and information herein are copyrighted to Saturday Walkers' Club. If you are interested in printing or displaying any of this material, Saturday Walkers' Club grants permission to use, copy, and distribute this document delivered from this World Wide Web server with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document will not be edited or abridged, and the material will be produced exactly as it appears. Modification of the material or use of it for any other purpose is a violation of our copyright and other proprietary rights. • Reproduction of this document is for free distribution and will not be sold. • This permission is granted for a one-time distribution. • All copies, links, or pages of the documents must carry the following copyright notice and this permission notice: Saturday Walkers' Club, Copyright © 2021-2024, used with permission. All rights reserved. www.walkingclub.org.uk 		
This walk has been checked as noted above, however the publisher cannot accept responsibility for any problems encountered by readers.		

Buxton to Macclesfield (via the Cat & Fiddle)

Start: Buxton Station

Finish: Macclesfield Station

Buxton Station, map reference SK 059 737, is 22km southeast of Manchester, 299m above sea level and in **Derbyshire**. Macclesfield Station, map reference SJ 919 736, is 237 km northwest of Charing Cross, 133m above sea level and in **Cheshire East**.

Length: 24.9 km (15.5 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 738/904m. For a shorter walk, see below **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 6 ½ hours walking time.

Transport: Buxton Station is the terminus of the Buxton Line from Manchester, with two trains per hour Mon-Sat daytime and one per hour else. Journey time is 60 mins from Manchester and ca. three hours from London (chg. at Stockport). Macclesfield Station is on the Stafford to Manchester branch line off the West Coast Main Line from London Euston (hourly service). Travel time to London is from 107 minutes Mon-Sat (longer on Sun).

Saturday Walkers' Club: The walk is doable as a daywalk from London with a train no later than 09.20 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 118 (Stoke-on-Trent and Macclesfield) and 119 (Buxton & Matlock)

OS Explorer Map: 268 (Wilmslow, Macclesfield & Congleton) – just for the urban start – and OL24 (The Peak District – White Peak Area)

Walk Notes:

An exciting route from the fringes of the White Peak to the fringes of the Dark Peak, namely from the historic Spa Town of Buxton in Derbyshire to the historic Silk Town of Macclesfield in Cheshire.

You leave Buxton along the gritstone arm of the Wye River through parks and the suburb of Burbage to rise steeply to the moorlands that form the British watershed between North Sea and Irish Sea, i.e.: between Wye and Goyt. Descend into the lonely Upper Goyt Valley and rise up again through woodlands and more empty moors to the ridge that forms the County Boundary with Cheshire.

An out-and-back to the fantastic viewpoint of Shining Tor, Cheshire's highest top, follows, before a steep descent along a road and over rolling pastures in the Clough Brook and Tor Brook valleys.

From Bottom-of-the-Oven, a meandering route leads through parts of the enchanting Macclesfield Forest, past the isolated Forest Chapel, then along ancient packhorse routes up to the formerly heavily quarried Tegg's Nose, now a Country Park with several fine viewpoints. A steep descent into Macclesfield finishes the route.

Return by bus (faster) or train. The bus line also offers multiple ways of reducing the length of the walk.

The first half of the walk of the walk, once out of Buxton, is very lonely and exposed; in bad weather consider taking the bus to The Cat & Fiddle to cut out most of the moorland bits.

Walk Options:

Morning Shortcut - cut the out-and-back ascent of **Shining Tor** (cut 2.0 km and 75m ascent).

Mid-Walk Shortcut - from **Bottom-of-the-Oven**, ascend steeply along Oven Lane to Forest Chapel instead of routing up and down through the north easterly corner of Macclesfield Forest (cut 1.5 km and 40m ascent).

Bus Line 58 (Buxton – Macclesfield via Cat & Fiddle), with an hourly service Monday-Saturday and five buses on Sundays and Bank Holidays, **offers various stops on - or close to - the route to either shorten the walk by cutting out a stretch at the start or by finishing the route early, and in any case of getting back faster from Macclesfield to Buxton** than via the railway. **Last return buses** (as of 08/2021): Mon-Sat 18.45 Macclesfield Bus Station, 18.47 opposite Cundiff Close, Sun/Bank Holidays 17.45 Bus Station, 17.49 opposite Cundiff Close. See the route map for the location of the stops.

A - Burbage, Level Lane stop, 2.9 km into the walk: cuts out the start out of Buxton's centre to the fringe of the town. Continue in the direction of travel and in 20m turn left up along Macclesfield Old Road and pick up the text at the asterisk *) on page 5.

B - Cat & Fiddle PH stop, 550m off route, 11.3 km into the walk. Continue in the direction of travel and in 270m *fork right* off the road along a gravel track. In another 270m *fork left* downhill along another gravel track towards the Peak View Restaurant & Tea Room. Pick up the text at the triple asterisk ***) on page 7.

But if you first like to ascend Shining Tor on an out-and-back, follow the route map and various signposts.

C - Walker Barn stop (cut 4.9 km), the last stop outwith Macclesfield (and without shelter or signpost): from **Teggs' Nose Country Park's** visitor centre and tea room, *turn right* along Buxton Old Road instead of turning left and follow the road to the A537 by Walker Barn. The bus will stop at any safe spot. Just make yourself visible early enough, as it will approach at a fair speed.

D - Macclesfield, opposite Cundiff Close stop (cut 1.0 km), close to the first pub in Macclesfield and cutting the last urban bits to the station.

Note: the earlier routing by the Cat & Fiddle down through the stunning Chest Hollow along a permissive path is not a legal route anymore, as the permission has been rescinded after a change of ownership at Torgate Farm. As of 03/2024, the farm is still going through a massive refurbishment and the marker posts along the permissive route are still in place. Walking the part of it that does not route through Access Land amounts to trespassing though. The directions for this stretch can be found on page 8.

Elenvenses/Lunch (details last updated 04/08/2021)

Peak View Restaurant & Tea Room Buxton New Road, *Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0AR (01298 22103, <http://www.peakviewtearooms.co.uk/>)*. The Peak View is located 250m off route, 11.1 km (6.9 mi) into the walk. Open 10.00-17.00 Thu-Sun.

The Cat & Fiddle Buxton New Road, *Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0AR (01298 73711, <https://theforestdistillery.com/cat-fiddle/>)*. The Cat & Fiddle is located 550m off route, 11.3 km (7.0 mi) into the walk. Open 12.00-20.00 Sun-Thu and 12.00-21.00 Fri-Sat. Built in 1813, and long England's second highest pub, it closed in December 2015 with an uncertain future. Robinson's Brewery have recently sold it to the Forest Distillery though, who intend to open it as Britain's highest altitude distillery, with a pub attached.

The Forest Distillery Chambers Farm, *Bottom-of-the-Oven, Macclesfield Forest, near Wildboarclough, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK1 0AR (01260 253 245, <https://theforestdistillery.com/>)*. The distillery is located 13.6 km (8.5 mi) into the walk. Bar open most afternoons.

The Stanley Arms Hotel Ankers Lane, *Bottom-of-the-Oven, Macclesfield Forest, near Wildboarclough, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK1 0AR (01260 252 414, <https://www.stanleyarms.com/>)*. The Stanley Arms is located 200m off route, 13.8 km (8.6 mi) into the walk. Food served Wed-Fri 12.00-14.00 and 17.00-19.30, Sat 12.00-19.30 and Sun 12.00-18.30. A Marston's pub with accommodation.

Tea (details last updated 04/08/2021)

Teggs' Nose Tea Room Teggs' Nose Country Park, Buxton Old Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0AP (07955 532 703). The Tea Room is located 5.8 km (3.6 mi) from the end of the walk. Open Wed-Sun 09.00-17.00.

The Dolphin 76 Windmill Street, *Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7HS (01625 616 179, <https://www.robinsonsbrewery.com/pubs/the-dolphin-macclesfield/>)*. The Dolphin is a freshly renovated Robinson's pub and located 1.0 km from the end of the walk. Open all day every day.

Numerous options in Macclesfield; some of the ones on the route are mentioned in the pdf.

Notes

Buxton

Buxton, a spa town in Derbyshire on the edge of the Peak District National Park, is the highest market town in England, some 300 m above sea level. Sights include Poole's Cavern, a limestone cavern, St Ann's Well, fed by a geothermal spring bottled by Buxton Mineral Water Company, and Georgian buildings around Buxton Crescent, including Buxton Baths. Also notable is the Opera House.

The area has been inhabited for at least 6,000 years: a settlement at Lismore Fields was rediscovered in 1984. The Romans developed a settlement known as Aquae Arnemetiae ("Baths of the goddess of the grove") and linked it to South Yorkshire via Navio in the Hope Valley to the Templebrough fort.

Built on the River Wye and overlooked by Axe Edge Moor, Buxton became a spa town because of its geothermal spring, which emerges at a steady temperature of 28° C.

The Buxton lime industry has been important for the development of the town and it has shaped the landscape around the town. Limestone has been used in several ways over the millennia: quarried as building stone, heated to produce lime (or 'quicklime'), a base for either lime mortar (a mix of lime, sand and water) for building or as a soil improver in agriculture. And before electric lights, lime was even burnt to light theatrical shows, putting the stage performers 'in the limelight'.

Modern quarrying is a high-technology industry using advanced machinery, supplying concrete and cement to the construction industry. Several active limestone quarries are still located close to Buxton, including the "Tunstead Superquarry" in Great Rocks Dale. It is the largest limestone quarry in the UK, producing 5.5 million tonnes p.a., a quarter of which is used by the cement works on site.

Wye Valley/River Wye

The River Wye is a 24 km/15 mi long river in the Peak District, and is one of the major tributaries of the River Derwent. It is predominantly a limestone river, although the furthest source originates on the (gritstone) Axe Edge Moor west of Buxton. Another arm off the moors flows underground through Poole's Cavern in Buxton before rising at Wye Head and flowing through the Pavilion Gardens, where the two arms join. It then flows east through the limestone dales of the Wye Valley and through Ashford-in-the-Water and Bakewell and joins the Derwent at Rowsley, just after the Wye's main tributary, the Manifold, has joined.

The Peak District (National Park)

The Peak District is an upland area at the southernmost end of the Pennines.

The Peak District National Park is one of the UK's most popular, and is located within the boundaries of five counties (Derbys., Ches., Staffs., Yorks. and Greater Manchester). Founded in 1951, it was the first national park in England. The Park spans an area of around 1,440 km² (550 mi²) and – despite its name – its terrain consists mainly of rolling hills, farmland, moorland and some gritstone escarpments (the "edges"). It is however significantly higher than much of the terrain in the surrounding area.

The Peak District is formed almost exclusively from sedimentary rocks dating from the Carboniferous period. They comprise the Carboniferous Limestone, the overlying Gritstone and finally the Coal Measures, though the latter occur only on the extreme margins of the area. In addition, there are infrequent outcrops of igneous rocks including lavas, tuffs and volcanic vent agglomerates.

The northern Dark Peak (whose geology is gritstone) is one of the most famous landmarks in the Peak District National Park, known for its exposed and isolated tracts of moorland, as well as its expansive rolling plateau which is covered by cotton grass bogs and heather moorlands. The soil of the area is composed of moorland peat which provides the perfect environment for the plant life in the area. The areas to the flanks of the high moorland host numerous copses which are composed of Oak and Birch.

The southern White Peak (whose geology is mainly limestone) is another distinctive area within the park due to its gently sloping Limestone plateau, crisscrossed by the Limestone Dales. The Dales provide the areas' drainage and vary in steepness throughout the area.

Upper Goyt Valley/Goyt River

The Goyt River is 49 km/30 mi long and originates in the Peak District on Axe Edge Moor, close to the source of the River Dane just to the south west of Buxton. It joins the River Tame at Stockport to form the River Mersey.

Macclesfield Forest

Macclesfield Forest is the last substantial remnant of the Royal Forest of Macclesfield, a once-extensive ancient hunting reserve on the western edge of the Peak District, although it is nowadays predominantly conifer plantation managed for timber. The hills of Tegg's Nose and Shutlingsloe stand to the north west and south east, respectively; the moorland of High Moor lies to the south and the Goyt Valley lies to the east.

The area ranges in elevation from around 225m to 475m and includes two hills itself: Toot Hill in the east and Nessit Hill in the south. Two reservoirs, fed by the Bollin Brook, supply water to Macclesfield: Ridgeway Reservoir was constructed in the late 19th century, with Trentabank Reservoir following in the 1920s. The latter contains a large heronry.

Jodrell Bank Observatory

The Jodrell Bank Observatory – originally the Jodrell Bank Experimental Station and from 1966 to 1999 the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories – hosts a number of radio telescopes, and is part of the Centre for Astrophysics at the University of Manchester. The observatory was established in 1945 by Bernard Lovell, a radio astronomer, to investigate cosmic rays after his work on radar during WWII. It has since played an important role in the research of meteoroids, quasars, pulsars, masers and gravitational lenses, and was heavily involved with the tracking of space probes at the start of the Space Age.

The main telescope at the observatory is the Lovell Telescope with a diameter of 76m (the third largest steerable radio telescope in the world). There are three other active telescopes at the observatory: Mark II, and radio telescopes of 13m and 7m diameter.

On 7 July 2019, the observatory became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Bollin Brook/River Bollin

The River Bollin is a 49 km (30 mi) major tributary of the River Mersey. The Bollin Brook springs on the hills surrounding Macclesfield Forest on the western edge of the Peak District, and it feeds a string of reservoirs that supply water to the town. Downriver from the reservoirs it is called River Bollin.

Further along its course it forms the boundary between Cheshire and Greater Manchester. It is culverted under the southern runway of Manchester Airport and joins the Manchester Ship Canal east of Warrington.

Tegg's Nose/Tegg's Nose Country Park

Tegg's Nose is a hill east of Macclesfield on the western edge of the Peak District, although outside the national park. It has a short ridge with three viewpoints and a high point of 380m. Originally called "Tegge's Naze", "Tegge" might have been the name of an early Norse settler or might refer to a sheep ("teg"), while "nose" probably refers to the southern promontory.

The hill was quarried for millstone grit from the 16th century until 1955. There were two quarries, one by the northern viewpoint producing a blue stone, and the other near the summit producing Tegg's Nose Pink. The top of the hill is now dominated by the mounds of quarry spoil heaps, mostly overgrown by heather and bilberry. There is also evidence of a WWII bomb crater at the bottom of Tegg's Nose, visible from the summit.

The Bottoms and Tegg's Nose reservoirs were constructed in 1850 and 1871 respectively, to regulate the flow of the River Bollin feeding the textile mills of Macclesfield and Langley.

Gritstone Trail

The Gritstone Trail (or Cheshire Gritstone Trail, as there are other, less well established, routes in the Peak District under the same moniker) is a 56 km (35 mi) waymarked linear long-distance footpath which follows the most westerly hills of the Peak District from Disley Station via Macclesfield and Congleton to Kidsgrove Station. Managed by Cheshire East (although partly in Staffordshire), the trail involves 1,800m of ascent and is mainly outside the National Park. Most through-walkers take 3 days (stopping at Macclesfield and Congleton) to complete the trail, but an unofficial extension from Kidsgrove to the mainline railway station at Stoke-on-Trent, *The Kidsgrove to Stoke Ridgeway*, is described in a free ebook.

Peak District Boundary Walk

Created by the Friends of the Peak District, the Peak District Boundary Walk is a 305 km (190 mi) waymarked circular long-distance footpath which broadly follows the boundary of the National Park along existing footpaths, tracks, quiet lanes, former railway lines and a canal towpath. A guidebook and an extensive website help in breaking the journey into stages. <https://www.friendsofthepeak.org.uk/boundary-walk/>

Macclesfield

Macclesfield is a market town in Cheshire East on the edge of the Cheshire Plain with about 50,000 population. It lies on the River Bollin, with Macclesfield Forest to its east, and is around 26 km south of Manchester.

The medieval town grew up on the hilltop around what is now St Michael's Church. It had a silk-button industry from at least the middle of the 17th century, and became a major silk-manufacturing centre from the mid-18th century, for a while being the world's biggest producer of finished silk, with 71 silk mills operating in 1832. To this day, "Silk Town" is Macclesfield's nickname.

The town is also the original home of Hovis bread makers, produced in Publicity Works Mill on the Macclesfield canal. *Hovis* derives from the Latin "homo-vitalis" (strength for man) as a way of providing cheap nutritious food for mill workers and was a very dry and dense wholemeal loaf very different from the modern version.

No proof exists that Macclesfield was ever a walled town, and the various streets with the suffix 'gate' in the name are believed to be derived from 'gata', Scandinavian for road, which became gate in Middle English. During the Civil War, in 1642 the town was occupied for the King by Sir Thomas Aston. And in the Jacobite Rising of 1745, Charles Stuart and his army marched through Macclesfield as they attempted to reach London. Macclesfield is said to be the only mill town to have escaped bombing in World War II.

A person from Macclesfield is sometimes referred to as a "Maxonian"; these include Blues Musician John Mayall and Ian Curtis and Stephen Morris of Joy Division.

Since 1997, Macclesfield has hosted the annual British Lawnmower Race, held in December.

WALK DIRECTIONS

Leave **Buxton Station** onto its forecourt and *turn right* along **Station Road**, opposite a **bus stop for services to Macclesfield**. In 40m *turn left* to cross Station Road at a set of lights and continue downhill to the right of a high stone wall, away from the road. You follow **Station Approach** and in 50m pass **Conways DIY Centre** on the left. Curve to the right with the road towards the Georgian Centre of (Lower) Buxton and cross **The Quadrant** at a set of lights to continue along **The Crescent** to the left of Cavendish Shopping Arcade, the **Old Buxton Baths**, with **The Slopes** rising on the left. In 50m you pass The Buxton Crescent Hotel on the right, by the former **Pump Room** (now Tourist Information Centre) and then **St. Anne's Well** on the left. In 25m you pass the **Natural Mineral Baths** on the right, the location of the original **Roman Baths**. In 40m, at the corner of the **Old Hall Hotel**, you cross **The Square** and enter the **Pavilion Gardens** a little to the right, through a metal gate to the left of a metal car gate. Now aim for the far-right corner of this park. Continue along a tarmac path to the left of a grassy area, with the **Opera House** away on the right beyond **the gritstone arm** of the **River Wye**.

In 40m *fork right* to the right of a pond, fed by **the limestone arm** of the River Wye (the two arms are merging under the street behind you), and to the left of the **Spiral Mound** (with an interesting info panel on the right). A path joins from the right and you then ignore a path to a bridge on the right towards **The Pavilion** and continue between the two arms of the Wye, in 40m with a miniature railway on the left. In 30m *fork left* with the main path, ignoring a right fork across a bridge towards the **Swimming Pool**. Ignore a left turn and then a right turn towards another bridge, but then *fork right* at a multi-path junction, towards the river. In 40m *turn left* at a T-junction with a path that comes from that bridge seen earlier and in 50m leave Pavilion Gardens and cross **Burlington Road** to enter **The Serpentine** and follow a tarmac path. [!] *Turn right* immediately to cross the river and *turn left* with the path on the other side, to follow the Wye through an open tree-lined meadow. In 200m *turn left* with the path, ignoring a right turn towards a road, and re-cross the Wye and *turn right* on the other side at a T-junction. In 120m the path rises to the road level and you cross **St. John's Road** (the A53) and continue with a footpath signpost along a tarmac path through **Serpentine Wood**.

In 150m *turn left* at a T-junction with **Gadley Lane** and in 60m *turn right* along the pavement of the A53. In 130m you cross **Otterhole Close** and in 150m *fork right* with the pavement to continue along **Bishop's Lane**, where the A road bears to the left. In 100m you have the **Burbage Edge** ahead in the distance and in another 40m *turn left* up **Nursery Lane**, where Bishop's Lane curves to the right. Pass Burbage Institute and the Burbage Band's building, and *turn right* along a tarmac path into the churchyard of **Christ Church, Burbage**. In 100m continue in the same direction along a gravel path, where the tarmac path bears down to the right, and in 30m curve up to the left with the path. In 75m you leave the churchyard either through the lychgate or through a metal car gate to the right of it onto a five-way road junction and *turn right* along the pavement of **Macclesfield Old Road**. In 250m cross the Wye on the road and ignore a right turning signposted footpath and in 160m pass a bus stop on the right. In 250m, where **Level Lane** joins from the left, there is a **bus stop for services from Buxton** (or Macclesfield) 20m on the left.

*) You pass a last house on the right and ignore a right turning signposted public footpath. In 170m pass **Goslin Bar Farm** and in 50m the road continues as a gravel track. In 80m ignore a right fork through a double metal field gate and in 40m cross a dismantled railway line on the track. You have **entered the Peak District National Park**. In 10m *turn right* up an earth bank to a **Peak & Northern Footpaths Society** sign ('Lamaload via Shining Tor') and go through a wooden gate into **Access Land**. *Turn left* uphill along a walled wood on the right. In 140m, by the upper corner of the wood and with the **A54** away on the left,

on the left over the shoulder you can see **Grinlow Tower** (Solomon's Temple) on 100° in **Buxton Country Park** (SWC Walk Buxton Circular via Axe Edge Moor), the **quarry on Harpur Hill** (120°) and **High Edge** (hill) on 130° (the latter two: SWC Walk Buxton Circular via the Dragon's Back). *Bear right* uphill, diagonally crossing a rising pasture towards a not initially visible wooden gate in a wall (305°).

In more detail: in 180m pass a seemingly random wall jutting out from the plantation into the pasture, in 200m cross a boggy area and in 160m leave the field through a wall gap and a wooden gate onto a high moor, with **Burbage Edge** away on the right. In 20m you cross an insignificant brow, **the watershed between Goyt and Wye**, and therefore between North Sea and Irish Sea and continue along a clear level grass path through the heathery tussocky ground, initially on the level. You have good views away on the left to **Axe Edge Moor** and into the **White Peak** area to the left of it out to **Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill** (145°, SWC Walk Buxton Circular via the Dragon's Back). In 180m start the descent into the **Upper Goyt Valley**. Ahead, you have fine views to the transmission mast by **The Cat & Fiddle** and to **Shining Tor** on the ridge the other side of the valley. In 150m, at a signposted three-way footpath junction, continue in the same direction downhill ('Berry Clough'), where a path joins from the left from 'Axe Edge'.

In 220m you *curve to the right* with the path and in 60m ford a stream and *turn left* with the path, further downhill towards the **Berry Clough**. In 230m *fork left* downhill, in 30m *forking left* again. In 50m a gravelly gully joins from the right and in 90m you pass the base of a ruined farm building away to the left where the Berry Clough stream joins from the left. In 120m you ford a stream coming down from the right and in 300m you go through a wooden gate in a fence line. In 40m, by a three-way footpath signpost by the **Goyt River**, you *bear right* ('Goytsclough Quarry') this side of a footbridge.

[**Note:** at the time of writing, the bridge across the river 500m further along is officially closed and access to it fenced off, due to flood damage to stonework at the foot of one of the upstream supports. You have to either find your way to the river there around the barriers and ford the river or *turn left* here ('Stakeside') to cross the river over this bridge and *turn right* along a tarmac lane at higher level to the other bridge 500m along.]

In 40m follow a clear path gently up and then on the level through the heather-and-bracken covered **Goyt's Moss**. In 450m you notice an arched packhorse bridge over the **Goyt** below and in another 30m **[!]** *fork left*. In 20m, at a three-way signpost, *turn hard left* back on yourself ('Goytsclough Quarry'), to the bridge 60m away (in 1965, it was saved from being flooded by the downriver Errwood Reservoir, and reconstructed here).

On the other side, *bear right* with the path and in 70m cross a tarmac lane by the **Goytsclough Quarry** a little to the right (leaving the **Access Land**) to the right of a wooden car barrier, with the stream out of **Deep Clough** now on the right. In 40m you get to a path junction by the site of a former **Paint Mill** (it used the water power of the Deep Clough stream to crush baryte for use as a white pigment in the making of paint). You can **fork either way** (the right fork is shorter and has a 'waterfall', the left one has views):

- *Fork right* (i.e.: continue in the same direction) along a permissive path. You head up towards a 'waterfall' (the millstream dropping into the stream) and in 60m, just before the 'waterfall', *turn left* uphill; in 20m *turn right* over a plank bridge across the mill stream and *turn right* immediately to in 50m go through a wooden gate and follow a path between a wood and the stream. In 140m you get to a path junction with a footbridge visible ahead.
- *Fork left* and curve to the right in 35m and continue along a broad grassy track above the Goyt Valley; in 250m, by a three-way signpost on the left, *turn right* ('Stakeside') through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate into a wood with a 'Path to Access Land' marker; in 220m you come to a path junction with a footbridge visible ahead to the left.

You follow the path downhill and in 40m by a footpath signpost *turn right* ('Stakeside') to cross the stream out of **Deep Clough** on a plank bridge and *bear right* uphill on the other side. In 120m *turn right* with the path and follow a fence on the left along the fringe of the wood. In 140m, you *turn left* over a stile out of the wood and follow a clear path uphill between a fence on the right and a crumbling wall on the left. The right-of-way runs to the right of the wall, but the wall itself is the boundary of the **Access Land** to the left. For the best route along the wall, you may have to switch sides a few times to avoid boggy sections. **Errwood Reservoir** is visible lower down in the Goyt Valley, beyond the wood on the right. In 110m cross the wall to continue to its left and in another 110m cross a track from a metal field gate on the right and going uphill to the left and in 10m *bear left* by a two-way signpost ('Stakeside, Shining Tor') along a fence on the right. In 40m you ford the **Stake Clough** stream and in 60m there is a **Grouse Butt** visible on the left. You continue uphill along the fence and in 80m along a wall around a plantation that has joined from the right. In 470m *veer right* with the wall and path. In 130m the path forks.

If not ascending Shining Tor, *fork left* and in 60m go over a stile, signed backwards for 'Goytsclough Quarry', **out of Access Land** (and **into Cheshire**) and *turn left* along a car wide track ('Cat & Fiddle'). Pick up the directions below at the double asterisk ******).

For the out-and-back ascent of Shining Tor, continue ahead and in 50m, go over a stile **out of Access Land** (and **into Cheshire**) and *turn right* through a wooden gate.

You are back in **Access Land** and now follow the modern-day county boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire to the top of Shining Tor: follow a car wide farm track, with a drystone wall on the left, along a ridge between **Stake Clough** on the right, and the top of the **Clough Brook Valley** on the left. In 170m by a three-way signpost, *turn left* ('Shining Tor') through a gap to the right of a wooden gate to descend to a saddle between the Clough Brook's valley (**Long Clough**) on the left and **Shooter's Clough** on the right. In about 200m you reach the bottom of the dip and ascend to **Shining Tor's** summit along a slightly meandering path in another 650m, passing **Grouse Butt #9** en route. The trig point is located beyond a perpendicular wall, at 559m above sea level. Return to the gate and go through it **out of Access Land**, and continue in the same direction along a car wide track with a wall on the left. In 50m a public footpath joins from the left over a stile by a three-way signpost.

******) *Veer away* from the wall on the left with the track and enjoy the views on the right down the Clough Brook Valley to Shutlingsloe and The Roaches, to Croker Hill and to the Macclesfield Forest. You go through a metal kissing gate en route. In 650m another gravel track turns right downhill back on yourself to the **Peak View Tea Room** below.

Here you have a choice:

For a visit to The Cat & Fiddle distillery ahead, continue uphill back into **Access Land**. You go over a brow in 40m and can now see **The Cat & Fiddle** ahead, with the prominent transmission mast to its left. In 50m you pass a milestone on the left on this ex-turnpike road ('**To London 164 miles**', '**To Macclesfield 6 miles**'). In good weather, back over the shoulder on the left, you can see **Mam Tor** half-left (50°), with **Rushup Edge** leading away from it to the left, and **Grindsbrook Knoll** and the rest of **Kinder Scout** to the left of it. **Bleaklow** sits to the left of Kinder. In 100m pass a sign for this being a ground nesting bird priority area (01 March – 31 July: dogs to be kept on a short lead), and in 50m, continue in the same direction to the left of the **A537** to the distillery and bus stop. Return to the turning of the path and fork left downhill to the Peak View Restaurant & Tea Room.

[**Note:** the walk originally followed a permissive path down the stunning Chest Hollow, but after a change of ownership at Torgate Farm the **permission has been rescinded**. As of 03/2024, the marker posts are still in place though and the farm is undergoing a long term refurbishment project, so not lived in yet. This stretch is therefore **still walkable but it is trespassing**:

"In 110m, i.e.: [!] 30m *before* a 'Blind Summit' traffic sign and another 120m *before* **The Cat & Fiddle** and a **bus stop for services to Macclesfield or Buxton**, *turn right* across the road and follow a faint path downhill through the moorland, in 10m passing a **Concession Path** marker post and continue towards a crumbling wall. The path stays to the left of the wall and in 170m you *bear right* with a **Concession Path** marker post and in 25m cross the crumbling wall. In 25m, by some peat hags on the right, you follow the path to the left to another marker post in 30m. You now follow the clear if a little precipitous path, with a deep clough on the left, while the views ahead from this elevated position reach down the **Chest Hollow** (clough) past the **Macclesfield Forest** all the way far into the Cheshire Plain, and include **Jodrell Bank Observatory** (in good weather). In 90m you pass another marker post and continue the steep descent with an arm of the **Clough Brook** on the left below. You have **The Scaurs** to the left, an impressive deep-cut gorge, and continue towards a drystone wall corner 50m away. *Turn right* with a Concession Path marker over a late-seen stile in a fence *just beyond the wall* and follow a clear path to in 40m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall with a Concession Path marker, **out of Access Land**. The Concession Path gently rises to another marker post 60m away, with two more marker posts now visible ahead to the left, gently downhill 70m and another 60m away. *Veer to the right* by the second post and in 60m pass another marker post. You descend steeply to cross a stream and re-ascend and in 40m go under an electricity line. In 20m jump over another stream and in 20m, *turn left* at a **Concession Path T-junction**. You now follow a clear path past a string of marker posts to a junction with a public footpath 900m away. **In more detail:** in 10m pass another marker post on the left and *curve down to the right* with the path as you pass some sheepfolds down on the left below. You may want to turn around to spot the back of some traffic signs in a sharp bend of the A537 up on the right, indicating **the amount of descent already done** from the level of The Cat & Fiddle pub/distillery or the Peak View Tea Room. In 60m go through some collapsed remnants of a drystone wall, just before a wooden gate down on the left with an Access Land marker on it. You cross a stream and pass another marker post and in 150m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall out of the **Chest Hollow** (clough) and continue in the same direction through a pasture, broadly towards a farm up ahead. In 200m, by another marker post, *veer left* further downhill and in 80m pass another marker post. In 50m go through a gate to the right of a metal field gate into a large sloping pasture. Follow a fence on the right and in 50m cross another arm of the **Clough Brook** and in 20m *curve to the right* and in 30m pass the first of a few marker posts guiding you to a drystone wall, where you *bear left* uphill with another marker post. In 130m in the top-right field corner, with **Torgate Farm** away on the right, you *turn left* inside the field along a marked public footpath along the wall."]

For the Main Walk, *turn right* downhill back on yourself. In 220m you reach a concrete track leading up on the right to **Stake Farm**, by a three-way footpath signpost on the right. Cross the track a little to the right and go through a gap in a wire fence and across a grassy area to the left of the **Peak View**. In 25m continue through a gravel car park and in 30m across another grassy area. In 40m you pass a footpath signpost by the roadside and continue along the grassy margin of the **A537**. In 25m cross the road and *fork left* down an unnamed side road, signed for The Stanley Arms Hotel. In 80m you have one of the two tributaries of the **Clough Brook** on the left below in a deep gorge. Continue downhill, often without a good walkable margin, for 880m to the left turn into **Torgate Farm**. Croker Hill and Shutlingsloe are initially out of view but reappear soon enough.

Ignore the farm drive (it is not a right of way although the route joins it just 100m down the drive) and continue downhill along the road. In 180m *turn left* through a metal kissing gate with a footpath signpost and head uphill to the right of a dip in the pasture, aiming for a drystone wall corner just to the left of the farm buildings. In 120m pass the wall corner and in 20m go over a wooden stile in a wall onto the farm drive and *turn right* along it. In 120m go through a metal field gate and in 20m through another one with a yellow marker into a pasture. There is a permissive footpath marker 30m away to the left (with a sign 'Permissive Footpath Closed'). Continue along the right-hand side drystone wall.

*****) Shutlingsloe** is visible dead ahead. In 130m go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate into a large pasture and continue in the same direction with a marker. In 70m, by a marker post, you *veer left* away from the wall towards a wall corner and in 75m at the wall corner by a signpost, continue in the same direction along the wall. In 120m pass another signpost and in another 15m by a three-way footpath junction and a marker post and a part-ruined wall, **[!]** *turn right* uphill (300°). The top of **Torgate Hill** is away to the left. In 110m go over a stone slab stile and continue in the same direction past a couple of metal field gates on the left, over the brow and then downhill through another pasture, with **The Stanley Arms Hotel** visible ahead to the right. In 150m from the stile, you *turn left* over a stone slab stile in the wall and *turn right* in the neighbouring pasture, by a footpath signpost pointing down **Torgate Hill**. The traffic on the **A537** above is visible most times on the right. In 70m ignore a wooden gate on the right at the end of the drystone wall into the neighbouring pasture and now follow a fence and some bushes on the right. In 80m *veer right* with the fence and a marker on a fence post and in 140m leave the field through a metal field gate.

Descend on a clear path to the **Tor Brook** 40m away, *turn left* along it with the path and *turn right* to cross the brook on a two-railed footbridge. Follow the path for 50m to a metal field gate with a footpath signpost onto the drive to **The Forest Distillery** on the left at **Chambers Farm**. [The distillery has recently bought The Cat & Fiddle pub, to turn it into a distillery with pub attached.] *Turn right* onto a tarmac lane in **Bottom-of-the-Oven**. The lunch pub, **The Stanley Arms Hotel**, is 180m up the road to the right by a T-junction with the (busy) **Buxton Old Road**, a little to the right. **[!]** **For the continuation of the walk**, *turn left* along the lane and in 30m, at a three-way road junction, *turn right* ('Forest Chapel ½, Macc. Forest 1 ¾') and immediately cross a tributary of the Tor Brook at their confluence. In 60m a rough car wide track, **Oven Lane**, turns up to the right.

Here you have a choice:

For the shorter route to the Forest Chapel (cut 1.5 km), omitting a fine stretch through the top of Macclesfield Forest close to the furthest **source of the Bollin Brook**, *turn right* up along Oven Lane, at the top of the rise pass the Grade II listed **Forest Chapel** (St. Stephen's, Macclesfield Forest, Parish of Rainow with Saltersford and Forest) and continue to a four-way lane junction. *Turn right* uphill **Old Charity Lane** with a Forest Bridleway signpost and pick up the directions below at the quadruple asterisk ********).

For the Main Walk, continue along the tarmac lane past **Forest Lodge** on the left and in 20m cross a stream. The lane now rises gently out of **Bottom-of-the-Oven** with the **Tor Brook** clough below and **Torgate Hill** the other side of it (with the high moors beyond), and in 340m you ignore a right turning lane to the Forest Chapel. In 120m ignore a signposted footpath turning left into a pasture and in 250m by a Forest Bridleway signpost, you *turn right* ('Forest Walks') through a wooden gate to the left of a green metal barrier and enter the **Standing Stone car park** (the name is a mystery, as there are no notable standing stones anywhere near here). In 40m, the hill visible on the left is **Buxtors Hill**,

part of the Shutlingsloe ridge. *Turn right* through a wooden kissing gate into **Macclesfield Forest** and continue through a wide grassy clearing.

In 120m go over a brow and in 90m *turn left* with the now gravel path and with what is being considered **the furthest tributary of the Bollin Brook** on the right. In 100m the path starts to descend through the wood and in 80m you *curve to the right* further downhill (ignore a left fork). In 15m *turn right* and in 40m go down a flight of steps and at the bottom cross the Bollin over a plank bridge and in 20m go past remnants of a drystone wall on the right. In 90m you cross another stream and in 60m *bear left* with the path. You have a pasture on your right and the wood on the left below, and in 70m by a three-way signpost at a fence corner on the right, **[!]** *turn right* uphill ('**Forest Chapel**'), ignoring the footpath down to the left ('Trentabank').

Follow a gravel path uphill, with the pasture still to the right and the wood on the left, and in 170m go through a wooden kissing gate by a footpath signpost and *turn right* along **Trentabank Road**. It skirts the flank of **Toot Hill**, with the part-wooded clough just walked through on the right below. In 250m, you reach a four-way junction of tarmac lanes, with a house on the left and the Grade II listed **Forest Chapel** (St. Stephen's, Macclesfield Forest, Parish of Rainow with Saltersford and Forest) ahead. *Turn left* at the four-way junction uphill along **Old Charity Lane**, with a Forest Bridleway signpost.

****) In 40m the lane continues as a rough gravel track and in 130m a signposted public footpath joins from the right through a metal kissing gate and in 130m you *bear left* out of the track to in 10m pass a **Forest Bridleway** signpost and in 20m enter the main part of **Macclesfield Forest** through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate. The views in the back are dominated by the **transmission mast on the high moor** by The Cat & Fiddle pub/distillery and by **Shining Tor** (Cheshire's highest top) away to its left, both passed earlier, and the ridge leading to **Cats Tor** to the left of it. On a good day, **Kinder Scout** can be seen to the left of those in the distance (25°).

You pass a bench and follow a good wide gravel-and-earth path through the trees and in 170m leave the conifers to get some views on the left, back to **Shutlingsloe** and to the grassy **Toot Hill**, and across the main bowl of the forest to **Croker Hill** and the BT transmission tower. [The clear-felled parts visible below are part of a scheme replacing conifers with native broadleaves]. In 25m go through a bike barrier, now with views possible through gaps in the trees across to **Shutlingsloe**, as well as – through a dip in the ridge – to parts of **The Roaches**. There are bluebells growing all the way down the slope on the left (in season), and in 250m from the barrier you enter broadleaves where a wall turns down to the left. The path continues on the level, with more bluebells growing down the slope (in season) and in 60m you go through another bike barrier. In 60m go through a crumbling wall and in 30m pass another bench and go through a bike barrier. Continue downhill and in 70m go down the first of three short stepped sections in this rather interesting (mature) conifer plantation on sloping hilly ground.

After the third stepped section, in 20m you cross a stream on the path and the gradient eases for 30m. By a bench on the left, you *bear right* as the gradient gets steeper again in a north westerly direction, and in 110m you go through a barrier ('Footpath Only') out of the trees by a four-way signpost. Cross a broad forest track (a 'Forest Bridleway') in a clearing and continue in the same direction ('Teggs Nose') to a ruined two-storey stone building (**Dimples Farm**) 35m away. *Bear right* by the ruin, cross a ditch and in 70m you have a drystone wall on the right. In 40m at a signposted junction, where a marked 'Footpath Only' joins from the right from Walker Barn, you *turn left* with the gravel track ('Teggs Nose') and in 40m *curve to the right* with it. In 150m go through a metal gate out of **Macclesfield Forest** with a Public Footpath signpost and in 10m onto a lane and *turn*

left along it. In 20m the lane (**Hacked Way Lane**) turns to the right, now with **Tegg's Nose** visible ahead, and in 80m you *turn left* by **Hardingland** farm, now on gravel.

This rough track is a former **packhorse route**. In 30m ignore a footpath turning right over a stone slab stile into a pasture, and 130m *turn right* with the track and in 100m the footpath joins from the right out of the pasture over a stone slab stile and in 30m that same footpath continues to the left over another stone slab stile. You start a long descent and in 250m ford a stream and re-ascend. In 60m *turn left* with the walled track, descending again along a rough gravel track called **Forest Road**. In 70m pass **Lower Crooked Yard Farm** to its right, now continuing along tarmac. In 40m ignore a footpath joining from the right over a stile and continue in the same direction and in 160m cross the **Walker Barn Stream** on the road and re-ascend. In 50m you leave the **Peak District National Park** by a three-way signpost at a road/track junction by **Clough House** farm, and *turn right* along **Crooked Yard Road** (a Public Footpath, signed 'Tegg's Nose Country Park Car Park').

In 160m *fork left* off the tarmac lane up a signposted Concessionary Bridleway, described as the '**Saddler's Way**' on the spine of the post. The good cobbled path (it is also a former packhorse route) ascends the flank of **Tegg's Nose** over 400m, en route in 320m going through a wooden field gate, and where it passes a couple of benches, the track continues as a very rough path. Curve to the left with it in 50m to emerge at the top of the rise by another Saddler's Way signpost in the car park of the **Tegg's Nose Country Park Visitor Centre**. Continue in the same direction through the car park (there is an info panel away on the right), and at the end of it you pass the **Tegg's Nose Tea Room** on the right. At a T-junction with **Buxton Old Road** and by a two-way signpost, *turn left* ('To the Country Park') along a gravel path with both the **Gritstone Trail** (GT) and the **Friends of the Peak District Boundary Walk**.

In 30m, you pass another milestone of the old turnpike road ('**To Macclesfield 2 miles**', and on the reverse '**To London 168 miles**') and in another 30m pass a two-way GT signpost. In 70m go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate and continue along a wide gravel path between a wall and a fence and in 270m you go through a wooden gate into **Access Land** and *turn left* up some railed steps. In 40m from the steps – at a three-way junction – *bear left* uphill and pass an overgrown ex-quarry on the right. In 120m the path levels out and by a break in the spoil heaps on the right, there are views down to **Macclesfield**. You have a steep drop on the left with views into the **Walker Barn Stream** valley below and in 170m pass an info panel by a millstone grit face on the right. In 25m you pass a model of a rock crusher and in 20m another info panel. In another 25m you pass a display of a swing saw similar to the ones used at the time in the quarries here.

In another 25m you have a choice:

For a short excursion to a viewpoint from the **summit of Tegg's Nose** (towards Macclesfield and the Cheshire Plain) and/or a loop around **an open quarry**, *turn right* along a narrow path that curves past the open gritstone quarry and in 120m *turn right* at a T-junction. In 20m go through a wooden gate and *bear right* uphill immediately along a permissive path, ignoring the track ahead. In 80m you reach the viewpoint. From the viewpoint, return to the wooden gate and *turn left* through it and in 20m ignore a left turn and in 10m a wooden gate on the left. In 80m *turn right* at a T-junction and pick up the directions four sentences below ("In 50m you pass a bench.").

For the Main Route, continue in the same direction and in 20m there is a bench-with-views a few metres away on the left. In 50m you pass the main former quarry with its millstone grit face on the right by a **Tegg's Nose Geological Trail** marker post. In 60m at

a T-junction, the excursion route joins from the right and you continue in the same direction. In 50m you pass a bench and in 75m *turn hard left* back on yourself to reach another viewpoint with a bench in 60m, providing for slightly different views lower down the valley below, of the **Walker Barn Stream**. Return to the main track and *turn left* along it. In 30m *turn left* to a superb viewpoint across the **Bollin Valley** to **Croker Hill** with its BT Tower (SWC Walk Macclesfield Circular via the Dane Valley) and to Shutlingsloe (SWC Walks Macclesfield to Leek and Upper Hulme to Macclesfield), as well as back towards the **Macclesfield Forest** and the high moors beyond (incl. **The Cat & Fiddle**), as well as an info panel with photos and text documenting the past quarry works on Tegg's Nose. Return to, and continue along, the track and in 20m *turn right* with it and a low GT marker post by a bench on the right, ignoring a public footpath turning left through a wooden gate.

In 100m, *turn left* through a wooden gate with GT and Peak District Boundary Walk markers and with a **Tegg's Nose-Trail** marker stone just beyond it and go downhill along the GT (paved with gritstones, naturally). In 110m you reach a bench on the right showing the course and height profile of the **Gritstone Trail**, including your position along it (17 km from Disley). **[!]** *Turn back up* the GT for 20m and *turn left* along a clear path through a grassy plateau with some spoil heaps of former quarries at the back of **Tegg's Nose** on the right. In 140m a path joins from the right behind and in 40m you *bear left* out of the grassy area. In 50m *turn left* downhill (310°) at a path T-junction and in 60m a path joins from the left. In 20m go up some steps to cross a drystone wall out of the **Access Land** of the **Tegg's Nose Country Park** and follow a clear path downhill through a steep pasture (325°), staying to the right of some mature trees.

In 110m a path joins from the left and in 40m you *curve to the left* with the fence on the left. In 40m leave the field over a stone slab stile and cross the drive to **Teggnose Farm** on the left, to continue over a wall into the next pasture. You follow the left-hand boundary wall downhill and in 200m leave it over a stone slab stile to the left of a metal field gate in a drystone wall with a footpath signpost and *turn right* along **Broadcar Road**, gently downhill and with a grassy clough on the left below. You have views on the left to **Blakelow** (hill) and down into the **Bollin River valley** to the left of it. You should be able to spot the **Jodrell Bank Observatory** (265°) as well. In 180m you pass an **End of Quiet Lane** marker post, and in another 40m *turn hard left* at a T-junction with the busy unpaved **Buxton Old Road**, with some fast traffic. In 50m ignore **Back Eddisbury Road** on the right and go gently uphill, in 110m *curving to the right* with the road.

In 200m *turn left* with a footpath signpost through a metal field gate and along a car wide gravel track. You have the grassy clough away on your left now. In 250m *turn right* with the track, which in 300m starts to descend towards Macclesfield. The top of **Blakelow** is rising on the left, from this side a gentle grassy hilltop. In 120m *turn right* by a footpath signpost along the unsigned **Longden Lane** between drystone walls, where a private drive from Higher Blakelow Farm joins from the left. In 50m *turn left* down the unsigned **Stoneyfold Lane**, and in 220m cross **Blakelow Road** at a T-junction and *turn left* along the opposite pavement along a row of cottages. In 100m *turn right* with the road, now with dropping pastures on the right and with **Leadbeaters Reservoir** visible below, as well as with views to **Manchester** (345°), with **Winter Hill** visible beyond it.

In 140m the road starts to descend. In 120m you *turn right* with the road and in 30m *turn left* with it and descend towards the Town Centre. In 320m *curve to the right* with the road (now called **Windmill Street**) and in 50m ignore a stepped path on the right down towards the towpath of the **Macclesfield Canal** and cross the canal on the road. In 50m cross **Black Road** and continue downhill along Windmill Street, with **Windmill Street Park with the King George Playing Field** on the left and in 40m cross **Copper Street**, with a **bus stop for services to Buxton** away on the right. In 60m pass **The Dolphin**

pub on the right. In 50m you have houses on both sides and in 50m you pass a **bus stop for services to Buxton** by **St. Peter's Church** on the right and **St. Peter's Working Man's Institute** on the left. Immediately after passing Knight Street on the right and then crossing the railway line on a bridge, **[!]** *turn right* downhill along **Waterside** (road).

In 140m go under the viaduct of the raised dual-carriageway A523 **Silk Road**, cross **Lower Bank Street** and continue in the same direction along **Waterside**. In 80m by **Storm Brewing**, *turn left* across the **Bollin** on a car wide bridge, go through some bollards and continue along a cobbled road (**Park Green**) between industrial buildings. In 80m, by a fenced green and a war memorial on the left, *turn right* along **Sunderland Street**. En route to the station 300m away, you pass various pubs, bars and restaurants: **The Jolly Sailor**, the **Treacle Tap**, **The George & Dragon**, **Spanish Caravan**, **The Queen's**. Continue past the station for **more pubs, bistros and restaurants**, either along the crescent in front of the station or up to the left along **Waters Green** or up along one of the narrow lanes or flights of steps rising up to the **Old Town and Market Place**.

Stockport (for Buxton) bound trains depart from the near platform 1, London bound trains depart from the far Platform 2.

Macclesfield Bus Station can be found up the first road to the left (**Waters Green**).