

Macclesfield Circular (via Tegg's Nose and Kerridge Hill)			Macclesfield Circular (Long version via Shining Tor)		
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Macclesfield Circular (via Tegg's Nose and Kerridge Hill)

Start & Finish: Macclesfield Station

Macclesfield Station, map reference SJ 919 736, is 237 km northwest of Charing Cross, 133m above sea level and in **Cheshire East**.

Length: 24.7 km (15.4 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 866m. For a shorter or longer walk, see *below* **Walk options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 6 ³/₄ hours walking time.

Transport: Macclesfield Station is on the Stafford to Manchester branch line off the West Coast Main Line from London Euston (hourly service). Travel time from London is from 101 minutes Mon-Sat (but 2 ¹/₄ hours 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:

This is a varied route out of the historic Silk Town of Macclesfield through the Tegg's Nose Country Park and the Macclesfield Forest, across lonely pastures with views into the Dean Valley and past the Lamaload Reservoir then back along the 2 km long Kerridge Ridge with its picturesque folly, the White Nancy.

You climb steeply out of town along residential roads to quickly emerge amongst pastures and rolling hills and ascend further to Tegg's Nose, a formerly quarried hill, with its handful of fine viewpoints into the surrounding valleys, from where you descend through the valley of the Walker Barn stream and rise again through Macclesfield Forest to the isolated Forest Chapel. From there, cross undulating pastures with views to the stark high moors separating Dark Peak and White Peak and to Cheshire's highest tops, Shutlingsloe and Shining Tor, eventually descending towards the remote Lamaload Reservoir in the Dean Valley.

The Kerridge Ridge dominates the view for a while until you ascend it at the White Nancy end and enjoy a casual return back to Macclesfield, first along the ridge, then downhill through sloping pastures and lastly along a quiet stretch of the Macclesfield Canal.

The first 9.2 km of the walk to Forest Chapel (and a full 15.4 km – all the way to Shining Tor – on the Long Walk) are identical with the sister walk Macclesfield to Buxton.

Walk options:

Bus Line 58 (Macclesfield – Buxton via Cat & Fiddle), with an hourly service Monday-Saturday and five buses on Sundays and Bank Holidays, **offers various stops close to the route to either shorten the walk by cutting out a stretch at the start or for starting or finishing the Long Walk by The Cat & Fiddle** pub/distillery (about half-way). See the route map for the location of the stops.

A – Forest Cottage stop (cut 2.0 km and 54m ascent), the last stop within Macclesfield: continue in the same direction uphill, in 100m continue in the same direction along Buxton Old Road, where the A road curves to the left. Follow this road uphill, in the later stages without a pavement. In 750m the walk route joins from the right along a car wide gravel track. Continue in the same direction and pick up the text at the asterisk ***** on page 5.

B – Walker Barn stop (cut 4.9 km and 257m ascent), the first stop outwith Macclesfield (and without shelter or signpost): go back along the road to turn second left along **Buxton Old Road**, signed for 'Tegg's Nose' (i.e.: not first left, Crooked Yard Road). In 750m, by the entrance to **Teggs' Nose Country Park's** visitor centre and tea room, the walk route joins from ahead along a gravel path. *Turn left* and pick up the text at the double asterisks ****** on page 7.

C – Cat & Fiddle PH stop, 14.1 km into the walk.

Bus Line 60 (Hayfield – Macclesfield) enables an earlier finish from Rainow, Robin Hood PH (15.8 km) or Kerridge-end (Bus Stop Rainow/Calrofold Lane, 20.6 km). As of 07/2021, the bus runs hourly in the afternoon Mon-Sat, with the last one at 18.32 Mon-Fri and 17.35 Sat at Robin Hood PH and 2 mins later at Calrofold Lane.

A longer route via Shining Tor is 31.8 km (19.7 mi) long with 1115m ascent, and rated **10/10**.

An easier route in the Chest Hollow open moorland within that long route avoids the very steep ascent to the Cat & Fiddle.

Elenvenses (details last updated 02/06/2021)

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

Lunch (details last updated 02/06/2021)

The Forest Distillery Chambers Farm, *Bottom-of-the-Oven, Macclesfield Forest, near Wildboardclough, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK1 0AR* (01260 253 245, <https://theforestdistillery.com/>). The distillery is located 530m off route, 9.8 km (6.1 mi) into the main walk and 11.3 km (7.0 mi) into the Long Walk. Bar open most afternoons.

The Stanley Arms Hotel Ankers Lane, *Bottom-of-the-Oven, Macclesfield Forest, near Wildboardclough, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK1 0AR* (01260 252 414, <https://www.stanleyarms.com/>). The Stanley Arms is located 740m off route, 10.0 km (6.2 mi) into the main walk and 200m off route, 11.5 km (7.2 mi) into the Long 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.

The Robin Hood Church Lane, Rainow, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 5XE (01625 574 060). Open Wed from 16.00, Thu-Sun from noon. Located 100m off route, 15.8 km (9.8 mi) into the walk.

Lunch or Tea Long Route (details last updated 02/06/2021)

The Cat & Fiddle Buxton New Road, *Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0AR* (01298 73711, <https://theforestdistillery.com/cat-fiddle/>). The Cat & Fiddle is located 150m off route, 14.2 km (8.8 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.

Peak View Restaurant & Tea Room Buxton New Road, *Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 0AR* (01298 22103, <http://www.peakviewtearooms.co.uk/>). The Peak View is located 14.0 km (8.8 mi) into the walk, if cutting out the direct ascent to The Cat & Fiddle, or 250m off route and 14.6 km (9.1 mi) into the walk, if not. Open 10.00-17.00 Thu-Sun.

Tea (details last updated 25/06/2021)

The Robin Hood Details as above. The Robin Hood is located 100m off route, 9.1 km (5.7 mi) from the end of main and long walk options.

The Three Crowns Rainow Road, *Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2PF* (01625 348 237, <https://www.robinsonsbrewery.com/pubs/three-crowns-hurdsfield/>). Open all day every day. Food served all day every day. Located 2.2 km from the end of main and long walk options.

The Puss in Boots 198 Buxton Road, *Macclesfield, Ches., SK10 1NF* (01625 263 378). Open all day every day. Located 900m from the end of main and long walk options.

Plenty of options in Macclesfield's Centre, the ones en route are mentioned in the text.

Notes

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.

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.

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.

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/>

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.

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.

Lamaload Reservoir

Lamaload Reservoir is a reservoir near Rainow, Cheshire, fed by the River Dean and serving Rainow, Bollington and Macclesfield. Built between 1958 and 1964, Lamaload was the first concrete reservoir in England.

Dean River Valley/River Dean

The Dean rises in Longclough on the flanks of Shining Tor on the western edge of the Peak District, feeds the Lamaload Reservoir and joins the River Bollin at Wilmslow. The Dean and some of its tributaries supported many early watermills and the area is recognised as one of the earliest developments in the English Industrial revolution on the western side of the Pennines.

Kerridge Hill/Kerridge Ridge/White Nancy

Kerridge Hill (also called Kerridge Ridge) is a hill near the hamlet of Kerridge on the outskirts of Bollington. The summit is 313 metres above sea level. The River Dean runs along the eastern foot of the hill.

White Nancy is a prominent landmark towards the north end of the ridge. The white-washed, sugarloaf-shaped folly was erected in 1817 for John Gaskell Jr. of North End Farm, as a monument to the Duke of Wellington's victory at the Battle of Waterloo. The structure was built of rendered sandstone rubble and its entrance is now blocked, but inside is a room with a circular stone table surrounded by a curved stone bench.

White Nancy is a protected Grade II listed building.

WALK DIRECTIONS

After alighting from the train at **Macclesfield** Station on Platform 1, leave via the station forecourt and *turn left* down a curved drive and in 50m *turn left* along **Sunderland Street**. In 160m cross **Pickford Street** and in 80m **Brook Street**. In 50m – by a fenced green and then a major four-way road junction just ahead, **[!]** you *turn left* along the cobbled **Park Green**, staying to the left of the green with its war memorial. In 80m you continue through some bollards and cross the **River Bollin** on a car wide bridge. On the far side, with Storm Brewing on the left, *turn right* along **Waterside** (road) along its left-hand pavement. In 70m, at a four-way junction under the viaduct of the dual-carriageway A523 **Silk Road**, you cross **Lower Bank Street** and continue in the same direction. In 100m the road gently rises and in 40m you *turn left* to cross the railway line and continue uphill along **Windmill Street**. In 170m pass **St. Peter's Working Man's Institute** on the right and **St. Peter's Church** and a bus stop (line 58 to Buxton) on the left. In 50m you pass **Windmill Street Park with the King George Playing Field** on the right and in 50m pass **The Dolphin** pub on the left. Keep ascending the road and in 100m cross **Black Road**.

In another 50m cross the **Macclesfield Canal** on the road and on the far side ignore a stepped path on the left down towards the towpath. In 50m *curve to the left* with the main road (now called **Blakelow Road**), ignoring a cul-de-sac ahead. In 320m, by the last house on the left, you *turn right* with the road and in 30m *turn left* with it, now with pastures sloping down on the left. Continue uphill along the left-hand pavement and in 120m the road levels out and with **Leadbeaters Reservoir** visible below. You get views on the left behind to **Macclesfield's Centre** and half left behind (345°) to **Manchester**, with **Winter Hill** visible beyond it. In 140m *turn left* with the road, now passing a row of houses. In 100m, by a redbrick two-storey house on the left (number 136), *turn right* across the road and up the unsigned **Stoneyfold Lane**, with some houses along its left.

In 200m, at the top of the rise at a T-junction, *turn right* along the unsigned **Longden Lane** between drystone walls. In 50m *turn left* with a footpath signpost along a car wide track between drystone walls, ignoring the continuation of the lane as a private drive to High Blakelow Farm. The top of **Blakelow** is rising on the right, from this side a gentle grassy hilltop. In 120m the track levels out and you have the back of **Tegg's Nose** hill ahead in the half distance. In 300m *turn left* with the track on the level, ignoring an often-overgrown continuation downhill. The track continues with a grassy clough away on your right and with **Eddisbury Hill** ahead, and in 250m you go through a metal field gate and *turn right* at a T-junction with the busy unpaved **Buxton Old Road**, gently uphill with some fast traffic.

*) In 200m *curve to the left* with the road, now gently downhill, and in 110m ignore **Back Eddisbury Road** on the left. In 50m *turn hard right* back on yourself along **Broadcar Road**, gently uphill and with the grassy clough now on the right below. In 40m you pass a **Quiet Lane** marker post, and in another 40m you have views on the right to the far side of Blakelow, and down into the **Bollin River valley** ahead. In 80m, you get fine views of the **Jodrell Bank Observatory** (265°) on the right. In 60m, just where the road levels out and before a stone barn, *turn left* with a footpath signpost over a stone slab stile to the right of a metal field gate in a drystone wall into a pasture and head uphill towards its top-right corner. In 200m go up some steps and over a wall and cross the drive to **Tegg's Nose Farm** on the right, to continue over a stone slab stile into the next pasture. In 40m *curve to the right* with the fence on the right and in 40m ignore a right fork to stay to the left of some mature trees, through a steep pasture (145°). In 110m go up some steps and cross a drystone wall into the **Access Land** of the **Tegg's Nose Country Park**.

You continue in the same direction, ignoring an immediate left fork up to a wooden gate at the top of the rise, and in 20m ignore a right fork to continue uphill towards an electricity line at the top of the rise. In 60m at a path T-junction, *turn right* on the level. In 50m you emerge onto a grassy area, with some spoil heaps of former quarries at the back of **Tegg's Nose** away on the left, and *bear right* through it (95°) to head for the far-right corner of the grassy plateau, in 30m ignoring a left fork. In 140m at a T-junction with a descending path, *turn right briefly* along the path and in 20m you reach a bench on the right with fine views into the **Bollin Valley** and across 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). The bench shows the course and height profile of the **Gritstone Trail** (GT), including your position along it (17 km into the trail from Disley).

Turn around to go *back up the hill* along the GT (paved with gritstones higher up) and in 110m go through a wooden gate by a **Tegg's Nose-Trail** marker stone and *turn right* along a car wide track, with GT and **Friends of the Peak District Boundary Walk** markers. In 100m, by a bench on the left and where the main track turns to the left, ignore a public footpath turning right through a wooden gate. *Turn left* with the track and a low GT marker post and in 20m *turn right* to a superb viewpoint across the valley towards the **Macclesfield Forest** and the high moors beyond, as well as an info panel with photos and text documenting the past quarry works on Tegg's Nose. Return to the main track and *turn right* along it. In 25m *fork right* to reach another viewpoint with a bench in 60m, providing for slightly different views higher up the valley below, of the **Walker Barn Stream**. Return to the main track and *turn up to the right* along it. In 75m you pass a bench.

In 50m you have a choice:

For a short excursion to another viewpoint from the **summit of Tegg's Nose** (towards Macclesfield and the Cheshire Plain) and/or a loop around **an open quarry**, *turn left* and in 80m ignore a wooden gate on the right and in 10m a right turn. 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 *turn left* along a narrow path that curves past the open gritstone quarry. In 120m *turn left* at a T-junction. Pick up the directions four sentences below ("In 25m you pass...").

For the Main Route, continue in the same direction with a low GT marker post on the right. In 60m you pass the main former quarry with its millstone grit face on the left by a **Tegg's Nose Geological Trail** marker post. In 50m there is another bench-with-views a few metres away on the right and in 20m the excursion route joins from the left. In 25m you pass a display of a swing saw similar to the ones used at the time in the quarries here and in another 25m an info panel, then in 20m a model of a rock crusher and finally in 25m another info panel by another millstone grit face on the left. In 90m there is a steep drop on the right with views into the valley below. In 80m, by a break in the spoil heaps on the left, there are views back to Macclesfield; in 20m the path starts to descend.

There is an overgrown ex-quarry on the left below and in 100m – at a three-way junction – *fork right* (off the GT) to in 40m go down some steps and at the bottom of them go through a wooden gate and *turn right* with a GT marker along a wide gravel path between a wall and a fence, to **leave the Access Land**. In 270m go through a metal kissing gate to the left of a wooden field gate and in 70m pass a two-way GT signpost, with **Buxton Old Road** on the left below. In 30m you pass a milestone of the old turnpike road ('**To London 168 miles**', on the reverse '**To Macclesfield 2 miles**'). In 30m, by a two-way signpost on the right, *turn right* along the drive to the **Tegg's Nose Country Park Visitor Centre**, leaving the GT and the Peak District Boundary Walk.

****)** The entrance to the **Tegg's Nose Tea Room** is immediately on the left. Continue past the large car park, and at the end of it (there is an info panel away on the left), you continue in the same direction down a signposted Concessionary Bridleway, described as the '**Saddler's Way**' on the spine of the post. The initially very rough path (a former packhorse route) immediately curves to the right, in 50m passes a couple of benches, and continues as a good cobbled path to descend the flank of Tegg's Nose over 400m to a road, en route in 80m going through a wooden field gate. Continue in the same direction along **Crooked Yard Road** (a Public Footpath) and in 170m by a three-way signpost at a road/track junction by **Clough House** farm, you *turn left* downhill along **Forest Road** (signed 'Macclesfield Forest & Shutlingsloe'), entering the **Peak District National Park**. In 50m you cross the **Walker Barn Stream** on the road and re-ascend. In 160m ignore a footpath joining from the left over a stile and continue in the same direction ('To the Forest'), and in 40m pass **Lower Crooked Yard Farm** to its left, now continuing along gravel. In 70m *turn right* with the walled track, now descending again.

In 60m ford a stream and start a long ascent. In 280m a footpath joins from the right out of a pasture over a stone slab stile and in 30m that same footpath continues to the left over a stone slab stile. In 100m *turn left* with the track, now called **Hacked Way Lane**. In 160m you continue to the right of **Hardingland** farm, again on tarmac. In 80m the lane curves to the left and **[!]** in 20m you *fork right* off the lane, in 10m going through a metal gate into **Macclesfield Forest** with a Public Footpath signpost (also a Permissive Bridleway). You follow a good gravel path through a conifer plantation initially, and in 150m curve to the left with it, gently uphill. In 40m you *turn right* with the track, where a marked 'Footpath Only' joins from the left from Walker Barn and in 20m you have a drystone wall on the left. In 80m you cross a ditch just before passing a ruined two-storey stone building on the left (**Dimples Farm**) in a clearing. *Fork left* just after the ruin and in 35m cross a broad forest track ('Forest Bridleway') and continue in the same direction uphill into trees by a four-way signpost and through a barrier ('Footpath Only') in the direction of '**Forest Chapel**'. You rise steeply through broadleaves in an easterly direction, in 110m passing a bench on the right. The gradient eases and in 30m you cross a stream on the path and ascend more steeply again, after which the path stays level for 50m.

You enter a rather interesting (mature) conifer plantation on sloping hillocky ground, including a couple of stepped sections in 40m and in another 70m. In 80m you pass another bench and continue uphill. In 30m go through a crumbling wall and in 40m you have more broadleaves on the left, with bluebells growing down the slope (in season). The path continues on the level and in 80m you have broadleaves on both sides where a wall turns down to the right, with occasional views possible through gaps into the large bowl of the Macclesfield Forest and across to **Shutlingsloe**, as well as – through a dip in the ridge – to parts of **The Roaches**. [The clear-felled parts visible below are part of a scheme replacing conifers with native broadleaves]. The path rises again over the next 150m, with views on the right out to **Croker Hill** and the BT transmission tower. In 50m you can see bluebells growing all the way down the slope on the right (in season). The grassy hill on the half-right is **Toot Hill**. In 60m you re-enter conifers and ever so gently descend, in 160m passing another bench on the right. Leave the forest through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate.

Turn right, in 10m pass a **Forest Bridleway** signpost and in 20m *bear right* along a broad gravel track along the back of Toot Hill. The view ahead is dominated by the **transmission masts on the high moor** by the Cat & Fiddle pub/distillery and by Cheshire's highest top, **Shining Tor** away to their left, 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°). In 130m a signposted public footpath joins from the left through a metal kissing gate and in 160m you reach a four-way junction of lanes, with a house on the right and the Grade II listed **Forest**

Chapel (St. Stephen's, Macclesfield Forest, Parish of Rainow with Saltersford and Forest) away to the left.

Here you have a choice:

For the Extension via Shining Tor, *turn right* at the four-way junction, past the house on your right and along the flank of **Toot Hill**, with a part-wooded clough on the left. Pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Extension**.

For the Main Walk, *turn left* here, pass the chapel and *bear right* along **Oven Lane**, a rough car wide gravel track. In 20m ignore a left turn into **Chapel House Farm's** yard.

In 15m you have a choice:

For an out-and-back to the early lunch stops **The Forest Distillery** or **The Stanley Arms Hotel**, continue in the same direction along **Oven Lane**, which descends (very steeply towards the end) to the road in **Bottom-of-the-Oven** hamlet where you *turn left*. In 50m the road crosses a tributary of **Tor Brook** just by the confluence of those two at a three-way road junction. *Turn left* at the junction ('Macclesfield, Buxton'), gently uphill. In 40m you pass the drive to **The Forest Distillery** on the right at **Chambers Farm**. **The Stanley Arms Hotel** is 180m further up the road by a T-junction with **Buxton Old Road**, a little to the right. After lunch, return to this point.

For the Main Walk, *turn left* with a footpath signpost up some stone steps and skirt around the farm along its garden fence. In 130m go through a set of metal kissing gates 10m apart and descend a steep pasture along its left-hand fence. You usually can make out some traffic on the **A 537** (Macclesfield – Buxton), with **Shining Tor**, Cheshire's highest top, away on the right, and with the top of the **Macclesfield Forest** on the left behind. In 220m you go over a stile and cross a stream (a tributary of the Tor Brook) on a boardwalk and re-ascend to leave the field in its top-left corner over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate and continue in the same direction along another pasture. **Whitehills Farm** is away on the left. **Shutlingsloe** (175°) and **The Roaches** (160°) are visible in the back, as is (on 140°) **England's highest village**: Flash.

You go over the brow of this field and in another 20m ignore a wooden field gate on the left and continue in the same direction along the fence. In 110m go over a stile and in 80m over another one and a following two-railed plank bridge across another Tor Brook tributary. Continue in the same direction with a yellow marker and *curve up to the left* towards **Greenways Farm** (looking ruined from here), either to the right or left of a boggy area. There are a couple of marker posts en route and in 180m you enter the farmyard over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall. Continue in the same direction to the left of a large ruined barn and then the non-ruined farm house, and *turn right* at the far end of it through a metal field gate to continue along the farm drive.

In 70m cross **Buxton Old Road** and continue in the same direction over a stile into a pasture. Cross it a little to the left towards a wooden field gate 100m away and leave the field through it onto the **A537 Buxton New Road**. Cross the road and go over a stone slab stile 10m to the left of a metal field gate into another pasture and cross it to a point 40m to the left of the far-right corner (15°). The higher buildings in **Manchester** are visible on the left in the distance, with **Winter Hill** beyond. In 150m, leave the field over a stone slab stile and cut the corner of another field to leave it in 40m over a stone slab stile onto a tarmac lane and *turn left* along it. A small part of the **Lamaload Reservoir** is visible dead ahead, with a wood behind and the **Waggonshaw Brow** rising beyond it.

In 170m *turn left* with a footpath signpost up a bank and over a stone slab stile into a pasture. Descend in a straight line in the direction of the signpost for 90m, and – when level with a metal field gate by a ruined farm building on the right – *turn right* along a faint track to the gate. In 60m go through the metal field gate and *veer left* down the following pasture towards its bottom-left corner 300m away, avoiding mossy ground near the corner. You leave the field through a metal field gate by a ruined barn on the left and a redundant metal kissing gate on the right and follow a path along a stream on the left past some abandoned farm machinery. In 60m *turn left* through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate and cross the stream, one of the furthest tributaries to the **River Dean**. *Turn right* up a slope along a car wide farm track, towards the abandoned **Higher Ballgreave Farm** (on the OS map).

In 75m go through remnants of a drystone wall by a large hawthorn tree and in 80m *bear right* with a footpath marker post, ignoring the continuation of the track to the farm. You contour the slope, in 70m along a paved stretch of path, and then *veer left* with a marker post to in 80m pass another marker post (a footpath joins from the left behind). Go over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall to follow a clear path through a narrow (recently felled) wood. [There has been a fair amount of tree felling here recently; this is mainly a preventative measure of removing Larch and other trees susceptible to **Phytophthora Ramorum**, a highly destructive water mould] In 60m leave the wood over a stile in a fence. Follow a ruined wall along its left-hand side and in 110m at the end of the wall *turn down to the right* to a T-junction with a car wide track by a Peak & Northern Footpaths Society footpath sign. *Turn left* uphill along the track ('To Rainow'), now with Lamaload Reservoir on the right below.

In 180m at the top of the rise by a marker post on the right, ignore two left turning footpaths ('Rainow and Walker Barn' and 'Rainow via Wickinford') and continue in the same direction ('Lamaload Waterworks'). In 60m ignore a wooden field gate on the right and in 15m go over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate and follow a right-hand field boundary fence. In 125m go over a stone slab stile into a large pasture with a slight rise on the right 40m away, with a wooden post on it. This is **Brock Low**. *Bear right* over its top and then *bear left* towards the narrow wood at the bottom of the field, 250m away. Enter the wood (mostly felled in 2021) over a stone slab stile (the right-of-way on the map is wrongly shown further to the left) and follow a clear path downhill. In 140m ignore a wooden field gate on the left, and follow a drystone wall down the left edge of the wood. You get fine views on the right of the reservoir wall. In 220m leave the wood through a metal kissing gate and continue to a three-way footpath signpost in 20m. *Turn left* through a metal kissing gate ('Rainow').

***) You follow a path between drystone walls, then between fences, around the grounds of the **Lamaload Waterworks** and in 120m *turn left* along its tarmac drive at a T-junction. You follow the drive for 820m, around to the left steeply uphill (fine views on the left to the reservoir wall) and past a few passing places/laybys and over a cattle grid, mainly along the rim of the **Dean River Valley** and with the **Kerridge Hill** ahead beyond the valley. Eventually you go through a wooden gate to the right of another cattle grid, by a stone slab stile on the right with a footpath signpost pointing into a pasture on the right. Continue for 10m to a four-way footpath signpost on the left by **Snipe House Farm**. This is signed for 'Snipe House Farm' to the left, '**This Way**' ahead, '**That Way**' to the right, and '**The Other Way**' backwards. Go back to the cattle grid to *turn left* over the stone slab stile into the pasture in the direction of the signpost (275°, i.e.: *turn right* from the previous direction). Cross the field downhill, towards some farm buildings' roofs.

In 250m in its bottom-right corner *turn right* to leave the field to the left of a large tree through a metal field gate (ignore another metal field gate on the left) and continue along

a car wide farm track. In 50m *turn left* with the track and [!] in 10m *turn right* with a yellow marker through a metal gate into a pasture. In 40m in the bottom-left corner *turn left* through a metal gate and follow a path to the right through a metal gate and then to the left down some steps onto the farm's drive and *turn right* along it. *Turn left* with the track to cross the **River Dean** on it and ascend on a gentle gradient.

In 300m, at the top of the rise and by a footpath marker post on the right, [!] *fork right* along a car wide track, away from the main drive out of the valley. In 40m, with **Thornsett Farm** (on the OS map) visible ahead and by a footpath signpost on the right, *turn up to the right* up a steep pasture, following a couple of signposts and marker posts to its top-left corner. In 150m go through a metal gate in a drystone wall by a two-way signpost and follow a clear path on the level parallel to a drystone wall away on the right. You can spot **Rainow** village nearby, and **Manchester** in the distance, through a fold between the **Saddle of Kerridge** on the left (with **White Nancy**) and **Nab Head** on the right. In 130m leave the field through a metal gate and continue in the same direction, in 60m crossing a farm track by another two-way signpost.

In 100m pass a marker post and in 40m go over a slab stone stile by a two-way signpost and continue in the same direction [!] to the right of a drystone wall. In 140m continue in the same direction along a fence where the wall turns to the left and in 130m you ignore a stone slab stile into a garden, as you pass a house on the left. In 30m *turn left* over a stone slab stile to the right of a wooden field gate this side of a large converted chapel and *turn right* through a car parking area in 30m to the **B5470** by **The Old Chapel** on the right. Cross **Church Lane**. The lunch pub, **The Robin Hood**, is 100m away to the left down the road, as is a **bus stop for services to Macclesfield**. But the route continues a little to the right down a narrow, signposted footpath, with a pasture on the right. In 30m ignore a metal kissing gate into the pasture on the right (dropping down into **Ginclough**) and in 50m go down some steps and *turn right* along **Smithy Lane** at a T-junction.

In 230m, at a small triangular green, *fork left* and in 25m *bear left* along the tarmac/gravel **Oakenbank Lane**, a signposted Restricted Byway, uphill between drystone walls. The lane rises slowly up **High Cliff**, and in 220m passes a bench on the right with views out to **Big Low** (hill) on the right (75°). In another 200m you go over the brow of High Cliff and now have the wooded, formerly much quarried, **Billinge Hill** (35°) away on the right. On the left is a tall chimney in the cleft between Kerridge Hill and Nab Head, this belongs to the **Gasworks in Bollington**. The whale-back shaped ridge almost dead ahead (320°) is **Winter Hill**, beyond Bolton. In 110m ignore a footpath joining from the right through a metal kissing gate. In 350m *turn left* at a signposted footpath crosspaths through a metal kissing gate to the right of a metal field gate and follow a track through a gently descending pasture, into the **Ingersley Clough** part of the Dean River valley.

You have left the Peak District National Park. In 160m in the bottom-right field corner, by a two-way **Gritstone Trail** (GT) signpost, you continue in the same direction through a wooden kissing gate and follow a right-hand boundary further down the valley, passing the grounds of **Ingersley Hall**, now **Savio House** on the right. In 75 go through a metal gate and in 170m go through a metal kissing gate to follow a steep path downhill, in 120m going through a metal kissing gate into a riverside meadow. Cross the river on a car wide bridge and in 40m go through a metal gate and *turn left* with a GT signpost along a tarmac lane (the ruined industrial building on the right was **Ingersley Vale Mill**). In 75m *turn up to the right* with a GT signpost up a tarmac drive, in 35m going over a cattle grid ('Private Drive to North End Farm'). Walk steeply up Kerridge Hill's flank, ignoring a stile on the left and a permissive path to the right, and higher up a crossing footpath/bridleway by the entrance to **North End Farm** on the left, to keep ascending with a '**Public Footpath to White Nancy**' sign in a hedge. The top of **White Nancy** is visible up above on the left.

In 100m go through a metal gate to the right of a cattle grid and in 80m pass a stone bench and in 70m *fork left* with the tarmac lane and a public footpath, ignoring a right forking bridleway. In 10m *turn up to the left* with a GT signpost up a steep, mostly stepped, and often meandering path up the Kerridge Hill for 200m to **White Nancy**, at 277m above sea. The path is engineered all the way. You continue in the same direction past White Nancy along the Saddle of Kerridge up **Kerridge Hill**, the ridge separating the Dean and Bollin River valleys, **for 2.0 km to the B5470 Macclesfield Road**.

In more detail: half left in the distance you should be able to see the **Cat & Fiddle**, with **Shining Tor** to the left of it. In 100m go through a metal kissing gate and continue with a drystone wall on the left; in 30m *turn left* through a metal kissing gate and *turn right* along the wall, with a wooded slope on the left; in 150m you pass the last tree on the left and have **Rainow** village below on the left (you can spot **the converted chapel** walked past earlier), with Shining Tor rising directly beyond it; the top of **Macclesfield Forest** is visible ahead. In 80m you have the first of several quarries below on the right, with the Hurdsfield Industrial Estate prominent beyond them (including a large AstraZeneca facility) and **Macclesfield Town Centre** to the left of it, with the hills standing between the Peak District and the Cheshire Plain visible beyond: **Croker Hill** with the BT masts, **Bosley Cloud** and **The Gun**. And – in good weather – the North Welsh mountains to the right, as well as the **Mersey Gateway** bridge in Runcorn. In 70m go through a metal kissing gate and continue with a wall on the left. In 180m ignore a right turning footpath and in 200m, just before the path turns down to the right, you *turn left* through a wall gap and a metal kissing gate into a grassy area by a two-way GT signpost at a multi-path junction.

Ignore hard left and hard right turns along walls, and *turn right* with a yellow marker on the gate uphill to an obvious grassy top. In 120m the gradient eases and in 60m you go through a metal kissing gate. You have a green valley on the right and a hawthorn-filled steep slope on the left. In 150m pass a trigpoint (at 313m above sea) and in 40m go through a metal kissing gate. You follow a wall on the right through a shallow dip and in 250m curve to the left with the path, with some bushes dead ahead. In 20m *turn steeply down to the right* with the path and in 70m go with a yellow marker through a kissing gate in a drystone wall. The slope is filled with more hawthorns and in 80m you pass a rocky bowl of an ex-quarry on the right. In 180m you *bear right* along a public bridleway that joins from the left behind along the slope of the hill. In 110m go through a wooden gate to the right of a metal field gate and in 40m over a stone stile to the right of a metal field gate. **Lidgetts Lane** joins from the right and you proceed downhill to its junction with the **B5470 Macclesfield Road** 50m away.

Turn right along the right-hand pavement. In 70m a public footpath joins from the left and in 30m you pass a **bus stop for services to Macclesfield**. In another 50m *turn left* along **Calrofold Lane**, in 200m passing Calrofold Barn, Calrow Barn and then Calrow Fold Farm. In 50m pass **Cliff Bank** and in 35m ignore a signposted footpath forking left up a tarmac drive to **The Marsh** (farm). In 200m you cross the **Plunge Brook** on the lane by a pond and by **Chante Cliff Farm & Barn** on the right and **[!]** *turn right* along the gravel drive. In 50m *veer left* towards the house and by a footpath signpost go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate. *Turn right* along a field boundary to the left of the house. In 50m you get open views on the right towards the **Kerridge Hill**, and in 60m go over a stile to continue to the right of a drystone wall and in 165m you go through a metal kissing gate with a footpath marker post. You descend gently, soon through a wooded area, and in 90m go over a stile and *veer to the left* along a wall on the left. In 70m you continue in the open and continue along a grassy track and in 150m go through a metal gate to the left of a metal field gate and down some steps onto a tarmac lane. *Turn left* up **Cliff Lane** and in 200m *turn right* up some steps and with a footpath signpost over a stile into a pasture.

You follow a clear path downhill and in 60m *turn left* with the path by a crumbling drystone wall, in 30m passing a footpath marker post. In 60m pass a bench away to the right and in 30m *bear to the left* by another marker post towards the bottom-left field corner. In 110m go through a wide gap in the wall into the adjacent pasture and *bear left* along its right-hand boundary. In 120m by a corner of the wall on the right, *turn right* with a marker post towards a main road and in 70m leave the field over a stile to the left of a wooden field gate onto the A 5470 in **Higher Hurdsfield**. *Turn left* along the left-hand pavement, in 50m passing a bus stop, opposite **The Three Crowns**. In 100m you cross **Roewood Lane** and in 40m *turn left* down some steps onto the gravel towpath of the **Macclesfield Canal** and *turn left* along it. In 330m, just before going under **Canal Bridge #35**, you pass a stack of five planks with metal handles either end: these are **Stop Planks** (or Stanking Planks), used to wedge into slots at pinch points of the canal to create temporary dams (stanks) and enable dewatering of a canal stretch either for repairs or in case of an existing breach to control water loss. You can see some such slots near the far end of the bridge.

Following this, you have a meadow on the far side of the canal, sloping down into the **Bollin Valley** towards Macclesfield. In 500m go under **Canal Bridge #36** and in 150m the canal widens out to a basin with some converted wharfs on the opposite side and the **Macclesfield Pontoon Visitor Moorings** on this side. By the end of the pontoon in 40m pass a map of Macclesfield, with the **Publicity Works Mill** with its high chimney visible ahead. This was **the original production site of Hovis Bread**. In 25m, just before **Canal Bridge #37**, *turn up to the left* up some steps to street level onto **Buxton Road**, the A537, opposite **The Puss in Boots** pub and with **Tegg's Nose** visible up on the left. *Turn right* along the road down **into Macclesfield's Centre**. In 200m you cross **Fence Avenue** and in another 40m pass the entrance to **Victoria Park** on the right. In 60m cross **York Street** and in 140m you pass the **Chilli Banana** Thai restaurant in Merchants House. In 60m pass the **Arighi Bianchi** store with its café on the right and *turn left* across **Buxton Road** at a set of lights by the junction with the **A523 The Silk Road**, with the railway line beyond. *Turn right* at a set of lights across Silk Road and go under the railway line along **Waters Green**. Curve to the left with the road and in 60m pass **The Nags Head** on the right, followed by the **Old Millstone**. In 20m, with the **Waters Green Tavern** visible up to the right, and further tea options along the crescent-shaped road, as well as up on the right in the **Old Town**, you *turn up to the left* towards **Macclesfield Station**.

London bound trains depart from the far platform 2.

Extension (add 6.4 km and 233m ascent)

In 200m, where the road starts to descend, ignore a metal field gate on the left, and in 50m *turn left* along a signposted public footpath through a wooden kissing gate. Follow a fenced gravel path downhill, with a pasture to the left and a wood on the right, and in 170m, by a three-way signpost at a fence corner on the left, **[!]** *turn left* along a permissive path ('**Standing Stone**'), ignoring the public footpath ahead ('Trentabank'). You still have the pasture on your left and the wood on the right below, and in 70m *bear right* with path and fence. In 60m you cross a stream and in 90m go past remnants of a drystone wall on the left. In 20m go over a plank bridge over another stream, this one being considered **the furthest tributary of the Bollin Brook**, and ascend a stepped path through the wood. The path turns left at the top of the steps and in 20m a faint path joins from the right. Curve uphill further to the left and in 100m the path levels out. In 70m you have the Bollin on your left and in 20m *turn right* with the gravel path further uphill in a wide clearing, in 90m going over a brow.

The hill visible ahead is **Buxtors Hill**, part of the Shutlingsloe ridge. In 120m go through a wooden kissing gate and *turn left* along tarmac by the **Standing Stone car park**. In 40m go through a wooden gate to the right of green metal car barriers onto a tarmac lane at a T-junction. *Turn left* along it with a Forest Bridleway signpost, with the **Tor Brook** clough below and **Torgate Hill** the other side of it (with the high moors beyond). In 250m ignore a signposted footpath turning right into a pasture and in 110m a road joins from the left down from the Forest Chapel. The road now gently descends to **Bottom-of-the-Oven**, in 340m crossing a stream by **Forest Lodge** on the right, and in 20m **Oven Lane**, the direct route from the Forest Chapel, joins from the left. In 60m the road crosses another tributary of Tor Brook just by the confluence of those two at a three-way road junction. *Turn left* at the junction ('Macclesfield, Buxton'), gently uphill. In 40m you pass the drive to **The Forest Distillery** on the right at **Chambers Farm**, just before a metal field gate on the right, with a signposted public footpath leading through it into a pasture by the **Tor Brook**. [This distillery has recently bought The Cat & Fiddle pub you will pass later, to turn it into a distillery with pub attached.] The early lunch option, **The Stanley Arms Hotel**, is 180m further up the road by a T-junction with the (busy) **Buxton Old Road**, a little to the right.

[!] For the continuation of the walk, go through the metal field gate into the pasture and follow a clear path to a two-railed footbridge over the **Tor Brook** 50m away. *Turn right* to cross the brook and *turn left* with a clear path, initially parallel to the brook, then *bearing up to the right* to a metal field gate in the top-left field corner. Follow a left-hand field boundary up **Torgate Hill**, with a fence and some bushes on the left. **Shutlingsloe** dominates the view to the right. In 150m *veer left* with the fence and a marker on a fence post, now (weather permitting) with **The Cat & Fiddle** and some transformer masts to the left of it visible on the moorland ridge ahead. In 80m you get views on the left as the bushy growth discontinues and ignore a wooden gate on the left in a drystone wall into the neighbouring pasture. The traffic on the **A537** above is visible most times. In 70m, by a footpath signpost pointing backwards, you *turn left* over a stone slab stile in the wall and *turn right* in the neighbouring pasture, further uphill. In 150m, after going over the brow and passing a couple of metal field gates on the right, go over a stone slab stile and continue in the same direction downhill through another pasture.

The **top of Torgate Hill** is away to the right. In 110m by a three-way footpath junction by a marker post and a part-ruined wall, *turn left* along a wall, in 15m passing a footpath signpost. You have the valley of the **Clough Brook** down below on the right. In 120m, at a wall corner, you continue in the same direction with a signpost across a pasture towards **Torgate Farm** ahead. In 75m *veer right* by a marker post along the far drystone wall and

in 75m go through a metal gate to the right of a metal field gate into a large pasture and continue in the same direction with a marker post. Note that the marked right-of-way in this field is different from what is shown on the OS map: in 130m in the far-left field corner, *turn right* with a **Concession Path** marker post along a drystone wall. You pass a couple of marker posts in 30m and in another 30m and in 70m *bear right* with another one (150°), in 25m and in another 65m passing more marker posts. Curve to the left to cross the **Clough Brook** in 20m and follow a fence to a wooden gate in the field corner in 50m. Go through the gate to the left of a metal field gate with a Concession Path marker and follow a clear path through the grassy hillside towards another marker post 60m away (110°), with a tributary stream to the Clough Brook down on the right. You now follow the clear path past a string of marker posts to a Concession Path fork 500m away.

In more detail: in 80m pass a marker post and *veer right further uphill*, in 200m go through a wooden gate in a drystone wall and continue in the same direction up the **Chest Hollow** (clough). In 30m you can spot the back of some traffic signs in a sharp bend of the A537 up on the left, indicating **the amount of climbing still needed** to get to the level of the Cat & Fiddle pub/distillery or the Peak View Tea Room. In 125m pass another marker post, just before the path crosses a stream, with a wooden gate down on the right with an Access Land marker on it, and just before going through some collapsed remnants of a drystone wall. In 40m you pass some sheepfolds down on the right below and curve up to the left with the path. In 30m you pass **another marker post on the right**.

In 10m a faint path turns to the right, here you have a choice:

For a shorter route (cut 650m and a very steep ascent up to **The Cat & Fiddle** pub/distillery), continue in the same direction along a clear path, broadly following a line of electricity poles for 470m uphill, past occasional marker posts and over one stretch of boardwalk, with the rooftop of the tea room visible at the (seeming) top of the rise, until you get to a left-to-right drystone wall. *Turn right* along the part-ruined wall with a marker post and in 150m go over a stile in a drystone wall onto the **A537** and cross it a little to the right to *turn left* along the drive to the **Peak View Tea Room**. In 30m a left fork leads to its entrance. The route continues in the same direction along a concrete then tarmac drive to **Stake Farm**. In 230m, about 50m before reaching the farm buildings, *turn right* through a metal kissing gate and *turn left* in a pasture with a footpath marker, to bypass the farm on its right. In 90m continue to the right of a gully and in 180m go through a metal kissing gate in the top-left corner of the narrowing field. This is a three-way footpath junction, but the signpost is away on the right. The Main Walk from the Cat & Fiddle joins from the right. Continue ahead and in 30m go through a wooden kissing gate with a stile to its right **into Access Land**. Pick up the directions below at the quadruple asterisk ****).

For the Main Route past The Cat & Fiddle, *turn right* along the faint path and in 10m jump over a stream to continue along a clear path further up the Chest Hollow. In 20m go under the electricity line and in 40m cross another stream to continue more steeply uphill. At the top of the small rise, you pass a marker post, with the next one visible dead ahead, 75m away. This stretch is relatively flat, and from the post the path *veers to the left*, with two more marker posts now visible ahead, 70m and another 75m away. The **back views** from here down the Chest Hollow stretch past Macclesfield Forest all the way **into the Cheshire Plain**. The path curves to the right to a wooden gate in a drystone wall about 30m to the right of the field corner and in 60m you go through the gate with a Concession Path marker, **into Access Land**. *Bear left* towards the end of the wall. In 40m *turn left* over a stile in a fence and follow a path uphill in the direction of a Concession Path marker, towards a marker post higher up, in line with the last visible electricity pole.

With views of **The Scaurs** to the right, an impressive deep-cut gorge, you follow a steep clough up along a clear path, with the Clough Brook to the right below. In 50m pass the marker post and head towards another marker post, broadly in line with the electricity line. The views back from this elevated position now include **Jodrell Bank** in the Cheshire Plain. In about 110m by the next marker post, the **roof of the Cat & Fiddle** comes into view. The path aims for the transmission masts on the ridge and curves up to the left and then to the right to pass another marker post in 50m. With some peat hags on the left, you follow the path past another marker post in 50m, some boggy ground in 15m by a crumbling drystone wall, then *bear left* with the next marker post in 25m. In 100m you converge with the crumbling wall, which you then follow uphill to the road in 85m. Cross the **A537** to the far side. The transmission masts are half-right about 50m away. **The Cat & Fiddle** is 80m away to the right, as is a **bus stop for services to Macclesfield**.

Turn left along the road's verge. Away on the left in a sharp bend of the A road you can see the traffic signs seen earlier from below. In 110m you continue in the same direction with a footpath signpost and an Access Land marker along a car wide gravel track, where the A road curves to the left. In good weather, you can see **Mam Tor** half-right ahead (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** will be visible to the left of Kinder. In 40m 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 100m you pass a milestone on the right on this former turnpike road ('**To Macclesfield 6 miles**', on the reverse: '**To London 164 miles**'). In 50m you go over a brow and can see the **Peak View Tea Room** ahead below. In 30m *bear right* on the level, where the downwards continuation leads to the tea room (*if going there*: pick up the alternative route above to reconnect with the Main Walk). You have briefly left the Access Land. Go through a metal kissing gate en route and converge with a drystone wall on the right (the **county boundary with Derbyshire**), and in 650m you pass a three-way signpost on the right. Continue ahead and in 40m, by another stile on the right, go through a wooden gate into **Access Land**.

****) Follow a car wide farm track, with a drystone wall on the left, along a ridge between **Stake Clough** on the right, and the very top of the **Clough Brook Valley** on the left, all the way along the modern-day county boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire. 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 (**Longclough**) 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 and trig point along a slightly meandering path in another 650m, passing **Grouse Butt #9** en route. The trig point is on the far side of a drystone wall through a wooden gate, at 559m above sea level.

The route continues by turning right *this side of the drystone wall* along an engineered path. In 100m the path veers away to the right around a boggy area and in 40m you **[!]** *turn left* through that boggy area and in 20m pass a Peak & Northern Footpaths Society signpost ('To Lamaload Reservoir') and a redundant stile in a collapsing drystone wall. Continue downhill, broadly alongside the wall on the left, but following the mostly obvious path which avoids tussocky and boggy ground near the wall. In 500m you reach the bottom of the drop and re-ascend along the wall, to in 130m go over a stile in a fence at a marked footpath crosspaths to further ascend in the next field. [The valley on the right is that of the Todd Brook, feeding the **Toddbrook Reservoir** above the town of Whaley Bridge, which in August 2019 was threatened with the possibility of the dam collapsing.]

In 300m *bear to the right* with the wall and follow the path through a shallow dip to in 600m go through a couple of gate posts in a drystone wall. In 100m at a drystone wall

corner, *bear left* downhill along a clear path (350°, a little further left than the right-of-way on the OS map) into the valley of the **Dean River**, and in 160m go over a stile in a fence into a lower pasture and *veer left* from the previous direction with the clear path to continue steeply downhill. In 130m go over another stile in a fence and continue broadly alongside a fence on the right. In 150m you **leave the Access Land** over a stile to the left of a metal field gate. In 70m by a wall corner on the right, another public footpath joins from the right behind over a stile in the wall. You now follow a grass, then earth, path along a stream on the left, with a part-felled plantation the other side of it, down towards the **Lamaload Reservoir**, ignoring all paths forking up to the right.

[There has been a fair amount of tree felling here recently; this is mainly a preventative measure of removing Larch and other trees susceptible to **Phytophthora Ramorum**, a highly destructive water mould.]

You pass some redundant gate posts in 230m and in another 250m go through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate onto **Hooleyhey Lane** at a bend by a Peak & Northern Footpaths Society signpost signed backwards 'To Burbage via Shining Tor'. *Turn right* along the lane. In 250m, by a footpath signpost on the right at a higher level, you *turn left* with the signpost and in 10m go through a wooden kissing gate between some standing stones to the left of a metal field gate. [That is 30m before a left turn over a cattle grid into a car park.] Continue along a car wide grassy track towards a couple of barns 60m away and – once there – curve to the right with the track, in another 20m passing a two-way footpath signpost and a bench. In 50m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and in 30m you cross a stream on the track and curve further to the left into a bluebell wood, along a fence on the left. In 200m leave the wood over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a car wide grass track by a two-way signpost, with the walled wood on the left and a pasture on the right.

In 90m *curve to the right* with the track and the wall, now briefly with the **Waggonshaw Brow** ridge ahead, as in 40m you *turn left* with a two-way signpost over a collapsed stone slab stile to the left of a metal field gate. Head down a steep pasture, with the **Kerridge Hill** ridge in the distance ahead, towards some houses at the bottom of the drop (Lamaload Farm), to the right of the **Lamaload Waterworks**, in 180m – by a footpath signpost – walking a little to the right of a gravel service drive joining from the top of the reservoir dam on the left. In 150m by a three-way signpost by the farm, *turn left* to cross the **River Dean** and continue to a three-way footpath signpost in 20m.

Turn right through a metal kissing gate ('Rainow') and pick up the directions in the main text at the triple asterisk ***).