| Macclesfield to Buxton | | |
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| 1 st walk check | 2 nd walk check | 3 rd walk check |
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Macclesfield to Buxton (via the Cat & Fiddle)

Start: Macclesfield Station Finish: Buxton Station

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

Length: 25.0 km (15.5 mi).

Cumulative ascent/descent: 905/739m. For a shorter or longer walk, see below Walk Options.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 7 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 ¼ hours on Sun). 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 an hour to Manchester, over three hours to London (chg. at Stockport).

Saturday Walkers' Club: The walk is doable as a daywalk from London with a train no later than 08.20 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 Dark Peak to the fringes of the White Peak, namely from the historic Silk Town of Macclesfield in Cheshire to the even more historic Spa Town of Buxton in Derbyshire. 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, from where you descend through the Walker Barn Stream valley and rise again through Macclesfield Forest to the isolated Forest Chapel. Cross the Tor Brook valley and ascend along a road above the Clough Brook valley, lastly steeply up to the ridge separating Cheshire and Derbyshire.

From the ridge, divert for an out-and-back ascent of Cheshire's highest top, Shining Tor, then descend into the lonely Upper Goyt Valley, passing the Goytsclough Quarry and crossing the Goyt River. You rise over Goyt's Moss' moorland and up along the Berry Clough onto the British watershed between the Irish Sea and the North Sea, i.e.: between Goyt and Wye. From here descend into the Upper Wye Valley via Burbage to Buxton, along residential roads and through the Pavilion Gardens, where the gritstone and limestone arms of the Wye meet. Return by bus (faster) or train. The bus line also offers multiple ways of reducing the length of the walk.

The latter parts of the walk are very lonely and exposed, in bad weather consider switching to the sister walk Macclesfield Circular via Tegg's Nose and Kerridge Hill.

Walk Options:

Late Morning Shortcut: from Forest Chapel, descend along Oven Lane to Bottom-of-the-Oven instead of routing down and up through the far north easterly corner of Macclesfield Forest (cut 1.5 km and 40m ascent). **Mid-walk Shortcut: cut out the** out-and-back **ascent of Shining Tor** (cut 2.0 km and 75m ascent).

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 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 Buxton to Macclesfield (or London) than via the railway. Last return buses (as of 06/2021): Mon-Sat 18.06 Railway Station, 18.08 Market Place, Sun/Bank Holidays 17.10 Market Place. 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, 550m off route, 14.6 km into the walk.

D - Burbage, Level Lane stop, 3.0 km from the end of the walk: take the bus to Macclesfield from here, without continuing the route down into Buxton. Last bus: 18.15 Mon-Sat, 17.17 Sun/BH (06/2021).
E - Burbage, The Duke PH stop, just a few minutes of walking further than the Level Lane stop, but by a pub. Note: Mon-Sat the bus stops to the right of the pub (as you approach it), on Sun/BH to the left of it!
E - Buxton, Market Place stop, 500m from the end of the walk on a diversion: useful if stressed for time to reach the last bus from the Railway Station, and necessary on Sundays and Bank Holidays as the bus does not go via the train station on those days.

Note: the earlier routing up to the Cat & Fiddle 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 9 and 10.

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 Wildboarclough, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK1 0AR (01260 253 245, https://theforestdistillery.com/). The distillery is located 11.3 km (7.0 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, 11.5 km (7.2 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.

Lunch or Tea (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 550m off route, 14.6 km (9.1 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 13.8 km (8.6 mi) into the walk. Open 10.00-17.00 Thu-Sun.

Tea (details last updated 25/06/2021)

The Duke 123 St John's Road, *Burbage, Buxton SK17 6UR (01298 78781, https://www.thedukebuxton.com/index)*. The Duke is located 2.2 km from the end of the walk. Plenty of options either around the Market Place, or close to the Train Station.

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: Ridgegate Reservoir was constructed in the late 19th century, with Trentabank Reservoir following in the 1920s. The latter contains a large heronry.

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.

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.

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.

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 Higher 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 oftenovergrown 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 un-pavemented **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 topright corner. In 200m go up some steps and over a wall and cross the drive to **Teggsnose 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, 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 (including **The Cat & Fiddle** distillery/pub), 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 rough gravel. In 70m *turn right* with the walled track, now descending again. In 60m ford a stream and start a long ascent along this former packhorse route.

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.

In 30m you cross a stream on the path and enter a rather interesting (mature) conifer plantation on sloping hillocky ground, including several stepped sections. You pass a 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**. 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 reenter 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 mast on the high moor** by The Cat & Fiddle pub/distillery and **Shining Tor** (Cheshire's highest top) away to their left, both passed later, 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 a shorter route (cut 1.5 km and 40m ascent), omitting a fine stretch through the top of Macclesfield Forest close to the furthest **source of the Bollin Brook**, *turn left* here, pass the chapel and *bear right* along **Oven Lane**, a car wide gravel track, which descends (very steeply towards the end) to the road in **Bottom-of-the-Oven**, where you *turn left* and pick up the directions below at the triple asterisk ***).

For the Main Walk, 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. 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 steeply ascend a stepped path through the wood.

The path turns left at the top of the steps and in 20m a 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** (the name is a mystery, as there are no notable standing stones anywhere near here). 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 a transformer mast 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. In 130m in the far-left field corner, there is a Concession Path marker post about 30m away to the right with a sign on it 'Permissive Footpath Closed'). Pick up the directions halfway down page 10 below the text in brackets.

[Note: the walk originally followed the permissive path up 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**: "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 an arm of 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 hillside towards a marker post 60m away (110°), with another arm of 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 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 on the right below and *curve up to the left* with the path (ignore a faint path ahead) In 30m you pass **another marker post on the right**.

In 10m a faint path turns to the right, 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 to the Forest Chapel and past Macclesfield Forest 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 an arm of the Clough Brook 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 100m by the next marker post, the **roof of The Cat & Fiddle** comes into view. The path aims for the transmission mast 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 *turn right* and in 25m cross some boggy ground by a crumbling drystone wall on the left, 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 mast is half-right about 50m away. **The Cat & Fiddle** is 150m 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 40m 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." Pick up the directions below at the quadruple asterisk ****).]

Go through a metal field gate towards the farm and in 20m through another one to follow the farm drive to the right of the buildings. In 120m at the far end of the farmyard, *turn left* with the right-of-way through a wall gap and over a wooden stile into a pasture (note that the drive leads to the road and the continuation of the route 100m away but is not a right-of-way). Follow the wall and in 20m continue at the wall corner down the field towards a metal kissing gate and onto a road. *Turn hard right* uphill along the road, in 180m passing the drive from Torgate Farm. You now follow the road uphill for nearly 1 km, often without a walkable margin, to a junction with the **A537**, lately with one of the two tributaries to the **Clough Brook** to the right below. At the road junction, *turn right* along it and in 25m *turn left* across it and follow a path along the opposite grassy margin. In 25m you pass a footpath signpost and in 40m cross a gravel car park in front of the **Peak View Tea Room** and continue across a grassy area. Go through a gap in a wire fence onto a concrete track by a three-way footpath signpost and cross it a little to the right to go uphill along a wide gravel track. In 220m you reach a junction with another broad gravel track.

Here you have a choice:

For a visit to The Cat & Fiddle distillery ahead, turn right 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 junction of tracks and fork right on the level.

For the Main Walk, turn left.

****) 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 come to a three-way signpost on the right.

If not ascending Shining Tor, *turn right* over the stile, signed for 'Goytsclough Quarry', **into Access Land** (and into **Derbyshire**) and in 50m *veer right* along a path into the **Upper Goyt Valley** along a drystone wall joining from another stile. Pick up the directions below at the quintuple asterisk *****).

For the out-and-back ascent of Shining Tor (all the way along the modern-day county boundary between Cheshire and Derbyshire), continue ahead and in 40m, by another stile on the right (the onwards route after returning from Shining Tor), 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. 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 and trig point (at 559m above sea level) along a slightly meandering path in another 650m, passing **Grouse Butt #9** en route. Return to the gate and go through it **out of Access Land**, and *turn left* over the stile back **into Access Land**. You have entered **Derbyshire** and descend into the **Upper Goyt Valley** along a drystone wall. In 50m a public footpath joins from the right.

*****) In 130m *veer left* with a wall and path and in 470m continue along a fence, where the wall turns left around a plantation. There are a couple of **Grouse Butts** visible on the right and in 120m you ford the **Stake Clough** stream and *veer left* with the fence. In 40m *bear right* by a two-way signpost ('Goytsclough Quarry'), in 15m crossing a track from a metal field gate on the left and going uphill through the clough. In 110m you cross remnants of a drystone wall and continue in the same direction to the left of the wall with the public footpath (the wall is the boundary of the Access Land).

Errwood Reservoir is visible lower down in the Goyt Valley, beyond the wood on the left. For the best route along the wall, you may have to switch sides a few times to avoid boggy sections, and in 180m in a fence corner, you go over a stile into a wood and follow a clear path bearing right along a fence (160°). In 130m *turn left* with the path and in 100m cross a stream (out of **Deep Clough**) on a plank bridge and *bear left* uphill on the other side with a signpost ('Goytsclough Quarry, Derbyshire Bridge'). In 40m, **fork either way** (the left one is shorter and has a 'waterfall', the right one has views):

- the left fork leads along a permissive path directly to the quarry, broadly along the stream below on the left, in 140m going through a wooden gate and in another 50m turning left over a plank bridge across a mill stream; you then pass a 'waterfall' on the left (the millstream dropping into the stream) 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); turn right and in 60m a path joins from the right and you continue ahead.
- the right fork curves to the right through the wood and in 200m emerges through a wooden gate to the left of a metal field gate into the open Goyt Valley, where you turn left along a broad grassy track and in 250m curve to the left into the bowl of the quarry. In 35m turn right at a T-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).

In 40m, turn right along a tarmac lane, back into **Access Land**, and in 10m [!] fork left downhill towards an arched packhorse bridge over the **Goyt River** 70m away (in 1965, the bridge was saved from being flooded by the downriver Errwood Reservoir, and reconstructed here).

[At the time of writing, the bridge is officially closed and access to it fenced off, due to flood damage to stonework at the foot of one of the upstream supports. Either find a way down to the river to ford it or use the alternative route: follow the tarmac lane further up the valley for 430m and *fork left* downhill with a Peak & Northern Footpaths Society signpost ('To Buxton via Plantation and The Old Road') to another footbridge. Pick up the directions in the next paragraph: "By a three-way signpost, ..."]

Bear up to the left with the path on the other side and in 60m at a three-way signpost, turn hard right ('Derbyshire Bridge') along a clear path through the heather-and-bracken covered **Goyt's Moss**. Ignore a couple of paths joining from the left behind and in 500m from the turning you descend to a footbridge over the river, where a public footpath joins from the tarmac lane.

By a three-way footpath signpost, bear left ('Berry Clough'), in 40m going through a fence line. In 50m bear right with the more obvious path, following the **Berry Clough** stream closely. In 290m you ford a stream coming down from the left and in 120m pass the base of a ruined farm building away to the right, as the Berry Clough stream bears to the right, while the path continues in the same direction further uphill. In 100m ignore a gravelly gully forking left and continue along an earth path. In 60m a faint path joins from the left behind and in 30m a more prominent one. In 250m you ford a stream and turn right with the path, and in 60m curve to the left with it. You ascend further out of the Berry Clough and in 250m, at a signposted three-way footpath junction, continue in the same direction ('Burbage') along a grass path through the heathery tussocky ground, ignoring the right fork to 'Axe Edge'. You have **fine views in the back** to the transmission mast by the Cat & Fiddle and to Shining Tor.

In 170m the path levels out and you have good views away on the right to **Axe Edge Moor** and into the **White Peak** area out to **Chrome Hill and Hollins Hill** (145°, SWC 386 Buxton Circular via the Dragon's Back). You cross **the watershed between Goyt and Wye**, and therefore between Irish Sea and North Sea, and in 200m cross an insignificant brow (with **Burbage Edge** away on the left). In 30m start the descent towards Burbage and Buxton through a wooden gate in a wall. *Bear right* across a sloping pasture towards a far wall corner around a plantation (115°), with the **A54** road visible in the distance. In 160m cross a boggy area and in another 200m pass a seemingly random wall jutting out from the plantation into the pasture. In 180m by the far wall corner, *turn left* around the wall to descend further into the **Wye Valley**. In good weather you can see **Grinlow Tower** (Solomon's Temple) on 100° in **Buxton Country Park** (SWC 387 Buxton Circular via Axe Edge Moor and Three Shires Head), the **quarry on Harpur Hill** (120°) and **High Edge** (hill) on 130° (the latter two: SWC 386 Buxton Circular via the Dragon's Back).

In 140m turn right through a wooden gate **out of the Access Land** onto a broad gravel track. This is **Macclesfield Old Road**. The infant valley of the **gritstone arm of the Wye** is off to the right. Turn left downhill along the road, immediately crossing a dismantled railway line on the lane and in 40m ignore a left fork through a double metal field gate towards the railway line. You have **left the Peak District National Park**, and continue towards **Goslin Bar Farm**. In 80m the road continues tarmacked and in 200m you ignore a left turning signposted public footpath by the first houses on the left, where **Level Lane** joins from the right. There is a **bus stop for services to Macclesfield** (or Buxton) 20m on the right. In 250m you pass another bus stop on the left. In 170m ignore a left turning

footpath and cross the Wye on the road and in 250m reach a five-way road junction by **Christ Church, Burbage** on the left and **The Duke** pub 50m away down the road.

Turn left into the churchyard, either through a car wide gate or through the lychgate. Follow a gravel path towards the church and in 10m turn left downhill along a gravel path. in 50m curve to the right with the path and in 150m leave the churchyard onto **Nursery Lane** and turn left along it. You pass Burbage Band's house and the Burbage Institute and turn right at a T-junction with **Bishop's Lane**. In 150m continue along the left-hand pavement of the A53 St. John's Road. In 150m cross **Otterhole Close** and in 130m turn left along **Gadley Lane**, with a wildflower meadow on the right. In 60m turn right along a signposted footpath through the narrow **Serpentine Wood**. In 140m cross the A53 and enter **The Serpentine** to the right of a road bridge over the Wye along a descending tarmac path (ignore a signposted footpath turning right down a gravel drive).

In 30m the path continues on gravel and in 100m you *turn left* over a bridge across the river to *turn right* on the opposite side, ignoring a left fork to a road. Follow the path through an open riverside meadow with several river weirs audible on this stretch, and in 200m *turn right* with the path back across the Wye and *turn left* out of The Serpentine. Cross **Burlington Road** and enter the **Pavilion Gardens** along a broad gravel path, with the **gritstone arm of the Wye** on the left. The aim now is the far-right corner of this narrow park. Ignore a first right turning path but *turn right* along a second path, some way before a bridge over the river. In 30m *fork left* and in 20m you reach a multi-path junction, with a pond visible ahead to the left. This is one of a string of ponds on that side of the Gardens, fed by the **limestone arm of the Wye**.

Here you have a choice:

For the direct route to the nearest bus station at the Market Place in Higher Buxton, *veer right* towards a playground and in 50m *turn right* to in 50m leave this part of the Gardens through a metal gate onto a path by a multi-directional signpost. *Turn left* ('Tourist Information & Town Centre') and in 75m cross the Broad Walk and continue uphill along **Fountain Street**. In 40m cross a road and in 90m reach the **Market Square**. There are plenty of **pubs, cafés and restaurants** around the square. **The bus stops** are 80m away to the left, with line 58 to Macclesfield departing from **Stand D** across the road on the right Mon-Sat and from **Stand A** on the left Sundays/Bank Holidays.

For the Full Route to the Train Station in Lower Buxton and the bus stop there, turn left ('Railway Station'). In another 40m veer left at a T-junction, with a miniature railway on the right and the griststone arm of the Wye on the left. In 70m bear right at a T-junction by a bridge on the left and the Pavilion on the other side of the river, and in 35m fork left, now between the two arms of the Wye. In 50m fork either way around the Spiral Mound (with an interesting info panel) to leave the park in its right-hand corner and turn right along Water Road. In 20m by the Old Hall Hotel on the left, turn left along The Crescent, with The Slopes rising on the right. In 40m you pass the Natural Mineral Baths on the left, the location of the original Roman Baths, just before The Buxton Crescent Hotel on the left and St. Anne's Well on the right, followed by the Pump Rooms. In 75m you reach the A515 Terrace Road.

For the Market Place bus stops, *turn right* along the road for 300m (line 58 to Macclesfield departs from **Stand D** on the left Mon-Sat and from **Stand A** on the right Sundays/Bank Holidays).

For the Train Station and the bus stop there (Mon-Sat only):

- either cross the road and go up to the left along **Station Approach** to a set of lights across Station Road;
- or turn left along the road past **several cafés and restaurants** and turn right to cross the road at some lights and turn right up along **Station Road** to a set of lights 110m away.

Buxton Station is 30m further along Station Road across the road, the bus stop for line 58 to Macclesfield (Mon-Sat only) is 30m further along Station Road this side of the road.

14