

A Walk to the Forest

A walk to the Forest is a fairly strenuous walk on good paths. There are several ascents and descents. Wear strong shoes or walking boots and bring a waterproof.

Grade	Challenging
Distance	11km/7miles
Time	3-4 hours
Start	Tegg's Nose Country Park, Pay and Display car park
Map	OS Explorer 268 or OL24 White Peak Area
Terrain	Unsurfaced tracks/paths and minor roads. Some terrain is steep and rocky
Barriers	Several kissing gates and stiles
Toilets	Tegg's Nose Country Park (includes an accessible toilet)
Contact	Cheshire East Council Tel: 01270 686029



Route Details

This walk is a fairly strenuous walk on good paths. There are several ascents and descents. Wear strong shoes or walking boots and bring a waterproof. A snack and something to drink is also recommended.

The walk starts at Tegg's Nose Country Park where there are splendid views over the patchwork landscape of the Cheshire plain, with distinctive landmarks such as Jodrell Bank and Beeston Castle. To the southeast is Macclesfield Forest and Shutlingsloe, Cheshire's second highest peak at 506m/1660ft.

Soon you enter Macclesfield Forest, once one of three Royal hunting forests in Cheshire. Today it is managed by United Utilities as part of the water catchment area around the reservoirs.

Soon you come to Forest Chapel, the tiny Church of St Stephen, originally built in 1673 and rebuilt in 1834.

Every August the traditional ceremony of rushbearing takes place, where fresh rushes are cut from the surrounding fields and laid on the church floor. At first this was for practical reasons to provide a warm dry floor before modern heating systems, but today it is a symbol of spiritual renewal. Up to 600 people attend the ceremony, including many who have walked over from Tegg's Nose.

Both Trentabank and Ridgegate Reservoirs in the Forest are used for drinking water. Trentabank is also home to a large heronry of around 20 nests.

The village of Langley grew on the strength of the button making and later the silk industry because the water of the River Bollin was so pure. At the peak of the industry there were 5 mills driven by 3 water wheels, employing around 400 people. Charles Tunnicliffe was one of Langley's most famous residents. He painted local scenes and birdlife around the area. Look out for the Great Crested Grebe's springtime display on the reservoirs below Tegg's Nose.

The final stage of the walk follows part of the Gritstone Trail, a 56km/35mile walk from Disley to Kidsgrove.

Directions

1. You leave the car park via Saddlers Way, an old packhorse route that would probably have been used to take salt to Buxton.
2. Turn right at the bottom of the track onto the road and follow this round the bend past the farmhouse.
3. Go straight on up the track and follow it round to the right.
4. Turn left over the stile and cross the field towards the farmhouse.
5. Turn left onto the track and follow the road. Fork right over the stile and follow the path through the Forest to an old barn.
6. Follow the path diagonally opposite, signposted to Forest Chapel.
7. Turn right at the edge of the Forest onto Chantry Lane and carry on down to Forest Chapel.
8. Turn right down the road, signposted to Langley.
9. Turn left through the kissing gate into the Forest and follow the track downhill and over a T junction to the fire pond.
10. Turn right towards Trentabank, keeping the deer fencing on your left.
11. Cross over the road and follow the path through the Forest to the Ranger base and toilets at Trentabank.
12. At the Ranger base retrace your steps and turn right up the track (signposted Forest walks 1,2,3).
13. Turn right onto the path signed Langley via the Gritstone Trail.
14. Cross the forest track and carry on towards the Gritstone Trail.
15. Turn left onto the road and then go straight on along the track back into the forest. Follow the path around to the right and carry on to the reservoir.
16. Bear left up the slope and left onto the path towards the Gritstone Trail, or turn right if you want to call at the Leather's Smithy pub.

17. Cross the stream, go up the bank and turn right onto the track and the Gritstone Trail.

18. Turn left onto the road and follow the Gritstone Trail back to Tegg's Nose Country Park.