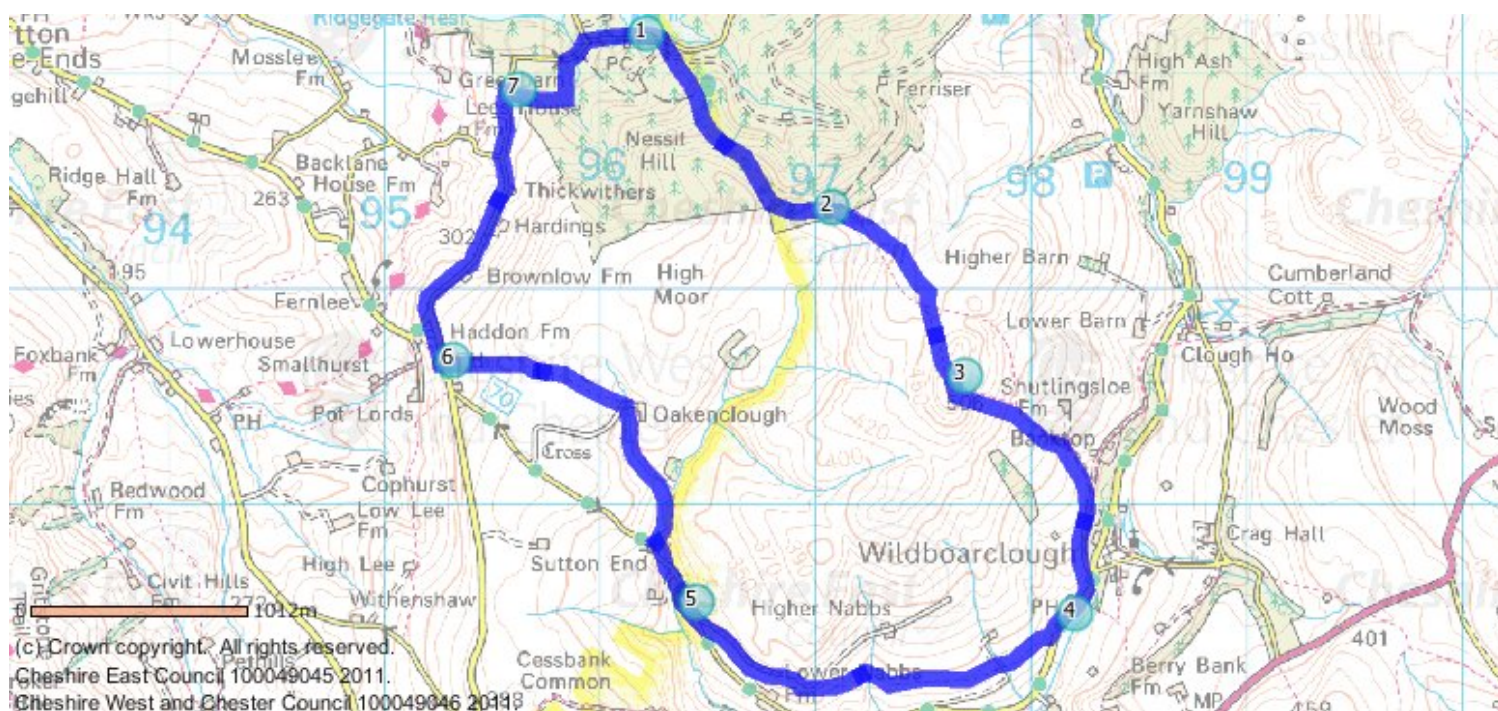


Shutlingsloe

Stone walls, old barns and upland meadows dotted with harebells set the scene for this taste of Cheshires hill country.

Grade	Challenging
Distance	10km/6.5 miles
Time	3-4 hours
Start	Trentabank car park, Macclesfield Forest. This is a pay and display car park. Three parking spaces reserved for disabled people close to toilets.
Map	OS Explorer 268 & Outdoor Leisure 24 (White Peak Area)
Terrain	Mainly public rights of way with some country lanes. A steady, fairly steep climb up to Shutlingsloe followed by a steep descent, then mostly level. There is a short, stone-surfaced track suitable for wheelchair users opposite the car park entrance which provides a good viewpoint of the reservoir and its birdlife, including the herony.
Barriers	8 stiles, 2 kissing gates, 5 wicket gates
Toilets	Trentabank car park; includes accessible toilet with RADAR key access.
Contact	Tel: 01270 686029



Route Details

Starting at Trentabank car park in Macclesfield Forest, follow a circular route over Shutlingsloe, Wildboarclough and Oaken Clough back to Trentabank car park.

Stone walls, old barns and upland meadows dotted with harebells set the scene for this taste of Cheshire's hill country. Rising sharply above the plain, this is a wild, upland landscape, carved from gritstone and grazed by sturdy sheep.

The walk begins in the heart of Macclesfield Forest which was once part of a royal hunting ground. Today it is home to a herd of red deer, as well as badgers, foxes and smaller mammals. Conifer seeds provide a welcome feast for many small birds including tits, siskins and crossbills.

Leaving the shelter of the trees, the well paved route climbs steadily to the summit of Shutlingsloe which at 506 metres is the second highest peak in the county. Known locally as the Matterhorn of Cheshire, it is a distinctive landmark throughout much of the east of the county. Views from the top are spectacular, with Cheshire to the west and the rolling hills of the Peak District National Park to the east.

The walk drops down from the windy summit into the shelter of Wildboarclough. From here, the path hugs the side of the hill, offering easy walking and a chance to enjoy the walled landscape across the valley. A gentle climb through Oaken Clough is rewarded with views over Macclesfield, before dropping down to the Hanging Gate Inn and following the road back to the forest.

Directions

Start in the car park at Trentabank.

1. Turn right out of the car park, following the forest walks waymark. Follow the path which starts to climb. Turn left and follow the path by the side of the wall. Go straight over the path crossroads, signed to Shutlingsloe.
2. Fork right off the track and leave the forest. Follow the paved track up to the summit where there are tremendous views.
3. Go over the top and follow the path to the right, down the hill. Bear right as the path joins a farm track. Bear right again at the road and go past the Crag Inn.
4. Take the path on the right that skirts the side of the hill, crossing several stiles. Bear right up the hill and join a track along which you bear left.
5. Bear right at the road and take the path on the right up through Oaken Clough. Continue up the Clough to a track, turn left onto the track, continue straight on as the track bends to the left, ascending steeply up the slope. Follow the path, turn right through a gate and go over a stile. Turn left and follow the path down to the Hanging Gate Inn.
6. Turn right at the road and carry straight on when the road turns sharply left. Continue for about 1km until you reach the forest.
7. Take the path on the right, signed to Trentabank. Turn left at the path crossroads back to the road and turn right on the road. Turn right again at the T-junction to the car park.