

Macclesfield-Outdoors Walking Route: Ridgegate Reservoir, Macc Forest, Tegg's Nose

Start/Finish: Leather's Smithy pub, Langley. Distance: 4.2 miles (6.8 km). Difficulty: Medium.

Time: 1½ to 2 hours

1. From the Leather's Smithy, follow the lane which rises gently uphill, with the forest to the right (imagine that you're turning left up the lane when you come out of the pub).
2. Where the lane bears to the right, continue straight on through the gate, up the Forest Bridleway and into the forest. There are other bridleways off to the right and left, with gates across barring access - ignore these.
3. Eventually you will reach a crossroads of paths. Follow the path to the left, which is sign-posted to Tegg's Nose (this path passes to the left of a disused house). After a short distance, there is a fork in the path. Follow the left hand fork, signposted to Tegg's Nose. This path eventually emerges from the forest onto a lane (Hacked Way Lane).
4. Turn left down the lane. After passing a house on the right (Hardingland Farm) the lane becomes a bridleway. Ignore the footpath which bears right across a field. Follow the bridleway down between fields. At the bottom of the hill, the bridleway turns right. The bridleway (loose-stone path) passes between fields, and eventually crosses a stream tumbling down the hillside. The bridleway passes a house on the left (Lower Crooked Yard Farm), then becomes a narrow lane.
5. When you reach Clough House farm at the bottom of the hill, follow the lane round to the right. Walk up the lane until you get to Saddler's Way on the left (signposted as a Concessionary Bridleway).
6. Walk up Saddler's Way to the Tegg's Nose car park. Cross straight across the car park (the visitor centre is on your right).
7. At the exit from the car park, turn left along the path to Tegg's Nose (signposted to the Country Park). This path is also part of the Gritstone Trail. Follow this path through two gates.
8. After the second gate, turn left and follow the path up the steps with a hand rail up the centre. Walk past the exhibits of the old Tegg's Nose quarry, following the Gritstone Trail signs (signified by a G in a footprint in a yellow arrow).
9. Continue to follow the Gritstone Trail signs. This will take you around Tegg's Nose before going down hill. This is also signed as the Tegg's Nose Trail, and is steep in places. At the bottom of the hill, you will reach the car park next to Tegg's Nose reservoir.
10. Follow the road across the dam of Tegg's Nose reservoir. This is still part of the Gritstone Trail. Go through the gate, cross the lane and down the steps, then follow the path across the dam of Bottom's reservoir.
11. On reaching the road (Clarkes Lane), turn left and follow the road back up to the Leather's Smithy.