

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

↔ 12.2 mi

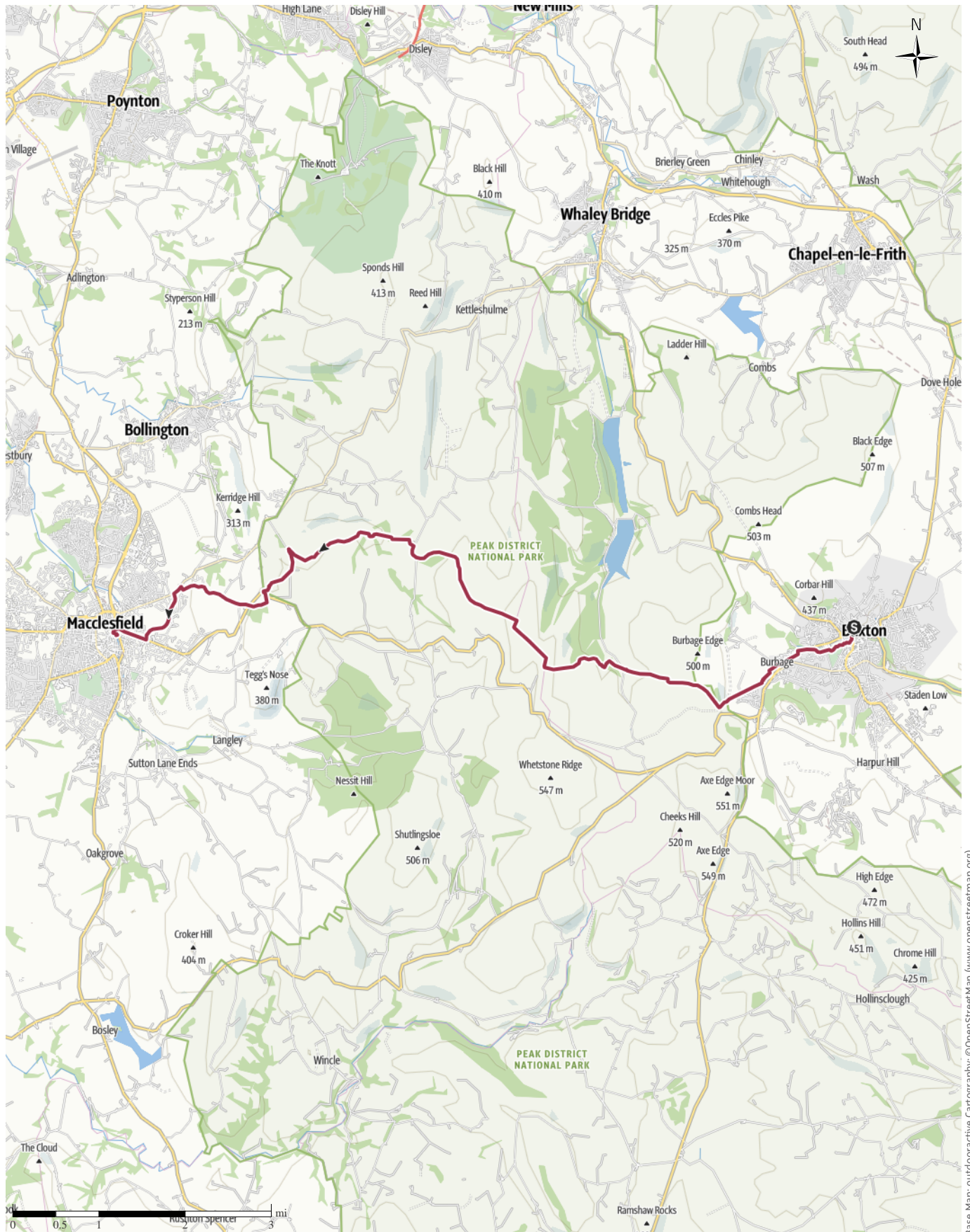
🕒 5:45 h

📏 1755ft

📏 2297ft

Difficulty

moderate



Base Map: outdooractive Cartography; ©OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

↔ 12.2 mi

🕒 5:45 h

⬆️ 1755ft

⬆️ 2297ft

Difficulty

moderate



Base Map: outdooractive Cartography; ©OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

↔ 12.2 mi

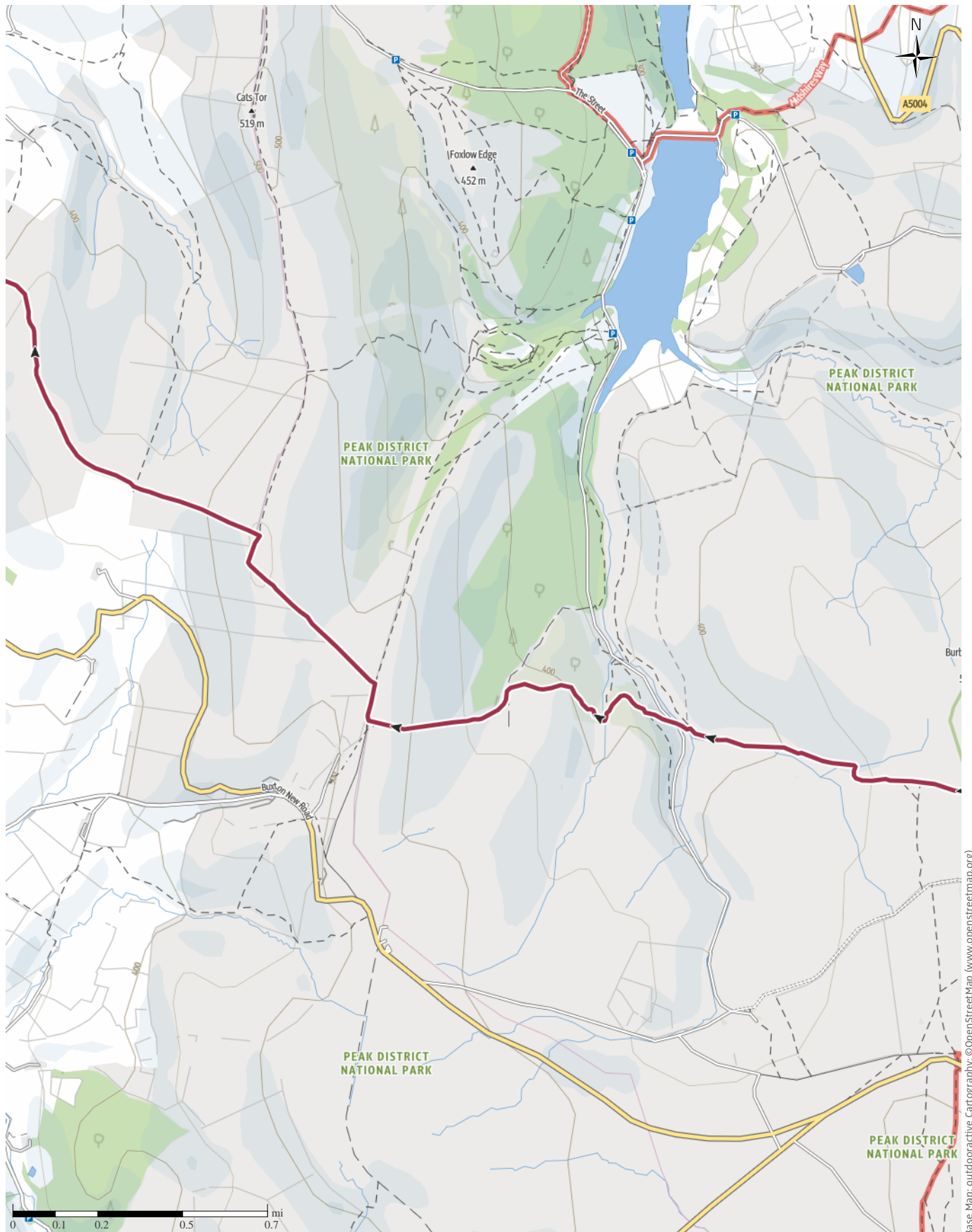
🕒 5:45 h

⬆️ 1755ft

⬆️ 2297ft

Difficulty

moderate



Base Map: outdooractive Cartography; ©OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

↔ 12.2 mi

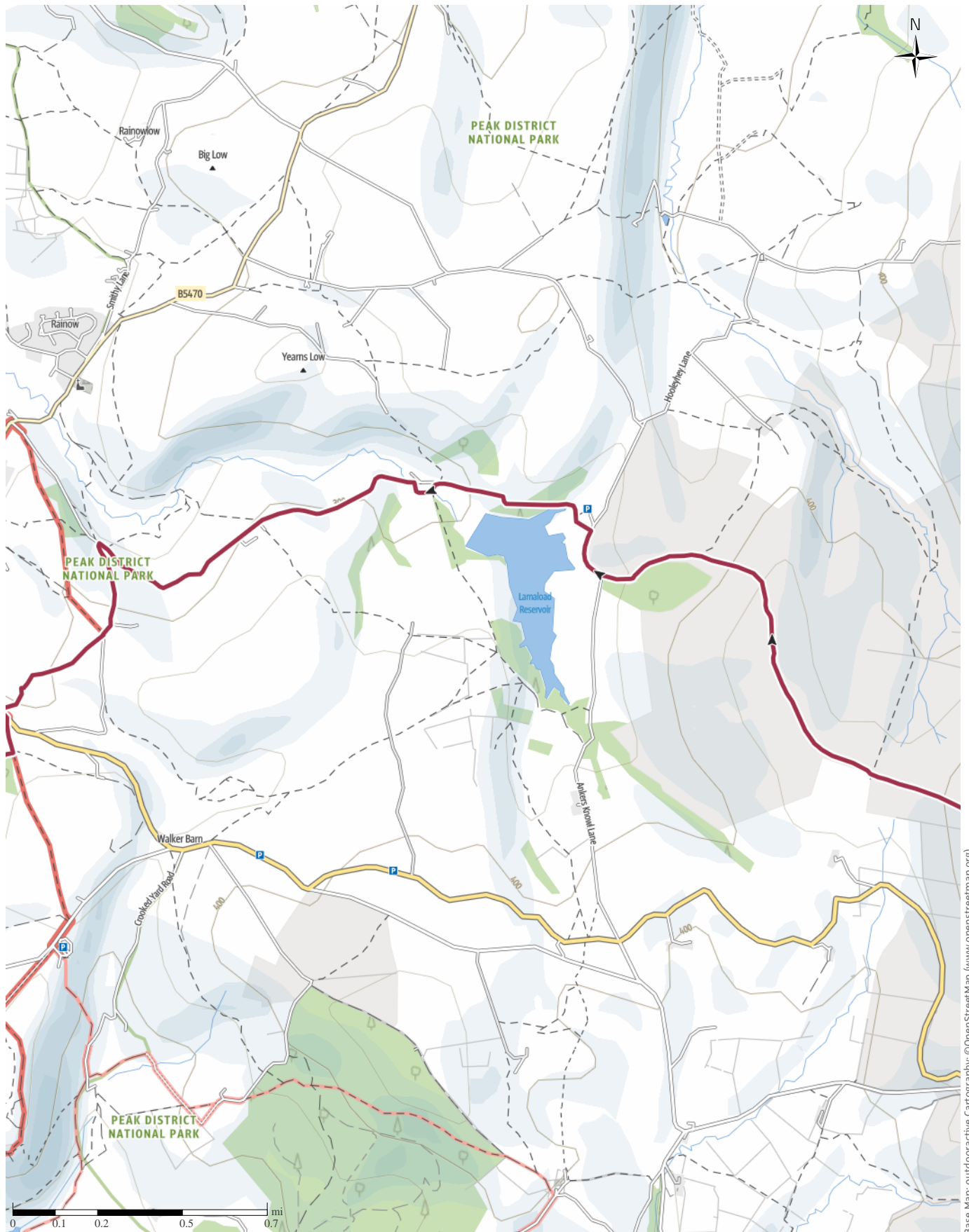
🕒 5:45 h

⬆️ 1755ft

⬆️ 2297ft

Difficulty

moderate



Base Map: outdooractive Cartography; ©OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

↔ 12.2 mi

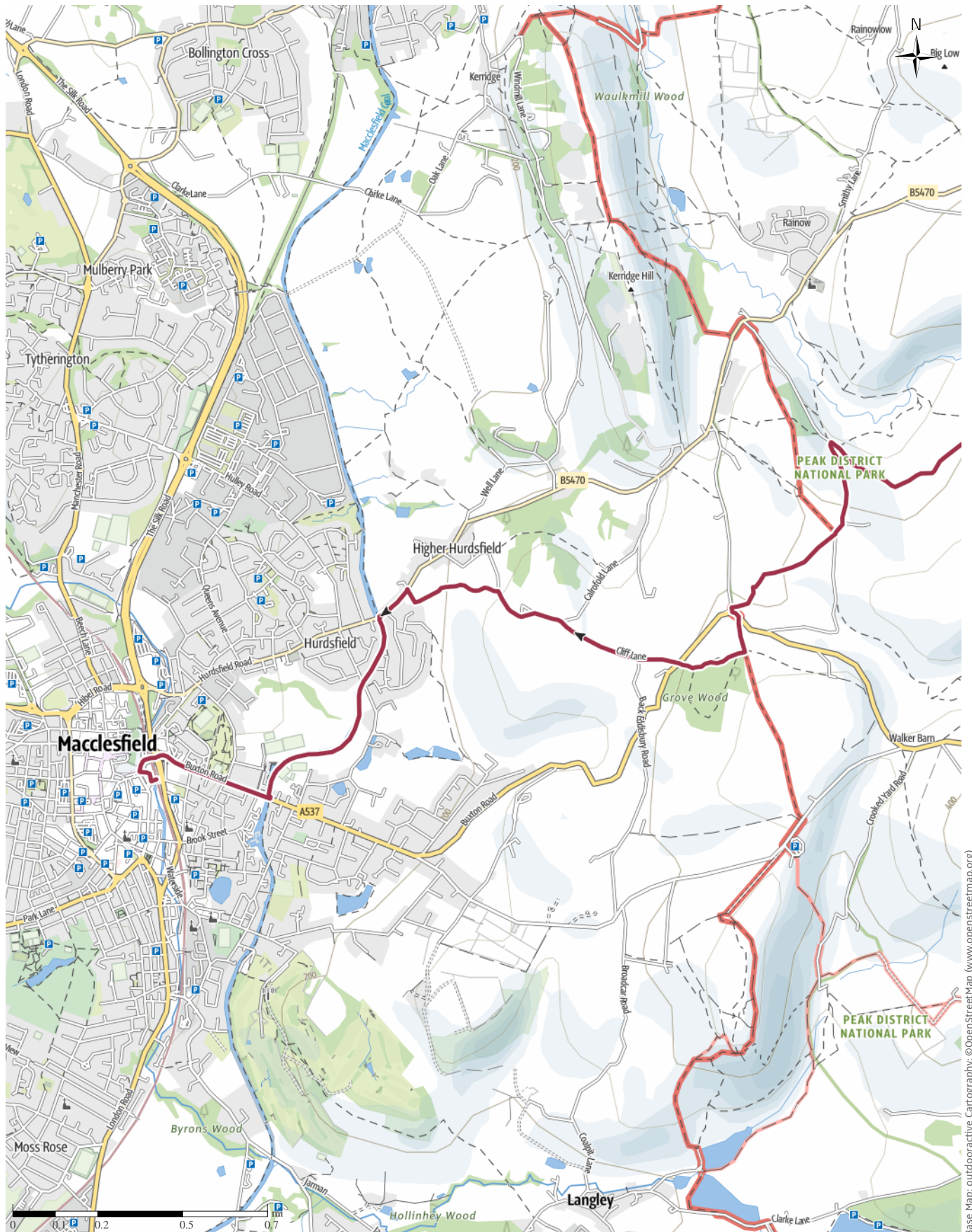
🕒 5:45 h

⬆️ 1755ft

⬆️ 2297ft

Difficulty

moderate



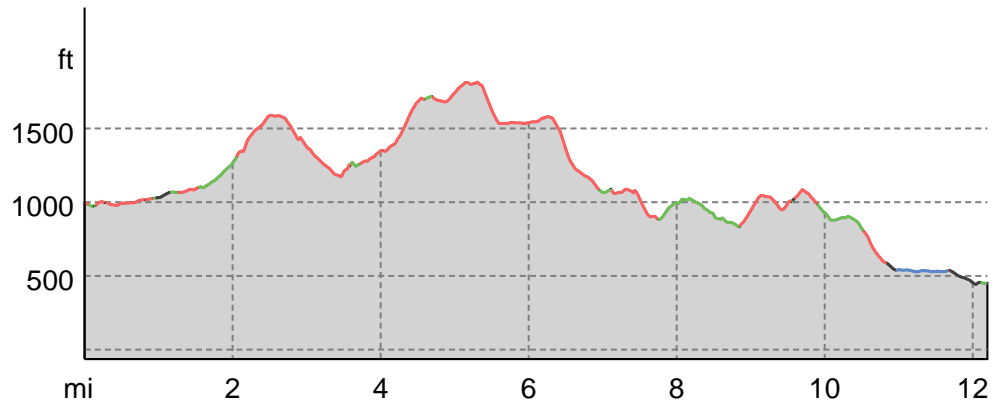
Base Map: outdooractive Cartography; ©OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

Road surface

Dirt road	0.7 mi
Way	3 mi
Path	7.7 mi
Street	0.8 mi
Unknown	0 mi

Elevation profile



route data

Hiking route

Distance	↔	12.2 mi
Duration	🕒	5:45 h
Ascent	⬆️	1755 ft
Descent	⬇️	2297 ft

Difficulty	moderate
Stamina	●●●●●
Technique	●●●●●
Altitude	
	1814 ft
	443 ft

Best time of year

JAN	FEB	MAR
APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP
OCT	NOV	DEC

Ratings

Authors

Experience ●●●●●

Landscape ●●●●●

Community

Route (1) ★★★★★

More route data

Properties

Public-transport-friendly	Linear route
Multi-stage route	Scenic
Geological highlights	Summit route
Botanical highlights	



Matthew Ball

Update: September 16, 2021

Stage 13 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail:

Buxton to Macclesfield via Shining Tor

Starting from Buxton Railway Station, we head south-west through the charming Pavillion Gardens and then through the suburbs of Burbage, and then up onto the heather moors around the River Goyt. This takes us through wooded country up to the summit of Shining Tor, at 559m above sea level the highest point in

modern-day Cheshire. We then drop down steeply and head past Lamaload Reservoir and on through the rolling hillsides of Kettleshulme County Parish before descending down Cliff Lane to Higher Hurdsfield, before heading back to Macclesfield along the Canal and then the A537.

Author's recommendation

This route was walked by Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) on Saturday 28th September 2019.

As well as being a walking route in its own right, it is the final Stage of 13 on the Round Manchester Hiking Trail, a long distance walk that completely encircles the city of Manchester. The Trail is designed to be accessible by public transport, and to take in a varied selection of the best scenery in the Manchester area. It is 157 miles long in total and has about 6,000m of ascent.

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

The Trail starts in Macclesfield, and then proceeds in a clockwise direction via the other twelve staging points (Wilmslow, Knutsford, Lymm, Leigh, Blackrod, Entwistle, Rawtenstall, Todmorden, Marsden, Hadfield, Edale, and Buxton) before the last stage takes it back to Macclesfield again to complete the loop.

Since 2019, Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) have been walking each of the stages in order roughly once every four weeks (pandemic permitting), which results in the full loop being completed once every year. The first five stages cover mostly lowland territory, and so are walked in the winter months, leaving the sunnier parts of the year in which to tackle the hills that otherwise nearly surround Manchester on three sides.

As of the summer of 2021, it is intended that the Trail will at some point be registered with the Long Distance Walkers Association as an "official" long distance path, although this hasn't yet happened at the time of writing. However, all 13 stages are available on the Outdoor Active website and can be downloaded as GPX files.

Safety information

Take care crossing the A537 at both points near Grove Wood, as traffic may not be expecting pedestrians at this point.

Equipment

Good walking boots and otherwise sensible hiking gear.

Additional information

Tips and hints

Assembly Point:

There is plenty of space immediately outside the Station entrance at Buxton, and toilets are also available on the platform.

Stiles:

10, mostly in good condition.

Toilets:

Free toilets at Buxton station. After this, none till the end. We do go through plenty of remote areas and wooded areas, so there are opportunities on the way.

Obstructions:

None known as of October 2020.

Timings:

1:00 - Boundary of the open country near Burbage

2:45 - Shining Tor (trig point)

3:30 - Hooleyhey Lane (near Lamaload Reservoir)

4:45 - The Gritstone Trail

5:45 - Higher Hurdsfield (the B5470)

6:30 - Macclesfield Railway Station

Bail-Out Points:

From Stake Farm on the approach to Shining Tor it is possible to turn left and reach the Cat & Fiddle Inn after about ¾ mile. The no. 58 bus calls here hourly (on a Saturday) in each direction on its way between Buxton and Macclesfield.

Later on, 7 miles into the walk, we pass a car park on Hooleyhey Lane, near Lamaload Reservoir. This could serve as a convenient pick-up point for a taxi or private car.

Near the 9-mile mark the route takes a sharp turn to the left and starts climbing again. As there about 150m ascent to follow, anyone really tired might consider carrying straight on instead and continuing on the road downhill towards Rainow. After about ½ mile you will reach the B5470, from which the no. 60 bus (hourly in either direction on Saturday's) will take you to either Macclesfield or else Whalley Bridge/New Mills.

Alternative Routes:

I can't really think of any good alternatives that don't significantly lengthen the route. I suppose if you really wanted to call in at the Cat & Fiddle, you could detour across the Buxton Old Coach Road (instead of taking the footpath across Goyt's Moss) and re-join the main route after the pub near Stake Farm. However this does result in a lot of exposure to the A537, and would be at the expense of the really great scenery around Berry Clough and Stake Clough.

Lunch Stop:

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

The woods at Stake Side on the approach to Shinig Tor offer some shelter if needed. The Shining Tor summit offers some benches, and (on the Cheshire side of the trig point) grass verges to sit down on. There are more dry stone walls to sit on at the path crossroads near Longclough.

Pub Stops En-Route:

Not really any on the route, except for the Cat & Fiddle, ¾ mile away (see above).

We do pass the Three Crowns – a Robinson's pub in Higher Hurdsfield, but this is just 1½ miles from the end of the walk, which I tend to think is too close.

Post-Walk Refreshments:

There is a large selection of places to go near the railway station in Macclesfield.

I can recommend the Queen's Hotel (right opposite to station entrance) as having great staff and a friendly atmosphere. The local Wetherspoon's (called the Society Rooms) is available about 250 yards away if you need plenty of indoor space. Within a similar radius is a large selection of other bars and restaurants.

Turn-by-turn directions

Starting point / trailhead

Buxton Railway Station

Coordinates:

DD: 53.260660, -1.912949

DMS: 53°15'38.4"N 1°54'46.6"W

UTM: 30U 572511 5901818

w3w: ///dumps.handyman.pencils

Point of arrival

Macclesfield Railway Station

Turn-by-turn directions

From Buxton's Railway Station, we head out rightwards and across the A53 at the pelican crossing to head down Station Approach. We then head across another pelican crossing at the A515 to reach the War Memorial, which we climb up to get views of the town. After passing the memorial we head down again and veer rightwards to head towards the entrance to the Pavillion Gardens at the corner of Hall Bank and Hartington Road.

Through the Gardens we head westward towards the exit at Burlington Road, which we cross to enter the Serpentine Park, following the River Wye further

westwards until the park finishes and we meet the A53 again. This time we cross over and follow a footpath towards River's Vale before immediately heading back to the road again to proceed westwards along the pavement on its northern side. After 300 yards we reach the turning for Bishop's Lane and turn in to that. After another 150 yards this takes us to a road junction at which we head straight across to find a narrow stone stile which accesses a narrow footpath that is a bit overgrown and with some nettles.

This footpath twists and turns but keeps to the edges of houses and gardens on its left and after 500 yards (and some stiles) gets back to Burbage Lane. We now follow this Lane steeply uphill for about 2/3 mile until there is a big junction, at which we turn right to head uphill towards Berry Clough. This path takes us up to 490m above sea level across Burbage Moor for one-and-a-half miles before heading downhill to the Rivery Goyt. After bridging the River and then crossing a service road on the far bank the path turns uphill again, through woods towards Stake Clough, with views of Errwood Reservoir to our right.

About a mile after the service road our path meets a big junction, at which we turn right – but after 100 yards we turn left again to follow a very straight gravel path towards the summit of Shining Tor, 559m above sea level – and a good place to stop for lunch. After Shining Tor, we head right, again only for 100 yards before turning left to head downhill toward Lamaload Reservoir. About one-and-a-half miles after leaving Shining Tor we reach Hooleyhey Lane, near the Reservoir, at which we turn right. After 200 yards on this road we take a footpath 90 degrees to the left, which leads us downhill to where the River Dean emerges from the Reservoir near a water treatment works.

Once we get to the works, at the bottom of a steep slope, we head around them to the left before heading uphill again towards Snipe House, this time on a tarmaced road. We follow this road upwards past Higherlane Farm and then follow it rightwards till we are overlooking the small town of Rainow. At this point we turn steeply left on a footpath that trecks up across a hillside and through dry stone walls towards Newbuildings Farm. The footpath doesn't quite lead to the farm, but instead joins the Gritstone Trail, which we now follow for about 1/2 mile across the A537 to Grove Wood (on our right) which is owned by the Forrestry Commission.

Because Forrestry Commission land is open to the public we can follow the path through the wood that leads westward back towards the A537. This is better than following the actual public footpath that heads in

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

the same direction, because the latter is overgrown and difficult to follow. On reaching the A537, re-cross and head straight on into Cliff Lane, which we follow along some undulations for about 2/3 mile until we reach a clearly signposted footpath off to the left. This takes us downhill across a field with some cows in it until we reach the B5470 - the main road through the suburb of Hurdsfield.

We follow the B5470 on its left side downhill until we reach the Macclesfield Canal, which we now follow southwards for about 2/3 mile until we reach the A537 again, at which point we leave the canal to head downhill towards Macclesfield town centre along the road. You will be able to see the railway line from the approach along the A537. The Station is just the other side of a major road interchange, which we cross using the pelican crossings before passing underneath the railway line.

Getting There



This route is conveniently accessible by public transport.

Public transport

Trains to Buxton depart from Piccadilly every hour on a Saturday morning, and take approximately an hour to get to Buxton.

The ideal ticket will likely be the GM Wayfarer, which will cover trains to and from Buxton and Macclesfield to all of Greater Manchester as well as all trams and buses within GM. For more details see <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/wayfarer-adult> for more details.

Getting there

Return services from Macclesfield to Manchester run three or four times an hour, and are often very quick, as some services are Intercity and only take 25 minutes. The stopping services however take more like 40 minutes.

Parking

If you are using the car for part of the journey, then the most logical place to park would be somewhere near Stockport Railway station, where both the outward and return trains call.

Protected areas

National park Peak District

Some or all of the following may apply in protected areas:

Observe local conservation rules and information

Comments & Ratings



September 16, 2021 · Hiking Route · RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

Reviews



Takeaway route for iPhone and Android



Scan QR code, save this route offline, share with friends and more...

Website

<https://out.ac/llncge>

TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield



Shining Tor

Photo: Matthew Ball, Community


















TOP RMHT Stage 13: Buxton to Macclesfield

Legend









Topography

	Wood, forest
	Moor, swamp, marsh
	Moorland
	Residential building area with single building
	Industrial real estate with single building
	Cemetery
	Golf course
	Sportsfield, stadium
	Stadium
	Open-air pool
	Vineyard
	Petrograph
	Country border
	State border
	District border
	Contour line
	Special use area
	Nature reserve











Topographic single signs

	Summit cross
	Elevation point
	Rock
	Cave
	Church
	Chapel
	Cemetery
	Palace/Castle
	Abbey
	Monument
	Ruin
	Mine
	Cairn
	Broadcasting tower
	Windwheel
	Water-/windmill
	Viewpoint

Streets and ways

	Freeway with number
	Highway with number
	State, country, district street
	Village road
	Main agricultural road
	Agricultural road
	Trail
	Via Ferrata

Lifts, Railway

	Ropeway lift
	Gondola lift
	Chairlift
	Ski-, draglift
	Aerial ropeways
	Railway
	Suburban train
	Subway
	Tram
	Railway station