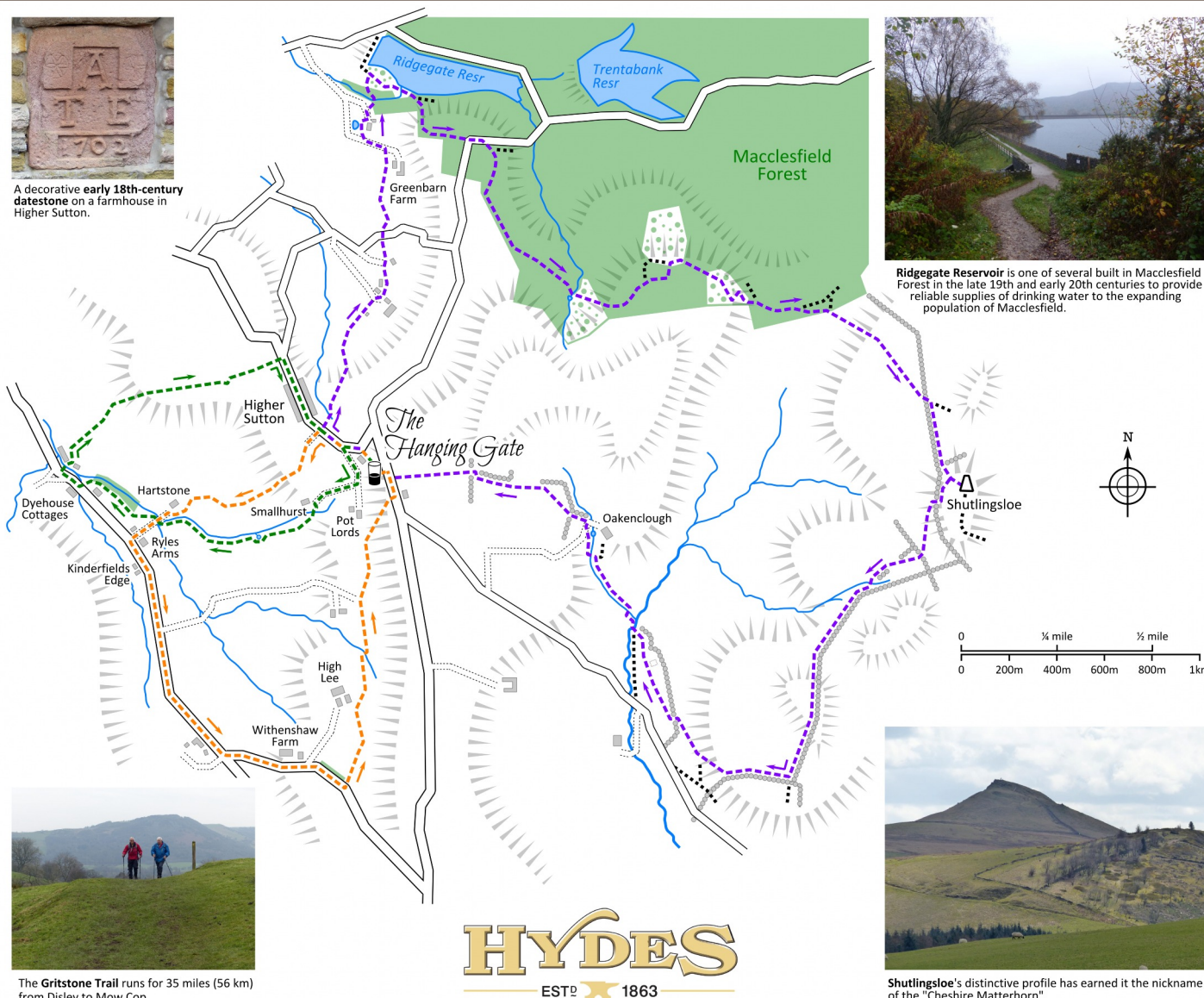




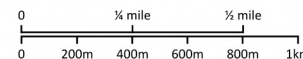
A decorative early 18th-century datestone on a farmhouse in Higher Sutton.



The Gritstone Trail runs for 35 miles (56 km) from Disley to Mow Cop.



Ridgegate Reservoir is one of several built in Macclesfield Forest in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to provide reliable supplies of drinking water to the expanding population of Macclesfield.



Shutlingsloe's distinctive profile has earned it the nickname of the "Cheshire Matterhorn".

THREE WALKS FROM *The Hanging Gate*



Higher Sutton, Cheshire

Rossendale Brook

2¼ miles: Easy

A streamside and farmland stroll with fine views to Sutton Common.

Kinderfields Edge

2¾ miles: Moderate

A walk through sheep pastures with wide views and sturdy stone-built hillfarms.

Macclesfield Forest & Shutlingsloe

6½ miles: Strenuous

An invigorating climb to a notable summit with glorious forest and moorland views (no dogs).

THE HANGING GATE

Higher Sutton, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 0NG

Tel 01260 400756

Website www.thehanginggate.co.uk

Email info@thehanginggate.co.uk

OPEN: Sun 12 noon–10.30pm

Mon to Fri 12–3pm, 6–11pm Sat 12–11pm

FOOD: Sun 12 noon–dusk Mon 12 noon–2.30pm

Tues–Sat 12–2.30pm, 6.30–9pm

Rossendale Brook

2¼ miles: Fairly easy

Allow 1½ hours. Wet grass and muddy/boggy sections after rain.

1 Leave the Hanging Gate by walking between the pub entrance and the outside toilets. Bear right through a kissing gate and follow the partly paved path through two more kissing gates. **2** After a narrow path behind a white house, descend some stone steps to emerge on Meg Lane. **3** Turn left and after 25 yards turn left again down a small lane, passing in front of the white house. **4** Continue down the lane and at a Y junction bear right (the left is a private track to Pot Lords Farm) until you approach Smallhurst Farm, now a private dwelling. **5** Follow the sign to the left, following a stone wall as it swings right, then descend steps to your left and cross over a stile. **6** Cross over a small stream by the timber bridge, then bear right immediately and head for the ladder stile over the stone wall directly ahead. Cross the stile (or, more likely, go through the gap beside it) and bear slightly right down to the bottom right-hand corner of the field, then cross a timber stile immediately adjacent to the brook on your right. **7** Follow the tree line, but skirt the small pond and continue walking close to the trees on your right. Eventually you will reach a partly hidden timber stile. **8** Cross this with a stone wall on your left; follow this for 10 yards then follow the contour of the bank on your right, again keeping the trees and brook on your right, and eventually swing left down the hill, keeping well to the right. **9** At the bottom of the hill, cross the brook by the timber footbridge, and cross a timber stile to emerge onto a farm track. Go through the metal kissing gate opposite. **10** Cross the field diagonally to your left towards a second kissing gate. Beyond this, skirt the trees on your right until you come to a third kissing gate at the end of the field. **11** Go through the gate and descend behind the converted old chapel to emerge in Hollin Lane. **12** Turn right, passing the old Dyehouse Cottages on your left then a barn on your right, and turn right at the signpost through the farmyard. **13** Cross over a timber stile next to a wooden gate and bear left up the hill, keeping right of the first telegraph pole before meeting a fence, which you follow to the right. **14** Cross a timber stile in the fence on your left and bear right to cut the corner of the next field to a footbridge and stile. **15** Follow a fenced path to a further timber stile. **16** Head uphill to the top left-hand corner of the field, and cross a stone and timber stile. **17** Keep the trees and fence on your left and head up the field through a gap in the tree line in the left-hand corner. **18** Cross the next field, still keeping the trees on your left. A clear view of the Hanging Gate can be seen away to your right. **19** Continue for approximately 300 yards keeping parallel with the trees, then cross a timber stile in the stone wall on your left. **20** Follow the right-hand field edge, keeping the stone wall on your right, until you reach the end of the field. Climb over a timber ladder stile and emerge onto Meg Lane. **21** Turn right and walk along the lane until you reach the white house passed at the start of the walk. Pass this and climb the steps onto the narrow footpath behind the house back up to the pub.

Kinderfields Edge (2¾ miles: Moderate)

Allow 1½ hours. Paths may be boggy in winter; some road walking.

1 Leave the Hanging Gate by walking between the pub entrance and the outside toilets. Bear right through the kissing gate and continue down the partly paved path through a second and third kissing gate to emerge on Meg Lane. **2** Turn left and walk down the lane, passing a driveway on your left, and after 75 yards turn left at a footpath sign down a farm track. **3** Follow the track through a series of farm gates and then follow the wall to a kissing gate marked with a Gritstone Trail disc. **4** Follow the hawthorn bushes beyond, keeping them on your right for some distance. **5** Eventually go through another kissing gate and head half-left down the hill towards Hartstone Farm. Keep to the left of the farmhouse to another kissing gate and pass through a small paddock with a duckpond on your left. **6** Emerge through a hand gate onto a driveway and carry on up the track, away from the house, to reach Hollin Lane by the Ryles Arms. **7** Turn left and walk up the lane passing Kinderfields Edge, a converted barn. **8** Continue along Hollin Lane for half a mile then turn left up Withenshaw Lane. **9** Climb past Withenshaw Farm on your left, then ignore a farm track on your left. **10** At the end of a line of trees on your left, scramble up the bank and cross a stile next to a gate. **11** The faint track bears slightly left and passes through a gateless opening in a stone wall. Follow the wall beyond to reach High Lee Farm. **12** Go through a metal gate then cross a stile on your right. **13** Bear half-left down the field and, where the stone wall on your left meets a wire fence, cross the wooden stile. **14** Follow the fence on your left, then drop down steeply to a squeeze stile and footbridge over a stream. **15** Bear left up the opposite slope to a waymark post, and follow the contouring path along the scant remains of an old wall. **16** Ignore the farm track to Pot Lords Farm, continuing along the wall ahead of you. **17** Cross a stone stile by a gate and keep along the wall. **18** At the bottom of a wall on your right is a sign reading "FOOTPATH TO HANGING GATE ONLY/NO ACCESS THROUGH POT LORDS FARM". **19** Head uphill, meeting a vague track that heads leftwards up to the road opposite Old Dollards Cottage. **20** Turn left to return to the Hanging Gate.

Macclesfield Forest & Shutlingsloe

6½ miles: Strenuous

Allow 3–4 hours. One long ascent and much rough ground and open moorland; walking boots advised. Do not attempt in bad weather or poor visibility. The conditions of the Open Access Land crossed beyond Shutlingsloe summit specify strictly **NO DOGS**.

1 Leave the Hanging Gate by walking between the pub entrance and the outside toilets. Bear right through the kissing gate and follow the partly paved path through a second and third kissing gate to emerge on Meg Lane. **2** Turn left down the lane, ignoring a farm drive on the left, then leave the road over a stile on the right. **3** Descend to cross a stream below a spring and follow the contouring path beyond until

you pass a wooden building and descend to a farm. **4** Walk between the buildings, following the Gritstone Trail waymarks onto a narrow path leading behind more buildings. **5** At the entrance to Overhill Cottage, cross the drive and take the footpath opposite, through a kissing gate. **6** At the end of the next field, drop down into a sunken lane and take the continuing path opposite. **7** Pass through a couple of gates and ford a small stream to pass to the left of Greenbarn Farm. **8** When you meet the farm drive, turn left, then leave the drive to the right, skirting round a house with a pond on your left. **9** Follow the drive beyond for a short distance, before turning right to a gate into Macclesfield Forest. **10** Cross a footbridge and climb the stepped path beyond to reach a surfaced track. **11** Turn right, signposted to Shutlingsloe. **12** Follow the track to the reservoir and turn right across a small dam. At the end of the dam, take the right-hand (uphill) fork. **13** Bear left at the forest edge and walk up to meet a road. **14** Go straight on for a short distance, then leave the road at a gate on the right. **15** Follow the broad track uphill in front of you, which winds up through the trees with occasional views over farmland to your right. **16** At a small trackside pond, bear left along the track. **17** When a path heads off to the left, keep right on the main track, until eventually you reach an open area with two benches and a fine view over Macclesfield Forest. **18** The track levels off, then zig-zags sharply downhill to a junction, where you keep right. **19** Turn right at a fork (again signposted to Shutlingsloe) eventually reaching open country. **20** Follow the paved path across the moor. **21** Go through a kissing gate in a wall and turn right on another paved path along the wall to a step stile, then leave the wall, climbing the rocky steps to the top of Shutlingsloe. **22** Having enjoyed the views from the trig point, retrace your route down the steps but, before regaining the wall, turn left and descend to meet the wall on your right; follow it to a stile. **23** Cross the stile and take a narrow path half-left across the moor to a waymark post. Turn left here along a quad-bike path to a gate. **24** Follow the obvious path to a broken wall beyond, then bear left and cross a boggy stream via a boardwalk. **25** Follow the moorland wall for half a mile, until you reach a ladder stile in a corner. **26** Here turn right (signposted to "Hanging Gate") and continue along the wall. Leave it to reach an oblique junction of tracks; bear right here to leave the moor via a gate in the wall. **27** Follow a descending path to the right, past a ruined building, to the stream. **28** Go through a gate and across the bridge, then bear left and right across a side-stream. **29** Turn left onto a pleasant path up the side-valley; below Oakenclough House take a permissive path straight on to pass a pond on your right and meet the drive. **30** Take a few steps to the right, then turn left through a gate and walk uphill along the wall. **31** Beyond another gate, bear right across open country on an obvious, if sometimes boggy, path. **32** In the far corner of the field, turn right through a gateway and then left over a stile. **33** Follow the fenced path back to the Hanging Gate.



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