



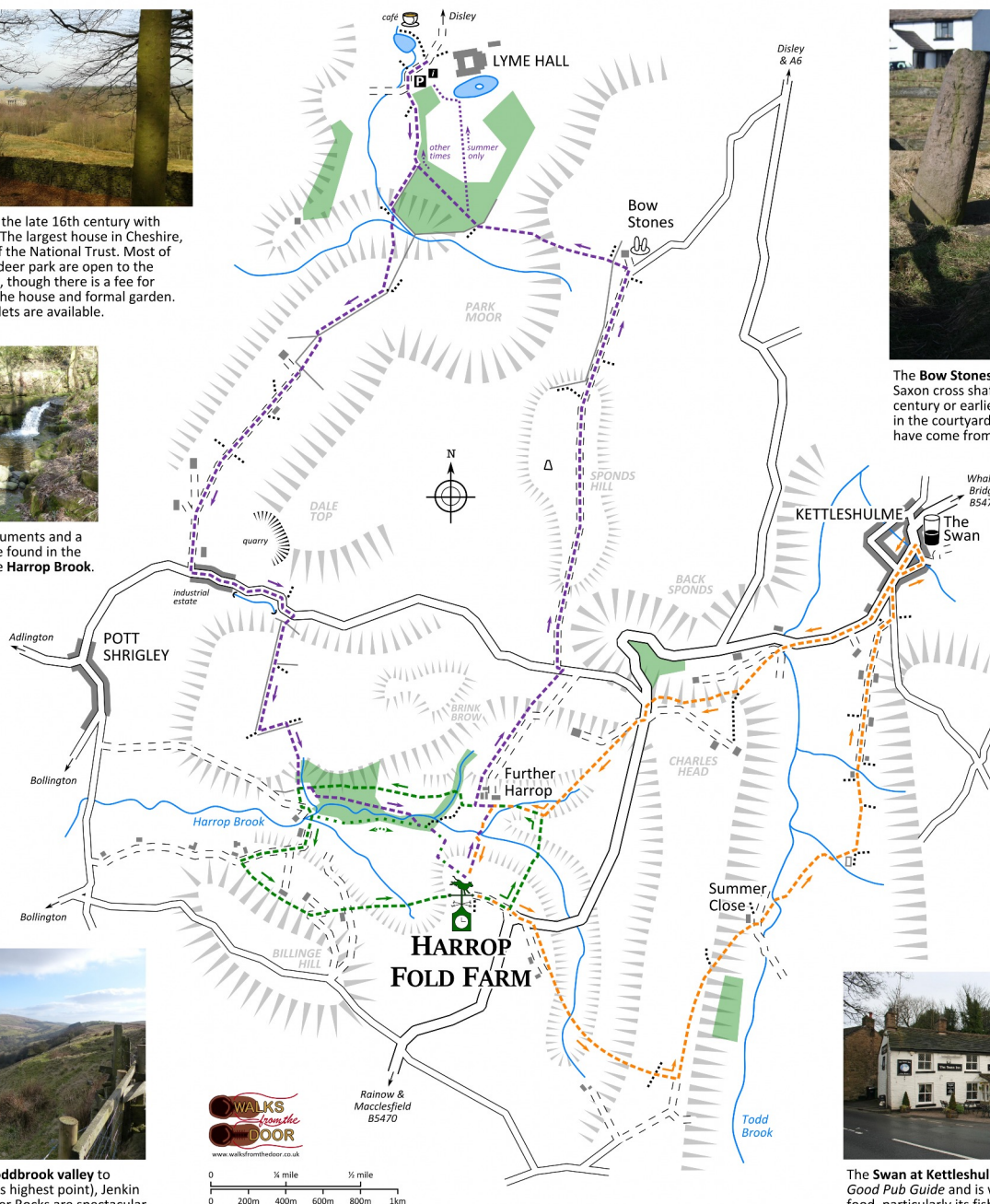
Lyme Hall dates from the late 16th century with many later additions. The largest house in Cheshire, it is now in the care of the National Trust. Most of the wider estate and deer park are open to the public without charge, though there is a fee for parking and entry to the house and formal garden. Refreshments and toilets are available.



Outdoor musical instruments and a wildflower trail can be found in the delightful valley of the Harrop Brook.



The views over the Toddbrook valley to Shining Tor (Cheshire's highest point), Jenkin Chapel and Windgather Rocks are spectacular.



The Bow Stones are a pair of Anglo-Saxon cross shafts from the 10th century or earlier. Two cross-heads in the courtyard of Lyme Hall may have come from here.



The Swan at Kettleshulme features in the Good Pub Guide and is well regarded for its food, particularly its fish dishes.

Three walks from HARROP FOLD FARM

Rainow, Cheshire



Harrop Valley

2¾ miles: Easy

A gentle exploration of our delightful wooded valley with plenty of scope for varying the distance.

To the Swan at Kettleshulme

5½ miles: Moderate

A hilly walk over a scenic ridge to a pretty Cheshire village and its splendid pub.

Sponds Hill and Lyme Park

7 miles: Moderately strenuous

An energetic walk through the moorland deer park of one of Cheshire's finest stately homes.

HARROP FOLD FARM

Macclesfield Road, Rainow, Macclesfield SK10 5UU

Tel: 01625 560085

Website: www.harropfoldfarm.co.uk

Email: stay@harropfoldfarm.co.uk

Harrop Valley

2¾ miles: Easy

Field and woodland paths may be muddy after rain. Several stiles. Allow 1½ hours. Can be shortened to 2¼ miles.

1 Walk up the main entrance drive from Harrop Fold Farm until just before you reach the road. **2** Turn left over a stile by a gate and walk down the walled path in front of you, which follows the line of the old road. **3** Cross the stream at the bottom and walk up the slope beyond. **4** Once over a stile at the top of the hill, turn right, and then left along a walled track. **5** Keep to the left of Further Harrop Farm and then, beyond the buildings, follow a path straight on, between fenced paddocks. **6** When you reach a small valley, turn right and drop down to ford the stream. **7** Beyond the stile at the top of the slope follow a tumbledown wall across open fields and then continue along the contour when it peters out, to reach Harrop Wood. **8** Follow the path through the wood until it drops to a stile and a small stream. **9** Turn left and walk downhill past two animal shelters. **10** Follow the fenced drive and then, before it enters the property, take a path on the left that drops to a clapper bridge over a stream. **11** Cross the second bridge and walk up the slope to a gate by a farmhouse. *(For a shorter walk, turn left between the two bridges and follow this path back to Harrop Fold.)* **12** Walk past the farmhouse and along the winding driveway beyond. **13** Keep along this metalled lane, passing the entrance to Winterside Farm. **14** At the next farm (Heyshead Farm) where the lane starts to descend *(keep straight on for Bollington)*, turn left up some stone steps and over a step stile. **15** The path meets a wall, which you follow to a further stile. **16** Walk behind and above Winterside Farm until you meet the driveway to Billingside Farm at a hairpin bend. **17** Turn left and follow the drive down to and through a gateway in the wall, then turn immediately right to a stile in a hedge. **18** Cross the field beyond, aiming to the left of Brown House. **19** Go through a hand gate into a track; turn left and then immediately right over a stile. **20** Cross the next field, aiming for Harrop Fold, to a gate in the hedge and beyond it a footbridge and stile. **21** After crossing the next field, drop to another footbridge and then another stile. **22** Walk up the hill over yet another stile (by a field gate) and then head on up the hill to the right of the nearest barn. **23** A stile on the left by the barn gives access back into Harrop Fold Farm.

To the Swan at Kettleshulme

5½ miles: Moderate

Two stiff climbs, numerous stiles, and some sections that may be muddy after rain. Allow 3 hours.

1 Walk up the main entrance drive until just before you reach the road; cross a stile in front of you to cut a corner. **2** Ignoring the entrance to Blackbrook Farm opposite, turn left and walk down the road, then cross carefully and follow a signposted footpath on the

right, along the top of the field below the farm. **3** At the far end, beyond the last barn, cross a stile and negotiate a boggy patch before following the wall downhill to a stile and then crossing the stream. **4** Head diagonally up the slope, passing two hawthorn trees and aiming towards the buildings of Round Knoll Farm initially. Swing left, directly uphill, when you meet a tumbledown wall. **5** Cross a stile as you approach the top of the hill, keeping along the wall. Turn left at the end of the field overlooking the Todd Brook valley. **6** At a kink in the wall cross a stile on your right and follow the path obliquely down the slope, passing through a metal gate and ignoring the permitted path to Charles Head on your left. **7** At Summer Close Farm, turn left and go through a gate by a PNFS sign. **8** At the end of the fence turn right off the track and walk diagonally down to a footbridge. **9** Walk up the opposite slope, aiming initially towards Windgather Rocks on the skyline, before swinging slightly left. **10** Cross a stile and follow a line of trees, then swing right to a stile and cross a stream. **11** Walk up the edge of the next field to a stile to the left of the abandoned farm and turn left. **12** After two wall stiles, by two old stone gateposts go straight on (ignoring a stile on the right) to reach Mangers Carr Farm. **13** Follow the driveway beyond, passing a series of farms, to the public road. **14** Turn left and walk down to the B5470, turning right into Kettleshulme. **15** Beyond the school, turn right into Flatts Lane. **16** At the bottom of the hill, turn left along an unmade road. Just before the main road, a flight of steps on your left gives access to the Swan Inn. **17** From the Swan turn left and walk up the main road, passing the school again and crossing over to follow the pavement for as long as it lasts. **18** Beyond Spout House Farm, keep along the road for 500 yards until you reach Reed Bridge at the bottom of the valley. **19** Cross over onto a farm track on the left, crossing a stone bridge just upstream of the road bridge. **20** At a T-junction ignore the tracks and head straight on uphill, with a fence and hedge on your left, crossing a stile partway up. **21** When the slope eases off slightly, before the path heads off left towards Charles Head Farm, leave the fence and head diagonally right to a waymark. Then follow a contouring path above the wooded valley of Gnathole. **22** At the road, turn left and then right into the entrance to Whitelands; turn left off the farm drive at a cattle grid. **23** Follow the path downhill, before crossing the stream on your left to reach a stile and heading slightly uphill. **24** At PNFS sign no. 391 turn right down a walled track. **25** Just before Further Harrop Farm, turn left and follow the left-hand side of the field down to the stream. **26** Beyond the footbridge climb the steep slope to a stile, then follow the wall ahead back to Harrop Fold.

Sponds Hill and Lyme Park

7 miles: Moderately strenuous

Higher stretches can be bleak in bad weather, and boggy after rain. Lyme Park closes at 6pm. Allow 4 hours.

1 Leave Harrop Fold Farm via the main entrance and turn immediately left, passing our farmhouse on the left. **2** Continue straight on passing the next farmhouse on the left, through their gateway to a stile on the

right. **3** Follow the wall beyond to a stile, then drop steeply down to a footbridge. **4** Climb up the other side to Further Harrop Farm, where you turn left then right, skirting the farm buildings. **5** Cross a ladder stile to the left of the entrance gate and follow the left-hand wall, parallel to the drive. **6** When the drive bends away to the right, go straight on, over a stile, to the road. **7** Turn left, then immediately right onto the Gritstone Trail. **8** Follow the track to a topograph to the right of the track at the top of the hill. **9** Keep on along the ridge-top track until you reach the road at Bowstones Farm. **10** Having viewed the Bow Stones, take the footpath to the left of the farm entrance and climb the ladder stile into Lyme Park. **11** Descend the obvious path ahead of you, and go through the gate into Knightslow Wood. **12** After a short distance take a path on the right that leaves the wood and heads directly towards Lyme Hall across the Fallow Deer Park and then swings left to the car park. *(From November to March this path is unavailable, so stay on the main path and turn right when you reach the park road near the car park. Either way, the return route is described from the information centre in the car park.)* **13** Cross the car park and turn left along the park road. **14** When the road swings right, follow the Gritstone Trail off to the left to a gate *(if you arrived via the winter route, retracing your steps)*. **15** Keep on along the track beyond, with pine trees on your left, until you reach the entrance to the Knightslow Wood. **16** Do not enter, instead turning right and walking along the forest wall until you reach a wall stile on the left in the corner. **17** Cross the stile and turn right. **Do not** follow the obvious path down the steps and to the right, but instead go straight down the steep slope and ford the stream. **18** Walk up a small dry valley beyond, to emerge in moorland. **19** Follow the path ahead. **20** When you meet the wall at a stile and gate, carry on with the wall on your left. **21** At a junction of walls before a house, turn left over a ladder stile, then turn right to a second. **22** Join the driveway beyond (Moorside Ln) and follow it for ½ mile to the road. **23** Turn left and walk through the Industrial Estate and beyond. **24** Keep on up the road, passing a footpath on the left. **25** Just beyond this point follow a footpath sign on the right, which leads up a steep bank. **26** Follow the wall beyond, ignoring a path signposted off to the left, until you reach a wall at the end of the field overlooking the Harrop Valley; turn left. **27** Partway up the field, cross a stile on your right by a footpath sign. Drop down the field, past a small covered reservoir, to a stile and into a wood. **28** The path here is indistinct; head steeply downhill, keeping as close to the small stream on your left as possible. **29** You emerge from the wood above a farm. By a gap at the end of a wall, turn left to cross the stream by a stile. **30** After a second stile take the right-hand path that leads down through the wood to Harrop Brook. **31** Beyond a small waterfall, enter open fields, then cross the footbridge on your right and walk up through the trees to meet a wider path. **32** Turn left here and follow the signposted path back to Harrop Fold Farm.



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