



Walking with Offa 6

Pubs, cafés & restaurants

Imagine patrolling the border without a decent pub and meal. How would Offa's Dyke have been built without them? Over a thousand years later, keep up the tradition and stop for a drink and a bite to eat in one of the many excellent pubs, cafés and restaurants in and around Bishop's Castle.



Shopping & relaxation

Make sure you allow enough time to explore the colourful and varied selection of shops. To make the most of it, why not stay over for a few days relaxing break? There's accommodation to suit most budgets from camping to luxury bed and breakfast.

Festivals & events

There's something for all throughout the year, from a lively beer or music festival to a quaint village fete and the extraordinary autumn Michaelmas Fair. For further information and events visit www.bishopscastle.co.uk www.lydburynorth.net

Accommodation listings can be found on www.visitshropshirehills.co.uk



Bishop's Castle is an accredited 'Walkers are Welcome' town.

www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk
Walking Festival held in June:
www.walkingfestival.co.uk



GETTING THERE:

You can find public transport options throughout Shropshire at: www.travelshropshire.co.uk.



Or contact Traveline on 08712 002233.

BY BUS: A regular bus service runs from Shrewsbury to Bishop's Castle (service no's 552/553). Bishop's Castle is also served by **Castle Connect**, a 33 seat Shuttle bus which runs every weekend and Bank Holiday Mondays, from May to September –

www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

BY TRAIN: Craven Arms is the nearest train station.

BY CAR: There are free car parks in Harley Jenkins Street and at the Livestock Market in Bishop's Castle (except market days Wednesday and some Thursdays).

To get the best from your walk we recommend comfortable walking boots, waterproof jacket and overtrousers, warm clothing, gloves and warm hat or sun cream and sun hat (depending on the season!), a mobile phone and something to eat and drink. Sheep and cattle are often in the fields on these routes – dogs must be kept under close control or on leads at all times.

Walking with Offa Promoting the Welsh English border as a great place to get your boots on, enjoy the beautiful countryside and indulge in some fabulous food and drink. For more details contact the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership on **01588 674080** or see www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk



Many thanks to Steven Levers from Bishop's Castle for developing this walk and taking the photographs.



There are 18 pub walks in this series and four 'Days Out'. Download, including podcasts, from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/walking-with-offa. Turn your Smartphone into a complete outdoors GPS. Download an app: www.viewranger.com and search for 'Walking with Offa'. A guide featuring twelve walks is available.



This project has been supported by Advantage West Midlands' Natural Assets Programme in partnership with Natural England.



Walking with Offa 6

Brown Hares and Buzzards on Oakeley Mynd



A bracing six and a half mile walk with steady climbs, from Bishop's Castle to Lydbury North crossing Oakeley Mynd, taking around three to four hours.

15+ stiles.



The Welsh English Border - where King Offa met his match!

One of a series of walks with spectacular views and glimpses of history, wildlife and archaeology.

in the Shropshire Hills



Walking with Offa 6

Brown Hares and Buzzards on Oakeley Mynd

A bracing six and a half mile walk, with steady climbs, from Bishop's Castle to Lydbury North crossing Oakeley Mynd, taking around four hours.



Start at the Boar's Head pub, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AE.

① Proceed along Station Street to the left of the Boars Head pub, stay on the right pavement to find narrow walled footpath between Castle Cars and No.24. After a short distance turn left between conifer hedges and bungalows into Bowling Green Close (not signed). Turn left and at the last bungalow on right follow footpath to the right for short distance. Turn left through gate and follow path behind houses to main road.

② Carefully cross this busy road and over stile. Bear slightly left to cross field and stile towards the centre of oncoming hedge. Continue straight over to cross stile on corner of dogleg in the hedge. Head across large field towards right of farm buildings. Cross ditch at a wide gap in hedge and continue straight across field. At the top head towards stile and exit through small copse of trees onto farm track.

③ Turn left and follow track, then right over a stile opposite Oakeley Farm. Proceed with hedge on your right then bear left up steep grassy track to enter wood via stile/gate. Continue up the well-defined woodland track to emerge via stile into field. Bear left up hill to cross stile in fence. Bear slightly right to cross field to next stile. Continue in same direction to cross another just right of woods. Traverse the sloping field to far end to cross a stile in top right hand corner of hedge. Cross a second fence/stile then straight over this wide open field. *Look out for Brown Hares as they lie low in their forms on these open fields and enjoy the panoramic views of the hills; from left, Roundton above Churchstoke, Corndon, Heath Mynd (with it's caterpillar of trees), Linley Beeches, the Stiperstones and the Long Mynd. On the horizon is the Brown Clee with its communications masts, Shropshire's highest hill standing at 1772 feet / 540m above sea level.* Continue through wide gap in oncoming hedge and bear slightly left to descend field to cross stile, track and stile. Descend the field to the right of a small-pitched roof building, to exit via stile on to lane. Turn right and continue up the lane to T-Junction.

④ Cross lane, through gate opposite and down field keeping fence on your right. On reaching corner turn left, keeping hedge to right and continue down passing stile.

Soon after pass the stile into trees. Ignore the path down and bear right into field. Now bear right diagonally across large open field (often cropped) to far corner, aiming towards the right end of the village. As you meet the hedge coming in from the right continue on to corner to exit via metal gate, down steps, across a footbridge and turn left along a track/road, which bears to the right and joins the road, continue along into village. Explore the village and rejoin the route at point 5.

⑤ From Lydbury North Primary School head back towards village hall and first left into Habershon Close and straight

ahead to start of a green lane. Climb up the sunken lane for ½ mile to exit over stile at top into a field. Keep right and take gate to left of a metal farm building. With hedge on left continue up the hill to pass through the right of two gates and then on up the left hedge to another gate at the end of Long Nursery Wood.

⑥ Go straight ahead over brow of hill and to stile on opposite side of field. Cross stile, keep right and continue down to exit through double gate to farm track at Conery. Turn right along concrete track and cross stile on left then keep right descending to exit via a gate which brings you out on to Stank Lane. Follow the lane down to junction with main road. Carry straight on the road on right footpath for ½ mile to reach crossroads. Carefully cross this busy main road into Brampton Road and head for the Church on your left and the Six Bells Pub. Turn right into Church Street and head back to the start.

