



Walking with Offa 14



Food, drink and accommodation
Imagine patrolling the border without a decent pub. 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 at **The Horseshoes Inn, Pontesbury.**

Derek provides a warm welcome, a good choice of beer and other refreshment. There is a varied menu of good home cooked food served in very comfortable surroundings. Phone Derek on 01743 790278 to confirm opening times.



There are several shops and other services in Minsterley and Pontesbury.

Pontesbury has a number of other places to eat and drink. Choose from pubs, the café, Chinese or Indian food or fish and chips.

Hignetts bakery, butchers and shop also comes highly recommended.

Accommodation listings can be found on www.visitshropshirehills.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: There is a regular scheduled service between Shrewsbury and Bishop's Castle (**552,553**) passing through Pontesbury and Minsterley with some calling at Snailbeach. Pontesbury, Minsterley and Snailbeach are served by the **Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle Bus** which runs at weekends and Bank Holidays from April to September. The shuttle runs from Church Stretton. Further information on www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

BY CAR: Car parking is available at The Horseshoes Inn, Pontesbury SY5 0QJ and in Snailbeach, by the village hall.

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



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 12 walks is available.



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



Walking with Offa 14

Forests and industry around Pontesbury

A seven mile walk up through woodland and forest, past relics of industry and gently back along meadows beside Minsterley Brook taking 3½ to 4½ hours



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



Start from The Horseshoes Inn, Pontesbury SY5 0QJ
Follow forestry tracks, cross grassland, which can be wet, with over ten stiles.

- 1 From the pub door turn left along road and left again into Ashford Drive. Follow the road as it bears left through housing and when road turns more sharply left go straight ahead where there is a small parking area and a surfaced path leading to a kissing gate and wicket gate close together.
- 2 Turn right onto a surfaced driveway and follow past houses to gate ahead. Pass through the gate and small farm yard to another gate. Keep ahead with hedge on right bearing slightly left to stile in hedge. After the stile turn left and walk uphill to a stile which leads onto a stoned driveway. Turn left then quickly right to follow enclosed path up to a road.
- 3 Turn right and follow lane up past houses on Pontesbury Hill to junction of paths at entrance to Poles Coppice. Follow the bridleway to your left. Take next path on right which takes you along a woodland path through Poles Coppice to kissing gate.
- 4 Leaving the other WWO route (No.1) go through kissing gate to enter a pasture field. Go straight ahead to gate leading onto a track. Go straight along this track to road, cross road, and follow track, which can be muddy in wet weather. This path leads you into Eastridge Wood. This Forestry Commission woodland is popular with mountain bikers and is noted for its exciting downhill runs. On descending onto surfaced track turn right and follow the track past a pond on your right until you come to a footpath forking left.
- 5 Follow this path as it climbs through the woodland, look out for the cycle crossings which are well marked. The path continues up to the top of the hill and follows the forestry edge to a kissing gate into field.
- 6 Follow the top of the field and enjoy the views to your right west into Wales. A gate ahead leads onto a track which descends along the forest edge to a

lane. Turn right downhill to Snailbeach village and the extensive mining remains. You can spend some time exploring the site.

- 7 To continue on your walk take a path right off the road just above the old spoil heaps past houses on your right which leads to a stile and continues into a wood. Follow the path to cross a forestry track and down to a stile into pasture field. Go slightly right towards building to a stile onto a stoned track. Continue ahead past a house and go through the gate to the right of the track ahead.
- 8 Keep right around an old boundary wall and you will see the remains of a large smelting plant. Pass through a gate ahead then turn half left downhill to a stile in the bottom right hand corner of field. Carry on down field to a stile onto a track. Turn right and follow track to corner of an arable field. Turn half left and cross crop to a stile alongside main road and turn right.
- 9 Walk along pavement to a small roundabout in the centre of the village of Minsterley. *Note one of Britain's oldest urinals hidden between stone walls.* Cross to the far side and follow a path that starts beside the bridge. Follow the path beside a stream lined with trees. After crossing a bridge take a stile immediately on the right and the path now follows Minsterley Brook, crossing stiles, and passes through a tree plantation. Continue until a bridge takes you to the other side of the Brook. Turn left and continue to follow brook to meet the road near Malehurst Farm.
- 10 Turn left along the road for a short distance then turn right over a bridge and through a gate into a grass field. Cross to top right hand corner where the path crosses a disused railway line.

Bear right across the next field to gate in hedgeline and bear right again to gate onto main road. Turn left and cross busy road with care. Follow road back into Pontesbury and the Horseshoes Inn.

