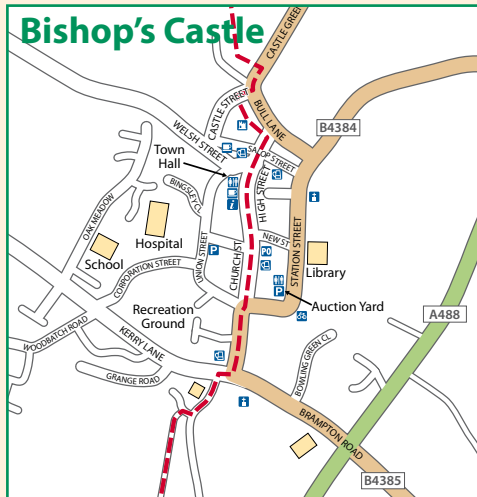




Offa's Dyke



Bishop's Castle

Until 1832 this colourful little town was one of the so called "rotten boroughs". These were places that returned members of Parliament but had so few voters that a rich person could buy the votes and thus a seat in Westminster. But its beginnings were far earlier, an Anglo-Saxon settlement and the site of a Norman motte and bailey. It is at the end of the Kerry Ridgeway. A drovers' road along which cattle, sheep and even geese were walked to market. The Drovers must have been a thirsty lot for there have been 2 breweries here since 1642! It's also an "open village". Many of the small villages in South Shropshire were "closed villages"

totally owned by the local estate with all the people working for the landowner. Villages like Bishop's Castle grew in the 19th century when landowners cut down the number of people permanently employed and seasonal workers were forced to rent their own accommodation in these open villages.

Offa's Dyke

Walk in the footsteps of Saxon armies when you follow a section of Offa's Dyke National Trail. It was made between 757 to 796 AD by Offa King of Mercia to form a boundary between England & Wales. I wonder if the Saxons ever fought the Celts here?

Cefns

The wonderful ridge running from Three Gates to just outside Clun is called the Cefns. Its probably part of an ancient Drovers' road that followed the ridge to avoid the marshy, forested lower land. Look closely as you walk it and you will find a stone circle.

Clun

Take time to wonder the village and explore more than just the waymarked path through it. There are many hidden gems, a castle and some welcoming hostelries. This is the smallest town in Shropshire and is smaller than many villages. It's the only town in the county never to have had a railway line or station.

DISCOVER
SHROPSHIRE

Route 2 Bishop's Castle to Clun

Walk from Bishop's Castle to Clun
and you will find some of the
quietest places in Shropshire.

Leave the unspoilt town of Bishop's Castle and you are soon on ancient drovers' ways and the Saxon earthworks of Offa's Dyke. This really is border country, the heart of the Marches, steeped in history. With wonderful place names like Woodbatch, Reilth, Middle Knuck, Hergan Hill, Three Gates and Whitcott Keysett.

A special part of the walk is along the bare windswept Cefns (this means "ridge" in Welsh) with its unspoilt views in every direction. Then it's into Clun, one of Housman's "quietest places under the sun" with a ruined castle, tranquil air and fine inns.

*"Clunton and Clunbury,
Clungunford and Clun,
Are the quietest places
under the sun"*

Discover Shropshire

Clun Castle



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Route 2

