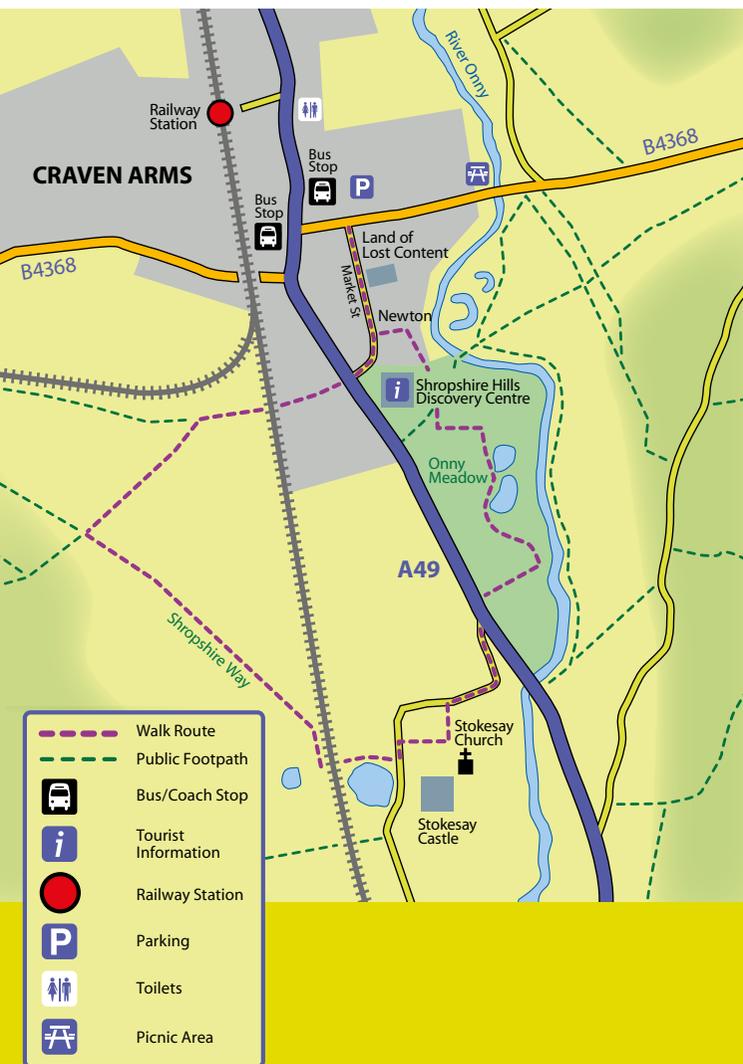


Before the coming of the railway around 1853, the Craven Arms Inn stood alone at this important cross-roads. There was no town. Yet within 50 years it was thriving with livestock markets and small industries. This is the nearest Shropshire comes to a Wild West township. The Sheep Tracks sculpture in the square celebrates the twin sources of the town's growth.

Craven Arms is the starting point for lots of different walks, details of which can be found at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.



Illustrations by Alan Duncan www.asdumcanillustration.co.uk
Design: www.thinkgraphic.co.uk

You'll find an array of shops in Craven Arms including an excellent butcher's, bakery, cafes, pubs and takeaways, along with a supermarket, post office, bank and cash point.

CLOSE TO CRAVEN ARMS

- **Acton Scott Historic Working Farm** – experience daily life on a Victorian Farm
- **Stokesay Court** – setting for the film Atonement
- **Clun Castle** – explore these medieval ruins at the heart of Clun
- **Flounders Folly** – 80ft tower built by Benjamin Flounders in 1838

GETTING THERE:

You can find public transport options throughout Shropshire through the Travel Shropshire website - www.traveshropshire.co.uk. Or contact Traveline on 08712 002233.

BY TRAIN: Craven Arms is a stop on the regular Cardiff to Manchester train service. It is also a stop on the Heart of Wales, one of the most scenic lines in Britain, www.heart-of-wales.co.uk.

BY BUS: 435 Shrewsbury – Ludlow service. The Shropshire Link is a book ahead bus service and may be able to help from the surrounding rural areas. Call 0300 678 9068 and ask for the 'Craven Centre' stop.

BY CAR: Free long stay car park, Corvedale Road, SY7 9ND



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



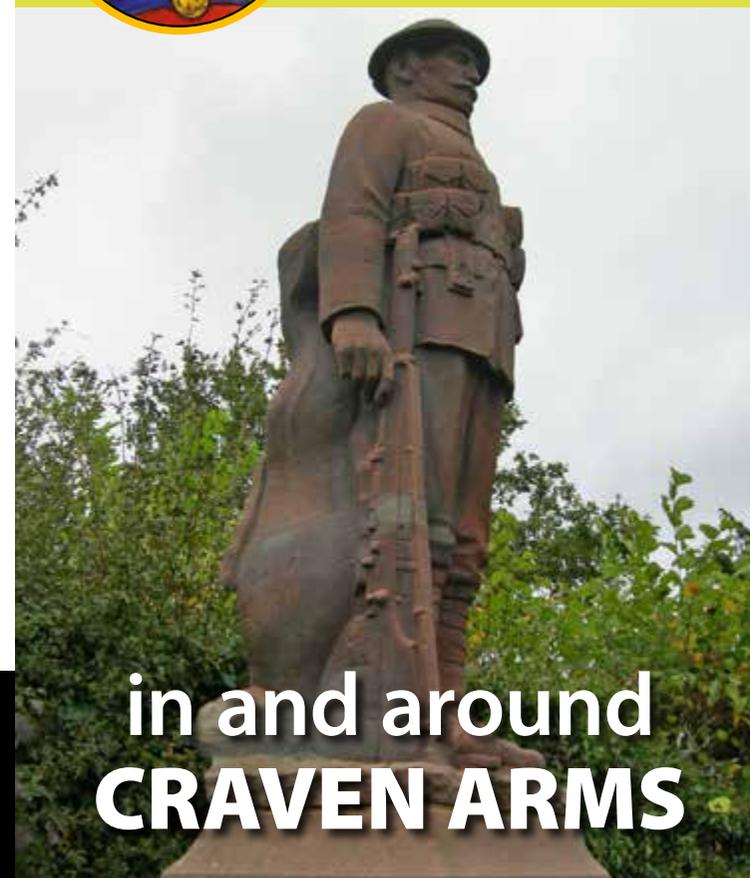
A series of twelve **Walking with Offa** waymarked pub walks guides, podcasts and the four Days Out in the Shropshire Hills are downloadable from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/walkingwithoffa



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



Walking with Offa
DAYS OUT



in and around
CRAVEN ARMS

Discover the secrets and hidden gems of 'The Arms'. Allow three to four hours with around two miles of leisurely walking, along the River Onny to Stokesay Castle.

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

in the Shropshire Hills



CIRCULAR WALK

along the River Onny to Stokesay Castle.

Start from the Discovery Centre.

Follow the surfaced path into Onny Meadows, and at the Y-fork turn left. Pass through a gate, then through a second and bear right and around the 'oxbow' pools. Enter some trees and turn right at a fence to emerge into a field. Turn left but leave the track at the corner and bear left round the pool and over a wooden bridge. On reaching a fence, turn right and continue on the track with a fence on your right and on to meet the River. With a wooden gate in front of you, turn right up the path. Where the track bends right, bear left up to a metal gate and exit through a kissing gate.

Carefully cross the main road and head left towards Stokesay Castle. Turn right into the lane and walk up to Stokesay Church, through the lych gate and into the churchyard.

River Onny

Look out for otters, shy creatures, but you may be lucky enough to spot one, or the flash of brilliant colour of a kingfisher.

Stokesay Church

Just before the lych gate on the right you will see a stone mounting block, a reminder of the more tranquil times when people came to church on horseback. The church was built about 1150 as a chapel to Stokesay Castle. By the hedge you'll find the war memorial 'Old Bill', who once stood to attention in Craven Arms but was moved here to make way for the traffic.

Stokesay Castle

This magnificent fortified medieval manor was built by Lawrence of Ludlow, the greatest wool merchant of his day. Information and audio tour available from English Heritage gift shop.

Café within the castle gardens. Entrance fee applies.

Open all year, but not daily.

For details contact 01588 672544 or www.english-heritage.org.uk.



The country route home includes some stiles and can be wet and muddy in places.

Exit the churchyard via a gate opposite Stokesay Castle car park. Turn left and take metal gate on right, before the pond. Follow track under railway and then immediately right. Follow railway line a short distance and on reaching hedge bear left and follow boundary up this long open field. Cross another stile by a gate and continue up still keeping the boundary to your right. Cross the stile on the right by a fingerpost for 'Three Woods Walk'. Keep to the right boundary down the field (views left of the Long Mynd and Stretton Hills) to a gate/stile and join an enclosed track. Follow the track under the railway and on to minor road, shortly to take a path on the left to join the main road. Turn left and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing, then turn right towards the Discovery Centre and end of the walk.

By the pond you are greeted in summer by the swallows. For hundreds of years they have made their nests in the castle from the mud by the pond, which once topped up the moat, now filled in February with snowdrops.

Market Street (Vintage Quarter)

This conservation area is noted for its Victorian architecture, a mixture of shop frontages and brick terraced houses. In the former Victorian Market Hall you will find **The Land of Lost Content**, the National Museum of British Popular Culture. Inside is a 40-year collection of 20th century memorabilia, oozing with nostalgia: costume, food and drink, schooldays, holidays, film, TV, radio and much more.

Open daily except Wednesdays.

Closed December and January. Entrance fee.

Contact 01588 676176

www.lolc.org.uk.

The original settlement was the hamlet of Newton

At the end of Market Street turn left (opposite Stokesay Castle Hotel) and then right into Newton. The timber frame and stone buildings date back to medieval times. Turn right at the bottom of Newton and continue ahead through a wooden gate and into Onny Meadows and the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre

A visit to the Secret Hills exhibition will reveal some of the stories hidden in the landscape. Meet the mammoth, look inside an Iron Age roundhouse and enjoy the panoramic hot air balloon film. Entrance fee applies for exhibition, but you are welcome to pop into the Centre where you will find Visitor Information, gift shop, café and gallery, and free Wi-Fi and Internet access.

Farmers' Market:

1st Saturday of each month.

Visitor Information:

01588 676060.

www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

