



Walking with Offa 13



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 **The Bog Visitor Centre**.

Volunteers at The Bog Visitor Centre can provide you with hot and cold drinks with a sumptuous choice of homemade cakes. You can glean information on all aspects of the area, the geology, wildlife and folklore. Craft and local gift items for sale. The centre is open every day from the end of March to end of October.
10.00am-5.00pm Tuesday to Sunday
12.00pm-5.00pm Monday

There is a shop and pub at the nearby village of Stiperstones: **The Stiperstones Inn**
Tel: 01743 791327

There is a pub at Ratlinghope:
The Bridges Tel: 01588 650260

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: The Bog Visitor Centre is 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 and can link to the scheduled services (**552, 553**) between Shrewsbury and Bishop's Castle. Further information on **www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk**

BY CAR: Car parking is available at The Bog Car Park SY5 0NG.

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 Paul Davis of Lower Farm Holidays for developing this walk.



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 all 12 walks is available.



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



Walking with Offa 13

The 'Land of Dereliction' in the shadow of the Devil's Chair

A four mile walk along the edge of the spectacular Stiperstones then easy walking across a valley scattered with mining remains, taking 2 to 3 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 Bog Visitor Centre, SY5 0JN. The walk crosses grassland and follows tracks with eighteen stiles.

1 From The Bog Car Park follow the road uphill, using the permissive path which runs parallel to the road. At the sharp bend right in the road go through field gate ahead which leads onto a fenced grassy track uphill. Follow this track, through gates along the edge of the Stiperstones National Nature Reserve. The wide view to your left looks into Wales across what was referred to during a period of mining activity as the 'Land of Dereliction'. This is difficult to imagine now looking at the lovely rural landscape.

2 When you reach a cross roads in tracks continue following track ahead. When you reach an information board turn left through a gate onto bridleway and walk straight across field to bridleway gate. After going through gate descend steep slope with care and continue down valley. Bear slightly left when you reach a quarry face on your left and continue downhill on track through gates, and past some houses to reach the road at Tankerville Pottery.

3 Turn left onto the road and go slightly uphill for about 50 metres then fork right onto footpath. Here you can make a diversion to investigate Tankerville Mine. Continue on footpath ahead past stile then over a stile into an old hedged lane. Keep ahead through gate into pasture field where the path follows the hedge on right to a stile leading into a large field. Keep the fence on your left to fence corner and head for stile in fence slightly to your left.

From stile head straight for large oak tree bearing slightly right to find a double stile before tree. Keep on the same bearing over the brow of hill and head down to a stile leading onto road.

4 Turn right and follow road through the village of Shelve, passing the holiday cottages at Lower Farm on your left. Continue past the church and the farm on your left.

5 Turn left and follow farm track which runs downhill. Follow this fenced lane until you reach an enclosed pen. Take the gate on the left hand side. Bear slightly left uphill to reach the top of Flenny Bank.

6 Pass a wood on your left hand side and keep along the ridge crossing stiles until you reach a stile on your right where you can see the remains of Old Grit Mine below you. Do not cross this stile but turn left down the bank to a stile to the left of Shelve Pool.

7 Follow the woodland boundary of the pool to a fingerpost then bear slightly left to a footbridge at top of field. Go ahead to double stile then rise up to stoned track and follow to tall waymark. Go ahead down to stiles by gateway.

8 You have now joined the Flenny Bank short cut and the Mucklewick Walk. Cross a sleeper bridge and aim for a stile in a fence ahead into pasture field. Bear left to another stile and continue in the same direction to a gate then bear right to a double stile in fence. Cross the field bearing left to a stile in corner of field leading onto stoned track. Turn left and follow the track back to The Bog Visitor Centre.

