

Bishop's Castle 1

The Wintles and Woodbatch

Bishop's Castle 2

Lydbury North and Oakeley Mynd

Bishop's Castle 3

Hell Hole, Acton Bank and Brockton.



Bishop's Castle is a "Walkers are Welcome Town"

Clunton 1

Bury Ditches, The Stepple and Merry Hill

Clunton 2

Clunton Coppice, Sowdley Wood and Purslow.

Bishop's Castle Short Walks

6, 7, 8, 9

Around the town.

The starting point for the Bishop's Castle walks is the town centre; the starting point for the Clunton walks is the Crown Inn car park.

Bishop's Castle

The Town Hall, Bishop's Castle SY9 5BG
01588 630023 info@bishopscastletownhall.co.uk
Church Stretton – Church St. 01694 723133
Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre 01588 676000
Bog Visitor Centre, Stiperstones 01743 792747
bogcentre@hotmail.co.uk

There are information racks in most pubs and shops in the villages and display boards in Bishop's Castle

Buses

There is a scheduled service from Bishop's Castle to Shrewsbury. Other scheduled services are infrequent. Go to www.shropshire.gov.uk and follow the links to transport and buses.

Shuttle Buses

Operate at weekends and Bank Holiday Mondays from Easter to the end of October. Castle Connect links Bishop's Castle & Clun with Knighton and Ludlow. The Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle runs in a figure of 8 from Pontesbury on the A488 Shrewsbury road to Church Stretton, crossing at Bridges. Timetables are readily available. www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

Bishop's Castle Dial-A-Ride

can be used if none of the above will meet your purposes. This community service runs 2 buses – a six seater and a 13 seater – both with disabled access. The buses must be pre-booked. Telephone 01588 638350

BCT - Bishop's Castle Taxi

Rus Gromov 07551 825931 / 07551 825932

Railways

Craven Arms is the nearest station. Shropshire Link (see above) can be used to provide transport from there.

Otherwise use Shrewsbury. Detailed information from: Traveline 0871 200 2233

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Maps

OS Landranger 137, 2 cm to 1 km, for a detailed overview of the whole area from Ludlow to Montgomery, Knighton, Presteigne and Church Stretton. Small roads and footpaths are all marked but not field boundaries.

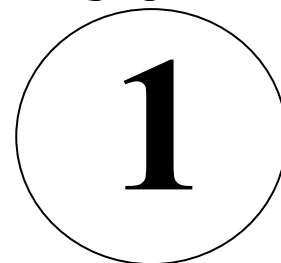
OS Explorer 216, 217 and 201, 4 cm to 1 km, for a close up with all the field boundaries. 216 covers Bishop's Castle, Welshpool and Montgomery with Offa's Dyke north, the Kerry Ridgeway and the Stiperstones, 217 covers the Long Mynd, Church Stretton, Craven Arms and Wenlock Edge and 201 covers Clun, the Clun Valley, Knighton, Presteigne and Offa's Dyke south.

Original Design by MA Creative (01743 351455)
Donations for these walks help us to maintain the footpaths and bridleways.
Please report any difficulties with these walks or comments to Jane Carroll on 01588 638467, jane.carrol@gmail.com

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

Around Bishop's Castle

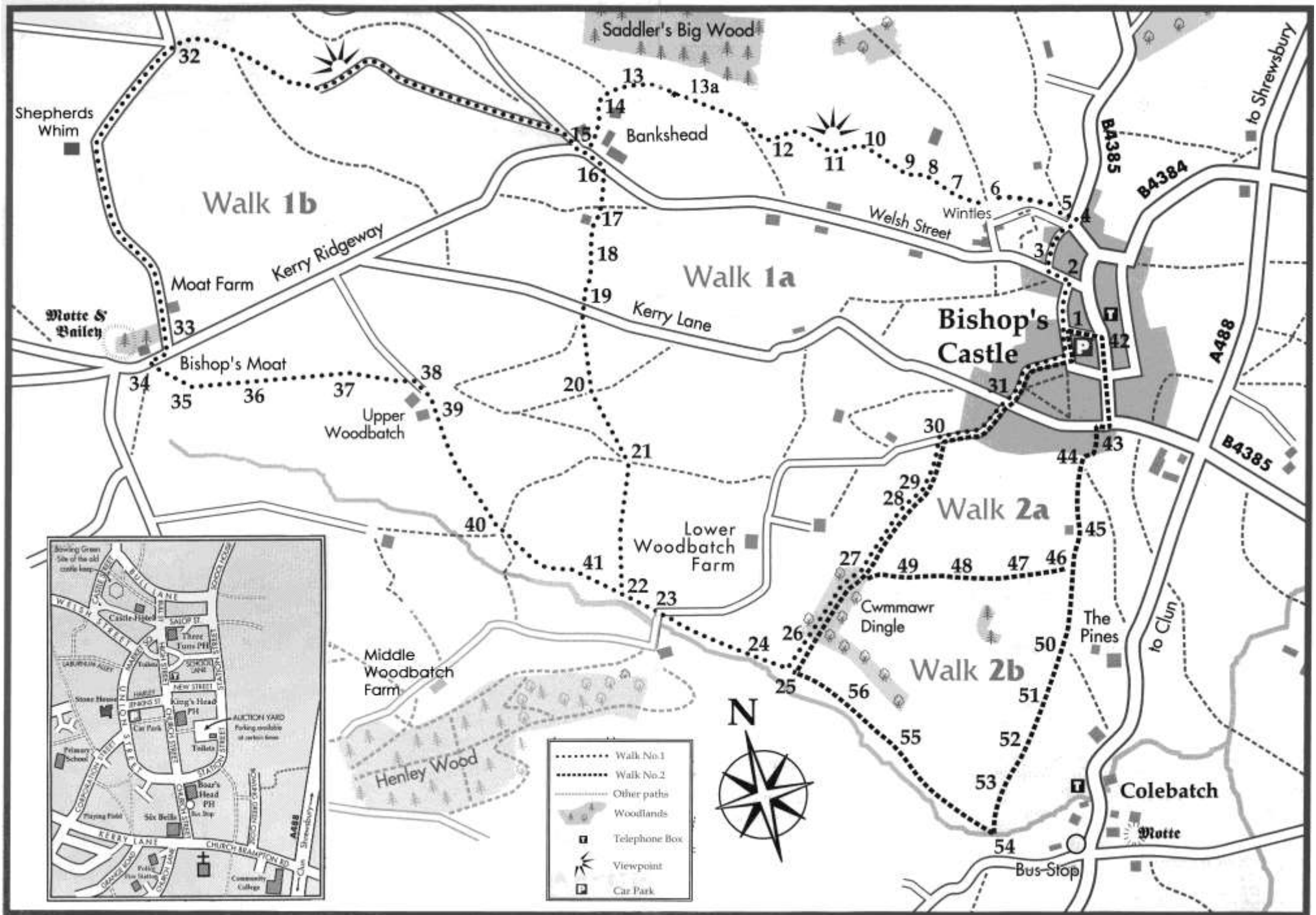
A "Walkers are Welcome Town"



*The Wintles
and
Woodbatch*

(includes part of the Shropshire Way)





Hints to help you stay on the paths:

1. A way mark on a stile, gate or gap-post means you go over or through and THEN follow the direction of the way mark.
2. Stand square in front of the way mark to follow it accurately.

Walk 1a

Distance 4¾ miles

From the car park (1) turn right up Union Street and then left into Welsh Street (2). Take the next right turn (3) and go up Castle Street to the road junction called Castle Green and cross over the road. Follow the finger post on the right hand side of the road pointing to a track between houses on the left (4). Go through the wicket gate (5). Do not follow the Shropshire Way sign but follow the middle grassy path ahead, following the curve downwards alongside the allotments on your right. Go straight ahead between two hedges and continue between some trees to the small gate at point (6). Cross over the farm track and walk up to a stile (7) and on up a tree-lined track to cross next stile (8). Head diagonally left to the stile in the left hedge (9) and after crossing it, walk along right edge of field and over the next stile (10). Bearing slightly left, go across the top of the next field. Dewpond on left just before stile (11).



Looking straight ahead at the stile there is a good view of Corndon Hill.

Bear left across field and down to gate (12). Bear right up field to hedge corner and continue along the top edge of the **field keeping the hedge on your left (and Saddler's Big Wood below you on the right)**. At the end of the field, there is a stile with an adjacent gate (13a). Continue on to a second gate (13), cross the narrow end of a field, to a stile with an adjacent gate which leads onto the lane (14). Bear left and walk up lane until you reach the road (15). Turn left and then right onto a track, through 2 gates (16 and 17) to Whitcot Stile farmhouse on your right. Go through the next gate out of the farmyard (18) and follow the track to a gate onto Kerry Lane (19). Cross the lane and up steps to a kissing gate in the hedge. Head straight across the field and through gate ahead (20). Continue across field and over stile, followed by another stile on your right (21). Go straight ahead and down the field to the bottom, and through a kissing gate in the left corner (22). Continue with brook on your right, go over stile (23) into lane and over a stile into field. You are now on the Shropshire Way. Cross the lane and go through gate into field. Go alongside the brook and over next stile (24) and across the next short field to the gated bridge (25). Do not go over the bridge but turn left, leaving the Shropshire Way, up along the hedge to find a gate at the edge of a wood – this is Cwmmawr Dingle (26). Progress up through the Dingle, right over footbridge and left to the stile at the top. Go over stile and turn left down alongside the hedge then up the steps to the

stile ahead (27). Go straight ahead along the left edge of the field, finally passing through gate at the bottom (28). Go straight on through the next gate (29) and carry on down the track, turning right at the end (30) onto the road. Continue along Woodbatch Road crossing over Kerry Lane (31) into Corporation Street, turning left at the end into Union Street. Your starting point is a short distance on the right in Harley Jenkins Street.

Walk 1B

Distance 6¼ miles

Follow instructions for Walk 1a to Point (15). Turn right along the road taking first the right hand fork and then the left hand lane shortly after (this soon becomes a track).



Spectacular views can be seen to the right: in the bottom of the valley is River Camlad – the only river to run from England into Wales – and in the distance ahead you can see Churchstoke (Powys).

Continue along the track through the trees for one mile until you meet the road (32). Turn left and walk along the road for a further mile until you reach a T-junction at **Bishop's Moat** (33) where you turn right. You are now on the Kerry Ridgeway. Before you go over the stile on your left (34), look to your right to see the distinctive shape of the motte and bailey next to the farmhouse.

Cross the stile and into the field. Head for the stile in the middle of the left hedge (35) and go straight over the brow, turning slightly left to go through the gate ahead (36). Go diagonally left across the middle of the field towards the far right corner. As you proceed down the slope you will see trees in the hedge on your right – go behind the trees and over stile (37). Walk to the bottom left corner of the next field and out through gate (38) turning right onto the track to Upper Woodbatch Farm. Go down the track to the bottom, keeping all farm buildings on your right, go through a gate (39) and keeping the fence and animal pens on your right, go through another gate and across the top of the field and down to a stile at the bottom (40). Go over stile and head diagonally for the bottom right corner of the field (keeping brook on right). Cross over stiles (41), (22) and (23) to lane. Now follow instructions from Walk 1a point (23).

Walk 2a

Distance 1¾ miles

From the car park (1) turn right along Harley Jenkins Street, then right at junction with Church Street (42). At the bottom of the road turn right (43) then left along Church Lane. Turn **right into Field Lane and follow the track signed 'Shropshire Way' to the left (44)**. Continue until you go through the gate and pass the front of the last cottage (45). Turn immediately right alongside the cottage leaving the Shropshire Way and over the stile (46). Keeping the hedge on your right, proceed up the hill and over the next two stiles (47 and 48). Now keeping the fence on your right, go straight ahead down the slope across the open field and over the stile in the hedge ahead (49). Continue straight across the field with the hedge on your left to find a stile in the corner (27).

Do not cross the stile but turn right and follow instructions from Walk 1a point (27).

Walk 2b

Distance 2¾ miles

Follow instructions for Walk 2a to point (45). Do not turn right but continue straight ahead following Shropshire Way over stile in front and along track. Go on through the next gate at the junction (50) and over the next stile (51). Carry on over stiles (52) and (53). Now head straight on down the hill towards the gate/stile in front (54). Do not pass through the gate but turn right leaving the Shropshire Way, keeping brook on left. Continue over stiles (55) and (56) and on across the next field. Go across the gated bridge (25) and turn right alongside the hedge until you find a gate at the bottom of Cwmmawr Dingle Wood (26). Now follow the instructions from Walk 1a point (26).



*The Kissing Gate
by Sally Chappell*

Please Remember the Country Code

- ❖ Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work
- ❖ Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- ❖ Keep dogs under close control.
- ❖ Keep to public paths across farmland.
- ❖ Use gates and stiles to cross fences
- ❖ Help to keep water clean and protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- ❖ Do not make unnecessary noise.
- ❖ Leave gates as you find them.
- ❖ Guard against all risks of fire.
- ❖ Take special care on country roads.

Farming in this area is mainly beef and lamb production with herds of cattle and flocks of sheep on the hillsides. There is arable land, partly to support the livestock farming. Peas and beans are grown as manure crops to fix nitrogen.

Bulls loose in fields with cows are NOT dangerous. Cows with calves can be, especially if you have a dog with you. Give them plenty of space and if the cows try to chase the dog, let the dog go.

Remember to wear suitable clothing and footwear, especially in wet weather. The climate can change quickly in the hills!

Other Places to Walk in the Area

Kerry Ridgeway

The ancient drovers' route from Wales to the Midland and South of England through Bishop's Castle. It is a bridleway with spectacular views for most of the route.

Offa's Dyke

The major defence work built by King Offa in the 6th century and now followed by a major long distance path. In this area the path follows the actual dyke closely and the dyke can be clearly seen as a distinct feature on the landscape. The route is very hilly as it travels south to Knighton, where the Offa's Dyke Association has a centre and its headquarters.

Stapeley Hill

Rugged upland summits to the north with fascinating stone circles the most famous of which is Mitchells Fold. Thousand of years of human activity can be seen in the landscape and the well marked trails make the historic remains easy to explore. Leaflet available.

The Stiperstones

On the other side of the A 488. The ridge of rocky, quartzite tors stands proud in the wilderness of this moorland. This is Mary Webb country and is rich in legend and folklore. Call at the Bog Visitor Centre (open during holidays) to find out more about this area. There are many excellent walks and leaflets available.

The Long Mynd

The next ridge of upland gives great moorland walking opportunities and brilliant views – Snowdon can be seen on a clear day! Church Stretton is on the far side.

Bury Ditches

One of the best preserved Iron Age hill forts in Britain is on the top of this hill covered by Forestry Commission woodland. There is sympathetic deciduous planting and lots of trails for walking and mountain biking.

The Walks in this Leaflet

This leaflet offers you four walks of varying lengths.

Walk 1a, takes you westward across The Wintles. These hills have several dew ponds and interesting wildlife and give the walker spectacular views across South Shropshire and mid Wales. The route then heads south to follow the valley of the small River Kemp. **The final section takes you back to Bishop's Castle through the enchanting Cwm Mawr Dingle which is a bluebell wood in late spring.**

Walk 1b, offers an extension to 1a to take you further west towards the Welsh border. It crosses the Kerry Ridgeway – this section is a metalled road - and gives magnificent views of the marches. The route, along tracks and lane, comes back onto the Ridgeway at **Bishop's Moat where the old motte and bailey can be seen behind Moat Farm.** Proceeding through Upper and Lower Woodbatch with good views of Blakeridge and Colstey to rejoin walk 1a for the pleasant walk back through the Dingle Woods (both Forestry Commission).

If you only have an hour or so to spare, try Walk 2a. It is a short stroll southwards to The Fields and Field Cottage on the Shropshire Way out of town and then across the fields above Cwm Mawr Dingle for pleasant views of the countryside and one of the best views of the town. The route then heads straight back to town.

Walk 2b, extends 2a to the south above the Pines, a large house, and parallel to the A 488 to a point just west of the hamlet of Colebatch where the River Kemp runs under the main road. The route turns to follow the brook upstream until it heads northwards and up hill through Cwm Mawr Dingle to join the latter parts of walks 1a, 1b and 2a.

The Bishop's Castle Area

The imposing 18th century Town Hall at the top of the High St. has recently been totally renovated and is the Visitor Information Centre for the area.

Available are Bishop's Castle's main town leaflet which includes a map, "Where to stay" and "Shopping and Services Guide, Where to Eat and What to Do" booklets (all the information is also at www.bishopscastle.co.uk/tourism) as well as the Walking for Pleasure leaflets and many other local publications.

The hall is the venue for markets and many other activities including concerts, workshops, private parties and talks.

The parish church at the bottom of the town is Victorian with a 13th century Norman tower and an interesting graveyard. The main street contains an architecturally diverse array of old houses and shops, many of them medieval properties with newer fronts! There is an interesting selection of places to eat, drink and buy food for picnics and more formal meals. The town has 2 breweries, at the Six Bells Inn opposite the church and The Three Tuns Brewery across the road from the Old Market Place, a paved area with good seating overlooked by the Powis Coat of Arms.

The House on Crutches Museum at the top of the High Street and The Railway and Transport Museum in School Lane, both open at weekend from Easter to October, help illustrate all aspects of local history. The Heritage Resource Centre in Chapel Yard is the main research arm of the museums.