

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.

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

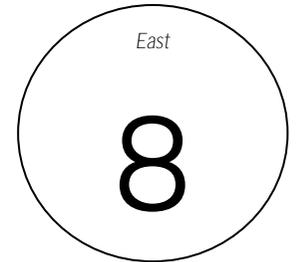
can be used if none of the above will meet your purposes. This community service runs 2 buses – a six seater and a 13 seater – both with disabled access. The buses must be pre-booked. Telephone 01588 638350 BCT - **Bishop's Castle Taxi** Rus Gromov 07551 825931 / 07551 825932

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

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

Short Walks in Bishop's Castle

A "Walkers are Welcome Town"



Walk 9 - The Tennis Courts to the old Railway line and bridge and the hunt kennels

Walk 10 - The Bark Mill to the Saw Mill

Please Remember the Country Code

- ❖ 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!

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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.carroll@gmail.com

Bishop's Castle Street Map



Walk 9

The tennis courts to the old railway line and bridge and the hunt kennels.

Mainly level except the beginning and the end and 8,11 or 10 stiles. About 3.5 miles

Walk up Station St. into School House Lane and just past the entrance to Bull Lane on the left go over a stile on the right next to a farm gate onto a wide track between two gardens. Go over the stile at the end and cross the field to stile in the centre of the far boundary hedge. Turn left to go round the bark mill and right through a gate at the end, continuing to the stile at the far left corner of the field. Carefully cross the A488 to the stile opposite and walk across the field with the tennis courts on the right. Over the next stile, bear left for the far left hand corner of the next large oblong field. The stile in the corner leads to a bridge over a ditch. Bear right round the arable field to a gap on the right in the hedge boundary. Turn left keeping the hedge on your left to the next stile. Now you are on a track used by the Lydham Estate. Turn left and follow the track till it bears left. Turn right across the large arable field, carry straight onto the right hand edge of the woods on the far boundary. Keeping the woods to the left, head straight across the field to the far corner.

Go over the stile onto the lane and turn left.

This lane is only used by occasional traffic and the visibility is good.

It gives one of the best views of Lydham Manor, the converted coach house of the original manor house, set in the hillside on the far right.

Soon you will see ahead the lane crossed by the old railway line as it travelled from Lydham heath into Bishop's Castle. Just before Cook's Cottage and the game bird rearing area you will walk between the buttresses of the former railway bridge.

As you continue along the lane, the line of the railway can be clearly seen on the far boundary of the left hand field.

When you come to the cross roads with the kennels of the United Pack hunt on the far left hand side you can

Either - 0 stiles - cross over with care and continue walking up the pavement on the left side of Kennels Bank into town.

Or - 3 stiles - cross over with care and walk up the pavement on the left side of Kennels Bank until the left hand bend. On the right you will see a finger post and steps going up the bank. Cross over the road and climb up to the stile. Straight across the field is the next stile and after that turn left, keeping the hedge on the left, to the kissing gate.

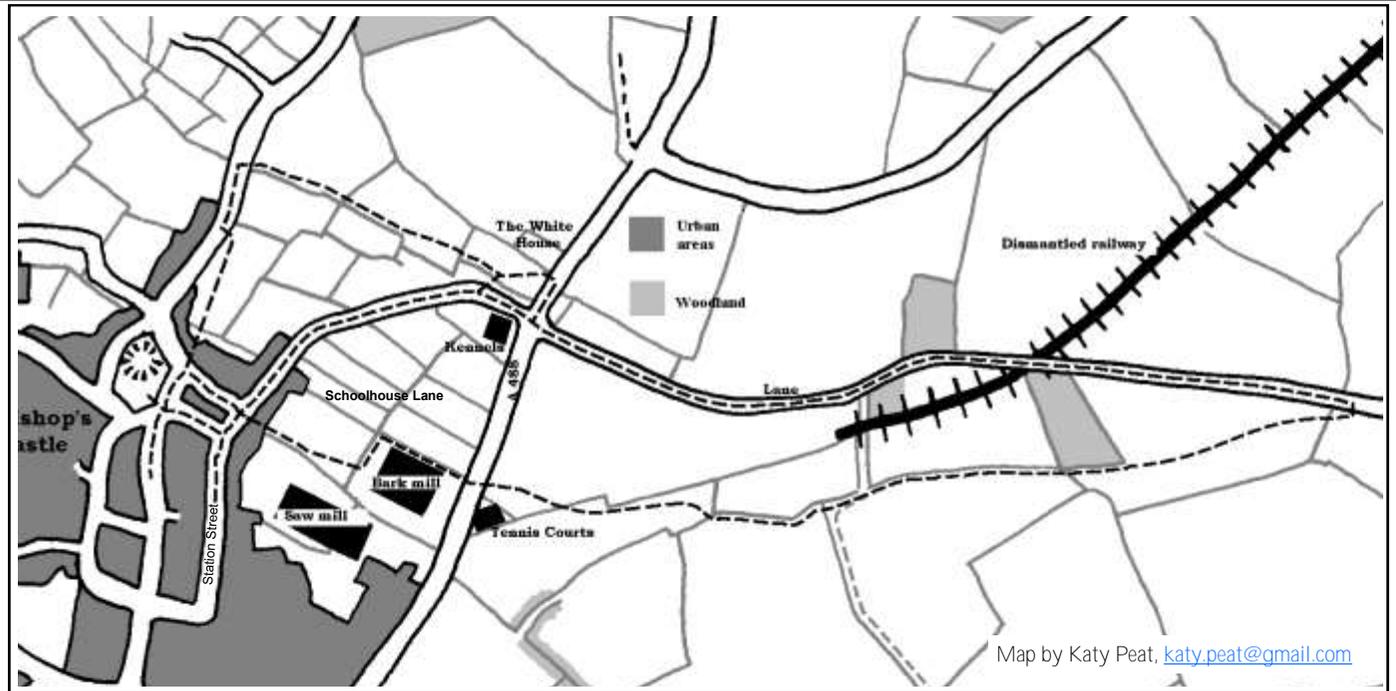
Carry straight on until you re-join the hedge. Continue to a kissing gate near the left hand corner of the field. Through this gate and straight on following the hedge until you reach the wicket gate onto the Montgomery Rd.

This is a busy road so take care. Cross to face oncoming traffic and turn left walk a little way until just before the 30 mile an hour sign. Climb over the stile you see on the left up the bank just past Windmill Cottage. Go down the field bearing left to a gate between house gardens, passing the end of the new housing development. Go through this gate. Walk between the houses onto Bull Lane.

Or - 2 stiles - turn right along the wide verge past New House and you will see a stile on the opposite side of the road next to the garden of White Lodge. Cross over this stile and go left up the field to the far left hand corner.

Through this kissing gate and bear right to head for a kissing gate in the far left hand corner of the field, joining the hedge on your left after a short distance. Through this gate and straight on following the hedge until you reach the gate onto the Montgomery Rd.

This is a busy road so take care. Cross to face oncoming traffic and turn left walk a little way until just before the 30 mile an hour sign. Climb over the stile you see on the left up the bank just past Windmill Cottage. Go across the field bearing left to a gate between house gardens passing the end of the new housing development. Go through this gate. Walk between the houses onto Bull Lane.



Walk 10
The Bark Mill to the Tennis Courts
Down the hill and up again with 11 stiles. About 2 miles

Walk up Station St. into School House Lane and just past the entrance to Bull Lane on the left go over a stile between two gardens. Go over the stile at the end and cross the field to stile in the centre of the far boundary hedge. Turn left to go round the bark mill to stile in the far left hand corner of the field. Carefully cross the A488 to the stile opposite and walk across the field with the tennis courts on the right. Over the next stile, bear left for the far right hand corner of the next large oblong field. The stile in the corner leads to a bridge over a ditch. Bear right round the arable field to a gap on the right in the hedge boundary.

Turn right and follow the edge of the large over grown pool to a stile in the right hand corner of the field. Over this and follow the hedge round to the right until you come into a narrow, wooded strip. Continue to a stile at the end. Bear right round the left hand side of the barn and head across the field* to stile in the far boundary, about a quarter of the way from the right hand corner.

This stile leads on to the A 488. Cross with care over to stile on the Sawmill grounds. Follow the path right and then sharp left to follow an old track across the sawmill site. On the right is the bark mill and on the left the saw mill proper. The sawmill is one of the **town's biggest employers**. Cross the first site road and follow the fenced path to the second site road. Climb up then bank on the far side and then turn left. After a few yards turn right and go down the bank to a stile. Walk up this field to the far left hand corner where stile will lead to a path alongside a garden into Station St.

*Alternative route—go diagonally across the field to a kissing gate near the far left corner. This gate leads on to the A 488. Cross with care to gate which leads to a path on the edge of the industrial estate. Continue with the hedge on your left, past the back gardens of the Brick Meadow houses to a gate. Turn right on to a path leading to the end of Bowling Green Close. Turn left and a footpath on the right between nos 13 and 15 bears right to emerge on Station St by the garage.



Map by Katy Peat, katy.peat@gmail.com

All the walks in this leaflet begin and end in Bishop's Castle but not always in the same place. Please use the town map on the opposite page to find starting and finishing points if you do not know the town well.

As these walks are short, it should be difficult to get lost! They are all very well way marked and stiled. But the O.S. Explorer map 216 covers all the area. Make sure you wear sensible shoes or trainers and the ground can be muddy and the grass long. Keep dogs under close control and always shut gates.

Many of the walks offer panoramic views. In the distance can be seen the landmark features of The Stiperstones, Bromlow Callow, Linley Beeches and Titterstone Clee. The view often takes in The Long Mynd, Oakley Mynd with the aerial on top, the Kerry Hills, the Forestry Commission woods of Colstey and Blakeridge and the Welsh hills of Todleth, Corndon and the Roundton on the far side of the Camlad Valley.

Each walks indicates the number of stiles and the steepness of the gradients. Where walks have alternative endings, the number of stiles and the steepness are given for each section.

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.