

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

**Published by Bishop's Castle Parish Path Partnership Group with support from**  
Shropshire County Council.

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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.carroll@gmail.com](mailto:jane.carroll@gmail.com)

# WALKING FOR PLEASURE

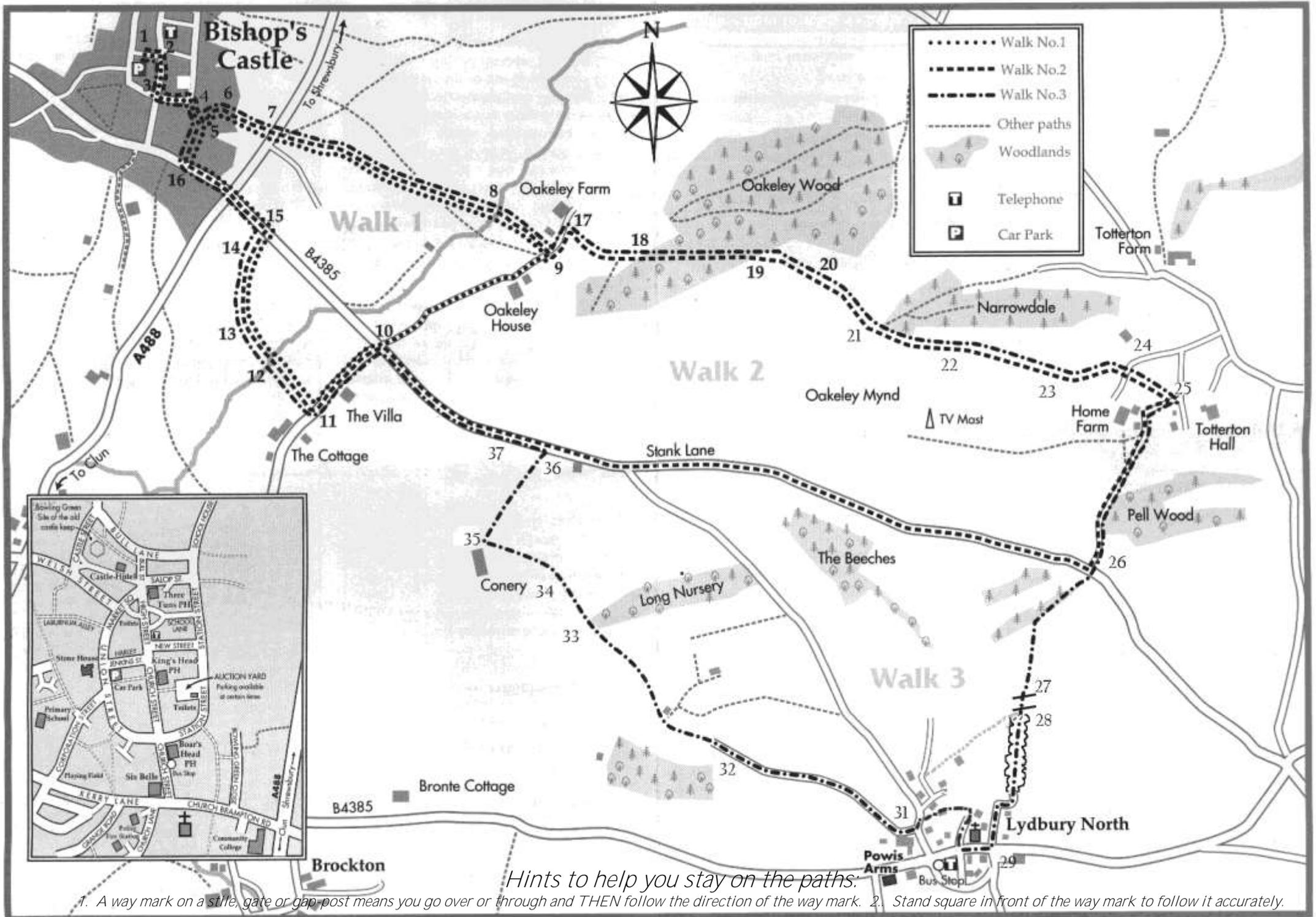
## Around Bishop's Castle

A "Walkers are Welcome Town"

2

*Lydbury North  
And  
Oakeley Mynd*





*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 1 Distance 2½ miles

Starting from the main car park in Harley Jenkins Street (1) turn right and then right again along Church Street (2). Turn **left down Station Street (at the side of Boar's Head Hotel) (3)**. As road bears around to left, turn right onto the narrow tarmac path (4) and after 50 yards turn left along passageway in between bungalows and into Bowling Green Close (5). Turn left and at last bungalow on the right follow path round to the right. Go through kissing gate (6) on your left proceed down to the gate on the main road. Carefully cross main road (Love Lane) and go over stile opposite, head leftish across this **large field keeping to the left of the telegraph pole. You're heading for Oakley Wood on the far hillside with the radio mast slightly to the right in the distance. The next stile is in a dip near a curve in the hedge and can't be seen until you're close to it.** Continue straight ahead over the next stile and across this large arable field crossing a drainage channel on the way. (8). Continue up slope, leaving farm buildings to your left, and bearing slightly right at the top enter copse, over stile and out on to farm track (9). Turn right along track which takes you to a junction on main road where you continue straight on. (10). After a short distance go over stile in hedge on right (11). Keep to right edge of field over stile and cross wooden footbridge with stile in corner (12). Head for far right corner of field and through gate (13). Now head diagonally for the far edge of field where you cross stile (14). Keep right along fence and out over stile (15) on to road. Turn left along road and straight over crossroads. Continue on past Bowling Green Close and through kissing gate on your right (16). Proceed to end of path, through another kissing gate and **turn left along Station Street past Boar's Head** and retrace steps to car park.

Walk 2 Distance 6 miles

Follow instructions for walk 1 up to point (9). After reaching farm track turn left along track and then right over stile opposite Oakeley Farm (17). Proceed with hedge on your right over next stile and up hill to Oakeley Wood which you enter over stile (18). Go up the track through the wood and finally out over stile (19), on to a track. Cross the track and head diagonally left up hill to stile (20). Cross this and the next stile to arrive at another one just before Narrowdale Wood on your left (21), cross it and then keeping the wood on your left and TV relay mast at the top of the hill to your right, head across and diagonally right up the slope to arrive at stile (22). Head over the field and down to the stile (23) and then on down and over the two stiles on either side of the farm track at (24), with Home Farm on your right. Go down the field

towards the bottom corner, and keeping garage to your left, exit through gate (25) and on to lane. Turn right and continue up the lane past Pell Wood on your left until you come to junction (26). Turn right along Stank Lane for 2 miles to the junction at point (10). Turn left along the main road and follow instructions from Walk 1 point (10).

Walk 3 Distance 7 miles

Follow instructions for Walk 2 to point (26). Cross over Stank Lane and go through gate opposite and down the field keeping the wood on your right. Continue to and round a strong curve to the left, keeping hedge on your right, and down over stile (27). After crossing over next stile (28) you emerge into a sunken tree and hedge-lined lane taking you downhill. (See note below).

Note: This track may be difficult in wet weather – if so then after stile (28) bear right and into the field. Go down and diagonally across the field to the far corner. Go over stile, down steps, across footbridge and turn left along a track which joins a small road bearing to the right and ending at junction with the road going down through the village. Turn left into this **road and then right up 'No Through Road' to point (31) at the start of green lane.**

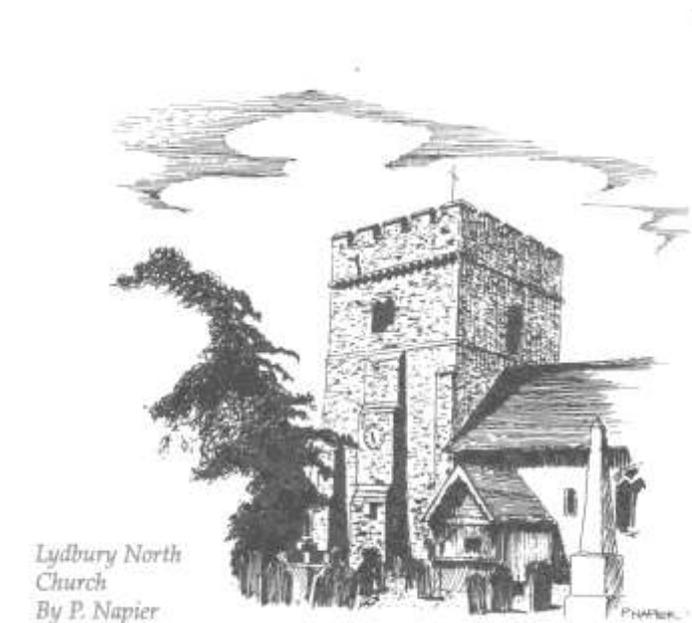
At end of sunken lane turn right on to small road and continue to junction with main road (29).



*From this point you can explore Lydbury North Church along the road to your right, take refreshments at the Powis Arms a little beyond point (30). Also you can make use of the Post Office/Store by turning left and walking a short way up the road to the Post Office which is the last building on the right hand side of the road.*

Turn right at point (29) and then take first turning right up side of the church and on the left, immediately after the drive up to the house 'The Firs', take the footpath at the end of which turn left. Turn left on to road and then first right up the 'No Through Road' into sunken lane (31). Proceed up lane for some distance to exit over stile at top (32) and into field with hedge on your right. Continue, keeping hedge on your right, and go through gate ahead by farm building. Now with the hedge on your left continue up the hill through another gate to pass through gate at west end of Long Nursery Wood (33). Now, go straight ahead over brow of hill and down to stile on the opposite side of the field (34). Cross over

stile and with hedge on your right continue down to exit through gate on to farm track at Conery (35). Turn right along farm track until you reach a stile on the left just before Stank Lane (36). Pass over stile and go down the field, above the lane, to a gate on the right (37) which brings you out down the bank on to Stank Lane. Turn left and down to the bottom of the lane to the junction with the main road (10). Turn left along main road and follow instructions for Walk 1 point (10).



Lydbury North Church  
By P. Napier

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Please Remember the Country Code

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

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!

## The Bishop's Castle Area

The imposing 18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

## The Walks in this Leaflet

The walks in this leaflet offer you three alternatives to choose from depending on your ability, motivation and time available. By careful reading of the instructions you can "mix and match" parts of the routes to form alternative walks of your own that match your capabilities and interests.

### Walk 1

Is a short walk which is fairly flat and ideal for those with only a short time to spare. The route guides you out of town across the fields to Oakeley Farm then along track and road beyond The Villa. Finally you head back to Bishop's Castle across several fields and alongside the College Sports Field and the College.

### Walk 2

For those with more time and energy this takes you further east and higher up through the woods where are rewarded with excellent views of the local habitations and surrounding countryside from Oakeley Mynd. You continue out to Totterton and past Pell Wood for the downhill homeward stretch to the end of Stank Lane where you rejoin Walk 1.

### Walk 3

This third option offers you a lot more for only a little additional effort. It takes you southward to the village of Lydbury North down an intriguing sunken lane. The village presents the opportunity of a little rest and revitalisation in the local hostelry (Powis Arms), an interesting small church and a Post Office/Shop where you can pick up a snack or something cool on a hot day. The final leg is a pleasant walk up to the Conery and then to Stank Lane, the old drovers route to Craven Arms to join the latter stages of Walk 2.