

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.

Bishop's Castle "Where to stay" and "Shopping and Services Guide, Where to eat and What to Do" leaflets are readily available in town and from outside the Visitor Information Centre in the High St. along with a town leaflet which includes a map.

Shuttle Buses

The Long Mynd & Stiperstones Shuttle runs in a figure of 8 from Pontesbury on the A488 Shrewsbury road to Church Stretton, crossing at Bridges. It operates at weekends and Bank Holiday Mondays from Easter to the end of October. 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. Otherwise use Shrewsbury where there is a scheduled bus service to Bishop's Castle every day except Sunday. Detailed information from: Traveline 0871 200 2233

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.
- ❖ Leave gates as you find them.
- ❖ Do not make unnecessary noise.
- ❖ Take special care on country roads.
- ❖ 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!



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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.carrol@gmail.com

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

Short Walks in Bishop's Castle

A "Walkers are Welcome Town"

North and West

6

Walk 1 - Wintles, Saddlers Wood
and the Camlad Valley

Walk 2 - The Wintles, The Cabin and Welsh Street

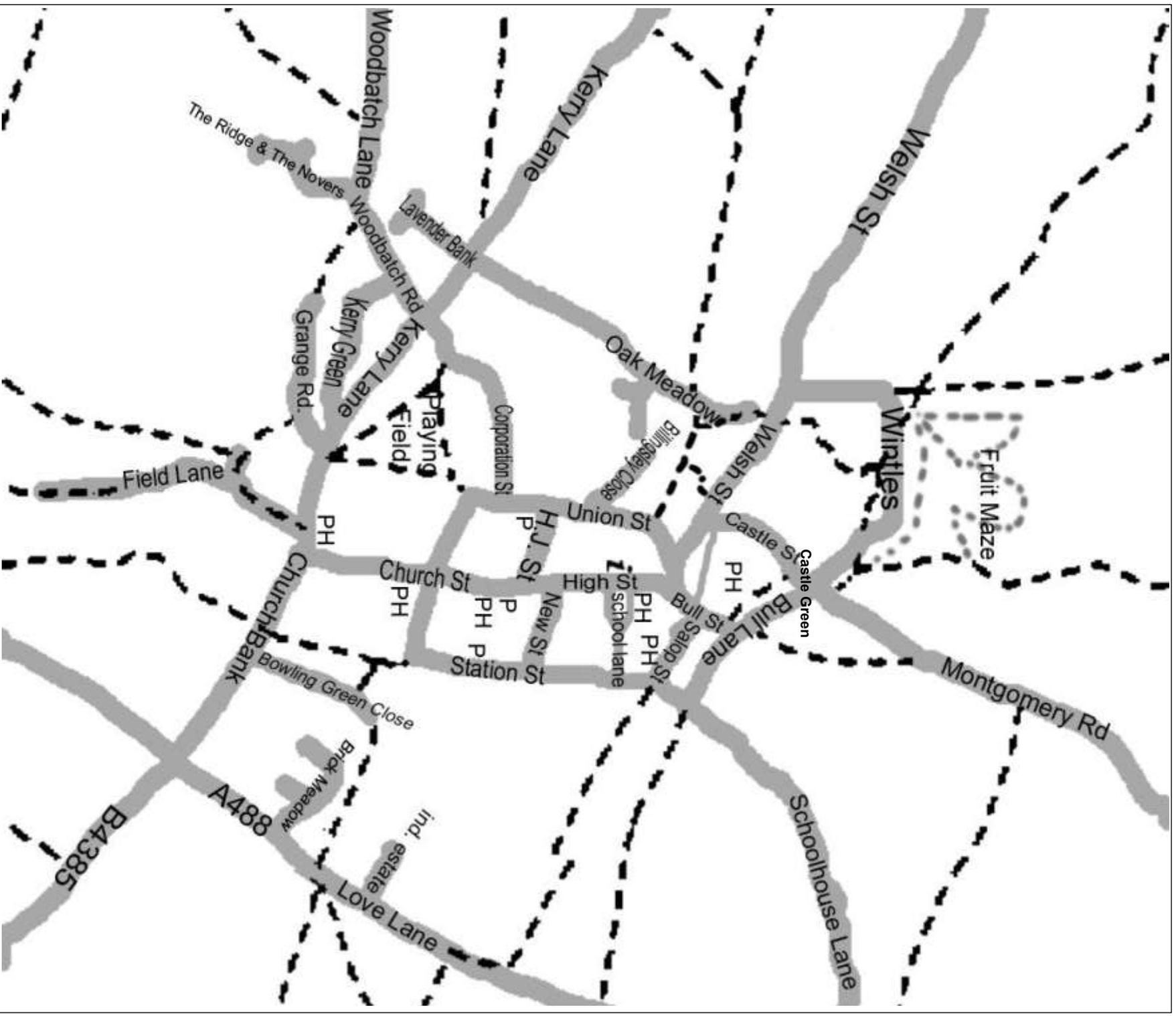
Walk 3 - Oak Meadow back to Kerry Lane

Walk 4 - The Playing Fields, Woodbatch Lane and
the Old de Leys Estate to Kerry Lane

Walk 5 - The Fruit Maze Walk



Bishop's Castle Street Map



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 Clew. 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 Rounton on the far side of the Camlad Valley.

Each walk 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.
3. The yellow numbered markers on the stiles & gates are for identification purposes only. Please quote the number if you are reporting a problem.

Walk 1

The Wintles, Little Saddlers Wood and the Camlad Valley

Six stiles and steep gradients. About 2.5 miles

From Welsh Street follow the road round to the right at the junction with the Bank's Head Lane and continue until you see a track straight on as the road curves again to the right. Follow the track, through a gate and continue up the green lane to a gate at the top with a stile to the right. (The route shown on the map is temporarily closed). Follow the well marked green lane to the stile at the top of the hill. Over the stile and straight down the arable field, bearing slightly left, to a stile at the entrance of Saddlers Little Wood.

Go down through the pheasant woods following the clear path. These woods are carpeted with white wood anemones in April followed by bluebells and greater stitchwort. At the bottom of the woods, go down the steps and follow the path across the arable field to the gate in the far left corner. Turn right along the B4385. This road is not very busy but traffic can travel fast so take care. Visibility is good along this stretch. You are in the valley of the Camlad, the only river which runs from England into Wales. It rises on the Stiperstones and joins the River Severn near Forden. At the end of the field, just past the boundary hedge, which doesn't quite reach the roadside, turn right through a gate and walk up the left hand edge of the woods following the Shropshire Way. At the end of the woods continue in the same line straight up the field to a stile leading onto the Foxholes camping site. Keep to the right side of the hedge until you reach a gap opposite the Foxholes, a house with a crenellated roof. Go through the gap and turn right, following the mown path, to a wooden wicket gate in the corner of the field. Go through to a metal gate into a field. Follow the field boundary down to another metal gate and then continue down hill to a fourth gate to the left of the old barns. From here you follow the wooded path bearing left and then down through a gate onto a path between the terraced houses on Castle Green.

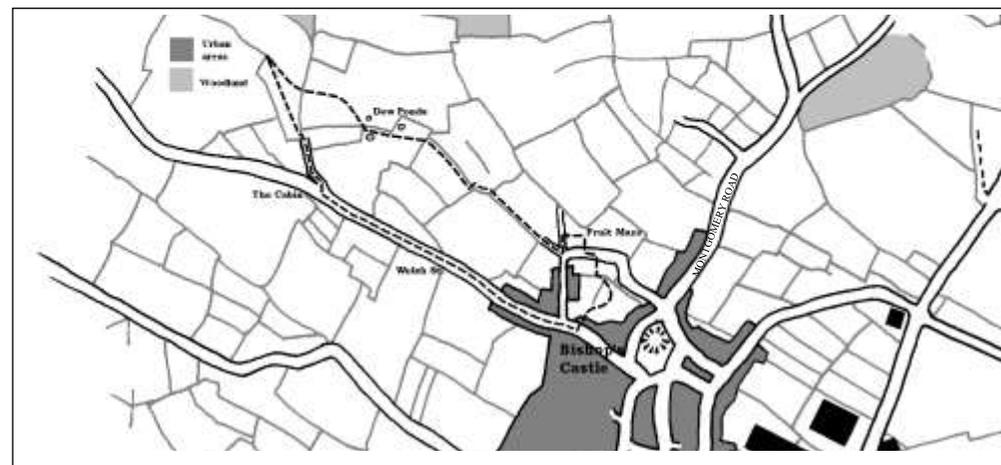


Walk 2

The Wintles, The Cabin and Welsh St.

Seven stiles and steep gradients. About 2 miles

From Welsh Street follow the road round to the right at the junction with the Bank's Head Lane and continue until you see a track straight on as the road curves again to the right. Follow the track, through a gate and after a few yards turn left up a green lane to a stile then carry on up wooded track to a stile next to a gate at the top. Cross the left hand corner of this field to stile. Over this, turn right and keep the hedge on your right to the next stile. Go across this field in a slightly left direction passing two dew ponds, one on your right and the other on the left as you skirt the edge of the next field. Go over the stile in the corner and left down the hill the hill to a gate in the middle of the field boundary. Turn left and keeping the hedge on your left continue to the next stile in the corner of field at the start of a wooded green lane. Carry on along the wooded lane to come out onto Welsh St. and The Cabin. Walk down the lane into Bishop's Castle.



Walk 3

Oak Meadow back to Kerry Lane.

About four stiles and only one gradient. About 1.5 miles

Follow the signs between the houses at the top part of Oak Meadow to a stile in the middle of the field boundary. Walk straight up across the field to the next stile. The back of the Bedells farmhouse can be seen up on the right. Bear left across the field, crossing the small stream and another stile. Bear left up the steep hill to a gate in the far right corner.

You can make a shorter walk by turning left after this last stile up the hill and through a gate onto Kerry Lane.

After the kissing gate in the corner, turn left onto Kerry lane and follow the lane back to town.

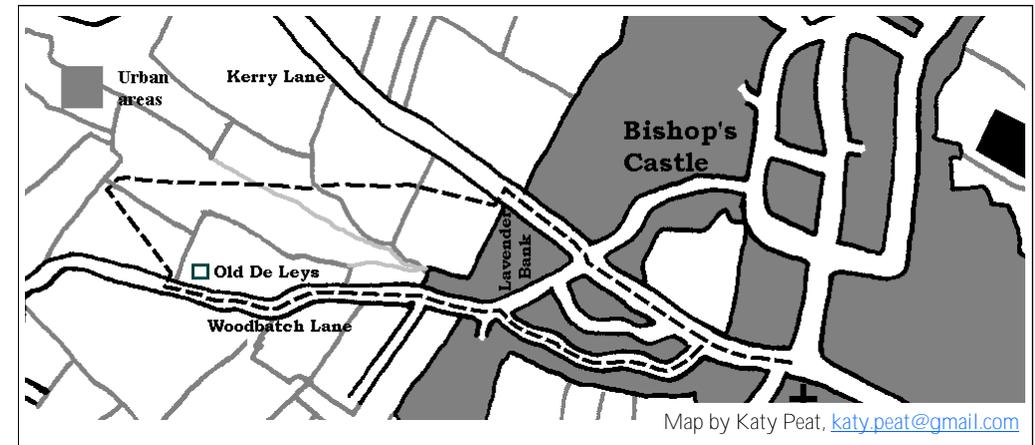


Walk 4

The Playing Fields, Woodbatch Lane and the Old de Leys Estate to Kerry Lane.

stiles and mainly flat. About 1.5 miles

From the Playing Fields go down the slope and through the gate at the southern end, and cross Kerry Lane into Grange Road. Walk along the road and then straight along the footpath ahead, dropping down to the right of the hedge until you reach Woodbatch Lane. Go up the lane past The Ridge on the left and about 150 yards beyond the speed delimit sign go through the five bar gate on the right just beyond Old de Leys and on up the track towards the old barns ahead. Just before you reach them cross the stile to the right and diagonally back across the field, keeping to the left of the telephone wires and across a plank bridge and over a stile. Continue on the same line across the next field to a gate, turn left and follow the field boundary around the housing estate to a gate on the left near the corner. Take care on the steps beyond down the bank into Kerry Lane where you can walk back down into the town. (1 stile)



Walk 5

The Fruit Maze Walk.

No stiles, easy gradients, good views. About half an hour

This area to the north of Bishop's Castle is owned by the residents of the Wintles houses and has both public paths and permissive paths which give great views of the surrounding hills and woodland. There are well used paths, benches and a shelter at a good viewing point. Besides the walks around the fruit maze and the allotments, which are private, there are the quarry and woodland walks to enjoy.

1. Castle Green. Take the Shropshire Way between the houses on the left and through the gate. Go left to follow the path to the allotments or bear right on the Shropshire Way and turn left before the metal kissing gate.
2. The Wintles Road. From Welsh Street follow the road round into the Wintles Road at the junction with the Bank's Head Lane. Continue until you see a track straight on as the road curves again to the right. Follow the track, bearing right towards the allotment gates.

