

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.shropshirehillshuttles.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 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!

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Original Design by MA Creative (01743 351455)

Donations for these walks help us to maintain the footpaths and bridleways.

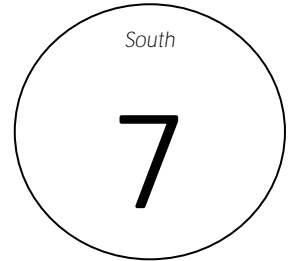
Please report any difficulties with these walks or comments to Jane Carroll on 01588 638467,

jane.carroll@gmail.com

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

Short Walks in Bishop's Castle

A "Walkers are Welcome Town"



- Walk 6 - Church Lane to the Pines and Star Farm, The Novers and Dog Kennel Lane
- Walk 7 - Flatlands Walk from the College grounds to the B4385 and back to the College
- Walk 8 - Crowgate to Oakley House and the arable lands back to town



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 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 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 6

Colebatch and the Shropshire Way

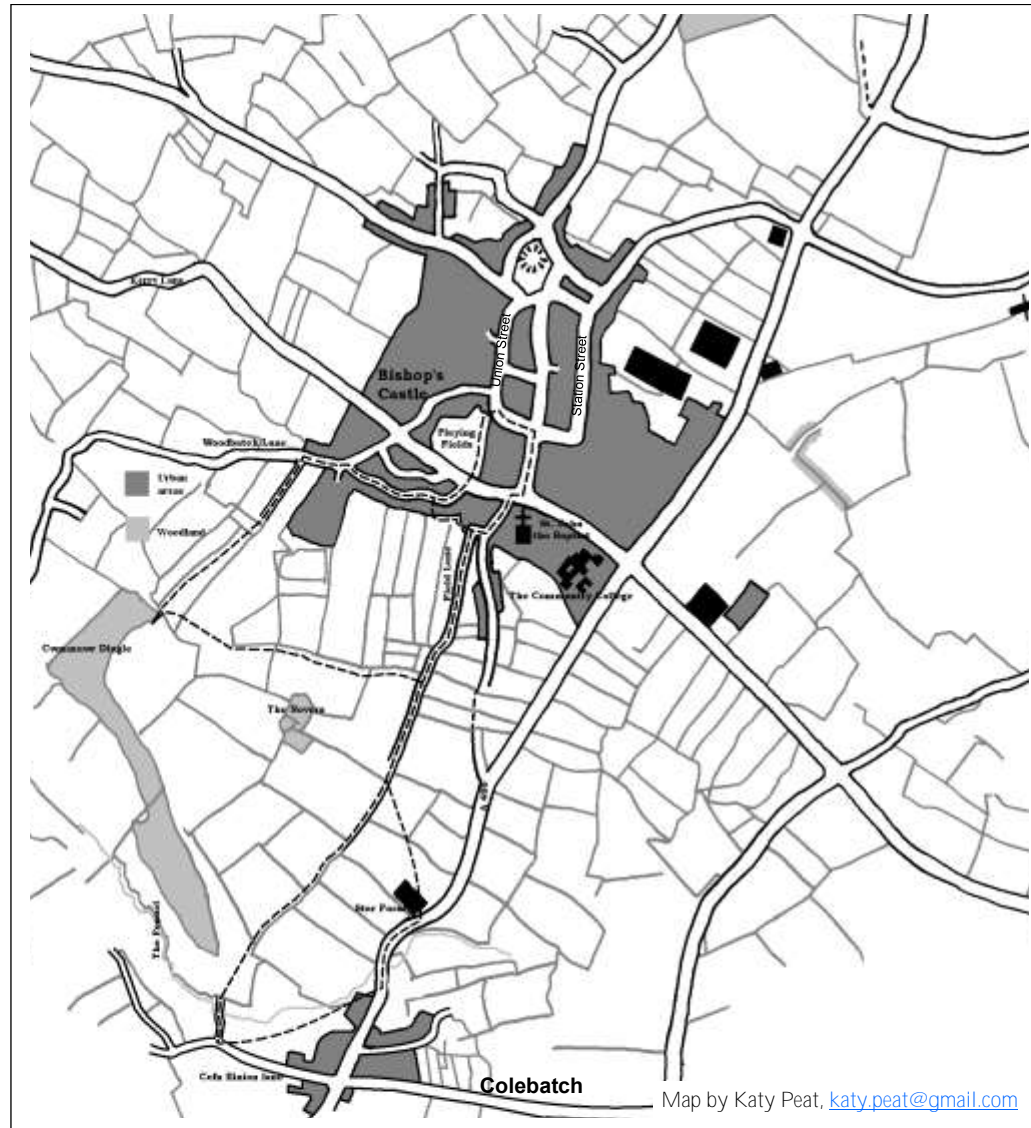
12 stiles and steep gradients. 2.5 - 3 miles depending on route.

Go along Church Lane, past the Fire Station and turn right and then turn left up Field Lane following the Shropshire Way. Go through a gate at the top and continue past Field Cottage to a gate onto a green lane. Continue along the green lane until you see a gate in front. Before you reach the gate go over a stile on the left and diagonally right down the steep field to a stile near the bottom corner. Continue along the same line until you reach the farm yard. Go through the farm yard, in front of the house and come out through another gate onto the A 488. This is a busy main road but cross with care to the wide verge on the far side and walk past Bridge Cottage and Fair View. In between, the Pennel brook emerges from its culvert under the main road on its way to join the River Kemp. Continue along the verge until you see a telephone box on the right and a group of new houses. Cross the road and go over a stile next to the last house. Carry on to the brook and turn left to keep the brook on your right and you follow the path over two more stiles. Follow the left hand fence in field until you reach a stile. Cross into next field and walk across to a stile in the far corner. Cross the stile onto a lane which leads to Cefn Einion. Turn right and right again onto a track with the brook on your right. The brook flows under the track which ends in a stile onto the Shropshire Way. Head straight up the hill. Go over the stile near the far corner of the field and carry on with the hedge to your right over the next stile. Carry on along the same line following the track until you see a gate with another track going off to the left. Go through the gate and over the stile next to a gate straight ahead. Retrace your steps to Fields Cottage, Field Lane and Church Lane

Or - 0 stiles. At the end of Field Lane turn left towards the barns and then right along a path running between two bungalows. When you reach Grange Rd., turn right and at the end cross over into the Playing Fields.

Or - 4 stiles and steep gradients. Just before Field Cottage turn left over a stile and carry on up the hill with the hedge on your right over the next 2 stiles. This walk offers one of the very best views of Bishop's Castle and a great panoramic view from the top. As the fencing dips away to the right, carry straight on towards the left hand corner of the field. You will find a stile in the hedgerow not far from the corner. Once over the stile, the path goes right, down the hill towards a gate near the centre of the field boundary. (If you go to the far left hand corner of this field, and down the steep incline, over the stile, down and up to the stile on the right you will enter one of the best bluebell woods in the area. Worth a detour in late spring.)

Go through the gate and bear right towards another gate in the right hand corner of the field. Follow Dog kennel Lane down to Woodbatch Lane. Turn right past the entrance to The Ridge and then right down the track. Go past Watermead to Grange Rd. and at the end cross over into the Playing Fields.



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

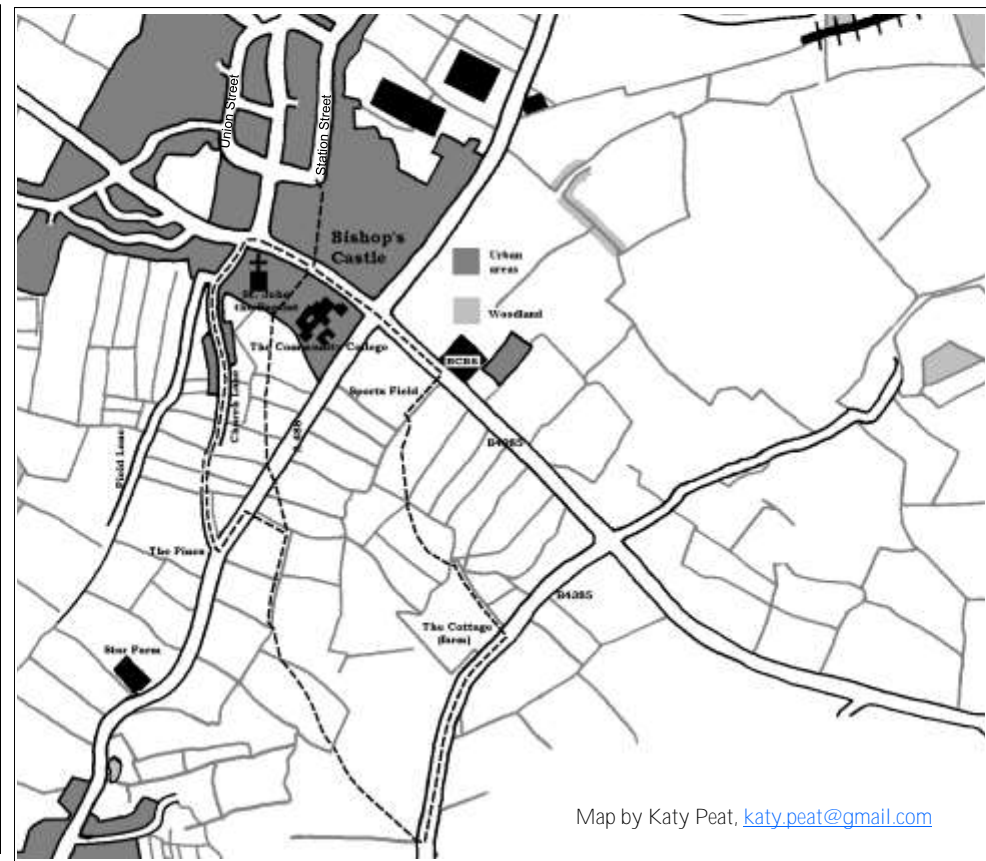
Walk 7

Flatlands walk from the College grounds to the B4385 and back to the College.

Mainly level ground and 10 stiles. About 2.5 miles

Leave the town on the B4385 and turn right over a stile opposite BCBS. Follow the left hand hedge of the Community College Playing Fields to a stile one third of the way along. Cross diagonally over the next field, go through the field gate and then bear left towards a wooden bridge across a stream in the middle of the field boundary. Keeping the hedge on the left, follow the track to 2 stiles to the left of farm buildings. Carry on to a stile onto the B4385. This is quite a busy road so take care. Turn right, keeping to the right hand side facing oncoming traffic and walk past The Cottage, one of the few dairy farms in this area, Continue along the road for a quarter of a mile, pass Overdale house on the left hand side and the entrance to Merrifield on the right. Continue on and go over the stile on the right in the hedge opposite the road junction signpost and cross the field diagonally to 2 stiles near the far right hand corner. Continue the same line to cross a wide drainage channel to a stile in the right hand hedge boundary. Keep over to the left of the next field towards a stile and, once over, turn right. Keeping the hedge on your right, go over the next stile. Either - 8 stiles - go over this stile and bear left to the middle of the next field. Straight across the next field to a stile onto the A488. Cross the road with care to another stile and continue on over numerous stiles. Then keep to a left hand track until you reach the SpArC building – Bishop's Castle's sports and arts centre. Skirt round it to the left to cross a stream into the other College grounds. Go straight ahead with the hedge and church yard on the left until you reach a kissing gate onto Church Bank. If you cross the road to a kissing gate opposite, there is a pleasant walk behind the Bowling Green Close houses back to town at the end of Station St. *This walk has been completely upgraded by the Walking for Wellbeing project. It is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) 2007-2013: Europe investing in rural areas. The project is being delivered through the Shropshire Hills AONB LEADER programme, with Defra as the Managing Authority*

Or – 1 stile - before going over the stile turn left towards the A 488 and farm buildings. Go over the stile and through the gate to the road. Turn left along the main road but cross it first to face oncoming traffic. Within a few yards you will come to The Pines path on the right – a tarmaced route into town with kissing gates. The path ends in Church lane which leads to the Parish Church and Six Bells Inn.



Walk 8

Crowgate to Oakley House and the arable lands back to town.

Mainly level ground and 5 stiles. About 2.5 miles.

Walk along the paved B4358 past the industrial estate, sewerage plant and BCBS to Crowgate Cottage. As the road bends sharply right, turn left along the track to Oakley House. As you go further on you will see a path on the left leading to a copse and a stile. Over the stile and across these large arable fields with the rights of way well marked. Either – 3 stiles – After crossing the stile, carry on towards the left hand corner of the field, crossing a wooden bridge over the drainage channel. Cross the field and go over the stile and then straight across this field to another stile. Bear left towards the houses to a stile next to a gate near the far left hand corner of the field. This brings you on to the A 488. Carefully cross the main road to a path on the edge of an industrial estate. Keeping the hedge to the left, carry on past the backs of houses in Brick Meadow and across a small field to kissing gates, turn right onto a path which leads onto Bowling Green Close. Turn left and between Nos 13 and 15 a path leads to Station Street.

Or – 6 stiles – After crossing the stile, go straight across this field to cross a wide bridge over the drainage channel. Carry on towards the large trees ahead and go onto a wooded track. Over another stile at the end and bear left into the field. Cross the field over one of the town's 2 rugby pitches to a stile 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 the old track of the Bishop's Castle railway 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. Go down steps to cross the industrial site road, up the steps the other side and then left and right down the bank to the stile. Walk up this field to the far left hand corner where stile will lead to a path alongside a garden into Station St.

