

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

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. 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.carroll@gmail.com

WALKING FOR PLEASURE

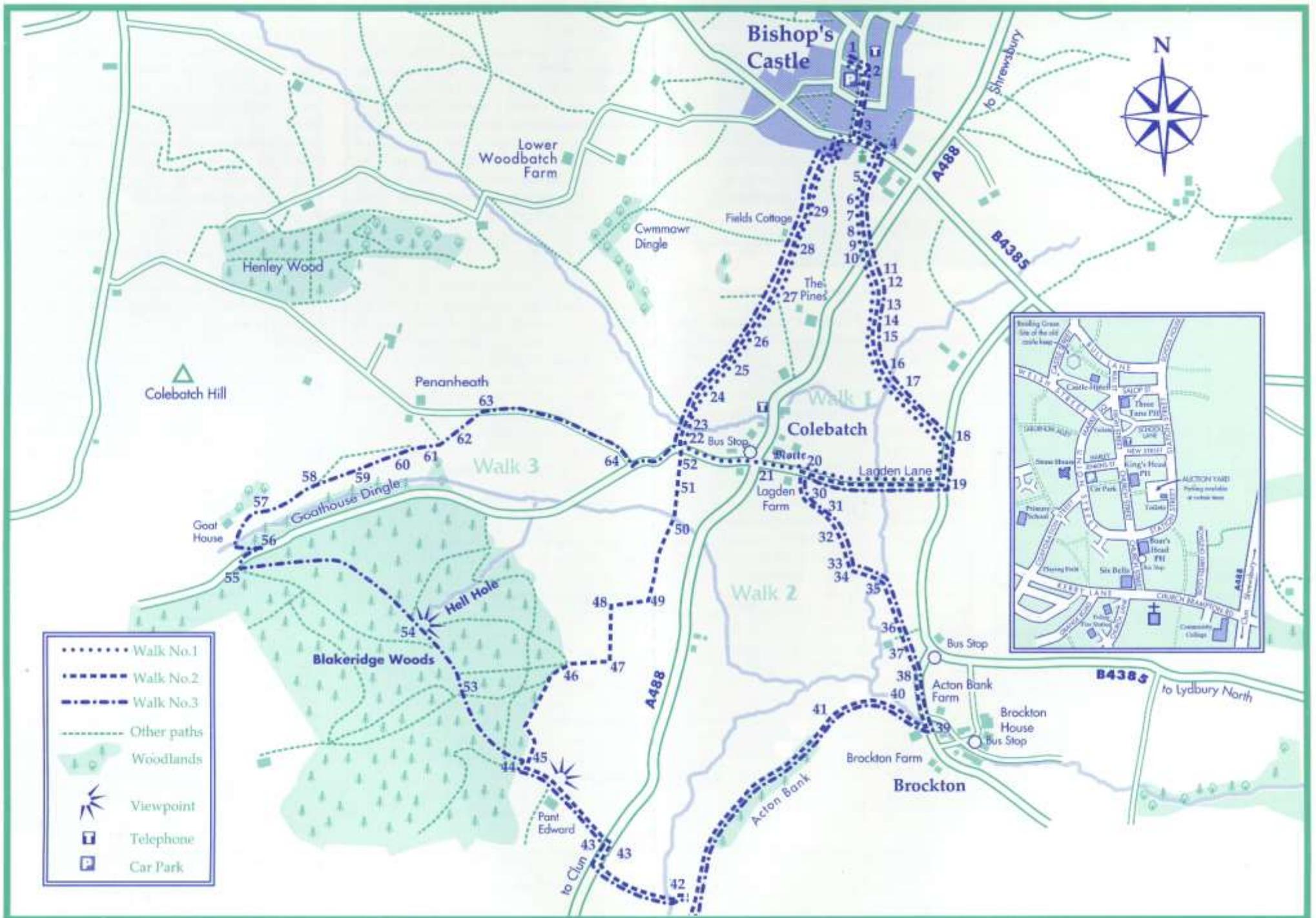
Around Bishop's Castle

A "Walkers are Welcome Town"



*Hell Hole, Acton
Bank
And
Brockton*





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

Distance 3 ¼ miles

From the car park (1) turn right and right again(2). At the Six Bells follow the road left past the church and churchyard (3) then turn right through kissing gate and along the churchyard wall and fence beyond. Follow to the end of the fence where you will find a wooden sleeper bridge over a stream. Over the bridge follow the windy path through the long grass keeping the woodland and building to your immediate left, then bear right to the stile in the hedge beyond the overhead power lines. After crossing the stile go straight across the fields and stiles (6-10) until you reach the road.

Carefully cross the road and the stile opposite and aim for the hedge to your right and cross the stile (11). Go over the stile slightly to your left in the middle of the hedge ahead (12). Go straight ahead along the left edge of the field, over stile (13), continue straight ahead to field corner and cross a stile on the left (14). Go diagonally right and cut across the corner of the field to find a small wooden footbridge and cross the next stile (15). Now head diagonally left across the corner of the field, and cross the tractor bridge over the brook. (16). Follow same direction across the next field to corner double stile. Continue in the same direction to corner of field (17,18) and over stile onto road. Turn right and walk carefully along the road a short distance. Turn right, along Lagden Lane (signpost Colebatch) (19) Note bridge and count 2 gates on left if on walk 2. This is the departure point for Walk 2. Continue on road and over the crossroads at Colebatch (21) and along the lane for ¼ mile. Turn along the next waymarked track to your right (22) Cross a bridge and go over the stile (23) onto the Shropshire Way. Now go straight up over the hill in front to the stile in the right hand corner by the holly trees (24) Continue straight ahead on the right edge of the fields crossing one stile (25,26) until you reach a gate beyond which the track turns off to the left (27). Go through that gate and continue straight ahead through the small metal gate onto the path with hedge on your left and hazels on your right. The wooden gate at the end of this path (28) takes you in front of a series of cottages on your left (29) and down the lane to the first T junction, turn right. At second T junction (red brick wall ahead) turn left (fire station now on left and churchyard on right). At 3rd T junction turn right to return to main street of Bishop's Castle.

Walk 2

Distance 6 ½ miles

Follow instructions for Walk 1 to point 19. After second gate and 100 yards before the farm take the stile on the left (20). Cross field and go over next stile and left over bridge and through gate (31). Cross field diagonally right to middle of hedge. Over stile (32) and keep same direction over next 2 stiles. After 2nd stile go very slight right across field to reach bridge over brook. The stile on the bridge is a good place to look right for the stile in the fence. You need to cross the crop to that point (to right of furthest right telegraph pole, (33–37) Cross stile, track and stile. Keep going on the same line over fields to next stile and finally out through gate (or over stile) in the far corner of field and onto lane (38).

Turn right along lane into Brockton, a working hamlet with a small chapel. Go over the ford via the footbridge and then take the second entrance on your right (finger post) up the track (39) to the open ground with workshop and buses. Go through the gate immediately to the left of the lane (40). Continue on the right edge of the fields passing through 2 gates until reaching a stile (41). Go slight right through the edge of the wood to meet the track and turn left. Follow the path along the edge of the wood (Acton Bank) continuing straight ahead over one stile for approx. 0.5 mile until you see marker post (42). This points down to path along the field edge (with track on left). Leave field onto the road by the stile to the right of the farm gate, or through gate. (43).

Turn right along the road and then very shortly left up a stony track to the top (Pant Edward) until the track meets the edge of the wood. Turn right along the fence until you reach stile on the left (44). This is the departure point for Walk 3.



With your back to the stile this is a splendid viewpoint with superb views across the valley to the summit of Bury Ditches the Iron Age Hill Fort.

Do not cross the stile but continue along the edge of the wood, past the stone bunker and through the gate ahead (45). Carry on around the field until you reach the edge of the wood where you cross a stile on left into a sunken tree-lined lane (46). Turn right down the lane, and after approx. 175 yards go over a stile above you on your left (47). Go along right edge of field, around left side of barn and over next stile (48). Turn right down edge of field and over stile (49) then head diagonally left until you see the stile (50) near the left hand corner of the field. Cross the stile and bridge and bear

slightly left to the next stile (51) in the middle of the fence ahead. Keeping on the same line go over the slope and onto the lane over the stile (52). Turn right and after a short distance along the lane, turn left (22) Now follow instructions for Walk 1, point 22 where the path joins the Shropshire Way.

Walk 3

Distance 8 miles

Follow instructions for Walk 2 to point 44

Turn left over the stile into the woods. Go up short path through the trees and emerge onto open forest track where you turn right and then immediately left up the track ahead. Staying on the hard track bear right at the next junction (53) and go on to find a clearing on the right – Hell Hole (54).



Looking through the clearing you see a sharp drop and hollow below and slightly to the right is Bishop's Castle.

Now go straight on along the main track which slowly descends to forest gate and then exits onto lane (55). Turn right along the road and take the first track to the left (fingerpost, 56) going through gate and down track turning sharp right at the bottom as it crosses a stream. Proceed up the track through a gate and in front of the Goat House bearing to the right and through another field gate (57) across the short field and through the gate. Bear slightly left across the next field and through the gate in the middle of the tree line (58). Go straight on through metal grid gate in front (59) and then follow the left top field edge, through the next two gates (61/62) Go over stile into tree lined lane and out onto tarmac lane (63). Turn right, go all the way down to T junction then left at the junction (64) and turn left up the second track (22).

Now follow the instructions from Walk 1 point (22) to return to Bishop's Castle on the Shropshire Way.



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.

The Walks in this Leaflet

This set of three walks present a wide variation of terrain, distance and views across **the southern countryside of the Bishop's Castle area**. 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

This is a relatively short and easy walk mainly on the flat which takes you down to Colebatch and then back to the starting point along well defined routes.

Walk 2

Branches from Walk 1 near Colebatch across the fields and water to the hamlet of Brockton where you can dip your feet in the ford on a warm day. The walk continues south-west along the wooded edge of Acton Bank and then back up the hill to Pant Edward for superb views back over your route and across to Bury Ditches. Sit here beneath Blakeridge Woods for a while and enjoy the views. The return leg is largely downhill and across country joining back with Walk 1 to the west of Colebatch.

Walk 3

Extends Walk 2 to the west and along forest **tracks to the sinisterly named "Hell Hole"** which presents excellent views - not of hell but of beautiful South Shropshire countryside. The walk leaves Blakeridge Wood and proceeds above Goathouse Dingle to Penanheath where a gentle descent along the road brings you back to the final part of Walks 1 and 2 and across the fields and **tracks back to Bishop's Castle for a well earned rest and refreshment.**

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.

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.
- ❖ 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!