

## 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.

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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)

Please report any difficulties with these walks or comments to Shropshire Council  
[outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:outdoor.recreation@shropshire.gov.uk) 0345 6789000 Public Rights of Way report a fault forms are on-line. Follow  
link to Leisure and Culture, then Outdoor Recreation and select footpaths and Rights of Way.

### Bishop's Castle

The Town Hall, Bishop's Castle SY9 5BG  
01588 630023 [info@bishopscaletownhall.co.uk](mailto:info@bishopscaletownhall.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

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](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



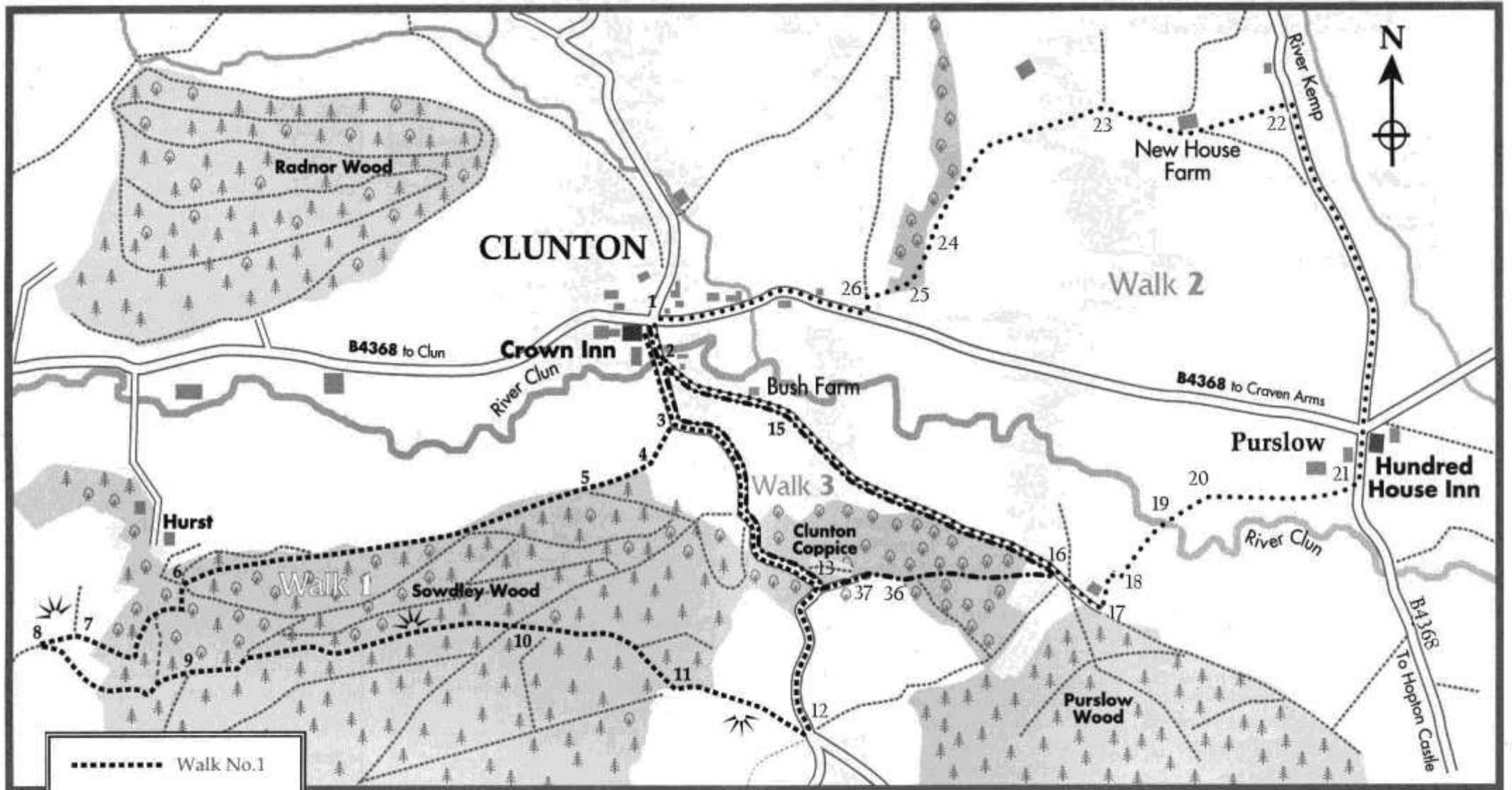
# WALKING FOR PLEASURE

## Around Clunton

# 5

*Clunton Coppice,  
Sowdley Wood  
And Purslow*





- ..... Walk No.1
- - - - - Walk No.2
- · - · - Walk No.3
- ..... Other paths
-  Woodlands
-  Viewpoint

## Walk 1

Distance 4¾ miles

If in a car use the car park opposite the Crown Inn (1). Cross the B4368. Keep going on the small road South with the Crown Inn on your right. Cross the River Clun (2) and continue along the road. Immediately after the cottage on the right (3) go through the gate. Continue upwards along a hedged lane and through the gate at the top (4) into Sowdley Wood. Follow the main forest track and continue straight on where the forest road joins it (5). Keep on main track. After 1 mile it begins to curve. Ignore other tracks crossing (6). Continue onwards on the main track round the bends until you leave the wood. Proceed up the bank past a track joining from the right (7).

 *You can now see Clun and the upper part of the valley over the hedge on the right.*

After a short way you will see a bridle way marker (8) where you turn sharp left up the hedged track. Go past the house called Pooh Hill back into the wood. Continue uphill on main track to a waymark (9), go straight on as indicated by a blue arrow. Continue on the main track winding uphill. You eventually come to a fork in the track (10). Follow the blue sign straight on past another forest road which joins from the right. The track ahead deteriorates but continue straight ahead above a deciduous wooded area and then through an area of clear, felled forestry.

 *Wonderful views through the trees along the Clun Valley, to the Long Mynd, Wart Hill and the Bury Ditches Iron Age Hill Fort.*

The track descends until you leave the wood through a metal gate. (11).

 *Excellent views over South Shropshire and to the Cleve Hills.*

Turn left at the gate and walk down the track alongside a deer fence on the right hand side. At the bottom of the track you come to the Clunton road (12). Turn left along the road back towards Clunton. After ½ mile you come into Clunton Coppice. Carry on down the road for ¾ mile and back across the River Clun (2). Alternatively soon after you come into the wood take waymarked right of way to your right (13) and follow walk 2 in reverse back to Clunton.

## Walk 2

Distance 4 ½ miles

This walk passes both the Crown Inn at Clunton and the Hundred House Inn in Purslow. They are open regularly depending on the time of the year so it is best to phone them in advance if you want to visit them.

Park in the car park opposite the Crown Inn. Leaving the hamlet of Clunton (1) behind you, heading South, cross the B4368 and walk past side of the Crown Inn. Cross the River Clun (2) and immediately turn left down down a road signposted “**Bush Farm**”. **Stay on road which becomes a hedged track after Bush Farm (15).** After a little while you will find a wood rising on the right. Just before you come out of the wood you will see a house above you on your right.

Continue along the path until it exits onto the road (16). Go **straight on for a few yards past “The Cider House” on your left.** Immediately after the house, cross the stile on your left (17). Head for the large oak in the middle of the field and turn right to cross the stile in hedge(18). Cross the stile and turn left along the hedge heading for the footbridge over the River Clun (19). Cross the bridge and head diagonally right across the field to a metal gate with a wooden kissing gate next to it. (20). Go through the kissing gate and across the next field keeping the old tree with the large hollow girth on your right. You will soon see Purslow Hall on the left. Head towards the top left hand corner of this field and exit onto the tarmac road through a gate (21). Turn left up the road where you will find the Hundred House Inn on your right.

Go straight across the main road and continue for 0.7 mile along a narrow tarmac road. Take the first turning on the left signed to New House Farm (22). Immediately cross a cattle grid. Go up the drive through a farmyard and up a track over cattle grid (you may have to pass through 4 gates from the farm driveway to this point). Continue uphill along the track to the top corner of the field.

Go left through the gateway (23), along the right edge of the field then through the next gate keeping the hedge on your right.

 *At the highest point of this route you will be able to see 2 iron age camps, Borough Camp behind you and Bury Ditches ahead slightly to your right.*

At the far edge of this field turn left along the hedge/fence to find a stile in the next corner (24), cross the stile and turn left along the track with trees on your right until you see a waymarker just before a gate.

 *You can now see across the Clun Valley to Clunton and the early part of your route.*

Go down the track with the trees on your right until you see a waymarker just before a gate (25). Turn right as shown by the waymark downhill through the trees and across the next track. Look for tree marks to help your direction. Cross the next 2 stiles then head across bottom edge of field to cross the stile in the corner (26). Go straight down the lane and turn right along the B4368 Craven Arms to Clunton road. Follow the road for 1/4 mile back to Clunton passing the small church on your left.

## Walk 3

Distance 2½ miles

Follow the instructions for walk 2 until point (16) at the end of this grassy track. Turn sharp right up the hill with the house “**Badgers Croft**” on your left . **There is a waymark in the hedge.** Go up the well maintained track past a house on your left. Continue ahead up Layde Bank passing between the house and some outbuildings. Go through the metal gate. Enter the wood, you are now in Clunton Coppice.

Follow the old lane to the top of the slope (36). There is now a field on your left. Follow waymark bearing right along a grassy lane to a cottage on your left. At the waymark (37) **bear right along a level woodland path ‘till you come to the road (13).** Follow the road down and back to Clunton.



*Clunton from the North*

## 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!

## 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. Thousands 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.

## The Walks in this Leaflet

This set of three walks concentrates on the area to the south of Clunton, all three requiring varying amounts of uphill climbing, (allow extra time for this if necessary).

### Walk 1

After a climb uphill, this walk takes you along the flat forest plantation tracks of Sowdley Wood and out the other end to see Clun nestling in the valley below.

### Walk 2

Takes you across the River Clun twice, along the edge of Clunton Coppice and out to Purslow. You cross the valley and after climbing a little way for the excellent views you descend through the trees and return to Clunton, passing the old school house and church.

### Walk 3

Offers you the pleasure of walking around and through Clunton Coppice, experiencing the sounds, sights and smells of a managed sessile oak woodland and its wildlife.

From all of these walks you can see views across the valley to Bury Ditches and Clunton Hill.

## The Clunton Area

Clunton is a quiet little hamlet nestling in the Clun Valley only two miles from the village of Clun itself - forever remembered in the poems of Housman.

Clunton could easily be missed as you pass through on your way to Craven Arms or Clun but for the fact it serves as an important crossroads for those in pursuit of history and nature.

To the north of Clunton lies the well preserved and impressive Iron Age hill fort of Bury Ditches hidden high amongst the trees of Sunnyhill (managed by the Forestry Commission). There are several forest walks around the site, one of which takes you through the middle of the fort allowing you access to a splendid panoramic diagram. The forest walks are waymarked from the car park (at the top of the Bury Ditches road) and can be taken in addition to those presented in this leaflet.

South of the hamlet beyond the River Clun lies the important natural history asset of Clunton Coppice protected and managed by the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. The wood contains hazel, holly, birch and yew but is dominated by sessile oak - rather different from the usual conifer woods in the area - this encourages more interesting flora and fauna.

Clunton Coppice is an all-season wood, dominated by sessile oak, a legacy of its past management for coppicing for charcoal. In the late spring it is particularly attractive with the song of returning woodland migrants such as wood warbler and pied flycatcher, the drumming of woodpeckers and the mewing call of buzzards overhead.