



## Walking with Offa 7

### Food, drink and accommodation

Imagine patrolling the border without a decent pub. How would Offa's Dyke have been built without them? Over a thousand years later, keep up the tradition and stop for a drink and a bite to eat one of the excellent pubs or cafés in Clun.

These include:

**The White Horse Inn** serves a wide selection of local real ales including those from their own micro-brewery; and a varied menu of home cooked food, much of which is locally sourced. Contact Jack, Hannah or Liz on 01588 640305, email [pub@whi-clun.co.uk](mailto:pub@whi-clun.co.uk) or visit [www.whi-clun.co.uk](http://www.whi-clun.co.uk).



**The Sun Inn** is a historic pub serving homemade food, locally sourced where possible, traditional real ales and providing accommodation. Contact Steve and Lin on 01588 640559, email [info@thesunatclun.co.uk](mailto:info@thesunatclun.co.uk) [www.thesunatclun.co.uk](http://www.thesunatclun.co.uk)

**Carys Cakes at The Maltings** is a traditional tearoom in the High Street in Clun, now open all year from 8am - 5pm for breakfast, coffee, light lunches and afternoon tea. Homemade Cakes & Scones a speciality. Contact Carys on 01588 640539 or 07778 397599, email [info@caryscakes.com](mailto:info@caryscakes.com), [www.caryscakes.com](http://www.caryscakes.com)



**Bridge Coffee Shop** serves drinks and snacks. Contact 01588 640474

More information and where to stay can be found on the Clun or Bishop's Castle websites: [www.clun.org.uk](http://www.clun.org.uk) or [www.bishopscastle.co.uk](http://www.bishopscastle.co.uk) Accommodation listings can be found on [www.shropshiretourism.co.uk](http://www.shropshiretourism.co.uk)

**Getting there: BY BUS:** ShropshireLink Zone 2 may be able to transport you to the Memorial Hall car park at Clun from Bishop's Castle, Craven Arms, Knighton or surrounding areas. Journeys can be booked up to seven days in advance or with as little as 24 hours notice. Bookings are handled on a first served basis so where possible, book early. Call 0845 6789068 and ask for Clun Memorial Hall car park, Stop Reference 16012. You can get to Craven Arms from Shrewsbury or Ludlow by train or by the main bus service (service no: 540/435). Contact National Rail on 08457 484950 or visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or Traveline on 08712 002233 or visit [www.travelinemidlands.co.uk](http://www.travelinemidlands.co.uk).

**BY CAR:** Park at the Memorial Hall car park in Clun. To get the best from your walk we recommend comfortable walking boots, waterproof jacket and overtrousers, warm clothing, gloves and warm hat or sun cream and sun hat (depending on the season!), a mobile phone and something to eat and drink. Sheep and cattle are often in the fields on these routes – dogs must be kept under close control or on leads at all times.

**Walking with Offa** *Promoting the Welsh English border as a great place to get your boots on, enjoy the beautiful countryside and indulge in some fabulous food and drink.*



For more details contact the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership on **01588 674080** or see [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

Many thanks to Steve Levers from Bishop's Castle for developing this walk.



The series of **Walking with Offa** circular walks guides are also downloadable from [www.shropshirewalking.co.uk](http://www.shropshirewalking.co.uk)

Design: [www.thinkgraphic.co.uk](http://www.thinkgraphic.co.uk)  
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## Walking with Offa 7

# Ancient hill forts and woodlands of Bury Ditches

*A moderate six-mile walk following the Shropshire Way to Bury Ditches, taking three to four hours.*



**The Welsh English Border - where King Offa met his match!**

**One of a series of walks with spectacular views and glimpses of history, wildlife and archaeology.**

**in the Shropshire Hills**



**Start at The Memorial Hall car park, Clun, SY7 8NY.**

- ① Leave the car park by the main entrance and turn left along the lane, passing Clun Youth Hostel on your right. Pass Lake House cottages and fork left on the track to Mill Barn. Take the fenced footpath on the right. Cross the stile into the field and cross diagonally to another stile in the far hedge. Cross the field to the corner and exit via a stile into the lane. Turn left and follow the lane for ½ mile past Guilden Down cottages, then at the farm fork right and continue on the road. On passing the Cottage on the left (No.3) turn immediately left and continue on the wide stony/dirt track.
- ② After a few minutes pass through a metal barrier and continue on the track. In about 1/3<sup>rd</sup> mile pass by a metal gate and continue straight on and enter the forest on this rising track which soon joins the main forest track coming up from the left. Bear right and uphill and continue on the wide track for 350 yds to reach a clear Y-junction.

**SHORT ROUTE LEAVES HERE**

**Short Route Only** – Take the right hand fork and soon there is a wide opening to a track on the right. Turn right and follow this track down and it becomes a narrower grass/dirt track. Continue down and at the end of an opening on the left, with clear view of the valley, look for and descend over a stile on the left. Turn right and roughly follow the right boundary around the field. Descend to a gate/stile and turn right on to the track.

**Continue instructions from point 5**

- ③ Main route to bury ditches hill fort: Take the left hand fork of the junction on a rising track. Carry on up the track for ½ mile and at the summit turn right on to a wide grassy track. Follow this path to the gate on the left at the entrance to the fort. Go through the gate and follow the wide and obvious grassy path through the fort. At the point where there is a carving of an Ancient Briton, who is pointing to the highest point of the hill fort. Follow this path left to find a topograph (map of the surrounding landscape) and magnificent views of the Shropshire Hills.

- ④ Return to the main path and continue to descend to a pedestrian gate and exit the fort. Continue down the gravel footpath as it descends to the fort's car park area. (Here you will find conveniently placed picnic tables). Leave the car park onto the tarmac lane. Turn right and follow the lane for as the lane bears left, continue straight on, through a gate to join a wide track. Continue along the track, through a gate to join an enclosed fenced track and wooded area. Just before reaching a house pass through the pedestrian gate on your left. Bear right to go through a second gate, then carefully descend the bank and continue along the bottom fence line and on through a third and fourth pedestrian gate. Continue along the left fence line to pass a house on the left and then turn left and cross the brook via the stone track and continue up the bank. You will soon reach another track that passes the house and rises to the right. Bear right to join this track and follow it up as it winds left and passes through a gate.

**SHORT ROUTE RE-JOINS MAIN ROUTE HERE**

- ⑤ Continue on the track and join a hedge on its right and then through a gate in the corner of the field. Enter the track enclosed by hedges and descend to Stepple farm. On reaching the farm keep right and straight on, passing the farmhouse and through a gate. Continue down the track and as the track forks stay on the higher track. Where the track bears left and down, continue straight, on the track that leads to a gate. Continue on this track and it bears left and gently descends through a second gate into a field. Drop down the bank and bear right across the field to a plank bridge over a small stream. Over the stream continue in the same direction, steadily rising to the corner of the field. Pass through the gate and steeply ascend keeping to the edge of the wood on your left.

- ⑥ Turn left at the top to pass through a bridle gate into Radnor wood. Bear right and climb steeply up the edge of the wood and through a gate at the top leaving the forest. Follow the path along the edge of two fields with the hedge line on the right. Keep left of the first field gate and drop into a sunken path and continue following the right hedge line. The path descends with good views of Clun ahead and then passes through a bridle gate and into a sunken green lane. Cross the footbridge over the stream, soon the track turns right, ignoring the footpath ahead, continue along the wide green lane to the end and exit onto a lane. Turn left and follow this lane back to Clun and the start.

