



Walking with Offa 4

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 at either **The Crown Inn** or the **Inn on the Green** at Wentnor.



The Crown Inn offers real ales and home cooking in a traditional 16th Century family run country inn. Meals are served in the bar area or in a separate dining room. The choices change daily from traditional homemade dishes to a daily specials board with home made sweets to finish. The Crown Inn also offers three double rooms and one single room; all en suite, making it an ideal base for touring this unspoilt part of the country and its many places of interest. For more details and current opening hours contact the Crown on 01588 650613 or visit the website: www.wentnor.com, The Crown Inn, Wentnor, Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, SY9 5EE

The Inn on the Green offers real ales and freshly prepared meals, with a full main and children's menu, specials and light bites, served in the bar or the separate lounge/dining area. It has a family games room, free Wi-Fi access and a beer garden. The accommodation comprises of one twin, three double rooms and a family room that sleeps up to six. For more details and current opening hours contact 01588 650105, or The Inn on the Green, Wentnor, Shropshire, SY9 5EF.

Camping is available at **The Green Caravan and Camping Park** 01588 650605.

Wentnor Stores offers a wide range of drinks and snacks to take with you on your walk.

GETTING THERE:

You can find public transport options throughout Shropshire at: www.travelshropshire.co.uk. Or contact Traveline on 08712 002233.



BY CAR: Parking is available to the right and rear of Wentnor Stores, SY9 5EP by kind permission of the owners. Please park considerately and do not park in front of the shop as this is in constant use by customers.

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

Many thanks to Steven Levers from Bishop's Castle for developing this walk. Photographs by Steven Levers and Jay Mitchell.



There are 18 pub walks in this series and four 'Days Out'. Download, including podcasts, from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/walking-with-offa. Turn your Smartphone into a complete outdoors GPS. Download an app: www.viewranger.com and search for 'Walking with Offa'. A guide featuring twelve walks is available.



This project has been supported by Advantage West Midlands' Natural Assets Programme in partnership with Natural England.



Walking with Offa

4

Red Kites and Curlew on Prolley Moor

A relaxed, four and a half mile walk over fields and quiet lanes, with one steep climb, taking between two and three hours. 15 stiles.



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



Walking with Offa 4

Red Kites and Curlew on Prolley Moor

A relaxed, four and a half mile walk over fields and quiet lanes, with one steep climb, taking between two and three hours.

Start – Wentnor Stores, Rock Close, SY9 5EP.

- ① With 'Wentnor Stores' on your right, proceed along road and take gravelled drive on left. Take the stile to right of, or pass between stone pillars. Continue along drive and cross stile in right fence. Pass right of house and bear left across field to cross stile in corner. Keep left and pass through a gap/gate on left. Turn right and climb field to exit via gate at top of bank into tarmac lane.
- ② Turn left to junction. Ignore first but take second gate on right into field. Follow right boundary. As field descends leave boundary and keep ahead through gate at bottom of field. Cross this field and through another gate. Keep right and take second gate on right to exit on to a track to left of 'The Moorhouse'. Keep left of farm buildings and stay on wide track to exit on to a tarmac lane. Turn left as far as the signs for Holly & Yew Tree Cottages, and take gate on the right. *The 'Red Kite' is a graceful bird of prey and unmistakable with its reddish-brown body, angled wings and deeply forked tail. It was saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest running protection programmes. The 'Curlew' is the largest European wading bird, recognisable on moors by its long, down-curved bill, brown upperparts, long legs and evocative call. Both species are monitored and ongoing conservation work is needed to support their survival.*
- ③ Follow track passing three cottages. Following the left boundary cross stile ahead and continue on to cross two small footbridges and stiles. Stay with left boundary up field to the left of a copse of trees to exit via stile on to tarmac lane. Turn right and follow lane for 1/3 mile to road junction. Continue straight along 'No through Road', passing farm and through gate to reach a stone/dirt track.
- ④ Follow this enclosed (often muddy) track for ½ mile. On reaching farm buildings turn right onto tarmac lane and continue down to T-junction. Turn left and soon cross stile in right hedge. Follow left boundary to pass through a wide gap in 'oncoming' hedge into an open field. Bear right, head to stile in the centre of

- right fence line. Cross metal stile and descend steps to cross footbridge. Bear left to cross large open field towards a visible stile in fence. Cross stile and continue in same direction towards some trees. Ignore stile and footbridge on right, instead cross stile in the fence line to the left. *Near this spot lies a saline spring, known for its healing qualities. A hundred years ago there were ambitious plans to turn Church Stretton into a spa town by pumping this 'water-cure' the four miles to the Hydropathic Establishment, now known as the Long Mynd Hotel. Amongst other problems one thing stood in their way, the Long Mynd itself and so the project failed.*
- ⑤ Turn left to cross brook via footbridge and continue straight on rising up the field. As you near the top bear right to join fence and exit through gate into adjacent field. Turn left and follow fence to top and exit via stile

- into tarmac lane. Turn right and leave lane where it bends left at 'Long Mynd View' to continue straight on along track as it narrows then widens and bends left to reach the Crown Inn car park. Pass pub to exit onto road running through Wentnor Village. *A detour left will take you to Wentnor Church. Inside the church under the tower is a gravestone marking the tragic Hurricane of 1772 that destroyed a house and killed its seven occupants.*
- ⑥ Turn right and follow road passing the quirky 'Travellers Rest' and turn left at 'Welcome to Wentnor' sign through gate on to public footpath. Descend field to cross stile in hedge at bottom. Continue down to left corner and exit carefully down the steep bank onto road. Turn right and in a few minutes you will be back at the start.

