



Walking with Offa 3

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 **Abel's Harp, Bromlow**.



The pub serves a variety of meals from bar snacks to grills, with a carvery for Sunday lunch. You can also stay at the Inn, in one of the five ensuite rooms offering three diamond quality accommodation. For further details and current opening hours contact them on 01743 891933 or visit their website www.abelsharp.com.

Find further accommodation listings on www.visitshropshirehills.co.uk

GETTING THERE:

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



BY BUS: There are buses along the A488 between Shrewsbury and Bishop's Castle, stopping in Pontesbury and Minsterley (service no's: 552/553).

BY CAR: Car parking is available at Abel's Harp, Bromlow, Minsterley SY5 0EA.

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 Dave Croker of the Hope Valley for developing this walk.



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 3

Tranquillity and tree tops at Bromlow Callow

A challenging four mile walk on grassland and quiet lanes, taking in Bromlow Callow and Castle Ring fort, taking around two to 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 3

Tranquillity and tree tops at Bromlow Callow

A challenging four mile walk taking around two to three hours. Expect some steep climbs & tricky descents. On grassland and quiet lanes, includes some stiles, taking in Bromlow Callow and Castle Ring fort.

Start at The Abel's Harp car park, Bromlow SY5 0EA

① Facing the pub take the lane to the left or from the car park at the rear turn right and along the lane. Walk up the lane passing 'Vine Cottage', until a gate and stile is reached on your right. Go through gate and walk up the steep path to the Callow. At the top walk through or round the crown of trees, or both! Then follow grassy path to stile at road.

The purpose of Bromlow Callow is unknown but it was certainly likely to be a landscape marker and may have been a shelter for sheep and their shepherds whilst droving flocks to market in the valleys. The trees have a tranquil, if slightly eerie quality and would certainly have provided shelter for weary travellers. They inspired the author Mary Webb to write "It was cold in the Callow- a spinney of silver birches and larches that topped the hill." ("Gone to Earth" Chapter 1).

② Cross the road and go straight over a double stile heading slightly rightwards. Cross a stile and carefully cross a ditch via a sleeper bridge. Continue on to cross another stile in the corner, follow the right field boundary to exit over two stiles and a footbridge. Emerge on a wide track, turn left and pass 'The Cottage' continuing towards the woods.

③ Soon the track enters the woods and dips, at this point take the grassy path off to the left by a fire beating post. Cross the stile at the bottom of a dry stonewall and you will be back on open ground. Continue on, keeping the woods on your right.

④ Before the gate/fence there is a hidden stile on your right in the hedge, take this into the woods and turn left. Soon this path leaves the woods, via a stile to open ground.

⑤ Cross the field and stile, Castle Ring hill fort now ahead. *This hill fort is one of a number along the Welsh English border dating back to the Iron Age. It is registered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.* Turn right to reach a waymarked path. On reaching gorse bushes keep close to the right

boundary and carefully descend a very steep section of footpath to cross a stile, and turn right onto a track.

⑥ Pass through the gate and follow this wide grassy track as it bends downhill. Continue to a gate at a track junction, and turn left downhill. Follow this lane past a farm to join the muddy road at Meadowtown. Turn right (still looks like farm!) and continue along the tarmac lane for ¾ mile, passing through Lyde to eventually reach a T-junction.

⑦ If you want to go back to the start turn right and continue uphill to the Callow Inn, otherwise turn left on the narrow lane until you come to "Village Farm" on the left. Just after the farm turn sharp right onto a lane. At house swing left and enter field.

⑧ Head uphill aiming for a visible stile in the hedgerow. Go over stile and continue up towards the telegraph pole on the left, then up a bank to a stile on the skyline and into the field. Once in the field head leftwards to gate in the corner.

⑨ Just beyond the gate is a hedgerow on the left, turn left and follow it on its far side to descend to a track at Luckley Barn. Turn right for a short distance and then cross a stile on the right just before the buildings. Head for a stile beyond the pine trees.

⑩ Once over the stile head rightward uphill on a vague path that winds its way through bracken. Head up towards the prominent group of pine trees on the horizon to the top of the field and open grassland. *You are now on Luckley Hill.* Bear right and then roughly keeping to the left boundary, woods now to the left, continue up this field and from here you will see in the distance the trees on the top of the Callow. Head for these and a stile in the far corner and to the left of the house.

⑪ Continue on to a track/drive and straight on up to reach the road. Turn right and follow the lane down to return to the Abel's Harp.

