



## Walking with Offa 10



**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 or a bite to eat at **The Baron at Bucknell**.

**The Baron at Bucknell** is a charming country inn with excellent home cooked food and five luxury en-suite rooms, so you could enjoy the hospitality and then stay the night. Contact Debbie and Phil on 01547 530549.



[www.baronatbucknell.co.uk](http://www.baronatbucknell.co.uk)  
The Baron is open Mon to Fri 12.00 - 3.00 and 6.30 - 11.00. Sat, Sun and Bank Holidays, open all day from 12 noon. Camping is also available.

There are other lovely places to stay around Bucknell. See [www.exploremortimercountry.com](http://www.exploremortimercountry.com).

## GETTING THERE:

You can find public transport options throughout Shropshire at:

[www.travelshropshire.co.uk](http://www.travelshropshire.co.uk).

Or contact Traveline on 08712 002233.

**BY TRAIN:** Bucknell is on the Heart of Wales railway line.

**BY BUS:** There is a regular scheduled service between Ludlow and Knighton (738/740) passing through Bucknell. Bucknell is also served by **Castle Connect**, a 33 seat Shuttle bus which runs every weekend and Bank Holiday Mondays, from May to September – [www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk)

**BY CAR:** car parking is available at The Baron at Bucknell, SY7 0AH.



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 Mike Starr from Bucknell 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](http://www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/walking-with-offa). Turn your Smartphone into a complete outdoors GPS. Download an app: [www.viewranger.com](http://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 10

### Ravens and Skylarks around Bucknell and Stowe Hill



*A relaxed, six mile walk on grassland, forest tracks and minor roads, taking around three 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**



## Walking with Offa 10

## Ravens and skylarks around Bucknell and Stowe Hill

A relaxed, six mile walk on grassland, forest tracks and minor roads, taking around three hours. This is a dog friendly walk with no stiles.



### Start at Baron of Beef, Bucknell

- ① Turn right out of the Baron of Beef, Bucknell. Almost immediately turn right again into Bridgend Lane and walk as far as a house called 'Seabridge'. Take the footbridge over the river Redlake. Cross the road, walk along the unmade track opposite. Turn right into Bucknell Wood. Follow the forest road a short distance to a lay-by next to a disused quarry and take the track (bridleway) on the left, which climbs up through Bucknell Wood. At the first junction bear right and continue ahead.
- ② At the second junction continue ahead and follow the top path as it swings right and continues uphill. Shortly after a clearing in the wood affords views of the Redlake Valley and the Cleve Hills in the far distance. On a clear day you can just make out the 'golf ball' of the radar station on the summit of Titterstone Cleve. Continue on the path to reach a gate.

- ③ Go through the gate and step onto the open grassland of Stowe Hill, a favourite place for buzzards, skylarks and meadow pipits. The village of Chapel Lawn nestles in the valley below, while ahead and to your right is Caer Caradoc, an Iron Age hill fort. Caradoc was a British chieftain who resisted the Romans, but was finally defeated in A.D. 51 – was this the site of his last battle? Go across the field and through the gate opposite. The path continues gently uphill with a wire fence and woodland on your right, until you reach a gate in the field corner.
- ④ Stowe Hill pool. Go through the gate and turn sharp left and walk alongside the fence gently uphill past Stowe Hill pool. Where the fence meets the wood there is another gate. Go left through this gate and skirt the wood. Panoramic views of the Shropshire Hills and the Teme valley below. Drop down through open farmland and at the bottom a gate leads you onto a stony track and descends into a deciduous wood. Continue on this

- track until you reach the waymark post.
- ⑤ Turn left at this post and pick your way down through the wood to the fenceline, turn left inside the fence to reach a sunken lane and descend here to exit via a gate. Turn left onto the track and follow this down to the farm at Weston.
- ⑥ Before the farmyard go through the kissing gate, down the steps and turn right. Note the restored overshot waterwheel by the barn. Turn left onto the road and follow this as far as Cabbage Cottage.
- ⑦ Just past Cabbage Cottage leave the road, left and follow the track uphill into the wood. Continue ahead through the wood following the main path. Where the fence ends, bear slightly right and cross the road to follow the path down to Chapel Lawn Road. Turn right at the bend, over the bridge and the pub is on your left.

