



Walking with Offa 16



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 **The Bottle and Glass, Picklescott,**

Church Stretton SY6 6NR. Jon welcomes you to the traditional 17th century pub with a warm, cosy atmosphere. They offer a wide range of real ales and other refreshments. There is an extensive choice on the daytime and evening menus. Accommodation is also available. Telephone 01694 751252 or go online www.bottleandglass.co.uk to check opening times.

Not far from Picklescott is Church Stretton, the walker's favourite haunt. You will find a wide range of accommodation, specialist shops and places to eat and drink. Contact the Church Stretton Visitor Information Centre on 01694 723133.

Accommodation listings can be found 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 CAR Car parking is available at The Bottle and Glass, Picklescott, Church Stretton SY6 6NR.

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



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 12 walks is available.



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



Walking with Offa 16

High up on Cothercott Hill following ancient tracks

A four and a half mile walk with a steady climb up onto Cothercott Hill where there are wonderful views, then along an ancient highway, taking two to 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 16

PICKLESCOTT Cothercott Hill

A 4½ mile walk, with a steady climb up onto Cothercott Hill where there are wonderful views then along an ancient highway, taking two to three hours.

Start at The Bottle and Glass, Picklescott SY6 6NR. The walk follows quiet country lanes, tracks and crosses grassland with no stiles.

- 1 From the pub car park turn left to the crossroads in the centre of the village. Turn right and follow road past houses and farm on your left. Continue for approximately ¼ mile to the first road junction on your right with a cul de sac sign.
- 2 Follow this road down a dip then upwards passing between The Larches on your left and a cottage on your right when the tarmac road becomes unsurfaced lane. Continue along this lane until you reach a field gate on your left leading into a grass field.
- 3 Follow the waymarked bridleway straight ahead with hedge on right down a dip to a bridleway gate. Go through the gate and follow old hedgeline up a bank then bear left to a kissing gate. You are now on the Shropshire Way – look out for interesting fauna and flora. The path runs through a rough pasture field continue straight ahead uphill to a gate near a forest plantation. As you climb you will have extensive views northwards which stretch over the town of Shrewsbury and into the Cheshire Plain.
- 4 Carry on upwards past the wood on your left then bear slightly right to meet a double gate in a hedgerow. Enter the next field and bear left to a kissing gate in roadside fence. Note the old boundary stone to your right- the boundary between the manors of Cothercott and Wilderley in 1791.
- 5 Cross the road and you are now on the Portway, an ancient highway which continues along the full length of the Long Mynd. The hedged lane is surfaced along stretch. This part of the route is also part of the Walking with Offa No. 15 route from The Bridges at Ratlinghope and can be linked to the

Picklescott walk. Just before you meet a field gate across the Portway take a bridleway gate on your left into an arable field.

6 The path takes you up a rise and keep to the field boundary on your right, then, once you have climbed up the rise, head for a group of trees ahead where there is a gate. In the next field you follow the field edge track with the hedge on your left to another gate leading you onto a surfaced lane.

7 The track passes a house on your right and descends the hillside. The track meets the drive to Sallins Farm and continues downhill to the road.

8 Turn right and follow the road back to the village and return to The Bottle and Glass.

