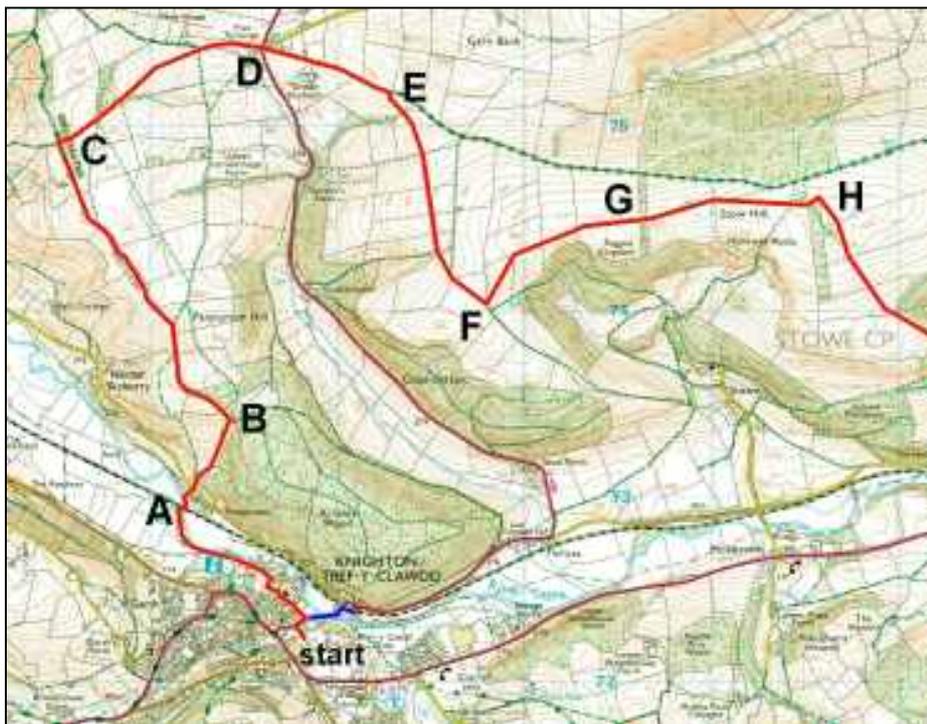


Walk 10 (9½ miles) - Hilltop walk from Knighton to Bucknell

Linear walk - starts with a steep climb out of Knighton then a hilltop walk to Bucknell (for stunning panoramic views of South Shropshire, this is **the** walk to do on a fine day). The whole route is clearly marked with traditional footpath signs as well as with special Walking With Offa waymarks.



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Turn L out of the pub and follow the road through the village to the level crossing. The bus stop is just past the school, alongside the station. Take the bus (15 min) or the train (10 min) to Knighton. Check the timetables – the most convenient times are shown below.

740 bus (738 on Thurs) leaves at 9.16 a.m., 1.26 p.m. and 4.31 p.m. Mon-Sat

Train leaves at 9.47 a.m. and 2.49 p.m. Mon-Sat, and 12.49 p.m. Sun

From the bus stop in Knighton - with your back to the car park, head R down the road to T-junction. Turn R and then almost immediately take the turning L.

From the train station in Knighton - go through the car park, turn L onto the road and walk 140 yds into town to first turning on R (blue route).

Walk up past the Bowling Club, straight on at the junction and past the church. Turn R after the church and then L into Offa's Way. Follow the road for 240 yds as it winds its way to a car park.

Take the footpath ahead alongside the river Teme. After 180 yds Offa's Dyke path joins from the L and you re-enter Shropshire! The path goes through three gates and a meadow, before crossing the river and the railway to emerge at a road.

Point A

I'm afraid there is no easy way up the hill opposite, but take consolation from the fact that this is the only significant hill on the walk.

Beyond the next gate the path appears to split, but all routes meet up where the hillside opens out. Climb up a wide grassy track past two fingerposts, where the track gets narrower and stony and leads up to a T-junction.

Point B

Turn L here, following Offa's Dyke (indicated by the acorn sign) as it climbs more gently through gorse and bracken to reach a high level path at a small cairn. Stay on this path as it undulates for 1¼ miles, soaking up the views of the meandering river Teme as it separates England from Wales.

On the far side you can see the village of Knucklas, with the viaduct that takes the Heart of Wales railway line to Swansea. On the skyline to your L is the forbidding outline of Black Mixen, whilst further up the valley is the rounded shape of Beacon Hill. Offa's Dyke is particularly prominent along this stretch and is a favourite haunt of badgers. Shortly after passing a ramshackle barn you go through a gate onto a cross track, where you turn R.

Point C

Follow this track through two gates, then stick close to the fence on your R and go past a small wood. When the fenceline swings R you carry straight on, aiming for the trees to the R of the house. Where the trees end and the hedgerow begins is a field corner and a gate, leading to a short grassy path and a road. You are now facing Five Turnings Farm.

Point D

Take the byway opposite. After 350 yds go through a gate, where the road becomes a rutted track, which you follow for ¼ mile. Keep a sharp lookout for a waymarked gate on your R, which can be obscured by undergrowth in the summer.

Point E

Bear half L through the gate and cross the field to another waymarked gate by a small stream (dry in summer, boggy in winter). Go straight through this gate and up the hill opposite (no clear path). Make your way up to the topmost point of the hill. Here, a waymarked post guides to you a gap in the far hedgerow and a double stile (obscured by bracken in summer).

Maintaining your direction proceed across four fields and stiles, at which point you should see another stile on the horizon. Cross this stile and head across the middle of the next field; at the top you are treated to a glorious view of the Teme valley once more. In the far corner of the field are a number of gates.

Point F

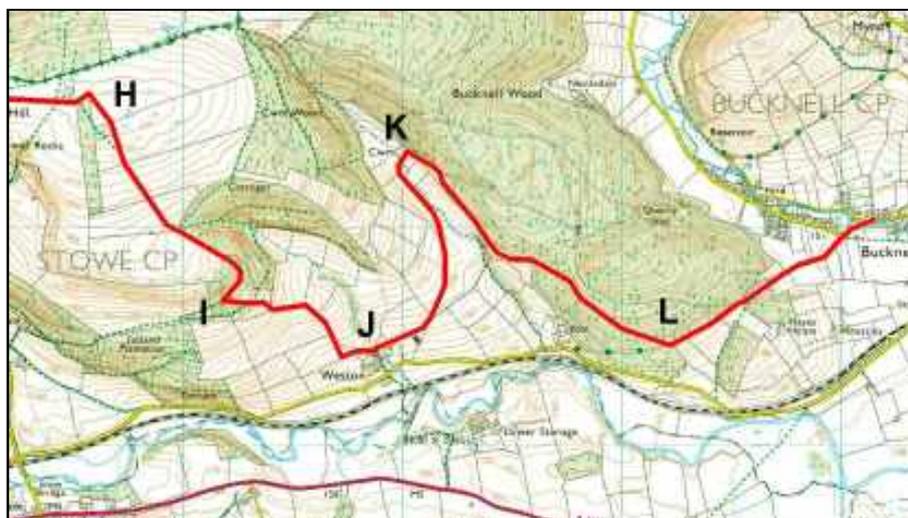
Take the L gate and head for the obvious gap in the trees on the skyline above, passing through two more gates and crossing the top of a wooded valley.

On the southern horizon is the distant Hay Bluff, whilst far off to the south-east are the Malvern Hills. As you approach the gap in the trees you now begin to get views of the Shropshire hills to the north, the most prominent being Corndon hill. Take a moment to look back at the wonderful panorama of the Welsh hills behind you!

Point G

The path goes through the trees (about 30 yds to the R of the gap) to a stile. Bear half L and go across the next field to another stile, then head for the R-hand side of the gap between the two woods on the horizon. Where the fence meets the wood is a gate. Go through the gate for 50 yds, then swing R at the corner of the wood and pass through a gap just to the L of the trees ahead. To your L is the trig point marking the summit of the hill.

Point H



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Another fantastic panorama now greets you, stretching from the Long Mynd and Stretton Hills in the north to the Cleve Hills in the east, and the Teme valley ahead. Continue descending along a faint farm track, through gaps in the next two fences, before heading for the gate at the bottom corner of the wood on your L. This leads you down a stony track which bends R in a deciduous wood.

Point I

Turn L at the waymarked post and pick your way L down through the wood to a fence. Turn L again and follow along by the fence on your R, down a sunken lane and through a gate. You are now on the principal farm track which leads you down to Weston. Take care to follow the waymarked route around the bottom field leading to the farm buildings.

Point J

Before the farmyard go through the kissing gate and down some steep steps. Turn L onto the lane and follow it up through a gate to an open field, where the lane turns into an obvious farm track. This curves L gently uphill. Keep R at the fork and drop down slightly to meet a small stream. Cross the stream into the next field and take the stile 100 yds to your R. You are now entering Cwm Cottage Reserve (see footnote below).

Point K

Turn R at the building (a bat roost), cross the stile then walk up and turn R onto the forest track above. It's about 1 mile from here to the bottom of the wood. Continue along this track, ignoring a path on your R, as it rises to meet another track. Turn R again and follow this road gently down through the wood, where the policy is to replace the fir trees with native deciduous species. Near the bottom the road bends L, but you carry straight on over a muddy ramp to join the path below.

Point L

Turn L and keep on this path for ¼ mile, when you come to a road. Go across and down the path opposite. You then rejoin the road and follow it down to Chapel Lawn road in Bucknell at a bend, where you carry straight on to return to the pub.