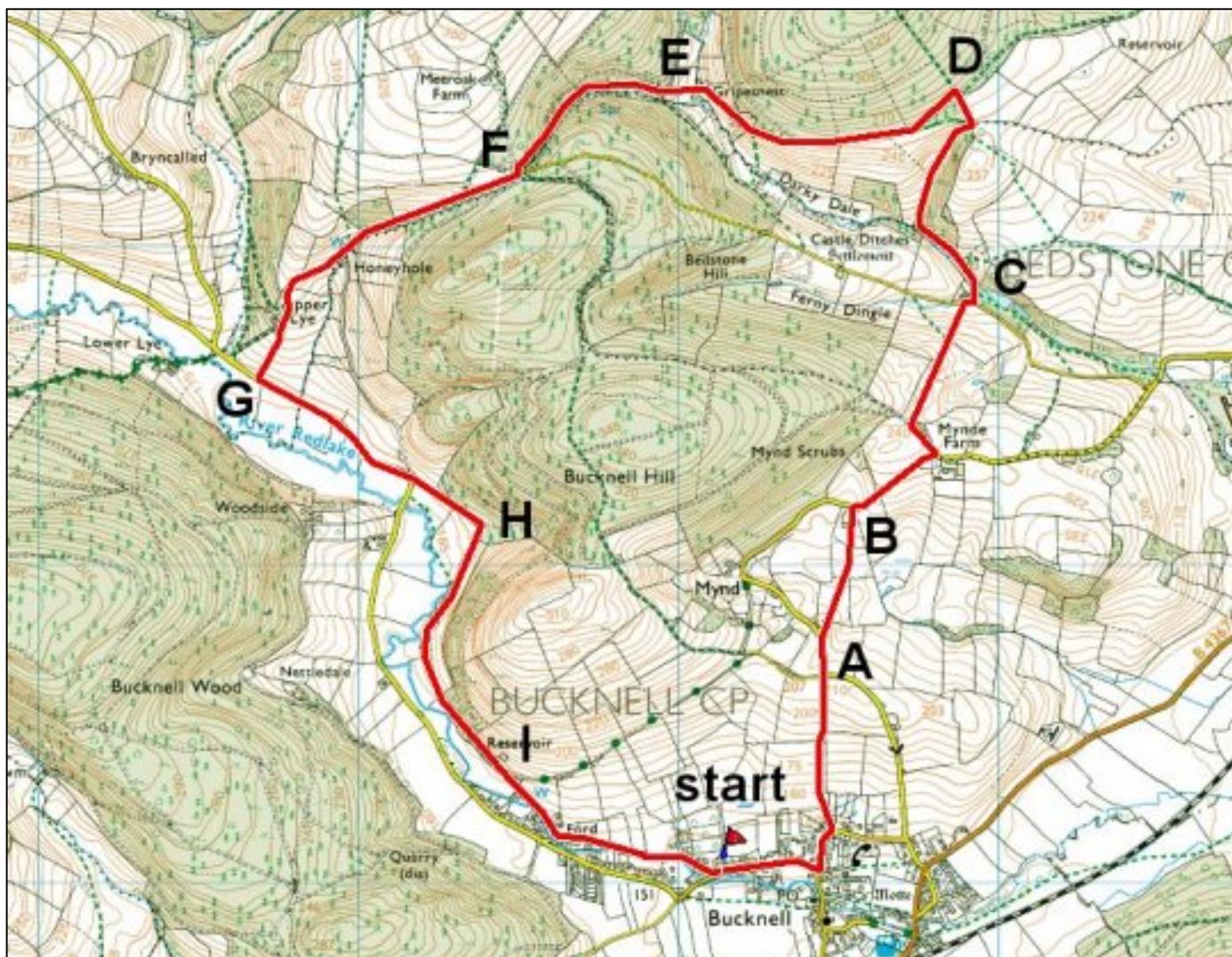


Walk 2 (5½ miles) - Mynd-Darky Dale-Bucknell Hill

A hilly walk through meadows and woods, returning by the river Redlake.
Fine views of the Teme valley



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Turn L out of the Baron at Bucknell and walk along the Chapel Lawn road to the first bend. Turn L here into Dog Kennel Lane, then L again onto a bridleway just past the house called Caverswall. Go through a gate and up the hill, keeping close to the field boundary on your R. Continue through a 2nd gate and go up to the top of the field, keeping close to the sunken path on your L. Take a moment to look over your shoulder and admire the fine view of Bucknell in the valley below.

Point A

Go straight across the road junction at the top (signposted Mynd) and after 80 yards cross a stile on your R. Bear L and drop down to another stile, then head up through three gates to a road by a house. Looking back gives views of Brampton Bryan Hill, with the wooded Coxall Knoll (an ancient hill fort) to its L.

Point B

Turn R and walk up the road to the next junction, where you turn L and walk past Mynd Farm. On your R, just past the farm buildings, are two fir trees close to the track. Ten yards past these trees is a stile at a field corner, which you cross into the sloping field beyond. Keeping to the top of the field, with the fence on your L, head towards the wooded hill in the distance. On the skyline beyond are the Stretton hills.

Go down through the gate (or cross the stile) in the field corner and then descend steeply towards Pool Cottage below. Climb over the stile onto a road and turn R. Almost immediately turn L through a wooden gate and drop down into Darky Dale. Go through a metal gate and bear L into a marshy area by a small stream.

Point C

After 20 yds cross the stream (no bridge) and follow the waymarks up the hill opposite. After a brief climb you reach a second waypost where the path splits – carry straight on here before heading back downhill to a stile and enter a wood. Pick your way through fir trees, keeping the stream on your L. At the end of the wood the track swings R uphill - this area has a fine display of snowdrops in spring. At the top corner of the wood turn L and go a short distance uphill to meet a major forest track.

Point D

Turn L and follow this track about ½ mile until you see a sign saying “No Mountain Bikes”. Bear L here and drop down a grassy track to a cottage (Gripesnest), which is reached via two gates. At the cottage the way on is up the grassy slope opposite, just to the R of a corrugated iron barn. Swing L in front of the cottage, go through a metal field gate, and then walk up past the iron barn to the next gate, where you enter Hopton Wood.

Point E

Keep straight on, climbing gently through this wood (ignoring a track on the R after 50 yds) until it emerges at a junction of many paths at the top.

Point F

Go through the kissing gate onto a wide open pasture. You are now looking at the Chapel Lawn valley, dominated on the far side by the bare hill of Caer Caradoc. This is an iron age hill fort with impressive ramparts at the top. This area can be visited as it is now open access land (see walk 7).

Keeping the woods on your immediate L, continue downhill over two stiles and past a cottage on your L (Honeyhole).

After another stile the path curves down L to a kissing gate above a house (ignore the **illegal** kissing gate to the left).

*(Note: There are ongoing issues here about the Rights of Way. The route described follows the Right of Way and **not** the landowners suggested alternative. If you experience any problems or intimidation please report these to the Rights Of Way Enforcement Officer at Shropshire Council, tel. 0345 678 9000)).*

Go down the grassy bank for 20 yds and through the field gate on the L and carry on down the field to the Chapel Lawn road in the valley bottom.

Point G

Turn L onto the road and follow it for about ½ mile. Where the road bends sharply R, go through the gate on your L. Bear R and take the grassy bridleway uphill, through a gate and past a line of redwoods on your R.

Point H

Swing R past these trees, through a gate and keep to this bridleway as it contours round the base of Bucknell Hill. The river Redlake joins you from the R, although initially the path maintains its height above the river.

After a little while you reach a field gate. Go through this gate and along a path to join the road by a cottage.

Point I

Go through the gate and walk down the road for about ½ mile into the village of Bucknell. You emerge at a road junction with the pub immediately on your L.