

Bishop's Castle Challenge Walk 2018 – Section 1 – The Hilly Hike

Bishop's Castle to Shelve– Approximately 13 miles with 2500 ft ascent / climbing - 1 Mile = 1.6 Kilometres - 1 yard = 0.91 metres. ORPA – Other route with Public Access. RUPP – Road used as public path.

1. SO 323 889 - Leave the Town Hall via back door onto cobbles and right up to Market Square, turn left and straight along Welsh Street. After about half a mile, turn right along the Wintles road until you see a track going left as the road bend to the right. Go through the gate and then left onto the green lane (NW) . Cross a stile next to a gate half way up the lane.
2. At top of lane go through gate into field and bear left to cross stile. Keep to right hedge and up field to cross stile. Bear left across to Reed Pond, staying right to stile. Head slightly left down to gate. Bear right and up to hedge end, then keep left (NW) along hedge line through gates / stiles for 500 yards to reach tarmac lane. Keep left and follow lane / track to top & junction at Bankshead.
3. SO 308 899 – Turn right & fork right, then straight on to take the road, marked 'No through road'. **SELF CLIP 1 AT 150 YARDS AT COTTAGE ON LEFT.** This (ORPA) soon turns into an unclassified enclosed track which you follow for near 1 mile. Cross a tarmac lane (now Powys) and continue on track for 500 yards to double metal gates on right (SO 291 907). Through gates to join footpath heading North (NNE), keep left & descend field (using tractor tracks if cropped) to stile / gate bottom left. Bear left through rough ground and then left to cross next field to grass, then right down to farm buildings at Upper Aston. Keep left of buildings to gate and turn left onto tarmac lane.
4. SO 290 914 – Passing the blue house turn right into farmyard beyond silos. Bear left to cross large concrete yard then right through gate into field. Keep to left fence and descend, where field opens continue straight down through pedestrian gate, keeping left and down to gate leading onto road. **ROAD CROSSING.** Carefully cross to awkward stile, descending to gate into field. Turn left to footbridge /gate. Turn right & follow hedge for 150 yards then bear left cross field through gate in hedge. Cross footbridge and keep right to follow path to field end and turn right to footbridge / gate in right corner. Now heading east roughly follow left boundary (warning deep drainage dyke). Cross three fields / stiles into woods, 50 yards through avenue of trees bear right on meandering path that exits via gap in trees onto footbridge. Continue on and left to find long gated footbridge. Now heading North (NNE) cross field to join hedge and onto another footbridge, then pedestrian gate to right of Broadway Mill. Keep left to follow drive / track & nearing top bear right to pedestrian gate in hedge. **WARNING – BUSY MAJOR ROAD - CROSS WITH CARE!**
5. SO 297 930 – Carefully cross road to join gated footpath, keep left heading north through two fields and stile onto road. **ROAD CROSSING.** Cross to stile and skirting quarry head up to stile in hedge. Bear left cross three fields and stiles into lane. Turn left for 150 yards then first right down drive of Little Hurdley for 350 yards. Keep right of house to narrow track & up to cross stile. Turn immediately right and follow footpath heading north along fence to stile into Woodland. Follow fence that turns to path / track through woods, the track dips then up to rejoin a fence to right and on to a stile into a field. Keep to right boundary on slope to field end, join a short track on right that leads to a stile. Bear right and right over second stile & on to stile / gate into lane. Turn right to gate of Roundton Nature Reserve, over footbridge and right to car park. **This is manned check point 1 & refreshments.**
6. SO 292 946 – Continue through car park to grass track, this leads up to a metal field gate and starts your climb on a permissive route to Roundton. Then after 75 yards reaching a waymark post bear left and steeply up heading towards the rocky outcrop to join a narrower path into gorse / bramble. Turn sharp left (west) below the rocks to a well defined path through gorse. Follow this path as it meanders right and steeply up to the summit. **SELF CLIP 2 AT SUMMIT (SO 294 949).** Continue on and steeply down the other side, following the well walked grass track, keeping left and down to meet the dry stone wall and a wooden gate onto lane. Turn left and down the lane for 500 yards, reaching but ignoring! a stile / path leading back to Roundton Nature Reserve car park.

7. SO 291 952 – Stay (WSW) on the lane as it climbs and passes Pant Cottage on right, then immediately sharp right (NNE) on the lane marked 'No through road'. Continue up on this lane for near ½ a mile towards a small wind turbine. Pass through a gate to a track (RUPP) passing the cottage at Cowlton. Heading (NNE) on this track for near ½ a mile, bear right (NE) at gate for 200 yards and look for a small marker post on right towards end of trees (without way marks at time of writing).
8. SO 296 963 – At this post turn right heading east (ESE) to join Bridleway. Bearing slightly right and down field through a wider gap in trees, and then straight down through to a bridle gate hidden in trees at bottom. Cross the brook and bear right up through bracken, follow path through bracken roughly keeping right in line with field boundary. On reaching the wide grass track (heading north south), turn right on this track towards Corndon Cottage, which should now be visible.
9. SO 300 960 – 20 yards before reaching the field gate & fingerpost STOP! Turn sharp left and back on yourself. Look for the well defined grass track that bears right and up heading north east, this is your permissive route to the summit of Corndon. The path goes up & right of quarried ground, where another wide path joins from the left, bear right (ENE) and continue to climb for 500 yards to a fence / gate (SO 306 965). Pass through gate tuning left and follow grass track (NW) that runs along fence & then straight on to the trig point & summit.
SELF CLIP 3 AT SUMMIT SO 306 969 – Beyond the trig point join the fence and descend (WNW) steeply down, keeping fence to left, to a wooden gate, then down to a second gate that drops onto a wide track.
10. SO 302 971- Turn right heading north on this unclassified track, through a gate and on to a tarmac road, keep straight on (N) to soon re-join a track (Byway) and on to a cattle grid. This then runs (NNE) to Mitchell's Fold Stone Circle on a wide grass track. Pass through Mitchell's Fold staying on track to end of trees to right, now heading north east (marked Stapeley Trail). Nearing the top of this track (SO 308 988) bear right onto a narrower path (unmarked open access) heading (ENE) working your way up to the peak & Cairn (heap of stones). Now head North (NNE) along the ridge passing second Cairn, the track gradually descends heading towards woods to reach bracken, here a path joins from the left. Bear right and down heading east, forking left to follow wood boundary for 350 yards to cross a stile on left. Turn right (beware of hidden ditches!) and follow path east as it meanders through trees, grass & gorse for around 200 yards to exit at a stile into field. Continue straight with boundary to left, through a metal gate and over stile into enclosed track. PLEASE ENSURE LAST GATE ONTO ROAD IS CLOSED. **WARNING – BUSY MAJOR A ROAD - CROSS WITH CARE -** Turn left for a few yards and right to cross the road at the crossroads, take the road marked Shelve / The Bog Visitor Centre. Keep left for 150 yards, as the road bends right turn left into the gravelled parking area. **This is manned check point 2, Lunch & Refreshments.**

AT THE END OF YOUR WALK YOU MUST RETURN YOUR ENTRY CARD BACK TO THE TOWN HALL.

WELL DONE! YOU HAVE JUST COMPLETED SECTION 1 OF THE BISHOP'S CASTLE CHALLENGE 2018

