

# Heart of Wales Line Trail

## Route Instructions to Walkers Craven Arms to Knighton (33km)

### Craven Arms Railway Station to Broome Railway Station (8.5km)

1. Leave Craven Arms Railway Station from Platform 2 into the car park and turn almost immediately right along a narrow urban path, signed to Town Centre, between gardens and fencing. Cut left across the supermarket car park to the main A49 road. Cross the main road carefully and turn right to reach Corvedale Road (B4368) running left from a mini roundabout. Go down this until you reach Market Street on the right, take this and walk straight ahead, past the Land of Lost Content Nostalgia Museum until you reach the Stokesay Inn. Turn right to the entrance of the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, an alternative starting point.
2. If starting at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, leave via the main entrance, through the car park, step over the road and turn left. Cross the A49 at the pedestrian crossing, go left and immediately right along a path into Dodds Lane. Keep ahead to join a track which runs beneath the Marches railway line to a stile by a gate. Enter the field and head slightly right following the line of several old trees. Cross a stile and head slightly right towards the hedge alongside the Heart of Wales railway. Go ahead, making your way over three stiles as you walk through fields to Park Lane.
3. Go right here, under the railway to the B4368. Cross with care over to a tarmac road and then ahead to join Watling Street. Go left on a path at a finger post showing the Shropshire Way, passing several new houses to a second kissing gate. Then onward over two more stiles in field boundaries. Look for a gateway and stile on the left mid-way up the next field. Go through this and head slightly right, aiming for a waymark post and small footbridge, then to a stile which leads into a lane. Beware of traffic!
4. Climb a double stile directly opposite into parkland. Head slightly left by the waymark post and you'll see the buildings of Sibdon Carwood to the right. Go through a kissing gate, over the drive, and through two more gates, a footbridge and wooden stile to enter the pasture. Now aim very slightly Right: mid-way there's a waymark post under the second large oak tree. From here aim to the left of a stone cottage ahead where you cross a stile a few metres beyond.
5. Rise up on an ancient track into a pasture on the left of the hedge and follow the hedge line for about 100 metres, before easing slightly left up the field to a stile by a gate with tall Scots pines beyond. Head left up a track and follow the woodland boundary all the way round to the top left corner of the field, where you pass to the left of a ruined building: there can be wet ground hereabouts. Rise up to step over a stile and continue along the fence to a junction of footpaths marked by a fingerpost.
6. Cross the stile onto Hopesay Common, owned by the National Trust, where you see Burrow Iron Age Hill Fort on the skyline ahead. Take the path ahead for about 100 metres and then slightly left to reach the high point of the hill where there is a nearly 360-degree view - the Long Mynd and Stiperstones to the north, Herefordshire to the south and Ludlow to the south east. Keep ahead to the left of a clump of tall trees and down the hill aiming to the right of a large house in the valley. You'll see the village and church of Hopesay below on the right. In the bottom corner of the Common slip through the small gate and turn left to drop down to a kissing gate and a drive, passing

a dwelling on right. Cross over the lane and go through a second small gate and over a footbridge. The path leads slightly right through the woodland to exit over a stile into a pasture.

7. Continue slightly to the right towards a waymark post; the path bends slightly left to another stile. Proceed through another small wood keeping ahead alongside a fence to your left into a pasture. The path passes by gorse and scrub as you continue ahead to soon follow a grass track beneath a bank of gorse. There are several waymark posts here to guide you. The track runs beneath cottages and down to a field gate. Once through, go ahead on a lane which bends right to drop down to Aston on Clun and the Arbor Tree, for which the village is rightly famous. At the junction, cross over the B4368 road with care and turn left to walk along the pavement to Redwood Drive. Ahead of you is the Kangaroo pub and just a few metres further on and down the lane to the right (B4369 to Broome) is the Community Shop and Café.

8. At this point you can link to Broome station by continuing along the B4369, past the Community Shop to the station, which is a further 0.5km down this lane. The entrance to the railway station is on the right before the bridge.

### **Broome Railway Station to Hopton Heath Railway Station (8km)**

9. See instruction 8 for the link between from Broome station to Aston on Clun, past the community shop entrance and by the Kangaroo Inn.

Walk down Redwood Drive, ignoring the junction on the right, to reach a track, slightly right, just beyond the houses. The path cuts right before a gate. Follow the path as it bends left and through two gates and temporary sheep pens to enter a field. You'll see a stile ahead and one over in a fence on the right. Take the stile on the right into the large field, then keep ahead parallel to a line of trees to a kissing gate in the hedge ahead which leads onto a lane. Turn left along it, cross the bridge over the River Clun in the hamlet of Beambridge and go right. Follow this lane for about half a mile. The road bends slightly left under a canopy of trees and at this point you cut right down to a footbridge over the River Clun which is visible from the road above.

10. Walk slightly left over a stile by a field gate. Follow a line of trees just to your right and over another stile by a gate. Continue ahead to pass near a dwelling on the right; aim just to the right of a barn where you cross a stile by a field gate. Walk alongside a line of hazels to pass through another gate. Now head very slightly right towards an old oak tree and onward to a field gate. Once through, follow the hedge to your right and at the end of the field go through another field gate onto a road.

11. Turn left, over the bridge, to walk along a road which winds through the pretty village of Clunbury nestled around the church. The road rises up to a junction; bear right here to go along a lane signposted to Twitchen. In about half a mile you reach a junction with the B4385. Cross with care, then turn left to a walk 50 metres to a kissing gate.

12. Dip down to walk over a dirt bridge into the next field. Aim for the barn ahead and at the waymark post cut left and then right to skirt the barn (often muddy here) then aim leftwards to cross over a ditch and reach a small gate in the hedge. Climb this and head very slightly right to the top of the field where you cross a double stile. Rise up alongside the wood on the right then head across the pasture to a stile leading into woodland. Within a few metres to the right, the path heads leftwards and climbs gradually up a bank to a waymark post at a forestry track. Go left and proceed for about 250 metres, looking out just before the descent, for a path on the right. Follow this through the wood up to a kissing gate at a country lane.

13. Go over the lane, cross a stile and follow the right hand edge of the field where there are good views across ahead towards Wales. Cross a stile into the next field and you will see Hopton Castle.

Head slightly right; you are aiming for a point just to the left of a derelict building. Go over the stile and a track dips down to a drive and then a lane. Keep ahead to a junction at Hopton Castle. If continuing to Bucknell turn right.

14. At this point it is possible to follow a link path for a 1.5 km walk to Hopton Heath Station passing by Hopton Castle. Go left along the road and turn first right signposted to Bedstone. The castle is on the right (free entry). Pass a dwelling and look for a stile on the left. Cross this and head over the field to a field gate and bridge over a stream. Walk slightly right, go through another field gate onto a lane, and turn right to walk along the lane into Hopton Heath. At the junction keep right across the railway bridge then walk down steps to the platform.

### **Hopton Heath to Bucknell (9 km)**

15. There's a link path from Hopton Heath Railway Station to Hopton Castle. Step up to the road, turn left over the railway bridge and left again along a lovely lane with a wide green margin. After you pass the distinctive hump of Warfield Bank on the left and the lane dips down to bend right, go left through a gate into a field. Walk slightly right across the field, over a footbridge and through a second field gate. The path crosses this second field to a stile in a hedge and into a lane. Go right to Hopton Castle further along on the left. From the Castle go left to the junction and left again through the village to join the main trail.

16. Walk through the village with the small stream to your left; the church is across a field to the right as the road bends left to pass the entrance of Upper House Farm. As it rises and begins to ease right, go through a gate on the left into a field and follow the tractor track ahead, through two pastures and gates.

The track rises, bends right and then left to reach a field gate into Hopton Wood.

17. Go left up to a junction and turn sharp right onto a woodland track, sometimes shared with bicycles. Follow this track round gentle bends until it starts to descend where at a waymark post you cut left upwards on a track which climbs up steadily for some distance, passing one waymark post at a junction before reaching the top.

18. Cross straight over the forestry track and continue ahead on a grassy footpath to leave Hopton Wood. Where the track veers left following the conifers, go straight ahead, passing on your left a conifer seed orchard, the path being a little overgrown in the summer. Eventually you reach a small gate before Meeroak Farm, and head to the left of a barn. Follow the track through gates and down to a drive. Continue ahead until you go through a gateway. Turn right here along the edge of a wood and then as the path veers left cross a stile on the right into a field.

19. Go slightly right across the field to the opposite boundary. Turn right here to walk down the field edge to cross a stile by a gate: there are wonderful views up the Redlake Valley. Continue down over another stile by a gate, past Honeyhole Farm. Follow the hedge to the left down towards a kissing gate above a house and stables. Drop down to the painted kissing gate. Keep to the left hand boundary through the garden to a metal field gate on the left. Follow the waymark through the gate into the field, turn right and follow the hedge down to a field gate leading onto a road.

20. Turn left along the road. Where it bends sharply right go through the field gate on your left. Head slightly right and along the track uphill, through a gate and past a line of redwoods on your right. On reaching another field gate ease off right along a bridleway; it contours round the base of Bucknell Hill, through woodland above the River Redlake. After you leave the woodland pass through a small gate and field gate on to Bridgend Lane, leading into Bucknell.

21. Follow the lane through to the main road in Bucknell.

Turn left for the railway station, past the Baron Inn. The road bends right and across a bridge. Turn left after the bridge, along a surfaced path to the left of the parish church. This gives out at another main road. Turn right to pass the Sitwell Arms and over the level crossing to enter the station. If continuing on the trail turn right at the end of Bridgend Lane.

### **Bucknell Railway Station to Knighton (14km)**

22. From Bucknell station, go left over the level crossing and right along the pavement to pass the Sitwell Arms. Just beyond, turn left to walk along a surfaced path by the Redlake River. Keep to the right of the church and turn right to walk over the bridge; the road bends left and passes the Baron Inn. At the junction of Bridgend Lane you join the main route. Continue west on the lane in Bucknell and over a small bridge. At the right hand bend keep straight ahead onto Daffodil Lane past recreational grounds. It begins to rise; keep straight ahead.

23. The track rises, to then level for a section before reaching a junction in Bucknell Wood. Go right here to join a forestry track and stay on this as it rises up and bends to the right. At the second fork take the left hand track upwards; the track curves further leftwards and rises again through a group of native trees, principally oaks. Eventually you reach a staggered junction; go left and then follow the track as it curves right, climbing to pass beneath a line of fine trees. The track bends left and continues along to the top of the wood where a gate leads out onto open pasture.

24. The route continues westwards for some miles now along an old droving road until it reaches Offa's Dyke Path. Follow the tractor track ahead from which there are fine views leftwards to Caer Caradoc hill fort sitting above the hamlet of Chapel Lawn, which is seen below in the Upper Redlake valley. There are also views back to the other Caer Caradoc near Church Stretton. At the junction of tracks, keep ahead through a gate and walk up to the wood. Go through another field gate and pass by a stile on the right.

25. Continue ahead to go through two gates by a belt of woodland. Follow the track ahead through a number of pastures, passing through four field gates. The track becomes enclosed by hedges and is wet in places as it descends through another gate and past buildings to reach the main road at Five Turnings; this literally describes a junction of five ways in earlier times.

26. Cross the main road with care and go through a narrow gate just behind the GR- marked post box to continue on the drovers' route between hedges and then through a gate and slightly left, rising up a large field towards pine trees on the ridge ahead. Follow the fence on the left hand side to a small gate and ahead along a track which joins Offa's Dyke Path national trail.

27. Turn left to follow the national trail (which is way marked with acorn symbols) through to Knighton. There is a good section of the ancient monument just to your left. Make your way along the path, passing through several gates, always with a fence to the left. There are also magnificent views up the Teme Valley and across to Knucklas Castle, village and railway viaduct. On reaching a seat at a local viewpoint the path curves left and becomes narrower as it drops down the hillside to a finger post. Go right here to drop steeply down to a lane: neat footwork is required as the path is heavily eroded in places.

Those needing to walk directly towards Knighton railway station should turn left here along the lane: it takes about ten minutes to walk to the station

28. Cross the lane, go through a gate and follow the worn path to cross the railway track with extreme care and then the footbridge which crosses the River Teme. Follow the river bank as it curves to the left, through kissing gates into woodland, in which you cross the England-Wales

border. The path then rises as it turns right, heading up to the Offa's Dyke Centre and Knighton itself.

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