

I. Climb to the edge of the kingdom

Five walks on the Shropshire border - Cwm-sanaham Hill walk

So close to Knighton, at the edge of Offa's kingdom, this challenging walk reaches the Dyke at its most impressive. If that's not enough reward, the views surely are. In the crystal clear skies of spring the snow-capped mountains of Wales glitter on the horizon. Closer to your feet, the castellated ramparts of Knucklas viaduct echo the legendary defences of Arthurian Knucklas Castle.



START/FINISH

OS Explorer 201

Park in Knucklas at the community centre or train station on the Heart of Wales Line (SO 253741).

Alternatively catch the train from Knighton. www.heart-of-wales.co.uk

MAIN ROUTE

Distance: 13½km (8½ miles)

Time: 4½ – 5 hrs

SHORT ROUTE

Distance: 9¾km (6¼ miles)

Time: 3½ – 4 hrs

DIFFICULTY ★★★★★☆

1 From the START head downhill and turn right towards the main road. Turn left along the grass verge to the staggered crossroads. Cross over to the right and down towards Monaughty Poeth.

2 Turn right at the "T" junction and follow the lane to Skyborry Green.

3 At the "T" junction turn left then immediately right along the bridleway that passes between the house and garage, up the track and head straight ahead between the barn and cottage at Bryney. Go through the gate then slightly left to rejoin the track on the other side and continue up the steep hillside.

4 Turn left onto Offa's Dyke Path and follow it to cross a track then climb to the Trig Point on top of Cwm-sanaham Hill. Take time to enjoy the views all around into Wales and England. *(If you have downloaded the podcast with this walking guide – play it here).*



5 From the stile descend steeply to Brynorgan, and follow the track to the road.

6 Go left on to the road then turn right up the steps and over the stile. *(To follow the short route from here see right).* Continue straight up the hill climbing steeply, then descend to cross over two footbridges to the road at Garbett Hall.

7 The next part of the walk includes some excellent sections of the Dyke itself. Continue through the gate and follow the byway up the hill parallel to the Dyke. Pass through the Earthwork and the bear left continuing up the hill.

8 From the path junction the walk follows the Jack Mytton Way where Offa's Dyke Path continues north. Go left and pass back through the Dyke to head downhill, passing the barns on the right. Follow the track through the gate on the left to reach a bend in the road.

9 Head straight on along the road to The Graig where the route bears around to the right and up the bank, then down the other side to a "T" junction.

10 Leave the Jack Mytton Way and turn left along the road back to Monaughty Poeth, and retrace your steps to the main road. Continue straight across the staggered junction and follow the road into the village and around to the left, over the bridge and past the Castle Inn. Turn back up Glyndwr to the start.

SHORT ROUTE

Instead of continuing up the steps and over the stile (6) head along the road to Selley Cross. Go straight across the junction and follow the tarmac road down the bank and up to meet the main route at the bend of the road at 9.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- The walk follows challenging terrain. Wear walking boots and carry refreshments and waterproofs
- Please take care on roads and road crossings
- If walking alone, tell someone where you are going and how long you will be
- Walk responsibly and follow the country code

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