

LOWER BROUGHTON FARM TRAIL.

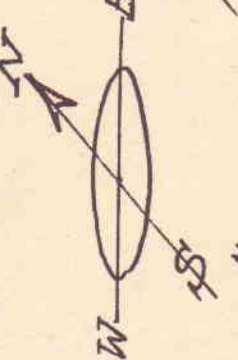


Gatekeeper



SEE ALSO THE OWLBURY TRAIL LEAFLET

Roundton
 Todleth
 NEWTOWN 12ml.
 SALOP 16ml.
 Corndon
 Hyssington
 R. Camlad
 Owlbury Hall
 Sneed Church
 A 489
 A 488
 Craven Arms 8ml.
 West Onny
 Lydham
 Linley
 Norbury
 Striperstones
 Hill Fort
 Bishop's Castle 1ml.
 Lower Heblands
 Ditch
 Little Rough
 Ground
 5
 Broughton Covert
 4
 Lower Clover
 Hollow Piece
 Holly Bush Close
 Broughton Cow Pasture
 3
 Bishop's Castle
 B 4385
 START
 Parsley Field
 1
 Calves Close
 9
 Big Meadow
 Cottage
 8
 Meadow below the
 Bawn
 Far New Meadow
 7
 Braggers Rough
 Little Owlbury Wood
 6
 Plank bridge
 pond
 Little Clover
 Field under
 Fishpool
 10
 Fisapool Piece
 Lower Broughton Farm
 Piece
 Upper Owlbury
 The Wet Meadow
 Little Falow
 Tumpike Road
 Lower Broughton Farm
 Montgomery 7ml.
 To Langmyndd
 Dragonfly.



Burgard.

Starting from the Tourist Information Centre on High Street in Bishop's Castle. Go up the hill along the cobbled alley to turn left on to Market Square and continue on to Welsh Street.

Continue down the hill to go right up a narrow track between farm buildings. Continue up the lane, through the gate as you climb up on to the Wintles.

At the top of the lane, cross the stile and climb straight on up the field to follow a sunken lane. Cross the stile at the top of the field and continue across the next field, aiming for the distinctive knoll of Roundton Hill ahead of you. Descend to Sadler's Little Wood and cross the stile to descend through the wood along an old track passing pheasant pens on your right.

At the bottom of the wood descend the steps and cross the field bearing right to the gate onto the road.

Turn left along the road for a short distance to reach a stile on the right. This is the start of the Lower Broughton Farm permissive farm walk; please refer to the illustrated map overleaf.

The old field names on the map are taken from the tithes award map of 1847, a few of these names have passed down the generations and are still used today. The farm covers 136 acres and rears sheep and beef cattle. Most of the land is used for permanent pasture, some of which is very old, other fields being more recent leys. A small acreage of cereals is grown annually for use as animal feed on the farm.

1 Cross from the road and follow the stream along the edge of the Parsley Field to the dingle. In spring the dingle is alive with birdsong with nuthatches, treecreepers and several species of titmice nesting here. Listen for the trilling waterfall-like call of willow warblers in late spring.

2 Continue along the stream, a tributary of the Camlad, the boundary between England and Wales. Look for bluebells in May and water loving plants such as marsh marigolds, which flower here in April and May.

3 In spring and summer look out for butterflies. You can expect to see Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Orange Tips and Small Tortoiseshells among others along the hedgerows. The sheep here are a cross between Texells and Suffolks, bred to be hardy in the snows of early spring.

4 Pass the edge of Broughton Covert, a stand of mainly dense planted conifers.

Look out for buzzards and sparrow hawks overhead. The closeness of the Welsh hills means that you may be lucky enough to see a red kite! Larger than a buzzard, look for its distinctive bent wings and forked tail.

Little Rough Ground is a traditionally managed hay meadow, cut

for hay in mid to late July. The farmer does not use artificial fertiliser and the field remains undrained, making it a superb place to see wild flowers and other native plants.

As you cross the little footbridge, look for animal prints in the damp mud. You may see fox, rabbit and squirrel prints. Other footprints have also been seen here.

6 Enjoy the view of the surrounding hills from here; from the west (left) you can see the Welsh border hills of Todleth, Rounton and Corndon, then Shropshires' Heathmynd, Linley Hill and the long stretch of the Longmynd to the east. Listen out for the warbling cry of curlew from late spring; a once common bird in the marches now far fewer in number.

7 You are now walking the Owlbury Trail; you can follow it in a circle past Owlbury Hall to return to this point or follow it for a short distance to cross back to Lower Broughton Farm.

8 You are now passing Lower Broughton Cottage, a 17th Century cottage with outbuildings, typical of many smallholdings in the area.

Go through the gate on the left and up the small paddock to the farmhouse. Cross the stile and the small bridge in front of the Bunkhouse.

9 Lower Broughton farmhouse is an excellent example of a 15th Century timber-framed house. In medieval times this house would have been home to a family of wealth and status. In summer its eastern facing front is favoured by nesting swallows and house martins, look for them darting in and out of their mud walled nests high up under the eaves.

10 Continue to the top of the lane then turn left to cross the top of the Parsley Field back to the start. Retrace your steps back to Bishop's Castle over the Wintles.

About Lower Broughton Farm

As well as being a working farm, Lower Broughton offers both bed and breakfast and bunkhouse style self-catering accommodation. For more details contact Kate or Tom Bason on (01588) 638393.

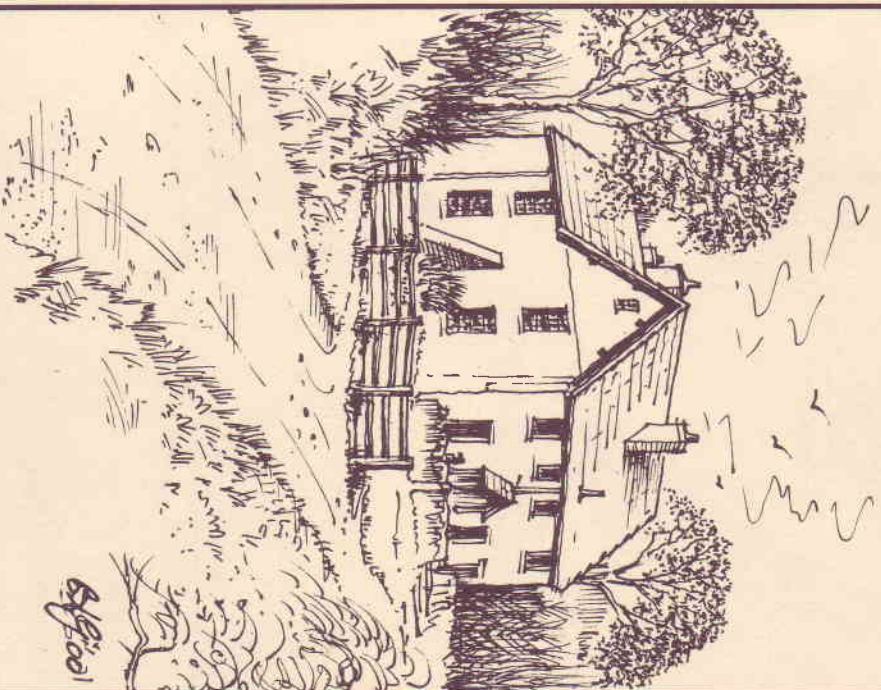
Further copies of this leaflet can be obtained from Bishop's Castle Tourist Information Centre Tel. (01588) 638467 or from Lower Broughton Farm.

Travel Information

Bishop's Castle is accessible by bus from Shrewsbury (daily) and Ludlow. For all bus and train information call **0870 608 2608**

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Lower Broughton Farm Trail



A rewarding 4 mile walk with excellent views of the Shropshire Hills and the uplands of mid Wales.

The Lower Broughton farm walk is not suitable for dog walkers.

The walk can be muddy at times so stout shoes or walking boots are essential.