



Knighton and Norton Circular



Trefyclo

Route detail

A walk from Knighton along country roads to Norton, returning along a fine stretch of the Offa's Dyke Path.

Distance:	9.3 miles / 15km
Start location:	Knighton Railway Station
Start Grid Ref:	SO 29057 72393
Start What3Words:	diets.brick.decanter

Start

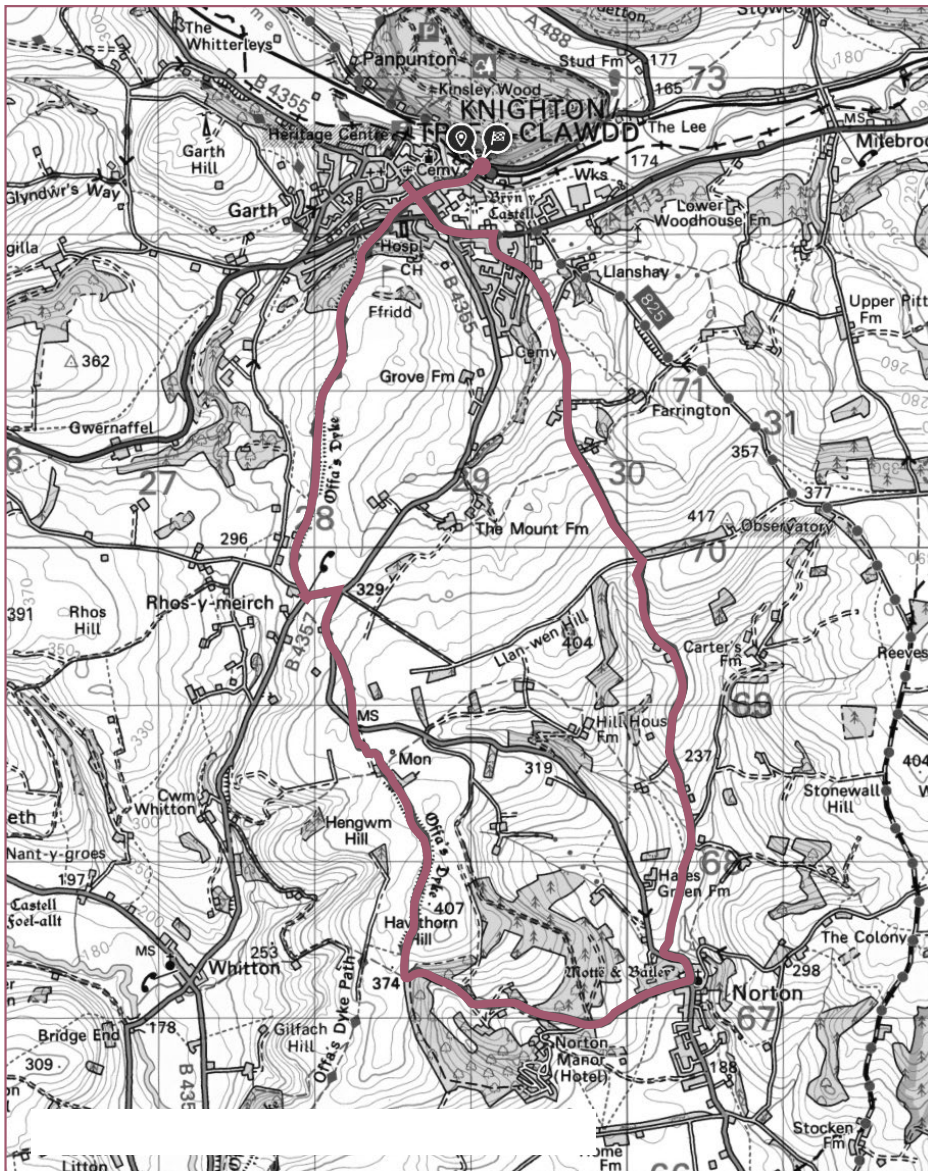
Start at Knighton railway station and follow Station Road into town. Turn left at a junction at the Knighton Hotel and follow Broad Street. This is the A4113 Shrewsbury road and leads past the Knighton Church in Wales Primary School. Turn right up Farrington Lane, passing a leisure centre and houses. As soon as the road name changes to The Dingle, turn left along a road

and almost immediately right up a path signposted as a public bridleway. The path is shaded by trees at first, then as it gains height there are views back to Knighton in its valley setting.

Join a minor road and continue straight ahead as it climbs. The road is flanked by tall hedgerows, with a break at Farrington Cottage. Keep climbing and pass the access for Llanwen Farm. Keep straight ahead at the end of the tarmac, following a broad and obvious track uphill, with increasingly extensive views. The track levels out around 395m (1295ft) beside a small forest plantation on Llan-wen Hill, reaching an intersection of tracks. (Off-route to the right is an observatory, the Spaceguard Centre, which tracks near Earth objects. See spaceguardcentre.com.)

Go through a gate at the intersection and follow a track downhill. On clear days it is possible to see the distant

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a four-way signpost at the far corner of the field. Norton is signposted straight back, with the Offa's Dyke Path signposted left for Dolley Green and right for Rhos-y-meirch. Straight ahead is signposted Whitton. So, turn right to follow the Offa's Dyke Path, noting the acorn logo that marks the trail, climbing gently alongside the field. When another signpost is reached, turn left through a small gate and walk alongside another field. There is nothing to be seen of the dyke itself, but look ahead and spot a gate to the left of a forest plantation, and all of a sudden, Offa's Dyke is revealed as a prominent grassy embankment and ditch on Hawthorn Hill, touching 400m (1310ft).

Walk in the ditch, later crossing a track, then go through a small gate and walk on top of the dyke. It runs ahead as an uncultivated embankment with cultivated fields on either side. Pass through small gates while following the dyke to another forest plantation. Go through a small gate to walk beside the trees, exiting through another small gate into a field. Turn left as indicated

Black Mountains and the peak of Ysgryd Fawr. The track has deep wheel-ruts, then after passing through a gate it descends more steeply, often worn to ridges of bare bedrock. A road continues from Meeting House Farm, rising a little, then descending all the way to a junction near Greenway Farm. Turn right at the junction, in effect walking straight ahead, and the road eventually joins the B4355. Turn left and follow it into the village of Norton, reaching the former St Andrew's Church, now a 'community hub'.

Turn right along Mynd Road. As it leaves the village, it climbs as a gravel road, then climbs more gently as a tarmac road passing a forest plantation. Pass two cattle grids then keep right at a junction of gravel tracks, passing Old Impton Farm. After passing another cattle grid, leave the track at a marker post on the right, climb a grassy slope and go through a gate beneath a copper beech tree. Turn right up a gravel track, watch for another marker post and turn left to follow a grassy track through a gate. Climb alongside a wood, then go through a gate and climb into the wood, which has some particularly fine oak trees.

Go through a big gate into a field that has no trodden path, so walk straight ahead over a rise. Look ahead to spot

through yet another small gate to enter an area of gorse bushes. Markers might lead into gorse thickets, so the best plan is to follow the most well-trodden path through the area until a track is reached. (A granite obelisk will be spotted in a nearby field, commemorating Sir Richard Green-Price, an MP credited with bringing railways into mid-Wales.)

Turn right to follow the track, but watch for a signpost and turn left along a path, then right at a marker post, to reach the B4355 road where a few beech trees grow. Go through small gates as signposted to cross the road and continue along the course of Offa's Dyke. The embankment bears a line of tall Scots pines and remains obvious, in contrast to the cultivated fields on either side. Go through a small gate and walk along the top of the dyke, which bears trees and bracken. A gradual descent leads through more gates to re-join the B4355 road. Turn right to follow it, and it is probably best to stay on the left, as there is a blind bend where oncoming traffic could be a problem.

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Turn left at a road junction as signposted for Whitton, then turn right at another road junction as signposted for Rhos-y-meirch. Watch out on the right for a small gate and an elevated Offa's Dyke Path signpost, to pass through a tall hedgerow into a field. Walk beside a line of larch trees and follow the path from field to field through small gates. Later, there is a deep ditch to the right, but Offa's Dyke is obscured by trees. However, by walking straight onwards, the embankment is revealed from time to time wherever there are gaps in the trees. Follow the path straight ahead and uphill. Towards the top, turn right through a gate, crossing to the other side of the dyke to continue, though by this time the embankment is much reduced in size.

The path runs easily from field to field through small gates, around 330m (1080ft), then gradually descends until it runs below a golf course at Ffridd. Follow the path steeply downhill under the overhanging boughs of trees in an adjacent woodland. Go through a small gate as marked and continue steeply down through the wood. Cross a narrow road and continue down the path, emerging at some lock-up garages on the outskirts of Knighton. Walk down to the main A488 road and cross it as signposted. Walk down Larkey Lane to reach the town centre beside the Knighton Hotel. Either explore, or follow Station Road back to the railway station.

If exploring Knighton, be sure to follow Broad Street up to a monumental clock tower, then continue straight along West Street to reach the Offa's Dyke Centre. This offers lots of interesting information about Offa's Dyke and the Offa's Dyke Path. Check opening times at offasdyke.org.uk/offas-dyke-association/offas-dyke-centre

Parking: Limited parking at Knighton Railway Station, the Offa's Dyke Centre, with more spaces at Larkey Lane and Bowling Green Lane.

Bus: Bus services link Knighton and Kington, except Sundays.

Train: Daily Heart of Wales Line trains serve Knighton from Shrewsbury and Machynlleth.

