

Bury Ditches



‘Good fences make good neighbours’ Robert Frost

Offa’s Dyke ...  
at its finest and most inspiring

Near Spoad Hill



Mitchell’s Fold

*After millions of years of rock and roll, it was time for mankind.*

Early in our existence, long before the leylandii, the search for peace and quiet began. Prehistoric men and women found it on these hilltops. Climb Brown Clew, Bury Ditches, Caer Caradoc, Nordy Bank, The Burrow, The Wrekin, – and pause for breath. Here are small forts and enormous strongholds. This is archaeology with the most spectacular panoramas – commanding the countryside, keeping a weather eye out for strangers.



Ramparts of Nordy Bank hillfort



Offa’s Dyke, Llanfair Hill

Walk around the still massive ramparts and ditches. What must they have been like to withstand years of erosion? The scale of these hill forts is mind-boggling. How did our ancestors create them? Imagine building them with just your family and the neighbours. It could take centuries of gradual development.

Most likely the forts were permanent settlements where the terrain made them easier to defend. In climbing these hills you walk in the footsteps of your ancestors from 3,000 years ago. Look around you; they saw the same sunrises and sunsets. Here they placed their sacred ceremonial sites for burials and stone circles.



The Wrekin

An early form of national service produced Britain’s longest monument. When King Offa ordered ‘the construction of a large rampart from sea to sea’, it was time to start digging. Men from the border country had to build 4ft of dyke (or send food in lieu). The scene was set for stability and trade.

The Dyke is at its most impressive between Spoad Hill and Llanfair Hill above Clun. How fitting that the Dyke also reaches its highest point here, man in friendly competition with nature to dominate.

This was no Berlin or Hadrian’s Wall, relative peace was needed for such a mammoth undertaking. Apart from its defensive role, it marked the frontier and defined the routes across it.

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