

Presteigne and Norton Walk 2

This walk follows the path of Clatter Brook though an oasis of peace despite running through an industrial estate. The brook can vary between completely dry in summer and flooded at times of high rainfall. Wellies or strong walking boots are advised as the terrain is rough and can be very wet. A great short walk to keep youngsters amused.

Easy; ~ 2km; ½ hour

1. Stand outside the Assembly rooms facing the magnificent façade of St. Michael's Hospice Shop opposite and turn left walking away from the High Street. Take the second left (Back Lane) towards the fire station. After a short distance take a public footpath to your right bordered with metal fencing, with a car park on the right and an area of waste land on your left. The footpath narrows and twists and turns before finally emerging on a short road with the Surgery on the left. Head along the pavement to the road ahead and turn right onto Lugg View then shortly left onto Hereford Street heading towards John Beddoes School.
2. You will pass Beddoes View on your right; at this point cross the road where you will see a fingerpost indicating a footpath running to the right of the school. Take this footpath, with the Clatter brook on your left, to join a tarmac path and continue on up towards the main road past a number of bungalows, continuing in the same direction. Cross the road to take the footpath opposite marked with a fingerpost, down a few steps to a wooded path which dips and dives across the brook, often requiring the use of stepping stones and narrow, muddy tracks in winter. Head all the way alongside the brook and you will eventually pass a red ornamental bridge before crossing a wooden footbridge to continue up the other side. Keep following the footpath straight along the brook, ignoring a footpath leaving on the right.
3. Cross a second bridge back to the left and continue until you reach a stile, which you can skirt around, continuing up a few steps past a couple of magnificent oak trees, then down a few steps the other side continuing to ascend eight steps where the path leaves the brook and you walk between a beech hedge on your right and farm fields on your left. Leave the path at a walkers' gate and turn right across the brook which flows through a culvert underground. Keep to the boundary of the field with houses and gardens to your right. Leave the field over a stile in the far right hand corner and turn right again along a quiet lane.
4. You will shortly be able to walk along a grassy track along the lane before joining a pavement. Continue straight passing the Primary School on your left; at this point the pavement also becomes a cycle track so take care. As the road nears the main road at the end, bear right heading down through an underpass. Here children can spot their favourite jungle animals: giraffes; parrots; chimpanzees; exotic butterflies; a leopard and a tiger; some hidden snakes and even a rhino. Once through the underpass head straight down the road towards the clock tower ahead on the Assembly Rooms which is the end of your route.

