

Presteigne and Norton Walk 3

A delightful flat and easy route East from Presteigne across meadows and fields alongside the Lugg, circling round to Wegnall Mill on quiet tracks and back to Presteigne via a delightful wooded footpath and peaceful lane.

Leisurely; 5.8km; ~1 ¼ h

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 next to the Surgery. Turn immediately left through a set of metal gates and take the footpath waymarked on the metal gatepost of a second set of gates. The path again winds between metal railings before emerging via a stile onto an open field.
2. Cross the field and over the stile opposite and turn right along the footpath. Cross a further waymarked stile and keep straight ahead. Follow the track with the hedge on your right and at the field boundary cross a wooden footbridge into the next field. The stream beneath the bridge is the continuation of the Clatterbrook and can be very high in winter and dry in summer, depending on rainfall. Cross this field diagonally into the far left hand corner and over the bridge and stile into the next field which borders the Lugg. Keep straight ahead with the river to your left. You are aiming for a stile which is completely hidden in the hedge but is about half way between the river and the natural gap you can see in the hedge.



3. In the next few fields rather than following the exact route of the footpath you may find it easier when the fields are heavily cropped to be pragmatic and follow the path of least resistance. Follow the left hand edge of the first field alongside the river, through an open gateway and into the next field, continuing to follow the river. On the map the boundary between England and Wales also follows the river but in this field it shows where the river has changed course and the boundary bends around a loop while the river runs straight. If you look across the river near the next corner you will see some delightful gardens on the other side. Follow the field boundary around to your right and then left and listen to the Lugg as it flows over rocks and boulders.

4. Eventually cross a stile in the far left hand corner into the next field. In this field the footpath takes a diagonal route across the field to a walkers' gate just to the left of a large ash tree half way along the far hedge. In practice it may be heavily cropped and you will have to use your judgement as to the best route. Go through the gate, across the bridge and through a further gate to follow the waymark diagonally across the field to the far left hand corner. Here there is a walkers' gate, a field gate and a stile but in practice the field gate is the best option.

5. Follow the tack ahead all the way to the main road. Cross the road and take the tarmac road opposite which bends right and then sharp left. At this point take the grassy track straight ahead rather than turning to the left. Follow this track all the way along, passing a power plant on your right about half way down. When you reach a lane turn right. In the summer the hedgerows here are full of honeysuckle and butterflies, which give way to blackberries in early autumn. Ahead you can see Nash Wood on the hillside. After a short distance you reach Wegnall Mill where you should follow the road around to the right.

6. When you reach the roundabout take the second left signposted Walton. After a few yards take the footpath on the right marked with a fingerpost. Go through the walkers' gate and continue along the gently rising track between trees and undergrowth to emerge eventually onto a lane via a stile. Turn right and head down to the main road. Cross the road carefully and continue straight ahead past John Beddoes School and the Leisure Centre. At the bottom turn left onto Hereford Street and walk along the pavement admiring all the different cottages and houses as you pass, before reaching the Assembly Rooms again to end your walk.