

Presteigne Country

Presteigne was once the county town of Radnorshire and can still boast many attractive buildings from the 14th century. The town first appeared as 'Prestehemed' in 1137, which combines elements of 'priest', 'meadow' and 'boundary'. The River Lugg at the bottom of Broad Street is the Welsh/English border.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, the woollen cloth industry was developed by John Beddowes, who also funded what is now the secondary school. The town also developed at this time.

The plague hit Presteigne several times in the 16th and 17th centuries and during a six month period in 1593/4, claimed the lives of over 350 people.

Did you know? Much of Presteigne was destroyed in 1681 by a disastrous fire.

Archaeological Information

Rabbit farms were not uncommon in medieval times. An area just out of Presteigne, known as The Warren, gives away its original usage.

The unusual feature here though, is that most of its hedges are of gorse.

If you fancy adding some 'mileage' to your walk, you might like to start in England...

Presteigne's 17th century bridge over the River Lugg spans the Welsh/English border

Near to Presteigne is the village of Norton. The village developed on land described in the Domesday Book as 'a waste'.

With the Welsh Marches in turmoil as leaders battled for power, Owain Glyndwr fought the Englishman Edmund Mortimer, at nearby Pilleth. Mortimer's archers changed sides and then he did too, giving Glyndwr victory. Mortimer went on to marry Glyndwr's daughter.

Norton Church stands close to a motte and bailey dating back to the 11th century.

A number of trees along the walk are centuries old. It's worth looking out for wide, gnarly oak trees, like these near the settlement of Thorn, which have a girth of over five metres.

