

Presteigne and Norton Walk 10

Starting from Norton Church, the route climbs to join the Offa's Dyke path North West of Norton, with stunning views in all directions, then descends to Dolley Green and follows a green lane and footpaths just North of the Lugg towards Presteigne. The walk returns to Norton across field paths.

Note: Brief sections of this route are along B roads. You can walk on the grass verge but care should be taken.

Moderate with 340 m total climb; 13 km; approx. 3 h; walking boots recommended.

1. Start the walk with your back to the lychgate of St Andrew's Church and walk up Mynd Road opposite. At the top of the first rise, just before the farm gate, a fingerpost points you right down a narrow alley between gardens. At the end of the alley, cross the road and take the pavement straight down the hill through the small estate to the main road at the bottom. Turn right for a short distance then cross the road to take the quiet lane on the left. Head up the lane for almost 1 km, and take the left hand fork. The lane now rises sharply, past a bungalow on the left. Keep walking up the hill until you reach a gate on the left. The finger post is missing, but go through the gate and head across the field in the direction of the farmhouse you can see on the horizon ahead of you. Pass through the line of trees and keep walking in the same direction to the walkers' gate ahead of you.
2. Once through the gate, turn left down the lane and after a short distance you will see a waymark post, follow the direction of the arrow onto the grass path and over the narrow footbridge between the trees. Continue on the grass path with the brook on your left, passing through a waymarked gate on your left. Head steeply uphill towards the gate in the far left hand corner of the field. A good spot to turn around and take in the views behind you, while catching your breath. Pass through the gate and continue to head uphill to the gate by the barns to the right of the house. In February, the bank is covered in snowdrops and worth a visit.
3. Pass through the gate and turn left through another gate (often open) and then immediately right across the front of the barn. Bear round to your right on the tarmac path with a green walled barn on your left. Pass through two waymarked field gates and follow the directional arrow across the field up to the far topmost corner of the field. Pass through another waymarked field gate, and keep along the fence line through a further field gate continuing in the same direction towards a barn. Go through two more field gates past the open sided barn and into another field. Continue along the fence line, through a further field gate and then go through the field gate on your left, turn immediately right and walk along the fence line. Head for a small copse of trees and pass through the gate between the trees and the hedge. Continue in a straight line along the hedge until you join the tarmac farm road. Follow the road across the cattle grid to the main road.

4. Cross the road with care – the traffic can be fast here – and a short distance into the quiet lane opposite you will see a fingerpost pointing through a field gate. Go through the waymarked gate and head between the two hillocks (this area can get very muddy in wet weather). Head in the direction of the monument on the hill ahead of you. The monument commemorates Sir Richard Green Price, Liberal MP for Radnor and driving force behind the establishment of the Heart of Wales Train Line in the area. Recently a long distance trail following the train line has been created: <https://www.heart-of-wales.co.uk/experiences>

5. The path turns in between the hills to the left, bears round to the right and you then need to turn left towards a walkers' gate leading into a copse, rather than continuing ahead. You are now joining the Offa's Dyke Path, which is clearly waymarked. Pass through the gate, walk along the edge of the wood and then through another walkers' gate and follow the directional waymarks along the field edge. Continue through three more walkers' gates - you will see clear evidence of Offa's Dyke as an elongated mound. Try to avoid walking on the top of it to prevent erosion. You should now find yourself on the dyke with a small wood to your left. This section provides a sheltered spot for lunch on windy days with glorious views up the valley towards the white buildings of Pilleth and Pilleth Church. The small wooded area half way up the hill behind the church is the site of the Battle of Pilleth: <https://www.britainexpress.com/wales/mid/countryside/pilleth-battlefield.htm>

6. At the end of the wood, continue straight through two more walker's gates, then turn right following the OD path signs along the fence line. In the distance (at approx. 10 o'clock) you can see the distinctive bump of The Whimble, this is another good round walk starting in New Radnor. Walk around the remains of an old settlement and through the walkers' gate ahead turning left signed Dolley Green 1 ¾ miles. You will soon see the village of Whitton below. The path starts to dip down, passing through gorse bushes, another sheltered spot if needed. Continue through a walkers' gate, a field gate and another walkers' gate. Part way through the next field the OD path veers to the left away from the fence line and then joins a track going sharply downhill through a bridle gate. Continue to follow the OD path through several gates down to the main road at the bottom.

7. Leave the OD path, turn left and walk alongside the road, keeping to the grass verge where possible. Immediately past the last house turn left onto a farm road bearing right over a cattle grid. Continue along the road in front of the farmhouse and across another cattle grid. Pass between the barns and bear round to the right through a field gate, which is often open, and follow the fence line to the gate in the corner. Leave the farmyard and walk a short distance along the road, turning left at the junction. Walk along this lane until you come to a right hand bend where you leave the road and take the track on your left by the house.

8. At the end of the track go through the right hand field gate and continue in an approximately straight line following the field boundary. Go through two more fields and field gates, the field boundary varying from side to side; you are now in a 'green lane'. At the next field boundary, don't take the gate immediately in front of you but take the one on the left, turn immediately right to walk with the hedge on you right hand side. Continue straight passing a sunken pond on your left and through a further field gate. Again keep straight ahead across the field to a walkers' gate with a waymark. Pass through this into the wood. Join the track following the waymarks and continue in the same direction through a number of gates all the way to the road, looking out for bluebells in late spring.



9. Take care crossing the road and turn left walking up the roadside past the toll house on your right. Pass a row of magnificent copper beeches and shortly afterwards cross the stile to your right next to a fingerpost. Follow the fingerpost direction across the field diagonally. Crops may mean it is hard to see the path but you are aiming for the point at which the hedge at the end of the field drops out of sight. As you come over the crest, head into the far corner. The stile isn't visible but it is there! Cross this, duck under the overhanging trees and turn left heading towards the hawthorns with the stream to your right. Skirt left of the hawthorns and then straight to the corner where you cross a stile onto the lane. Turn left and almost immediately right over another stile by a fingerpost.
10. Now follow the path approximately straight through two fields, then through two walkers' gates by the water treatment works and along a narrow footpath and a further walkers' gate. Continue through the field and a field gate, across a private drive, through another field gate and field and eventually out via a bridleway gate into a small lane with houses on your left and woods to the right. Walk down this lane bearing left until you reach the road. Cross the road and walk up the pavement back to the church.