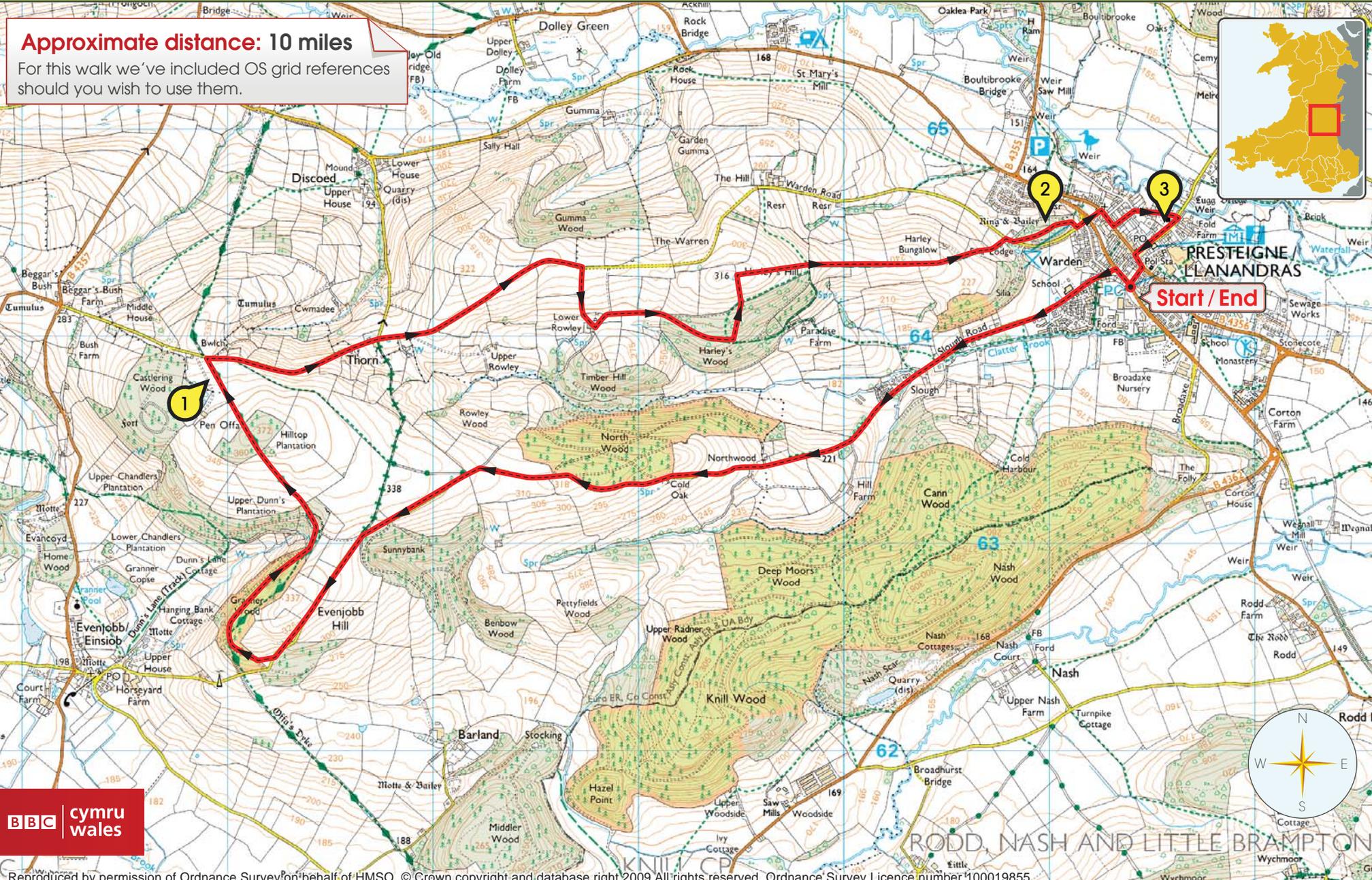


# Weatherman Walking

# Presteigne



**Approximate distance: 10 miles**  
 For this walk we've included OS grid references should you wish to use them.



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The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written. The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.

# Weatherman Walking

# Presteigne

**Start:** Car park next to Memorial Hall, Station Road, Presteigne, LD8

**Starting ref:** SO 31418 64243

**Distance:** Approximately 10 miles

**Grade:** Moderate

**Walk time :** 4 hours

This is a lengthy route which explores the pretty town of Presteigne in Powys, and all it has to offer. It also enables you to enjoy the town's surrounding, tranquil countryside and includes a short but impressive section of the famous Offa's Dyke trail.

As always, appropriate footwear is recommended, particularly as much of this route is through farm and woodland. Whenever walking on roads take extra care and please adhere to the Highway Code's guidance of walking on the side of the oncoming traffic.

## Directions

Once you've parked at the Memorial Hall car park, walk along Joe Deakin's road away from the Memorial Hall until you see Slough Road sign posted ahead on the left. You are going to continue on Slough Road for quite some time. Initially there is a pavement, where you will pass Presteigne Primary school on your right and then you will walk on a quiet country road so you will need to be cautious with regards to vehicles.

When you see a sign for 'Hill Farm' stay right, and walk through the canopy of trees. Before long to your left, on a clear day you may be able to spot some domed hills in the distance. These make up the oldest rocks in Wales, namely Hanter Hill, Worsell Wood and Stanner.



Car park at Memorial Hall



Derek and Tom get a great send off from Presteigne Primary School

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After a long stretch of road you will reach another small canopy of trees, with wooden steps on both sides of the road. To your right is the entrance to Granner Wood (SO 27219 62465) marked by a wooden signpost saying 'Llwybr Clawdd Offa'. Head up the steps to your right, following the signs towards Offa's Dyke through the woodland.



Yellow waymarker

After the third set of wooden steps, turn left onto the stone footpath and continue through the woodland. Along this way you'll see a wooden post with a yellow waymarker pointing you forwards. At this point you'll see the path split - you are going to stay right, and continue up the slope, following the small stone that marks Offa's Dyke path. Continue until you reach a wooden gate, on your right you will see another Offa's Dyke signpost, go through the gate and follow the path along.



Wooden gate towards Offa's Dyke

Continue until you reach a road. Turn left and follow it down. As the road bends to the left, you will see some steep wooden steps going up a hill. Go up these steps, through the gate at the top and straight along the path through the field in front of you. Go through the metal kissing gate on the far side and follow the track along.



Derek and Tom halfway up the steep steps

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You'll eventually reach another kissing gate onto Pen Offa, a farm, which has a wooden sign post pointing to Offa's Dyke. Go through the gate, and ahead you'll see a mound of earth running through the field. There is a stone marker also indicating it as Offa's Dyke.



Gate to continue onto Offa's Dyke

**1** **Offa's Dyke Path** (SO 26972 63726)

Offa's Dyke is named after King Offa, an Anglo-saxon king who ordered its construction during the 8th century. It crosses the border between England and Wales over 20 times. The linear earthworks are classified as an ancient monument and there are 177 miles of walking trails in total dedicated to exploring it.

Continue on following the wooden sign posts. At the far end of the field you'll see a small metal kissing gate. Go through the gate, out onto Warden's road and turn right. You are walking on another quiet country road now so take care. To your left you may be able to make out more of the Offa's Dyke path in the distance.

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Eventually the road will be blocked with a metal gate. (SO 28850 64335) Turn right here and down the concrete footpath. As the road bends to the right, you are going to turn left onto the footpath through the field ahead of you. Follow the footpath along, and through the metal gate ahead of you. Continue following the rough footpath through the field, keeping the hedgerow to your left. You'll arrive at two metal gates next to each other. Go through the right gate with the yellow horseshoe marker on it. Stay right and follow the fence line along until you reach another metal gate with the horseshoe sign on it. Go through this gate, and keep the wire fence to your left as you walk straight ahead.



The road blocked by a metal gate, this is where you turn right



Entrance into Paradise Farm

Follow along until you see a crossroads ahead of you of the forest track. Follow the path to the left and all the way up into an open clearing. There will be a large hill ahead of you called Harley's Hill. You are going to stay right here and follow the fence line and mound of earth all the way down to the bottom right of this field. However, if you'd like to pop up to the top of Harley's Hill there are some lovely views of the surrounding area. (SO 29475 64298)



Derek and Tom take in the views from Harley's Hill

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You'll see a wooden three-pointed sign once you get to the bottom of this field. Head right and follow the path down. Eventually you will reach a metal gate and wooden stile next to each other. Go left over the wooden stile. Follow these fields all the way down, going through the gates as you go, keeping the fence line to your right all the way.

Climb the wooden stile at the end of this field, and down the set of steps onto the road. Follow the road ahead of you to the right, and continue down the hill. Eventually you'll come to a T-junction, turn right and follow the road. Just ahead of you to the left you'll see a large wooden sign saying 'Warden' on it and a metal gate with a sign saying 'Harley Gate'. Go through the wooden kissing gate, and follow the gravel path up the hill.

As you come to the top of the small hill, the path forks. Bear right and follow the grassier route straight ahead through the small grass area with a wooden bench. Follow the path ahead over the small mound into a wider, open area. This is where the 'bailey' part of the castle would have stood.



The wooden three-pointed signpost



Entrance to the Warden



The Warden, a lovely picnic spot

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### 2 The Warden: Motte-and-Bailey Castle (SO 30965 64510)

Warden castle no longer stands here but on this spot was once a motte-and-bailey style castle. A fortification which typically had a wooden or stone keep, situated on a raised earthwork called a motte, accompanied by an enclosed courtyard known as a bailey. Warden Castle is generally considered to have been built around 1180 -1200 to counter the castle at Stapleton, which it would have directly faced across the valley. That one still stands today. The land was gifted to the town in 1805 and has been used as a public space ever since.

Follow the path through the field, out the other side and diagonally down. There are some signs giving information on the area to the left. Follow the path down and it will join a gravel path. Follow the gravel path along to the right, and all the way out of the warden through the black gate. Turn left onto the road. Go forward until you reach a T-junction at the end of Warden Road, go straight over the small path ahead of you. You'll see a church with a blue door in the distance, head towards that church. Turn right when you reach the church onto High Street. Shortly along this road you'll see a sign post for St. Andrew's Church to the left. Turn left onto St. David's Street and follow it along to the small roundabout, where you will be turning right.



Roundabout, St David's Street

You'll soon arrive at St. Andrew's Church. Call in and have a look at the wonderful tapestry inside.



St Andrews Church

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### 3 St. Andrew's Church (SO 31577 64561)

This church is a grade II listed building. If you take a look inside, you will see a Flemish tapestry created in 1510 depicting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. This tapestry is of great historic significance, having celebrated its 500th birthday in 2010, and is one of only two pre-English reformation tapestries on display in parish churches in the UK.

**Exit the church and follow the path left in front of the church and all the way through the church yard and out of the wooden gate at the bottom**

**Turn left on this road and just ahead of you you'll see a small stone bridge over the River Lugg. The halfway point of this bridge is the dividing line between Wales and England - so you can stand with a foot in both countries!**

**Once you've got to the half way point on the bridge, you are going to turn back and walk up through Broad Street. Keep the church to your right and follow the road up. You will pass the Judge's Lodgings about half way along which was once a guest house for visiting Victorian Judges and is now a beautifully restored museum. (SO 31530 64476)**

**Continue ahead until you reach a crossroads, turn left onto Hereford Street and walk ahead towards the mini roundabout. Turn right at this roundabout and head to the end of the road, which will take you back to the Memorial Hall car park (on your left) and to the start of your route.**



Derek has one foot in Wales and one in England on the Lugg bridge



Derek and Tom get into character at the Judge's Lodging