

The village of Preston

Situated on the edge of The Chiltern Hills, 143 metres above sea level, Preston is reported to have nothing to disperse the easterly winds from Siberia!

In the spring months, look out for the amazing Bluebells of Wain Wood and the large herd of fallow Deer which gather in the fields below Tatmore Hills.

Visiting in May look out for the annual Preston Gardens Open Day while during the summer months you can catch a game of cricket.

The starting point of the circular route is The Red Lion which was bought by the village in 1983 to avoid the claws of developers. This made it the first community owned public house in the UK and it is now a central hub for the community.



How to get there

Preston is situated between Hitchin and Luton Airport via a matrix of country lanes. From Hitchin A602 /B656 follow signs to Gosmore/Preston.

By bus: Centre bus Route 88 from Hitchin St Mary's square to Luton interchange. Please note there is no service on Sundays.

By train: The nearest railway station is Hitchin which is 3 miles away, or Luton Parkway which is 5.3 miles away.

By car: Use The Red Lion SG4 7UD in satellite navigation systems. Signposted from Hitchin A602/B656.

Other local walks

This walk is one of a series of 'Walking in Hertfordshire' circular routes. Download these and other walks from www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/cms

For a programme of local and free led walks, visit Hertfordshire Health Walks online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/healthwalks or pick up a programme at your local library or GP surgery.



Produced by Preston Parish Council as part of the Parish Paths Partnership, funded by Hertfordshire County Council.

Supported by the Parish Paths Partnership.



Tatmore Hills Loop Preston

Starting from the Red Lion Pub, a walk of approximately 4.8km/3m and 1 hour long



The route

Starting from The Red Lion head northwest along the Hitchin Road turning left onto Chequers Lane.

On the left the row of cottages were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens who by Edwardian standards, was a bit of an architectural guru by all accounts.

Taking the footpath on the right to Tatmore Hills will take you round the edge of Wain Wood which is renowned for its Bluebell display in mid-April. This is a permanent permissive path around the perimeter of the field. The Definitive Map route is diagonally across this field.

Heading down into the valley and then up onto the highest point of the route at Tatmore Hills keep your eyes peeled for the local herd of Fallow Deer. You are also likely to see and hear the Red Kites displaying above with high pitched screeches.

Turning left follow the path to the site of the lost Domesday village of Welei or Wayley Green as it was later known around 1822. Sadly nothing of it remains now. It is also thought that this was one of the many burial sites for victims of the Black Death which hit the local area in 1349. The disease spread at a rate of 1km per day!

Climbing out of the small valley, follow the track which crosses the Preston to Charlton road at Sootfield Green. Follow the byway adjacent to the house. This part of the route is known as Dead Womans Lane. Local legend says it was so named due to the high numbers of Black Death victims buried at Wayley Green.

Take the footpath on the left which crosses the traditional small grass fields with grazing cattle, behind Pond Farmhouse, back towards Preston.

The route then crosses Butchers Lane and between the houses passing through the Millennium Playground, providing a welcome break to those with little legs who have done so well to get this far. Going off piste a bit through the gate at the bottom of the meadow leads through to St. Martins Church built in 1899.

Back in the top of the Millennium playground, follow the narrow footpath out onto Chequers Lane, turning right back towards the Red Lion for a well-earned drink and bite to eat.

If you wish to plan your own walk in the area, the map used for this leaflet is based upon Ordnance Survey Explorer map 193.


Key

Main route



Optional route extension



 Public footpath, only for walkers

 Bridleway, for use by walkers, horse-riders & cyclists

 Viewpoint/point of interest

 St. Martin's Church

 Red Lion Public House

 Red Kites

 Fallow Deer



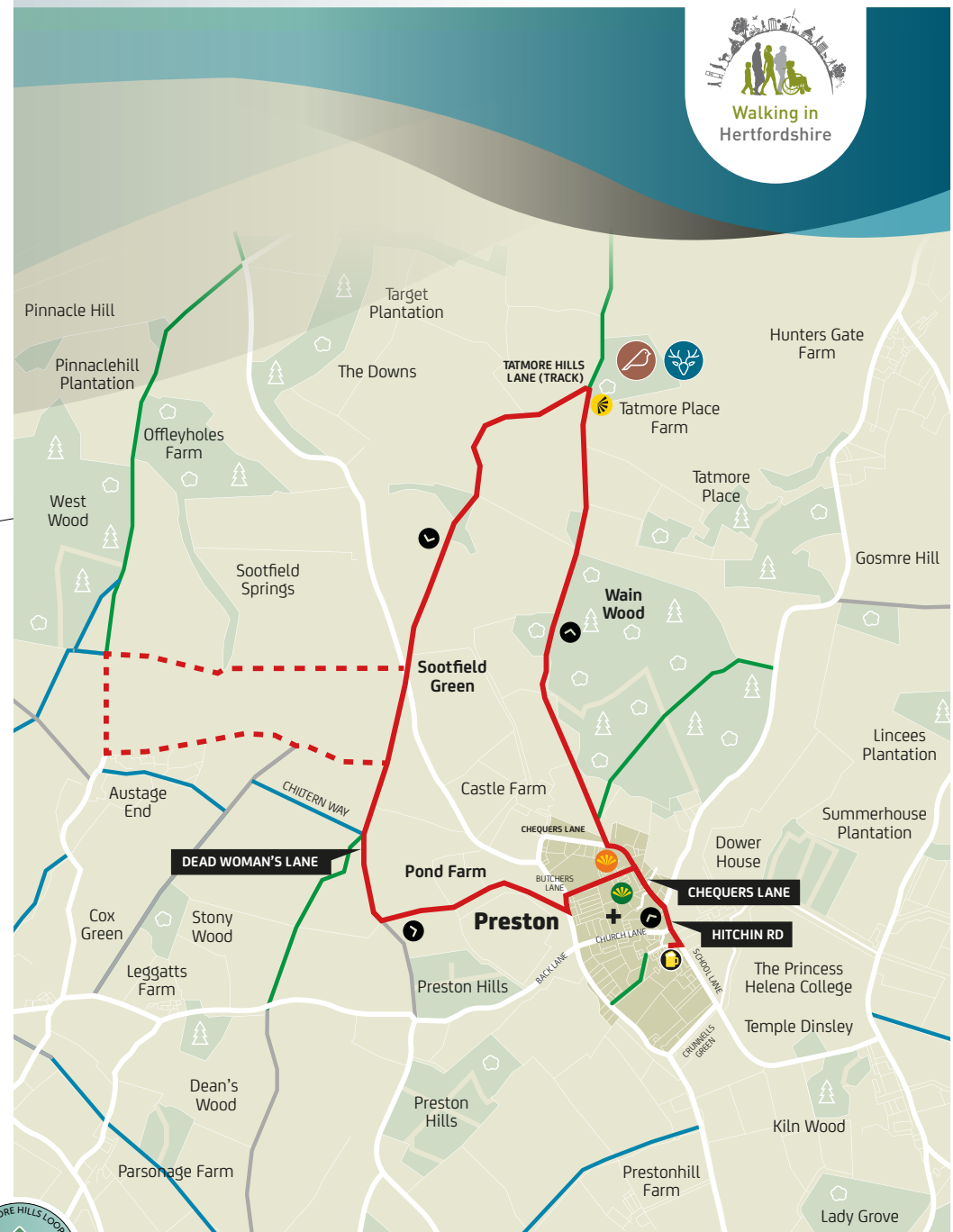
Millennium Playground



View across Preston Valley



Lutyens cottages



Look out for this waymarker along the route.

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