

Find the Heart of Mortimer Country

'Quietest places under the sun' *Housman.*

Where will you find us? In north western Herefordshire, close to the Shropshire Hills AONB and the Radnor Hills of the Welsh Marches. It is a deeply rural area with breathtaking countryside, rolling hills, ancient woods, forests and water



Old stone arched bridge crossing the River Teme at Leintwardine

meadows. The rivers, Teme (a SSSI), Clun and Lugg, are prominent features of the landscape.

This is a land of political history and intrigue, dominated by the rich estates,

offices of power and profit bestowed upon the Mortimer Marcher Lords of Wigmore, Harleys of Brampton Bryan and Crofts of Croft Castle.

Some of the place names of our picturesque villages and hamlets are lost in the mists of time. Some were thriving medieval townships with bustling markets, minstrels, traders and medieval malarkey. Such a place was Wigmore, to be found nestling under the imposing castle and church.

Wigmore Basin, once a glacial lake, can be seen from Wigmore Castle. To the left of the basin Wigmore Abbey and the spire of Downton church can be glimpsed.

Surrounding the basin are the villages of Leinthall Starkes, Elton, Pipe Aston and Burrington, all easily explored by bike. The hills in the far distance are Mortimer Forest and Bringewood Chase: beyond is Ludlow.

Marcher Country

Rising behind the villages of Lingen, Aymestrey and Adforton can be found ancient woods and meadows, green lanes and the tiny hamlets with evocative sounding names – Lye, Deerfold, Cruckmullen and Cross of the Tree. From Lingen and Combe the hills rise into Wales and Offa's Dyke.

When the days lengthen a profusion of wood anemones, bluebells and ramsons (wild garlic) are to be found on woodland walks; pied flycatchers, redstarts, and



The ancient hedge at Brampton Bryan



the cuckoo return. As in medieval times, the woods and forests are the habitat of elusive deer. Butterflies and moths can be found in abundance along byways and woodland glades and overhead, red kite.

Brampton Bryan is a small village with black and white cottages set around the village green. An ancient yew hedge surrounds the hall and ruined castle. A little upstream, across the River Teme, set in the Shropshire Hills AONB is Bucknell, with a railway halt for the Heart of Wales Line.

Something new to find and explore every season of the year

Leintwardine, set on the confluence of the rivers Teme and Clun and once a Roman trading post, still bustles with the life of a vibrant rural community. Leintwardine offers a choice of places to eat and the taste of real ales, ciders & perries.

Sitting very quietly beside one of the rivers it is not unusual to see dipper, kingfisher, sand martins, goosander and little egret. At the right time of the day and year you might spot otters. Walking the Teme upstream to Walford and Buckton and the Clun to Clungunford you may see osprey and marsh harrier, following the rivers on their spring and autumn migratory routes.

After crossing the river Lugg at Aymestrey (surrounded by limestone features rich in fossils), there is Shobdon, with its 'Strawberry Hill' Gothic church, set in stunning parkland, and Kingsland. Both are thriving villages. Croft Castle and Croft Ambrey Iron Age Fort, parkland and estate has glorious views into



Exploring Mortimer Country

Wales, Shropshire and Herefordshire. From Croft the Mortimer Trail leads east to Richards Castle and Ludlow.

From early summer to late autumn, festivals, village fetes and celebratory events flourish - this is where you will find the heart of Mortimer Country.



Shops, Places to visit and Things to do

Places to Visit

Aardvark Bookshop & Café
Brampton Bryan SY7 0DH
01547 530 888
www.aardvark-books.com

Parish of Wigmore Abbey
Nine rural churches.
www.wigmore-abbey.org.uk

St Michael & All Angels
Kingsland
www.kingslandgroup.org.uk

School House Art & Framing
Leintwardine SY7 0LQ
01547 540 593
www.schoolhousecrafts.co.uk

Shobdon FoodFest
01568 708 725
www.shobdonfestival.co.uk

Sun Inn

Leintwardine SY7 0LP
01547 540 705
www.suninn-leintwardine.co.uk

Wigmore Castle
www.englishheritage.org.uk

Things to Do

Cycle Hire
Elton SY8 2HJ
01568 770 755
www.wheelywonderfulcycling.co.uk

Oaker Wood Leisure
Kingsland HR6 9PT
01568 780 111
www.oakerwoodleisure.co.uk

Wheely Wonderful Cycling
Elton SY8 2HJ
01568 770 755
www.wheelywonderfulcycling.co.uk

Pubs & Eating Out

Baron at Bucknell
Bucknell SY7 0AH
01547 530 549
www.baronatbucknell.co.uk

Fiddlers Elbow Fish Bar
Leintwardine SY7 0LP
01547 540 610

The Garden Tea Room & Deli
Kingsland HR6 9QS
01568 709 142
www.scrummybites.co.uk

The Lion AA 1 Rosette
Leintwardine SY7 0JZ
01547 540 203
www.thelionleintwardine.co.uk

The Jolly Frog
Leintwardine SY7 0LX
01547 540 298
www.thejollyfrog.co.uk

Milebrook House Hotel

AA 2 Rosettes
Knighton LD7 1LT
01547 528 632
www.milebrookhouse.co.uk

Rocke Cottage Tea Rooms
TG Top Tea Place 2011
Clungunford SY7 0PX
01588 660 631
www.rockecottagetearooms.co.uk

Sun Inn
Leintwardine SY7 0LP
01547 540 705
www.suninn-leintwardine.co.uk

Village Shops

AH Griffiths Butchers
Leintwardine SY7 0LB
01547 540 231
www.ahgriffithsbutchers-shropshire.co.uk

Griffiths Garage

Forecourt Convenience Store
Leintwardine SY7 0JZ
01547 540 223
www.griffithsgarage.co.uk

Mortimer Country Stores
Wigmore
01568 770 307
www.mortimercountrystores.wordpress.com

Key

VB = Visit Britain
ST = Shropshire Tourism
AA = Automobile
Association
H = Hoseasons
ASR = Alastair Sawday
Recommended
TG = UK Tea Guild

Where to Stay

Hotels and B&Bs

Baron at Bucknell VB 4*
Bucknell SY7 0AH
01547 530 549
www.baronatbucknell.co.uk

The Farmhouse B&B VB 4* Silver
Aymestrey HR6 9ST
01568 708 075
www.farmbreakfasts.com

Lower House VB 4*
Adforton SY7 0NF
01568 770 223
www.lowerhousebandb.com

The Lion VB 5* AA 5*
Leintwardine SY7 0JZ
01547 540 203
www.thelionleintwardine.co.uk

Marlbrook Hall VB 4* Silver
Elton SY8 2HR
01568 770 230
www.marlbrookhall.co.uk

Milebrook House Hotel

AA 3*, ASR
Knighton LD7 1LT
01547 528 632
www.milebrookhouse.co.uk

The Old House VB 4*
Kingsland HR6 9QS
01568 709 120
www.teacosy.nl

Rosecroft VB 5* Silver & ASR
Orleton SY8 4HN
01568 780 565
rosecroftbedandbreakfast.co.uk

Upper Buckton
VB 5* Gold, AA 5* & ASR
Buckton SY7 0JU
01547 540 634
www.upperbuckton.co.uk

Walford Court

VB 4* Gold & ASR
Walford SY7 0JT
01547 540 570
www.romanticbreak.com

Holiday Cottages

Ashley Moor Farm Holiday Cottages
VB 4* GOLD
Ashley Moor SY8 4JJ
01568 780 266
www.ashleymoorfarm.co.uk

The Barn at Ryecroft ST 4*
Richards Castle SY8 4EU
01584 831 224
www.thebarnatryecroft.co.uk

The Bungalow VB 3*
Lower Lye HR6 9TA
01568 770 582
www.lowerlye.co.uk

The Buzzards VB 4*

Kingsland HR6 9QE
01568 708 941
www.thebuzzards.co.uk

Mocktree Barns Holiday Cottages

VB 3* NAS Level 1
Leintwardine SY7 0LY
01547 540 441
www.mocktreeholidays.co.uk

The Old Railway Tavern H 4*
Bucknell SY7 0AU
01547 540 570
www.romanticbreak.com

Caravan Parks

Pearl Lake Leisure Park VB 5*
Shobdon HR6 9NQ
01568 708 326
www.bestparks.co.uk

What's On 2013

Something for everyone - where you can listen to music and see the stars on cloudless nights; hike along hidden highways; marvel at artistic innovation or just eat the view. Some of the many diverse and fascinating events in and around Mortimer Country in 2013.

Clun Green Man Festival

4 - 6 May
Fun for all the family - live music, drama and medieval malarkey.

Ludlow Spring Festival & Marches Transport Festival

Ludlow Castle. 10 - 12 May
The Spring Festival celebrates great beers, bangers, bread and music. The Transport festival has a fascinating collection of vintage & classic cars, motorbikes & commercial vehicles.

Herefordshire Festival of Walking

15 - 23 June
Long and short featured walks covering diverse subjects.

Shobdon FoodFest

29 - 30 June (Shobdon Airfield)
A wide variety of excellent produce and much more plus Aviation Weekend.

Ludlow Festival

19 - 30 June
Events for all the family.

Mortimer Country Food Fair

Brampton Bryan, 13 July
An array of local food and craft businesses and much more.
www.mortimercountryfoodfair.co.uk

Scarecrow Sunday

Brampton Bryan, 4 August
A village wide celebration of scarecrows - fun for all the family. Rare chance to see Brampton Bryan Castle.

Brampton Bryan Vide Grenier

Brampton Bryan 26 August
A flea market with live music from Little Rumba

Presteigne Festival of Music & Arts

21 - 27 August
Artistic innovation and musical discovery in the Welsh Marches.

Sun Inn Annual Beer Festival,

Leintwardine, 25 August
Real ales, ciders, food and music.

Herefordshire Art Week

7 - 15 September
Exclusive access to artists' studios, workshops and exhibitions.

Ludlow Food Festival

13 - 15 September
The unforgettable food festival.

Battle of Mortimer's Cross 1461

14 - 15 September
Exciting re-enactment in the grounds of Hampton Court.
www.mortimerscross.co.uk

Flavours of Herefordshire Food Festival

2 - 3 November
A celebration of local food and drink.

Ludlow Medieval Christmas Fayre

23 - 24 November
Bustling with medieval entertainers, minstrels and traders.

How to Get Here



The A49 is our main road link. The M5 is 30 miles to the east. The nearest main line stations are Ludlow and Leominster, where there are excellent services from the north of England, North Wales and Scotland (via Crewe), the Midlands, London (via Hereford) and the south west of England and South Wales (via Newport or Cardiff). Details of public transport can be obtained on: 0871 200 2233.



www.exploremortimercountry.com

EXPLORE
Mortimer
country
www.exploremortimercountry.com

Inspiring landscapes

Award-winning
places to stay and eat

The Mortimer Trail,
Offa's Dyke &
Herefordshire Trail

Space to explore & relax

Ancient woods
& meadows

Forts, castles, churches
& horrible histories



EXPLORE Mortimer country

Herefordshire Trail

Offa's Dyke

Mortimer Trail

Horse Riding in Mortimer Country

A "Bring Your Horse Holiday" in Mortimer Country offers an unrivalled opportunity to explore historic bridleways, old drovers' roads, ancient forests, common land and moorland, all criss-crossed with quiet country lanes along the way linking various refreshment stops and watering holes. The Forestry Commission's woodlands, collectively known as "Mortimer Forest", also offer miles of accessible tracks and trails. More information on holidays and routes from 01547 540 532.

The Mortimer Trail

This runs through Mortimer Country and follows ridges of the North Herefordshire Hills, dropping down to river valleys through unspoilt and historic countryside. Four Loop Walks lead off the trail to the local villages of Lingen, Shobdon, Wigmore and Yarpole. For more information visit the Community and living pages at www.herefordshire.gov.uk. Follow the menu link to walking and cycling.



Walk

Mortimer Country

A flat walk of almost five miles.

1. Turn left out of the Baron of Beef and walk along the road for ¼ mile until you reach the church.
2. Turn left and walk down the footpath by the River Redlake until you reach the Sitwell Arms public house. Go across the road onto the dirt track opposite, and follow this through two kissing gates into the meadow beyond.
3. Go to the far end of this field to a gate, then bear half right to the second stile and cross the railway. Walk up the road for about ½ mile.
4. Just past a small wood on your left a fingerpost directs you through a gate, then half right across a field and just to the left of a group of trees. Keep straight on past a way marked post at a field corner and follow the hedge on your left to a gap. Bear slightly right across the next field, then follow the hedge on your right through two gates to a track.
5. Turn left and then immediately right through a gate, and cross the field keeping close to the hedge on your right. Exit onto a road (at a bend), where you turn right and walk through the village of Buckton.
6. Keep left at the fork, cross the leat of an old water mill, and carry on until you reach the river Teme. Cross the bridge and turn left over a stile.
7. Shortly afterwards you pass through a gate and enter a large field. Keep close to the river bank through this and the next field. The Teme is rich in wildlife including otters, trout and salmon, and many different bird species can also be seen. At a gate bear half right and cut off the next meander of the river – Leintwardine church beckons to your left.
8. Your route now brings you close to the hedge by the road, which you follow for the remaining ½ mile into Leintwardine.
9. Leave the field by a stile and you will find the 704 bus stop next to a convenient seat on the far side of the bridge.

This is reproduced with kind permission from The Baron at Bucknell. www.baronatbucknell.co.uk

Cycle

Mortimer Country

An easy cycle ride on quiet country lanes following the River Teme. Distance 5 or 10 miles.

1. Start from the green (and picnic area) in Leintwardine. Leintwardine was once a major Roman settlement dating back to AD70. A Roman fort was constructed in AD160. The grand Norman church has a unique misericord celebrating the life of the former landlady of The Sun Inn.
2. Turn left over the bridge (next to the Lion Hotel), and then take the immediate left along Paytoe Lane. You are now travelling along the Roman road to Paytoe, look out for the site of the Roman encampment on the ridge to your right.
3. Turn left at the next junction, signposted for Ludlow. This is just before the black and white building of "Paytoe Hall" and easy to miss. Cross the River Teme, and at the top of the hill, turn right signed Ludlow. (for the short route turn left and return to Leintwardine).
4. Continue downhill to Burreington Bridge (look out for kingfishers & dippers). Immediately after the bridge turn right, signed to Leinthall Starks.
5. At Leinthall Starks (windmill above), turn left signed Ludlow. Cycle past Wheely Wonderful Cycling to Elton. Visit the Norman church, next to Elton Hall, former home of the great Horticulturist Richard Payne Knight, who published the Herefordshire Pomona 200 years ago.
6. After Elton, take the next left to Burreington. Keep on this road, without turning off, past Burreington Bridge and following the signs to Leintwardine. Detour to Burreington to see the six very early cast iron tomb slabs in the churchyard, one is for Richard Knight (1659 - 1745), this is all that's left of the iron industry of Downton gorge.
7. Follow this same road all the way back to Leintwardine, with great views of the River Teme, up into Wales. Pass by The Sun Inn to finish your ride. (remember to stop at the Sun Inn, a unique historic Parlour pub - the only one of its kind left in the UK).

This is reproduced with kind permission from Wheely Wonderful Cycling. www.wheelywonderfulcycling.co.uk

Drive

Mortimer Country

A leisurely drive of 38 miles taking about half a day if you explore all the places detailed below.

1. After visiting Kingsland Church and the unusual Volka chapel & tearoom, drive north out of village and by the memorial to the Battle of Mortimer's Cross (1461) turn right onto A4110. With the battle site on your right drive to the crossroads and turn left onto B4362.
2. Take the second small lane on your right, signposted to the Rococo style, 'Strawberry Hill Gothick', Shobdon church and the famous, Romanesque 12C (Herefordshire School of Sculpture) picturesque ruins "Shobdon Arches". Rejoin B4362, drive through Shobdon and at Combe turn right by the tearoom and gallery.
3. At Lingen, a remote and quiet village, visit the remarkable church and historic pub, before rejoining the road north. Turn left for Brampton Bryan. At Brampton Bryan, look out for the sweet chestnut tree on the village green, visit the church and admire the famous ancient yew hedge.
4. Turn right onto the A4113, drive along the flood plain of the river Teme, passing through the Hamlet of Walford until you reach Leintwardine, a former Roman village. Admire the historic church and on a Tuesday evening listen to the church bells being rung.
5. Return on A4110, passing Adforton church to Wigmore. Stay a while and on foot visit castle and church. Continue south on A4110 crossing the river Lugg in Aymestrey to Mortimer's Cross.
6. Here turn left onto B4362 for Mortimer's Cross Mill and Croft Castle & Park (National Trust). Continuing on the B4362 to Orleton, visit the church and look for the carvings depicting the intrigue of Roger Mortimer, First Lord of the Marches and Ruler of England. Retrace your drive back along the B4362 to Mortimer's Cross at the crossroads turn left back to Kingsland.

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For an alternative drive visit: www.marchestourstalks.co.uk