

Gretnd Green



***The territory of young
lovers***

Gretna (Green)

B 7076

Longtown

A 6071

45

13m

The legendary village of Gretna Green in the south west corner of Scotland is indelibly linked with marriages, historically for the eloping young bride and groom who were not allowed to marry south of the Border.

✓ In 1754 England passed a law that prevented any bride or groom under the age of 21 from marrying without parental consent. In Scotland the age was 16 without consent and so the young lovers fled north to Scotland.





➤ Gretna Green is the first village over the border and conveniently situated at the first stage coach changing post on the main London to Edinburgh route. Blacksmiths were given the right to conduct these hasty marriages over the anvil.



Gretna Green has been a haven for romantic lovers for more than 250 years with couples having travelled for days by horse and coach, with proverbial stories of fathers in hot pursuit. The oldest marriage certificate on file dates from 1772 and today there are over 4,000 weddings at Gretna Green each year, which is on average 17% of all marriages taking place across Scotland.

Today the blacksmith is no longer authorised to conduct the service which must be by a church minister or registrar, yet the tradition and romance of being married at Gretna Green continues unabated.





Eloping lovers still arrive here for a secret, private ceremony to avoid the huge family parties and all the paraphernalia often associated with the formal white dress, top hat and tails weddings of society today.



Love of romance means that Gretna Green is still a very popular site for marriages, even though the legal anomaly is no longer relevant.