The Romans recognised the strategic military importance of Usk. The XX Valeria Victrix Legion had a fortress here from 55 AD to about 65 AD. The Normans built the first castle soon after the Conquest, a Benedictine priory and a fine priory church. The present street plan is still based on Norman foundations.

Most of the town was burnt down in an uprising by Welsh prince Owain Glyndwr. His army was defeated three years later at the battle of Usk in 1405.

Throughout the centuries Usk has been an important market town serving the surrounding countryside. Wander around at your leisure and seek out its treasures, its delightful country and riverside walks, its prize-winning floral displays, its sports facilities and shops, its hospitable inns, hotels and restaurants. Absorb its interesting history and architecture by following the Usk Town Trail marked by blue plaques. We hope that your visit to Usk is a happy and memorable one, such that you will wish to return.