

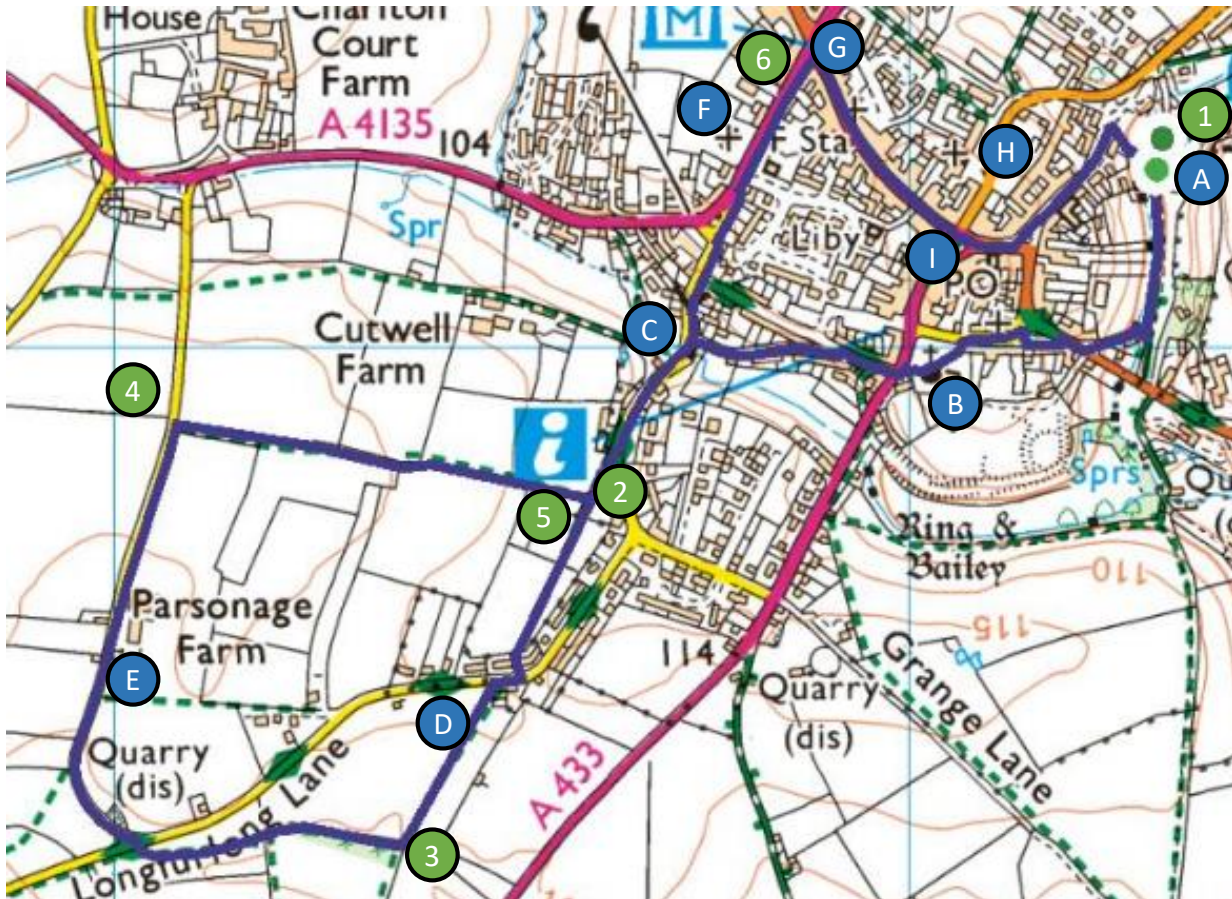
To Be Or Not To Be

A pleasant walk through local fields around the western fringe of Tetbury via the hamlet of Longfurlong.

Distance 4km (2.5 miles), Walking Time approx 1.5 hours
(Grade A/B on scale A = easy to D = hard)

Starts & finishes at the Goods Shed, adjacent to the free long stay car park; point 1 on map

Refreshments: choice in Tetbury, none on route



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- A** Goods Shed Arts Centre: this building is all that remains of Tetbury station, terminus of the branch from Kemble. The railway opened in 1889 with but was one of the first to be closed in the Beeching cuts in 1964. It is now the arts and entertainment facility for the town.
- B** St Mary's Church: the parish church of Tetbury (full name St Mary the Virgin and St Mary Magdalen), this magnificent Georgian Gothic revival building, on of the earliest and best examples of its kind, was opened in 1781, replacing an earlier medieval church on the same site. It is noted for the high box pews, the height of the nave, and the size of the windows
- C** Cutwell Ford: often dry, on one side of the ford is an old packhorse bridge, dating from c1662, now used by pedestrians. Before the Bath Bridge was built in 1774, the ford provided an alternative access to the town from the south west, having slightly easier gradients than the direct one via Black Horse Hill.
- D** Longfurlong Hamlet & Lane: Longfurlong is an outlying part of Tetbury with dwellings on either side of Longfurlong Lane., which curves round the south west side of Tetbury . It once was the most direct route from Elmestree House to the town.
- E** Parsonage Farm: an old, traditional Cotswold stone farm, with outbuildings. Its name suggests that it may once have been a glebe property, owned by the diocese and providing income to the church. .
- F** St Saviour's Church: built in 1849 as a Chapel of Ease (a "daughter" church) to St. Marys', the parish church. Its construction is attributed to the Rev Charles Lowder, then curate at St. Marys'. It provided the town's poorer people, who could not afford the pew rents in St. Marys' or find a space there, with a place to worship. Rev Lowder was particularly interested in the less privileged and became an outstanding "slum priest" in the east end of London.

G Police Station & Magistrates Court: built in 1883, by 1969 it was redundant (as a new Police Station was built and the magistrates courts had moved to adjacent larger towns). it is now the offices of the Town Council and also the location of Tetbury's Police Museum.



H Long Street: one of the two main shopping and commercial streets in Tetbury along with Church Street. Long Street's importance as a through route increased over time as a link to what is now the principal road to Cirencester and that to Wotton-Under-Edge, providing a much flatter route than earlier roads to the east.

I Market Hall: the grade I listed Market Hall is a restored pillared building dating to 1655. Originally three stories high, it was reduced to the present two stories in 1817. Over time it has seen service as a market place, fire station, and gaol. The cupola on top was added to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee. .

Description

1 Facing away from the Goods Shed main entrance, turn left passing the café and playground. After 90m turn right down some steps then sharp left. Fork right to climb the short hill to the main road. Turn right and after 20m cross the road, up some steps and follow the path in front of some houses until turning left into St Mary's churchyard. Follow the path diagonally to the front of the church, then down some steps through an arched gateway, crossing the road into West Street. After around 100m take the left fork down Cottons lane. At the bottom, turn left to cross the ford, often dry, and carry on up the opposite hill (Cutwell).

2 At the end of a short row of cottages on the right (No 29), lookout for a Footpath sign and follow its direction over a stone stile and along a narrow path. (Ignore the stile on the right which you will return to later.) At the end of the path go over the high stone stile into a paddock, divided into two by a post and rail fence with the necessary stile. Continue in the same direction to find a wooden stile leading to the right of way between two bungalows and pass through two garden gates into Longfurlong Lane.

Turn right and, very soon after, left over a stone stile into a large field of pasture. Go forward, bearing slightly right, to find a wooden stile in the opposite hedge.

3 Go over the stile into a spinney, do not go straight ahead, but almost immediately turn right along a path that passes through the spinney. At the end of the spinney, turn left over a wooden footbridge and immediately right over a stone stile into a field. Continue with the course of the (probably dry) stream on the right initially, soon crossing a wooden bridge so the stream is on the left, to a stile. Cross the stile onto a lane, at a road junction.

Take the lane to the right of the "No Through Road" sign and continue along it, passing Parsonage Farm and, after a further 250 metres, reaching a spinney on the right.

4 Turn right and follow the path through the spinney (known locally as "Cuckoo Pen"), to emerge over a stile into a field. Keeping the hedge on the left, after about 200 metres you will see a farm gate set in a wall on the left. Do not go through this, but instead carry on for a further 20m to find on the left a kissing gate into the adjoining field.

Go through the gate, turn right and continue, keeping the boundary hedge and then a wall on the right. Go over a stile and when the boundary wall turns sharply right the right of way continues directly ahead to reach a double stile into the narrow path along which you passed on the outward leg of the walk.

5 Turn left down the path to emerge over the stone stile into the road. Follow the road downhill and back to the ford. Continue straight ahead up the fairly steep hill.

At the top of this hill, where this road (Cutwell) joins a main road (New Church Street), go straight ahead along New Church Street, passing the Fire Station on your right and St Saviour's church on your left and walk to the junction with Long Street.

6 At the junction turn right up Long Street, passing the Market Hall on the right, then left down Gumstool Hill. At the bottom turn right past Millennium Green, over the bridge and back to the Goods Shed.