


Walks around Tetbury

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  Route Instructions



Seeking Tetbury's Heritage

See Poldark's house and a hermit's cave

Distance: 8.8 km (5.5 miles)

Walking Time: 2.5 hrs

Starts and finishes at free long stay car park:
point 1 on map

Grade A/B on a scale where A is easy,
and D is difficult.

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Description

Distance: 8.8 km (5.5 miles)

From the long stay car park **1** take the entrance road up to its junction with the main road Cirencester Road, by The Royal Oak Inn. Turn left and follow the road to the bottom of the steep hill which goes up into The Chipping. Take the footpath on the right (**Love Lane**). **A** Cross straight over the first road encountered (Priory Way) and follow Love Lane to a residential street (Northfield Road). Go straight ahead for about 15 m.

Turn left into the Tesco store grounds, **2** follow the path and turn left again onto the Industrial estate access road; follow this down to the main road (London Road). Cross this and take the footway almost opposite into a residential road (Bartley Croft). Follow this road until it meets Conygar Road turn right then immediately left (nearly straight over) into Northlands Way. Take the second footway on the left, leading between the gardens of two houses. After around 50 m, and facing the fields of the school opposite (**Sir William Romney's School**), **B** turn right along a path between walls and hedges and follow it until entering the corner of a field through a kissing gate. Cross this field, diagonally to the left, to the far corner and exit through a kissing gate into a small copse, then onto a roughly tarmaced road (**Blind Lane**). **C** Turn right and follow Blind Lane for around 200 m until a footpath sign is seen on the left.

Take this footpath straight across the first field **3** (keeping the farm buildings of Lowfield Farm on your right). Go into the next field through the gate and then keeping the fence/hedge line close on your left, walk around the edge of this much larger field. Cross the stile beside the gate at the far end of this field and, keeping the hedge to your left, follow the track round the edge of the next field, turning left between two fields with a stone wall to your right and a hedge to your left, until you come to a main road, which is entered on the outside of a sharp bend.

Turn left along this road. **4** TAKE GREAT CARE, THIS ROAD CARRIES QUITE A LOT OF TRAFFIC AND THERE IS NO FOOTWAY FOR THE FIRST 200 M. Go past the entrance to Upton Grove on your left until the road turns sharply left, (with the dead-end road to Tetbury Upton on the right), from this point keep to the footway on the left hand side of the road. After about a further 300 m watch for a footpath sign indicating a footpath on the right hand side of the road.

Carefully cross the road **5** and go over the stone stile, take this footpath. Walk diagonally to the right across this field to a stile in the right-hand side wall and cross the stone stile. Cross the next field diagonally to the left-hand boundary wall and cross the stone stile approximately 100 metres from the left hand corner, into the next field, entering at one corner. The path goes diagonally across this field to the opposite corner. Go through the field gate and after 20 metres go through a single gate, then straight across the next field to a wooden stile where the path crosses the drive to a farm (Lodge Farm). Cross the drive to the stile on the opposite side and cross the next field to a kissing gate leading into a small lane (Chavenage Lane). Turn right along the lane and walk for about 400 m, passing the entrance to Chavenage House **D** on the left after about 200 m.

Take the marked path (The Macmillan Way) **6** on the left past The Wild Carrot Café (a welcome stop for refreshments) and follow the track along the edge of a field for about 300 metres and then between two fields. The path descends and comes out in the corner of a larger field through a gate. The Macmillan Way goes straight ahead, but you should follow the path round to the left keeping fairly close to the wall and hedge.

At the end of this long field, **7** turn to the left and cross a stile into a wooded area and follow the path, parallel to the course of a sometimes dry stream. To see the remains of two caves in the hill above this footpath (reputedly the home of a hermit many years ago) detour left up a steep track after a crumbling dry stone wall. They are not as deep or as interesting as they once probably were. Return to the path and continue until a small lane (Chavenage Lane) is encountered. Turn right and follow this lane for around 1 km back into Tetbury until it meets Hampton Street.

Cross this road **8** and turn almost immediately left into the road almost opposite (Court Field), walk down Court Field until its cul-de-sac end and take the foot exit at the right-hand end, on to a busy main road (London Road). Cross this road and turn right and almost immediately take the footway on the left between the Priory Inn and a road called The Ferns; the footway is named Eccles Court. Follow this until it emerges into one corner of the area called **The Chipping**, **E** which is mainly used as a car park.

Turn left down the raised pavement and follow the pavement past the entrance to Love Lane to the Royal Oak Inn and the entrance to the long stay car park which is where the walk started from.

POINTS OF INTEREST

A LOVE LANE

This footpath follows part of an ancient pack-horse route from the centre of Tetbury towards Cirencester later superseded by the link from the bottom of The Chipping to the Royal Oak and Cirencester Road, and the one by the flatter route along Long Street and London Road

B SIR WILLIAM ROMNEY'S SCHOOL

Sir William Romney's School, named after a 17th century native and benefactor of the town, was founded in 1610. It is now a local authority Community School and moved to this location and into these buildings in 1969. It moved from far more cramped premises based on "The Ferns", a house in Long Street in the centre of Tetbury.

C BLIND LANE

Blind Lane is part of the old Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road.

D CHAVENAGE HOUSE

Chavenage House is an Elizabethan country house with a long and colourful history, and is said to be haunted. In recent times it has been used in many films and TV programmes, including Poirot, Lark Rise to Candleford and Poldark.

E THE CHIPPING

The Chipping has been for centuries the site of markets and Mop Fairs. On the left as you enter it is The Priory; originally called Hacket or Hicket Court it was rebuilt in 1766/67, was at one time in the 19th century the residence of John Frampton, then Vicar of Tetbury.

G THE ROYAL OAK

The Royal Oak is a Grade II Listed Building (a 17th-century coaching inn) and has recently been restored into a fine pub. Over 200 years ago the vicar of Tetbury, Richard Davies, was the owner of the inn, leasing it out to tenant landlords. In 1891 the town had 22 public houses.