

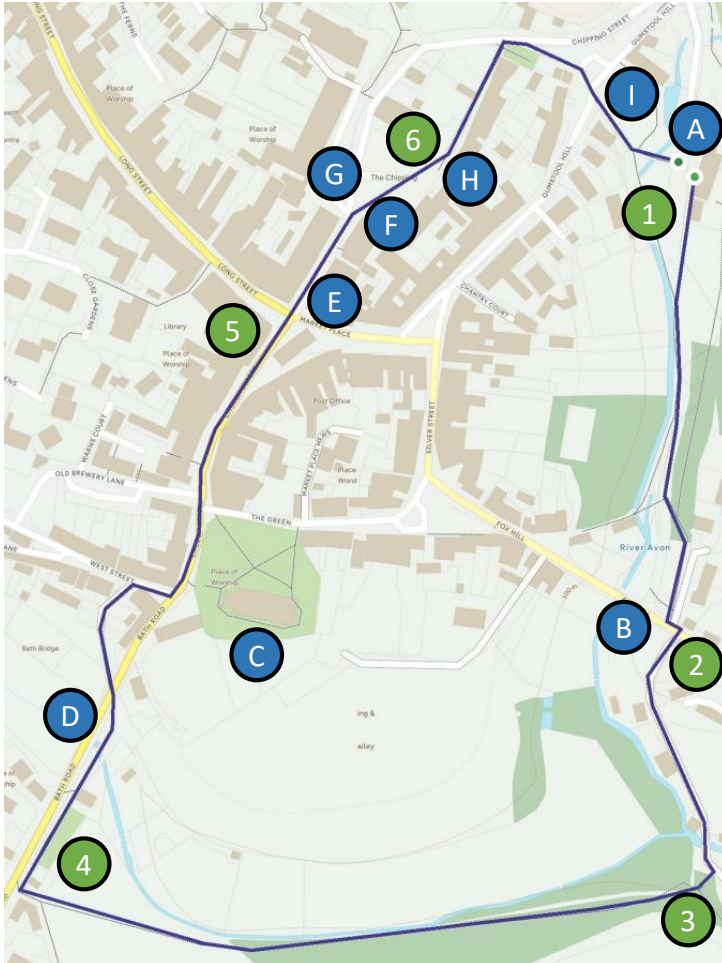
The Circle & District Line

A short walk around the centre of Tetbury, taking in many of the town's historic features.

Distance 2km (1.25 miles), Walking Time approx 50 minutes (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.



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C **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, one of the earliest and best examples of its kind, was opened in 1781, replacing an earlier medieval church on the same site, where previously stood an Iron Age hill fort. It is noted for the high box pews, the height of the nave, the size of the windows, and the carillon which rings out four times daily.

D **Bath Bridge:** built in 1775 by a local mason, Thomas Webb, to ease the incline of the Bath to Cirencester road, it became the principal entry to the south of the town. It replaced the old packhorse bridge and is said to be the "most outstanding example of an arched dry stone road bridge in the country". Built of coarse rubble with arches of differing sizes for reasons unknown. Granted Grade 2 Listed Building status in 1985.

E **Snooty Fox:** a grade II listed building originally called The White Hart, the name was changed by previous owner, industrialist and entrepreneur, Maxwell Joseph. Joseph wanted to ride with the local Beaufort Hunt, who were disparaging about his industrial background (though they met in the bar of his pub) and black-balled him. Joseph responded by barring them and renaming the pub The Snooty Fox.

F **The Chipping:** in medieval times, a market and gathering place for 'Mop Fairs', where locals would hope to find employment. At the far side, the Chipping Steps descend a narrow cobbled lane lined with old weavers' cottages.

G **Christ Church:** built as a Congregational Church in 1862 at a cost of £3,000, the rear schoolroom was used as a recreational centre for unemployed men during the depression of 1932-33, and during WWII as accommodation for British and American troops. It became a combined URC and Methodist church for Tetbury in 1992..

A **Goods Shed Arts Centre:** this building is all that remains of Tetbury railway station, the 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 **Wiltshire Bridge:** strictly a causeway as it was built to ease the steep incline into town. The stream running beneath marked the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire border until 1935 when the border was moved further out of town to where the old Roman road (Fosseway) crosses the Tetbury – Malmesbury road.

H Little Hall Arch: screen passage of a medieval Hall-house (Little Hall) built in 1275 and partially rebuilt in 19th century, it incorporates two ancient doorways, the oldest architectural features in the town. The passage leads to a courtyard, on the left of which is the old Malt House which served as the top-secret headquarters of an American map-making regiment, where plans and scale models were prepared for the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach in Normandy in June 1944.

I Millennium Green: site of the old cattle market in operation until the 1980s when it fell into disuse, due to the demise of the nearby railway and centralisation of the agriculture trade. It was purchased by the Feoffees of Tetbury (influential townsfolk) and laid out as a green to celebrate the Millennium in 2000. Some of the auctioneer's huts can still be seen.



Description

- 1** Facing away from the Goods Shed main entrance, turn left towards the site of the old station with a stream on the right. 50m before the white double gates take the path on the left to reach Wiltshire Bridge and the main road to Malmesbury.
- 2** Cross the road with care and take the lane opposite. After passing "The Tanyard" on the right, cross the small bridge and turn right and go through a kissing gate, continuing upward beside the wall for 10m.
- 3** Turn right and follow the path through the wood next to a low stone wall. At the end of the wood continue following the path to the gap between two stone houses. From here is a view of St Marys' Church, the dominant landmark of the town.
- 4** Pass between the two stone houses and go through a kissing gate to reach the main Tetbury to Bath road. Turn right but instead of following the main road, take the small lane to the right, crossing the stream by an old packhorse bridge. Pass under the last arch of Bath Bridge and climb steeply up the path. Turn right at the top (into West Street) and very soon turn left into Church Street, passing the Visitor Information Centre, to reach the Market Hall.
- 5** From the Market Hall cross to the Snooty Fox hotel, continuing ahead along Chipping Street to The Chipping car park. To the left of the car park can be seen the Italian style Chapel (Christ Church), a fine terrace of Georgian houses, and the Priory (a large 18th century building occupying the site of a medieval manor house). Head for the far right hand corner of the car park, where there is an archway leading to a narrow passage between two house (a gate has the sign "Little House").
- 6** Continue from the corner of the car park down the picturesque Chipping Steps. (At the bottom is the disused burial ground of a former Dissenting Chapel, the predecessor of Christ Church.) Ascend a short flight of steps to reach the road, and immediately turn right down a path to reach the Millennium Green (formerly the cattle market). To the right is Gumstool Hill, scene of the Woolsack Races. Pass to the right of Millennium Green, cross the footbridge over the stream (the "Splash") to return to the Goods Shed.

