

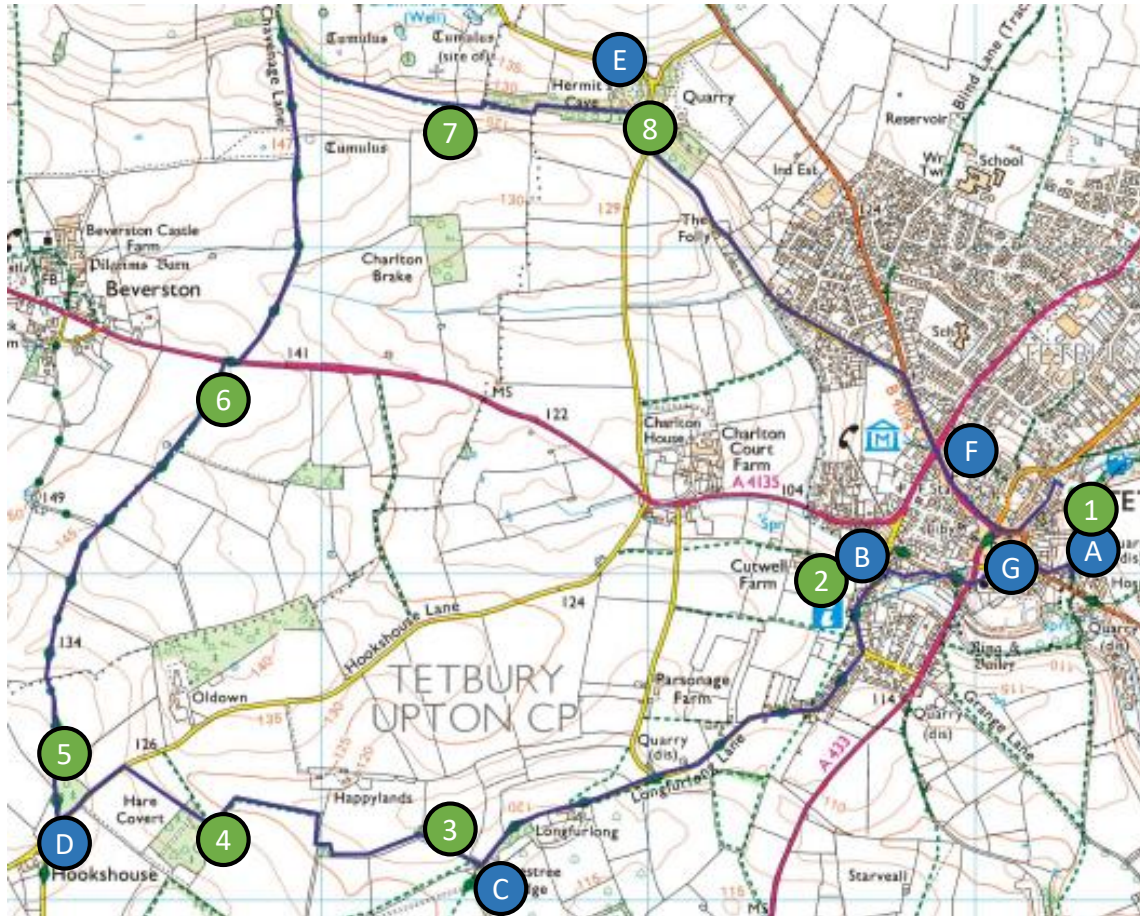
Of Princes and Paupers

A walk to the east of Tetbury, taking in farmland, country houses and woodland.

Distance 10.1km (6.3 miles), Walking Time approx 2.5 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** 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.
- C** Highgrove House: a grade II listed building built by John Paul in 1798 as a 'fine modern residence'. The Georgian house was remodelled by the then Prince Charles with neo-classical additions in 1987. Now the country residence of HM King Charles and HM Queen Camilla.
- D** Hookhouse Pottery: a craft pottery established in 1975 producing hand-made ceramic ware, housed in an old Cotswold stone house.
- E** Hermit's Cave & Wood: the cave that gave its name to this area of woodland is to the left of the path, up the slope hidden in trees.



F **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.

G **Market Hall:** the grade I listed Market Hall is an attractively restored pillared building which dates to 1655. Originally three stories high, it was rebuilt and reduced to the present two stories in 1817. Over the years 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 steps then sharp left. Fork right to climb the short hill to the main road. Turn right, after 20m cross the road, up some steps and follow the path in front of 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. Soon 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** After 300m the road bends sharply left; continue ahead into Longfurlong Lane. Follow this lane for 800m, beyond the houses and out into open country.. Where the lane bends sharply right, continue ahead along the 'No Through Road'. Continue to reach a lodge house (entry to Highgrove on the left is not allowed).
- 3** Just before the lodge, two small Footpath signs in the trees to the right point into a field. Go through the left of the two gates into the field and go straight ahead with the field boundary to the right for 150m towards a small spinney of trees. After passing this spinney to the right, go through a gate, turn left and with the field boundary on the left, continue for 300m to the end of the boundary wall. Go through the gate to the right of another small spinney and then turn right to go anti-clockwise around three sides of a large field.
- 4** Half way along the third side is the corner of a large rectangular block of woodland (Hare Covert). Here turn right just before the barn and continue along with the edge of the wood to your left. Where the wood ends, bear left through a large gap in the hedge, then bear immediately right to continue in the same direction, with the hedge covered drystone wall now to the right and a field to the left. After a short distance go through a small wooden gate with care (possibly overgrown with brambles) and onto the lane.
- 5** Turn left uphill along the lane for 400m to reach the road junction and pottery at Hookshouse. Just before the pottery, turn sharp right through a wide wooden gate, along a stone-based track through a copse, following the track for 400m along the track between two field boundaries with a hedge to the right and a wire fence to the left, heading due north.

The track narrows and becomes bordered by trees as it dips across a shallow valley, slowly curving to the right, for 500m. Ignore the path that forks to the left and keep right following the signed bridleway – the Macmillan Way. For the next 600m the path is a wide grass bridleway at the edge of a field with the boundary to the left. Tetbury Church spire is sometimes visible through the trees on your right. Reach the main Tetbury – Beverston road through wide metal gates with a small pedestrian gate to the right.
- 6** Turn right along the main road, then turn left after 30m, continuing along the Macmillan way through a metal gate. This shortly becomes a wider track for 800m until reaching a metal gate. Go through this gate, down into the valley with the field boundary to the left. On reaching the valley bottom, turn sharply to the right and continue for 700m with the stone wall on your left. On approaching the field boundary ahead (gate, hedge and fence), cross the stile by a metal gate to the left.
- 7** Go forward for 20m, then follow the path curving right through a grove of young trees for 400m, heading east. The path, which can be wet and rough underfoot, keeps near the bottom of the sloping ground. When it converges with the course of a small stream (sometimes dry) continue, keeping the stream on your right. A little further on, diverge away from the stream, bearing left (towards an old wall) and continue through the wood to emerge quite soon through a metal gate onto Chavenage Lane.
- 8** Turn right, ignoring an almost immediate right turn, and continue along the road for about 1 km to reach Hampton Street. Bear right and continue to the crossroads. With the old Magistrates Court to the left, continue ahead up Long Street). Pass the Market Hall, then turn left down Gumstool Hill. At the bottom turn right past Millennium Green, over the bridge and back to the Goods Shed.