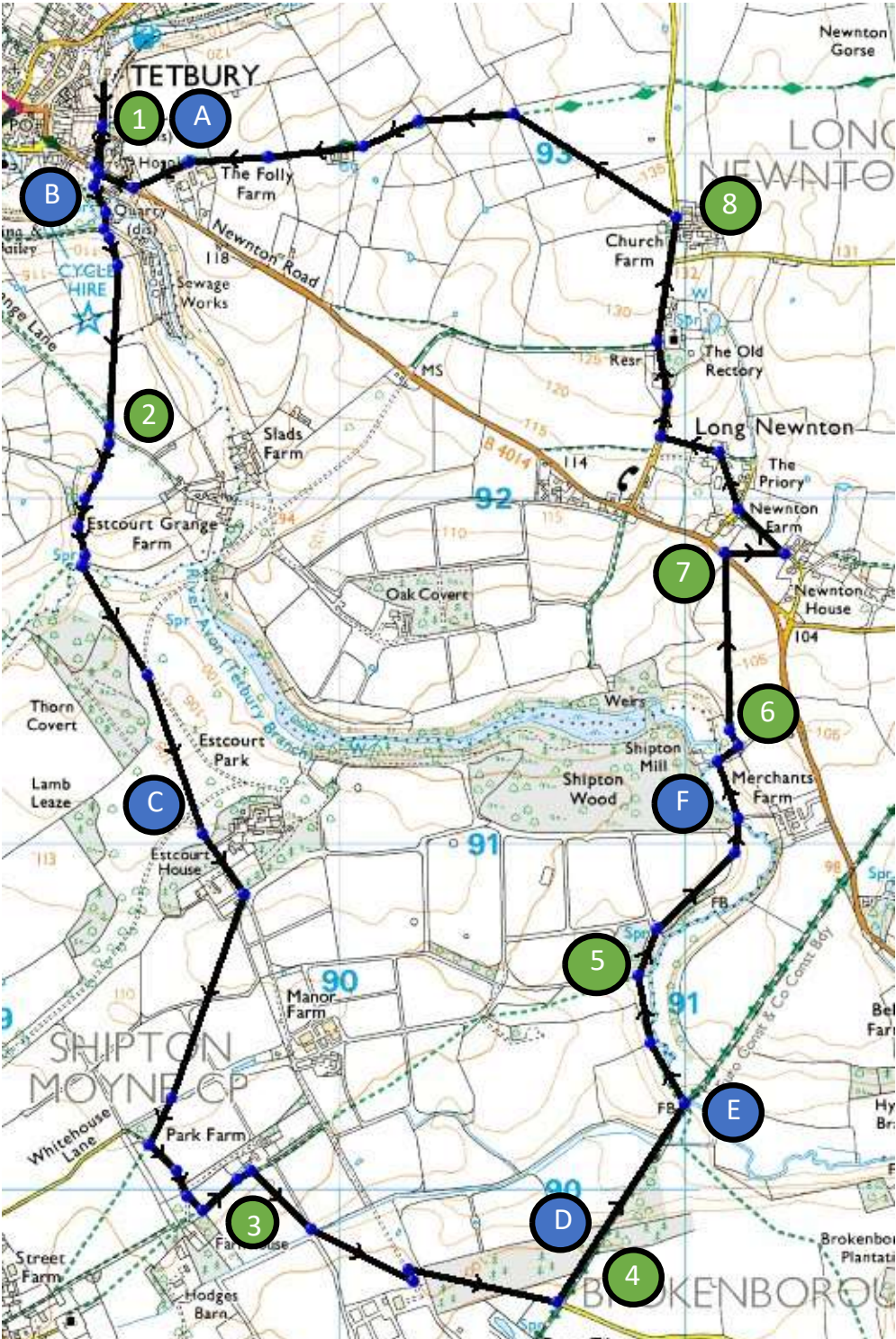


# Walks around Tetbury

## Number A3: The Floss on the Mill

Discover the River Avon, a Roman road, an old mill and a stud farm.

Distance 11 km (7 miles). Walking time 4 hr Grade B



Shipton Mill



Packhorse Bridge



Shipton Moyne  
Church

- This is an alternative, i.e. the reverse direction, to the Mill on the Fosse Walk 3. It is to the south east of Tetbury, mainly across flat farmland, through Estcourt Park.
- Take a picnic, as there are no refreshment facilities en route. Alternatively take a detour (~ 800m) at point 3 to the Cat & Custard Pot Inn, Shipton Moyne.
- The walk starts at The Goods Shed in Tetbury by Tetbury's long stay car park GL8 8EY.

1

Facing the entrance of the Goods Shed, turn right and follow the sign: "Town Centre via Wiltshire Bridge", along the path that was the railway line to Tetbury Station. When you reach the main road between Tetbury and Malmesbury, cross the road at Wiltshire Bridge, and go down the lane opposite, a restricted byway. After 200m, cross over a bridge and go right through a kissing gate. Bear left up the hill through a spinney. Cross the stile and go uphill, keeping the field boundary to your left. Cross another stile into the next field. This is the Palladian Way. Keep the field boundary to your left and go over a stone stile into the next field still keeping the field boundary to your left. Look back to see a lovely view of Tetbury's church spire. St. Marys' has the tallest spire in Gloucestershire.

2

Cross the stone stile and bear half left. (Another footpath goes right.) Keep the field boundary now to your right. The path descends to a stile. Keep to the Palladian Way (ignore the footpath through the wooden gate). Keeping the field boundary to your right go to a wooden gate into a spinney. The path descends to a stream via rough steps to go over a narrow stone bridge. Go over the nearby wooden bridge and a wooden stile into the next field. Head 45 degrees left uphill, to a wooden white waymarker post. Continue straight on the waymarked route to reach a wooden stile. The path now joins a tarmacked road, continue right along the drive to Estcourt House, continue past a metal sign: "Fosseway, Manor Farm, Estate Office". Go through the wooden side gate. You will see the Estate Office on your left but continue straight between two low stone walls with two tall stone walls set back, to reach a lodge house on the right. After the house, the path turns right to a stile in a hedge. Cross this and bear half left. Go through the wooden gate on the right into a paddock and cross diagonally left, to a gate at the far side. (If you don't like horses you can follow the paddock boundary fences around.) Go over a stone stile in a wall and bear right to a wooden gate into another paddock. Go diagonally right to a wooden gate at the far side. Cross the grass path to another wooden gate and bear 45 degrees right. Pass between a wooden fence and a planted wood to a wooden stile in a hedge. Turn left onto the tarmacked road, keeping the hedge to your left.

3

At the junction where Park Farm's tarmacked entrance drive goes left, go straight between the tarmacked roads onto a grassy track with a wooden fence to the left and woods to the right. After 50m, at the hedge boundary, turn left to keep the stone wall on your left and the hedge boundary on your right. The wall gets taller as you reach Park Farm on your left. At the end of Park Farm at a stone outhouse, the footpath goes right, through a hedge, with a wooden stile. Carry straight on between two wooden paddock fences. Cross over the ditch and on the other side to your left there is a wooden gate into a paddock. Bear diagonally left across the paddock, towards a wood and to a gate at the other side. (If you look back behind you can see Shipton Moyne's church at the field's high point.) Go through the gate over a tarmacked drive to a stile into the wood. Go diagonally through the wood, crossing a grass track in the middle. At the end of the wood there is a gap in the hedge with a wooden stile. Cross this and then another one and then go diagonally left to a gap in the hedge on the other side of the field. Cross the wooden stile and the stone stile to reach the Fosse Way.



- 4 Turn left onto the Fosse Way. The way descends, keep straight on. At the bottom you reach a sandbagged culvert bridge over a stream. Keep straight on the Fosse Way where the track widens to a splash (a good place to cool aching feet) with a packhorse bridge. Just before the splash there is a wooden stile and gate to your left in the hedge. Go into the field beyond and keep the field boundary and river to your right, leaving the Fosse Way behind you. When you reach a metal gate and wooden stile at the field boundary, go over the stile through a grass patch to another stile and metal gate, still keeping the stream to your right.
- 5 Go straight over the next field to another metal gate and wooden stile. Cross this and follow the track through a spinney. The track leads to a white post way marker in a stone wall, which you cross. Keep the hedge to your right and the wooden fence to your left and you'll find a stile in the wooden fence which goes into the field on your left. Go over the stile into the field and now keep the paddock's wooden fence to your right. Where the fence curves around to the left, go over the wooden stile in the fence to leave the field. Descend to a wooden gate and go over a pretty stone bridge, crossing a stream. Bear left through a double wooden gate and diagonally across the field to the beautifully situated Shipton Mill. Go through the metal gate and turn right on to the metalled road in front of a cottage. Go along the road to the end of a high stone wall on your left. Turn left up a stone track keeping the high stone wall on your left.
- 6 When you come to a wooden gate in the hedge with a white post, go through and head towards the next white post, keeping the field boundary to your left, and aim towards the far right corner field boundary. As you go over the rise, you will see another closer field boundary come into view. There is a point in the new boundary hedge that projects into your current field. Keep this point to your left and stay in the current field. You must now aim for a white post and a wooden stile in the hedge ahead. This hedge borders the Malmesbury to Tetbury Road (Take care).
- 7 Go over the stile and immediately go over another wooden stile and onto the road. Cross over the road and go slightly left to a stone stile with steps up a bank. Go over, then diagonally right across the field to Newton Farm. At the corner of the five bar metal fence and the stone wall, go through the squeeze gate in the fence onto the drive. Go left through a double metal gate and carry on the grass path with the metal fence on your left and the hedge on your right. Go through the wooden gate at the end and continue down a path between two stone walls, next to a garden, to reach a narrow tarmacked road. Cross the road and over the next wooden stile. Cross the field diagonally to the far right corner of the field, keeping the tennis court to your left. Go over the stile in the corner, pass the double garages and turn left through a wooden gate, up a path between two stone walls. When you reach a tarmacked road, turn right and continue along the road past Priory Cottage and continue to Holy Trinity Church on your right.
- 8 Continue on to Church Farm on your right. On your left, over the road, go over a stile to cross into a field and to the right of a barn. Go diagonally across the cropped field to the centre of the northern field boundary, where there is a gap in the hedge. Continue on this diagonal path to the far left corner of the next field. Cross into the next field over a wooden stile. Here you join the Monarch's Way. Go straight on to the far corner of the next field to a metal gate, heading directly towards the church spire. Continue on the same diagonal to Folly Farm. Go through the gate and turn left through the farm, keeping the cowsheds to your right. Now go along the concrete roadway to its end. Cross over a stone stile then immediately through a kissing gate to keep to the Monarch's Way onto a grass track. Go along the pathway past the Tythe Barn cottages. It now becomes a tarmac path. Go down the steps to cross Tetbury Hospital's drive and continue along the path to join the Tetbury to Malmesbury Road. Continue down the pavement to the start of Wiltshire Bridge and turn right to retrace your steps back to the Goods Shed.

## Points of Interest

- A Tetbury Railway Station**  
Opened in 1889 with great fanfare but was one of the first to be closed when Dr Beeching's axe struck in 1964. There is a video presentation of the Tetbury railway in the Goods Shed. Plaques are arranged around the locality showing where all the interesting railway structures were.
- 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 out of town to the Fosse Way.
- C Estcourt Park**  
1400 acres owned by the Estcourt family for centuries before being sold in 1996 to Prince Khalid bin Abdullah Al Saud. It is a large important stud farm which is part of his Juddmonte operations.
- D Fosse Way**  
This Roman road ran from Lincoln to Exeter and is so named as it was bordered on both sides by a 'fosse' or ditch.
- E Packhorse Bridge**  
As the name implies, this is a bridge to carry pack horses over a river or stream. Typically, it has a narrow masonry arch and low parapets so as not to impede the horses' panniers.
- F Shipton Mill**  
A corn mill, which produces a wide range of specialist flour, has been milling flour since the time of the Domesday Book. It uses French burr millstones carefully dressed. In 1339 the miller paid rent of "a quart of good ale and a bushel of flour". The mill was the centre of social life and villagers and farmers used to wait on site for their corn to be ground. The local abbot in Malmesbury quarrelled over fishing rights of the mill stream and sequestered the miller's stock of millstones (expensive) which he used to pave Malmesbury. French prisoners of war helped redirect the river to assist the millstone grinding. It was a ruin in 1981 and bought by John Lister who knew nothing about milling. He completely refurbished it to the wondrous place you see today milling the best of the best flour.

We hope you've enjoyed this walk. Other walks are available to buy or you can download them from our website: <https://www.tetburywalkers.co.uk/>