

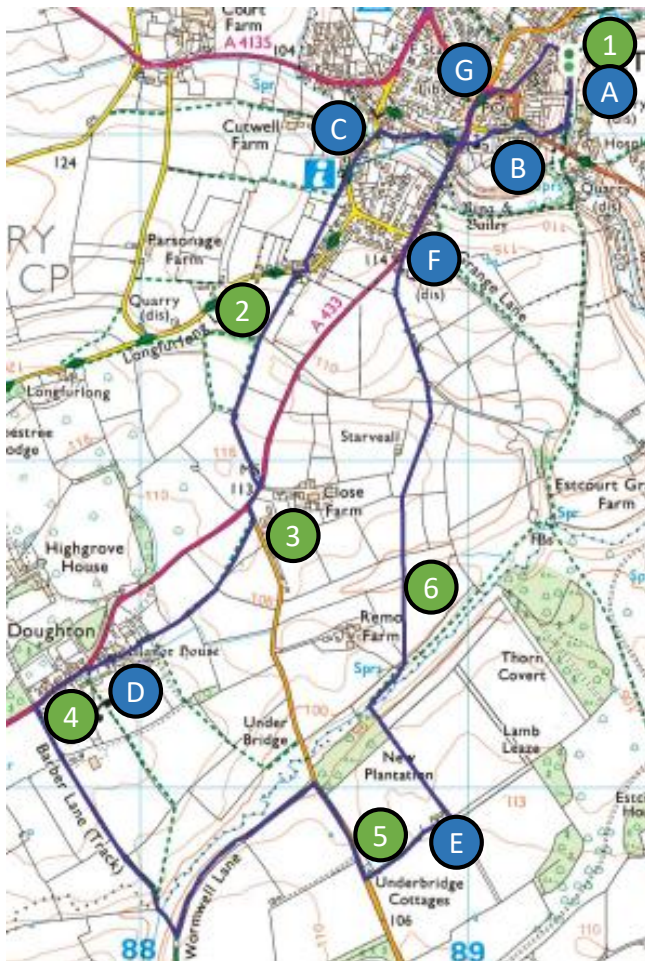
Kevin's Good Manors

A walk along long-established green lanes, passing Highgrove and the hamlet of Doughton.

Distance 8.5km (5.3 miles), Walking Time approx 2.5 hours
(Grade A 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 railway 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, 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.
- 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 that the direct one via Black Horse Hill.
- D** Doughton Manor: a grade I listed building built by Richard Talboys in 1641 on the site of a medieval hall. A fine example of an Elizabethan manor built of local limestone on a conventional 'H' plan. Formerly occupied by tenant farmers when the owners lived nearby in Highgrove House. The grade II listed tithe barn west of the house probably dates from the 16th century.
- E** Estcourt Park: large estate (over 1400 acres) owned by the Estcourt family since the 14th century. The Park was created as early as 1515. The estate passed out of family ownership in 1996 and is now owned by an international thoroughbred horse racing and breeding enterprise.
- F** 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, replacing the old packhorse bridge. 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.
- 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 some 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 Marys' churchyard. Follow the path diagonally to the front of the church, then down steps through an arched gateway, crossing the road into West Street.

After around 100 metres 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). After a short row of cottages on the right follow the footpath sign to cross a stone stile in the corner onto a narrow passage to another stile, cross two paddocks to a wooden stile leading to a passage between two bungalows and pass in to Longfurlong Lane.

- 2 Turn right. Very soon after, turn left over a stone stile into a large field of pasture and head for the tall tree lined boundary opposite. Go over the stile and follow the path bearing left down through the spinney to cross a small wooden bridge; continue up the field with the low stone wall and hedge on the left, pass an old stone store on the right until reaching the busy Tetbury – Bath road. Turn right and carefully take the Shipton Moyne road on the left.
- 3 Soon a footpath sign by a stone stile on the right points the way across the field to a gate in the far left corner. Immediately turn right and go up the lane with the hedgerow to the right until passing the garden wall of Doughton Manor. Continue ahead along a lane lined with attractive cottages on to the Tetbury – Bath road. Cross the road and turn left, keeping on the pavement to reach the entrance to Street Farm Workshops.
- 4 Cross the road and follow Barber Lane, ignoring the turning on the left, and where the track bears left again go straight ahead on the narrower green lane, following this to reach a wooden gate. Go through the gate and keeping the boundary wall on the right pass over the stream. Follow the field boundary, climbing to reach Wormwell Lane at the top. Turn left on to the old narrow track (difficult conditions after wet weather), following it until the Shipton Moyne road is reached. Turn right up the road until a pair of cottages is reached on the left, then turn left on to a signed track.
- 5 Pass through the gate into Estcourt Park and after passing a derelict area on the left take the signed route on the left down a broad track/gallop to reach a gate before dropping down a steep bank to cross a stream by a wooden bridge.
- 6 Turn right along the valley and soon climb to double metal gates at the top of the bank on the left. Do not pass through but continue beside the stone wall for 50m to reach a wooden stile over the wall. Climb the stile into the corner of the field. The right of way may not be obvious if the field is under pasture. It bears diagonally right across the field, and the line keeps to the right of the spire St Marys' Church, which should be clearly visible. Cross the wooden stile on the field's far side and go straight ahead across the next field to a wooden stile then an old stone stile in the hedgerow. Still keeping to a line slightly to the left of the church steeple, cross a stile into another field. Turn right briefly and then left along the edge of a new plantation. Then follow the hedge boundary to the bottom of the field, bearing left for a short distance before passing through a gate into another field, following the hedge to the right for a short distance, then pass through a gateway in the hedge into Starveall Lane (initially a narrow track) which leads back to the Bath road.

Cross the road, turn right and just before Bath Bridge cross the road again and take the lane on the right, dropping down to pass under the bridge at the last span before the climb up Blackhorse Hill. At the top turn right and then left leading to the town centre and Market Hall. Bear right then turn left down Gumstool Hill. At the bottom turn right past Millennium Green, over the bridge and back to the Goods Shed.

