

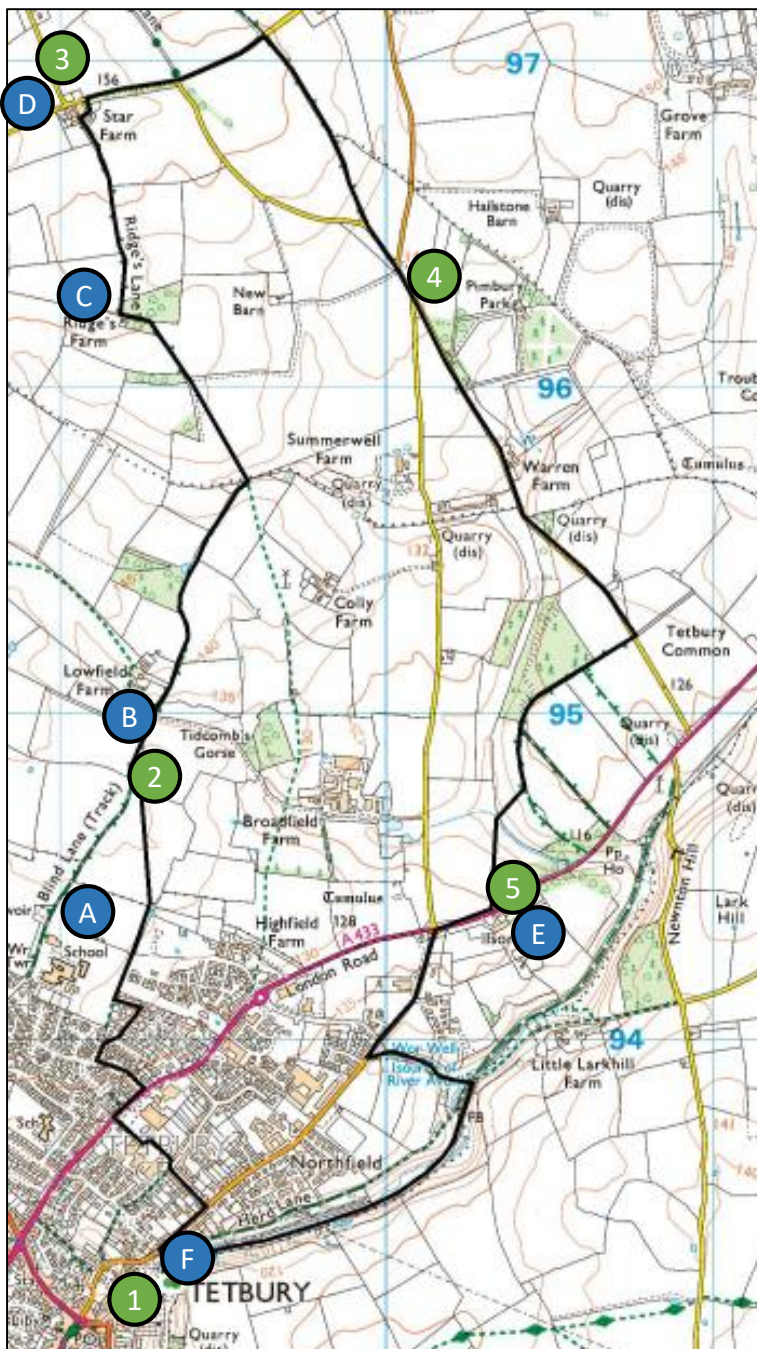
## A Wander around the Farms

A circular walk around several farms to the north of Tetbury, using an old coach road

Distance 8.8km (5.5 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 free long stay car park; point 1 on map

Refreshments: choice in Tetbury, none on route



- A** Sir William Romney's School: built in 1969 and named after a 17th century benefactor of the town, the school (then Tetbury Grammar School) moved from premises built in 1610 in Long Street, now a doctor's surgery. Tetbury-born Romney set aside £13 per year in his will for "a schoolmaster to teach the children of the town and parish, gratis, to read and write, and to cast accounts in arithmetic."
- B** Blind Lane: the former Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road, constructed in the late 18th century.
- C** Ridges Lane: another part of the former Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road.
- D** Star Farm: a Grade II Listed Building originally the Star and Garter Inn, lying on the Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road.
- E** Hillsome Farm Estate: Ilsom House was in existence by the 1730s when the owner, Hopeful Vokins, left a sum of money to the town to be paid out of the rent from his estate. Sir Walter Rueben Preston MP had it rebuilt in 1922, to designs by Maurice Chesterton, and then enlarged in the 1930s. In recent times, having been an elderly persons care home, it now provides 6<sup>th</sup> form boarding for Westonbirt School. The farm is now Larkshill Vineyard.
- F** The Royal Oak: a 17th century coaching inn (grade II listed), it was owned over 200 years ago by the vicar of Tetbury, Richard Davies, who leased it out to tenant landlords. In 1891 the town had 22 public houses.

## Description

- 1 From the Goods Shed take the long stay car park entrance road up to its junction with Cirencester Road. Turn right up the hill and take the first road on the left (Northfield Road), follow this until it turns right then after a few metres take the footpath on the left into the supermarket car park. Taking care, walk through the car park to its exit onto London Road. Cross over this road at the pedestrian lights, turn right and then take the first road on the left (Conygar Road). Follow this road and then take the first road on the right (Northlands Way). Take the first footpath on the left between some houses into a cul de sac (Talboy's Walk), turn right and at the end of the cul de sac turn right onto the footpath running alongside Sir William Romney's School playing fields.

This soon turns left, follow the path until it reaches the end of the playing fields, pass through a kissing gate and cross into the next field and take a diagonal route towards the far left corner. Go through the gate into a small copse and carry on ahead where you will see a metalled track (Blind Lane) running between two hedgerows.

- 2 Turn right and follow this track past farm buildings on your left. Leaving the metalled track, go straight on between two hedgerows and after approx 70m go over the wooden stile. Go straight on, keeping the hedgerow on your left, to the end of the field, where you go through a gap in the hedge into the next field. Continue straight on keeping the hedge on your left, go past a footpath to your right, then look out for a wooden gate in the stone wall on your left. Go through the gate and continue forward up the slight rise towards the trees to the left ahead, then keep the trees on your left heading for the far left hand corner of the field.

Follow the path between hedgerows on each side, after 200m bear left where the path becomes a wide track through a wood. After approx. 100m turn right into a lane (Ridges Lane), keeping the stone wall on your left. Follow this for 800m until you reach farm buildings (Star Farm).

- 3 After the first farm building on your right, take the track to the right behind the farm buildings and, after approx. 50m, turn left and go on to reach a metal gate onto a metalled road. Turn right along the road for 150m. Where the road turns right, go straight on for a further 150m where a footpath crosses the road, take the footpath on the right between two hedgerows and after 300m bear left onto a metalled road. After 70m bear right towards Tetbury.

- 4 Taking care, after 50m at the Y-junction bear left (not to Tetbury) and follow this road for approx 1200m where a track crosses the road, turn right at the permitted byway sign and follow this track between two hedgerows. Keeping the wood on your right the track curves to the left, at a Y-junction fork right through a gate into a field. Keeping the fence/hedge to your left, follow the field boundary for approx 200m when you bear right across the field towards double wooden gates in the far hedge (head for the a large house with tall chimneys on the skyline). Go through the double gates and cross the field towards a wooden stile in the fence. Go over the stile and pass through a copse and head across the field towards the house with tall chimneys. Cross the stone stile in the hedge to the road facing the large house (Holford House).

- 5 Turn right and taking care follow this road for approx. 200m where you need to cross the road and turn left into Cirencester Road. Follow this road for approx. 600m until you reach a footpath sign on your left, turn left onto the metalled road between two low stone pillars (one is marked "Worwell Farmhouse"). Follow this road for approx. 200m until you see a footpath sign on your right; take this path keeping the fence on your right and a stone wall on your left. Cross over a bridge and pass through a wooden gate, go up the slope ahead of you and through another gate. Turn right and walk along the old Tetbury to Kemble railway line back past the long stay car park to the Goods Shed. The Royal Oak PH is at the junction of the car park access road with Cirencester Rd.