



Walk Route



Points of Interest



Route Instructions

# Walks around Tetbury



## The Mill and The Fosse (Revised)

Discover the River Avon, a Roman road, an old mill and a fine country estate.

Distance: 10.5 km (6.5 miles).

Walking Time: 3.5 hrs.

Starts and finishes at free long stay car park:  
point 1 on map

Grade **B** on a scale where A is easy,  
and D is difficult.

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Tetbury & District  
Footpath Group



## Description

Distance: 10.5 km (6.5 miles)

This is a walk to the south east of Tetbury, mainly across flat farmland, returning through Estcourt Park. There are no refreshment facilities en route, so take something with you. Alternatively take a detour (~ 800m) at point 5 to the Cat & Custard Pot Inn, Shipton Moyne. The walk starts from **Goods Shed Arts Centre** A with free long stay parking adjacent 1.

With the Goods Shed on your left, follow the sign 'Town Centre via Wiltshire Bridge' until you reach the **Wiltshire Bridge** B and the main road. Turn left and continue up the hill to Tetbury Hospital drive. Cross this and take the few steps up to a pathway signposted Monarch's Way. Continue along this pathway, through a kissing gate and over the stone stile. Continue along the concrete roadway to Folly Farm. Go through the farmyard with large barns on your left. Veer right through a metal gate. Cross the field, bearing left and heading for the metal gate in the middle of the far hedgerow. Cross the next field and head towards the stile in the middle of the opposite hedgerow. Go over this stile and bear diagonally right passing under the right-hand overhead power cables at the first pole. Continue to go through a wide gap in the hedge, and follow a diagonal path across the next field towards the farm buildings 2.

Go over the stile and turn right along the road and walk for ~650m, passing Holy Trinity Church. 50m before the 30 mph signs turn left along the waymarked footpath. This leads into a quiet road which bears round to the right past Priory Cottage.

After 100m, take the narrow footpath on the left between a garage and Green Hay Cottage. Go through the wooden gate ahead and almost immediately go through the squeeze gate on your right. Follow the right-hand field boundary and go over the stone stile to the main Tetbury – Malmesbury road. Cross this road, taking care to watch for traffic coming over the brow of the hill 3.

Go over the two stiles in the hedge opposite. Walk diagonally to the left across the field, over the rise and down towards a white post to a wooden gate near the corner of the field. Go through this gate, drop down to the road, turn right and after 50m note **Shipton Mill** C ahead of you. Just before the Mill entrance turn left through a wide metal gate and cross the field and go through the double wooden gates ahead. Bear right over a stone bridge (over the Tetbury branch of the river Avon), through another wooden gate and up a steep bank, keeping close to the wooden fence on your right. Cross the stile ahead, turn left and follow

the path that runs close to the fence line. Go over the next stile, turn right and then left to follow a broad grassy track down to a stile. Go over the stile and follow the left-hand path which keeps close to the river. Cross another two stiles and through a wooden gate to reach the **Fosse Way** D. At this point note the ford on your left and the fine example of a **Packhorse bridge** E. This is an ideal spot for a picnic – approximately half-way.

Turn right uphill along the Fosse Way for about 700m 4. Turn right over a stile opposite the road junction, cross the field and over two more stiles in the wooden fence opposite. Follow the grass path slightly to the left and diagonally through the woods. This opens out onto the neat and orderly Estcourt Park estate. If you prefer not to walk through the paddocks with horses in them, then follow the permissive paths around the perimeters of the paddocks.

Go over a stile, cross the grass area and through the small wooden gate ahead, cross the field diagonally right, down towards a small wooden gate in the far corner. Look out for the fine view of Shipton Moyne Church to your left. Go through the gate, turn left then right and follow the wide grassy path between the fields. Go over the stile and turn left at the T-junction ahead you. At the end of the stone wall, turn right 5. Follow the road straight ahead, keeping the hedge to your right. After ~200 m look for a stile in the hedge on the right-hand side.

Go over the stile and follow the path. Cross the gallop using the two wooden gates. Head diagonally right across the field and through the next gate. Keeping to the diagonal, head to the white post, over the stone stile and through the gate opposite. Cross the paddock diagonally right and through another gate. Turn left and then right over a stile in the hedge. Walk to the white marker post and turn left along the roadway and walk towards the double gates ahead. **Estcourt House** F, was sited just beyond the stables.

Go through the pedestrian gate ahead and follow the driveway to the right. Pause and admire the splendid view of St Marys' Church and the immaculate Estcourt Park. Follow the driveway for ~ 500m and go left over the stile 6. Follow the three white marker posts down to a stile. Cross the stile and footbridge. Follow the path round to the right, over an old stone bridge and up some steps. Go through the gate and turn left along the path that follows the field boundary, crossing a couple of stiles on the way, until you reach arge double wooden gates 7. Go through the right-hand gate and follow the path, keeping the field

boundary on your right. Cross a stone stile followed by a wooden stile and downhill to the next wooden stile. Go over this and on down through a kissing gate. Turn left to follow the road over a bridge and uphill to the Malmesbury Road. Cross the road, go through the gate and retrace your steps back to the Goods Shed.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

#### A GOODS SHED ARTS CENTRE

This building is all that remains of Tetbury railway station. The railway opened in 1889 with great fanfare but was one of the first to be closed when Dr Beeching's axe struck in 1964

#### 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.

#### C SHIPTON MILL

A mid 19th century corn mill which is now a specialist mill of organic flour. French prisoners-of-war helped re-direct the river to assist the stone grinding of the corn.

#### D FOSSE WAY

This Roman road ran from Lincoln to Exeter and is so named because it was bordered on both sides by a 'fosse' or ditch.

#### E PACKHORSE BRIDGE

As the name implies, this is a bridge to carry packhorses over a river or stream. Typically it has a narrow masonry arch and low parapets so as not to impede the horses' panniers.

#### F ESTCOURT PARK AND ESTCOURT HOUSE

The Estcourt family lived here from 1303 and the park was created as early as 1515. The original Manor House was replaced by the much larger Estcourt House in 1770 and the estate and pleasure gardens were enlarged and improved throughout the 19th century. The house itself was demolished in 1964, though the stables, farm buildings and several smaller houses remain. In 1996 the estate was sold in its entirety. Thus, after seven centuries, it passed out of the hands of the Estcourt family. The estate, some 1500 acres, is now owned by an international thoroughbred horse racing and breeding enterprise.