

Walks around Tetbury



Tetbury's Genesis

A short walk into the country all around St. Marys' Church

Distance - 2.5km (1.5miles)

Walking Time – 1.00 hr

Starts and finishes at the Market Hall: point 1 on the map

Grade A on a scale where A is easy and D difficult (note there are ten stiles to cross, some of which are a little tricky)



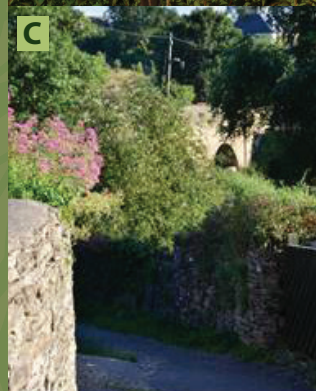
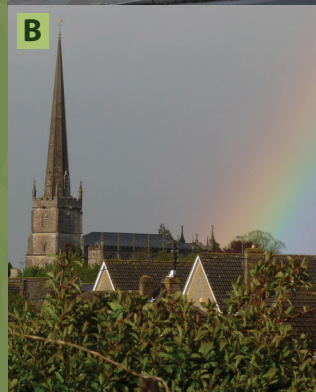
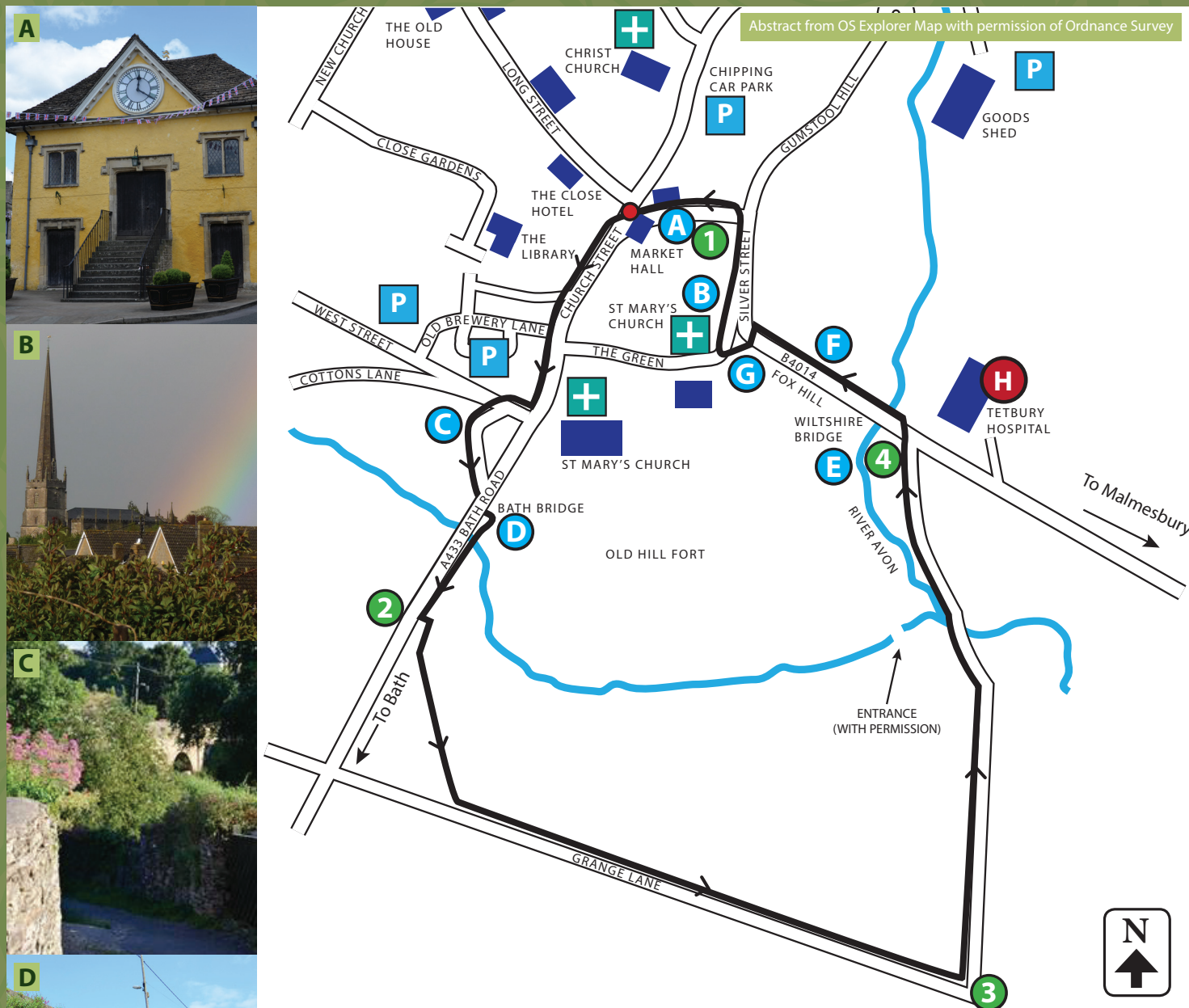
Walk Route



Points of Interest



Route Instructions



Distance – 2.5 km (1.5 miles)

① With your back to the **Market Hall** steps **A**, walk along Church Street and past (or pop into) the Parish **Church of St. Marys** **B**. Cross into West Street and, after only a few metres, turn left down the narrow lane known as **Blackhorse Hill** **C**. This lane descends fairly steeply to pass under the **Bath Bridge** **D**. Cross the stream, which may be dry, by the old packhorse bridge, and walk up the lane, noting a plaque on the left wall that gives a very short history of the Town.

② Nearby, a stone stile gives access into a field and, keeping right alongside a typical Cotswold dry stone wall and obeying the instruction to 'keep to the public path' walk to the top of the field and climb over a stile in a wire fence followed very shortly by another stile. Cross the path in front of you and go over another wooden stile. Keeping the boundary hedges on your right continue to another wooden stile. Go over this into a small spinney and then over first a stone then a wooden stile and into a field. Continue straight ahead between the lines of trees until you come to two large wooden gates and a stone stile in a cluster (ignore these)

③ At this point turn sharp left and follow the field boundary on the right until you come to a stone stile. Go over this and into the next field noting as you go the slender spire of St. Marys' away to your left. Continue straight on and cross a wooden stile and now note the Sewage farm in the valley to your right. Very soon the field drops away and after crossing yet another stile as the small woods start, the path drops down and becomes tricky until you go through a kissing gate below you to the right. Go through the gate and bear left. You are now on the little road that leads to the main road and Wiltshire Bridge **E**.

④ With care cross the road and continue uphill passing the Old Fox Inn **F**, and very soon take a short detour up some old steps on your left (about halfway up the hill) to pass alongside the Green **G** and some attractive old cottages on your way back to the Market Hall.



POINTS OF INTEREST

A MARKET HALL

This fine two storey, attractively restored pillared building dates back to 1655 and was part of the prosperous wool trade of that time. It has undergone considerable alteration over the years but is still regarded as the finest example of its kind in the Cotswolds. The Cupola on top was added to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

POINTS OF INTEREST

B ST MARYS' PARISH CHURCH

This is one of the earliest and best examples of Georgian Gothic churches in the country. Its full name is St. Mary the Virgin and St. Mary Magdalen. Its tall and elegant spire is a prominent feature in the surrounding countryside and its Carillon tunelessly rings out daily at 9.00am, midday, 3.00 and 6.00pm

C BLACKHORSE HILL

Named after the pub of that name which once stood in West Street. Spare horses were kept at this point to help pull the coaches up this very steep incline as they approached Tetbury from the South.

D BATH BRIDGE

Built in 1775 to ease the incline for the Bath to Cirencester road and it then became the principal entry into the south of the town. It is said to be the 'most outstanding example of an arched dry stone road bridge in the whole of the country'. This new bridge replaced the old Packhorse Bridge over the River Avon (Tetbury Branch). In 1985 it was granted Grade 2 Listed Building status.

E WILTSHIRE BRIDGE

This is strictly a causeway as it was built to ease the steep incline into the Town. The stream running underneath marked the Gloucester / Wiltshire border until 1935 when it was moved to where the old Roman road (the Fosseway) crosses the Tetbury to Malmesbury road

F THE OLD FOX INN

The Old Fox Inn is a former 16th Century coaching inn, now a B & B. It was caught up in the infamous 'Tetbury Sensation' case of 1924. William Bignell was seen drinking in the pub with Margaret Legg prior to calmly walking to a field just the other side of Wiltshire Bridge and cutting her throat. He said he wanted to be arrested so that he could have a bed for the night. Not surprisingly he was tried, found guilty and hanged at Shepton Mallett Gaol.

G THE GREEN

Once the centre of the Anglo Saxon village and is overlooked by houses mainly dating from the 16th and 17th centuries. The exceptions are Barton Abbots which was built in the 18th century and almost opposite it, the Catholic church of St. Michael which was built in the late 19th century.