

Walks around Tetbury



Inspiring Tetbury

Circular walk never leaving sight of St Marys' church spire.

Distance: 5.5km (3.4 miles)

Walking Time: 1.5 hrs

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

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

→ Walk Route

Points of Interest

Route Instructions

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Description

Distance: 5.5 km (3.4 miles)

A circular walk that gives glorious views of the countryside surrounding the southern edge of the town, and views looking back up the various river valleys it crosses towards the town's historic buildings and features.

The walk starts at the Long Stay car park. ① Walk past **the Old Railway Station Goods Shed** ① along a footpath with the stream down to your right. As you approach the double white gates in front of you turn left, onto a gravel path leading to a single gate onto Fox Hill at the foot of **Wiltshire Bridge**. ② ③

Cross the road and walk down a track directly opposite passing two stone cottages on your right, continue until you reach a stone property on your left. At this point leave the track and pass through the kissing gate in front of you (ignore the footpath which turns right towards the church). Climb the bank bearing left onto a footpath walking past the sewage works down to your left. Continue along this footpath and walk for approx. 0.8km climbing one traditional stone stile towards Estcourt Grange Farm.

At this point, ③ turn sharp right through a five-bar gate along an avenue of lime trees. At the end of the avenue go through the gate between the two five-bar gates onto a path leading to the tarmac surfaced Grange Lane. Walk straight on until you reach Bath Road.

Cross **Bath Road** ④ ⑤ into Berrells Road, immediately in front of you. Walk along the road until you reach Long Furlong Lane.

Turn left into Long Furlong Lane ⑤ and walk for approx. 1.6 km until you reach a no through road sign where you turn right into a lane which leads northwards (If you walk a little further up Long Furlong Lane you will be able to see the outer part of Highgrove gardens through the trees, the country home of HM King Charles III, but you must return to the junction to continue).

Continue past Parsonage Farm on your right for approx. 1.6 km until you reach Beverston Road. ⑥ Turn left and walk 50 metres along the verge on the south side of the road to a bend and cross the road into a lane opposite Hookshouse Lane (be very careful in crossing this busy main road)

Follow the lane past Charlton Court Farm ⑦ and take the signed footpath, through a metal field gate, on your right 200m past the drive to the farm (which has no name plate).

Cross the field, with a hedge on your left, down to a stile in the corner of the field on your left. Cross the stile and head down through the next field with the hedge still to your left to a traditional stile in the corner of the field. Cross this stile and over a small stone bridge into a passageway leading to Newleaze Gardens. ⑧ Go straight up the road to a tee junction and turn right onto **Chavenage Lane**. ⑨

Follow Chavenage Lane to Hampton Street, cross over (look right to ⑩) and enter Courtfield. Walk down Courtfield to its cul-de-sac end, turning left onto the end of Magdalen Road. Turn right here and pass along a passage, through a gap in the hedge into London Road. Turn right and cross the road at the pedestrian crossing. Turn left on the other side and then right into Priory Way.

Walk along Priory Way, ⑩ ignoring the left fork, until you reach The Damsells where you turn right onto a footpath called **Love Lane**. ⑪

Walk down the lane ⑪ until you reach The Chipping. Turn left and walk down the street crossing the road opposite the **Chipping Steps** ⑫ and down a steeply dropping, narrow passage on your right to John Phillips Millennium Green (**the site of the old cattle market**). ⑬

Cross the green to a bridge ⑬ over a tributary to the Tetbury branch of the river Avon and through a field gate to the old Goods Shed. Turn left and return to your car in the long stay car park.

POINTS OF INTEREST

① THE OLD RAILWAY STATION

You will walk through the site and up the access road of the old Tetbury railway station which served as the terminus to the Great Western Railway branch line from Kemble. It opened in December 1889 and was closed by the Beeching cuts in 1964. The Goods Shed has been renovated by the Tetbury Railands Trust as an Arts Centre.

② WILTSHIRE BRIDGE

The fine Wiltshire Bridge, or causeway, built of Cotswold limestone towers above a tributary to the Tetbury branch of the river Avon and was built to reduce the gradient of a route used as the main access to the town for those travelling from Malmesbury to Minchinhampton in medieval times.

③ ST MARYS' CHURCH & CASTLE

The current church dates from the late 18th century, and replaced an earlier medieval church. It was designed by Francis Hiorn of Warwick, and opened in 1781.

The church sits on the site of an Iron Age hill fort and is thought to have been later occupied by a castle in 1144. It is also thought to be the site of an ancient burial site or 'bury' which gives the town its name.

④ THE TETBURY BREWERY

The Brewery was founded in 1800 by John Cook in a former woollen warehouse, it remained in the family until 1913 when Nathaniel and Walter Cook placed the Brewery on the market and it became the property of Stroud Brewery Company who closed it down. The building remained intact until the engine house and chimney were deemed unsafe in the 1980s and subsequently demolished but the listed buildings that remained were turned into luxury apartments.

⑤ THE PRIORY

The Priory is a large detached town house facing The Chipping, built in 1767 by Matthew Sloper, with a C19 additional wing to the north incorporating what are thought to be the remains of a medieval priory.

⑥ CHIPPING STEPS

The rather quaint Chipping Steps are of medieval origin, and lead down three flights from The Chipping to Cirencester Road. By the 18th century the area had become one of the humbler parts of the town. The houses there belonging to the Estcourt family were occupied by such people as carpenters, masons, and cordwainers. It is now quite a tourist attraction.

⑦ THE CATTLE MARKET

Millennium Green was the site of the old cattle market which was in use until the 1980s when it fell into disuse, no doubt due to the demise of the railway station nearby and centralisation of the agriculture trade to Cirencester. It was purchased by the Feoffees and laid out as a green to celebrate the millennium in 2000. You can still see some of the auctioneer's huts.