

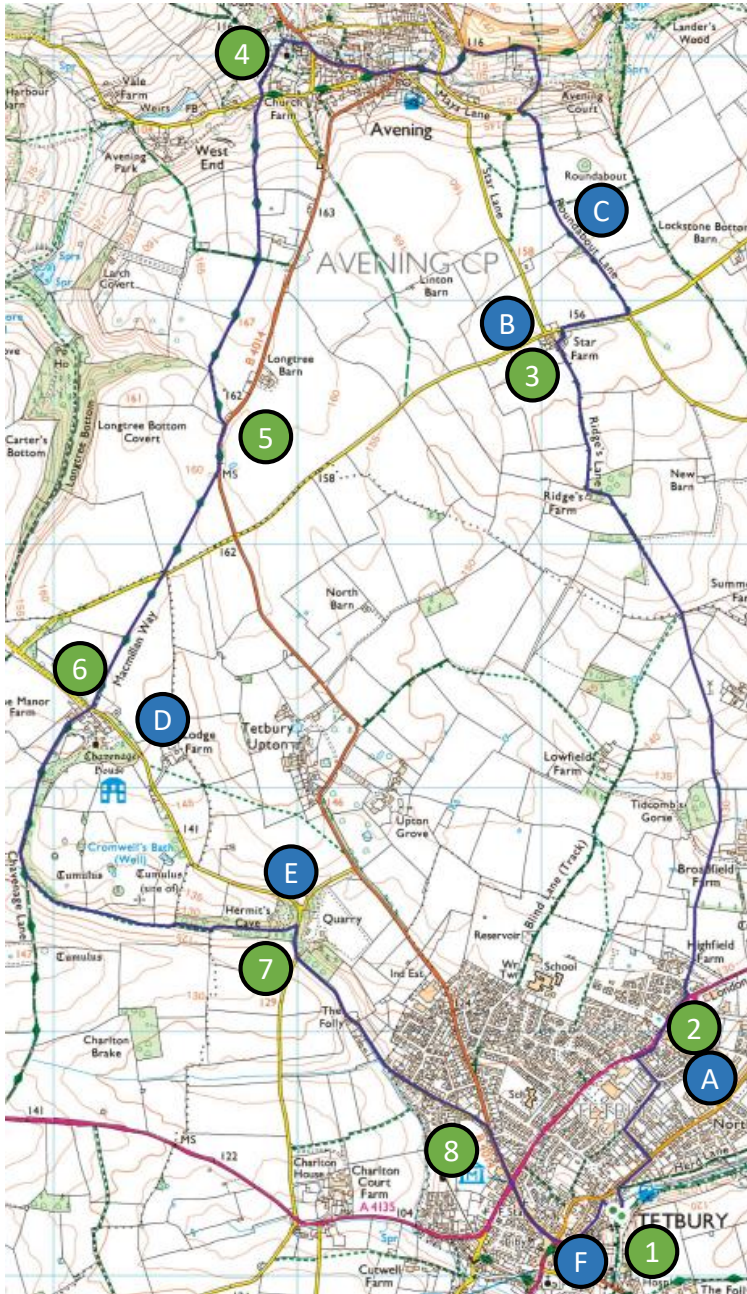
To Avening with a view of Royal Parkland

A walk to Avening and back with views of Gatcombe Park and Poldark's Chavenage House

Distance 14km (8.5 miles), Walking Time approx 4 hours (Grade B/C 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, café near Chavenage House (check opening times)



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- A** Star Farm: a Grade II Listed Building originally the Star and Garter Inn, lying on the Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road.
- B** 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.



- C** Pillbox: pillboxes were part of the anti-invasion line of defence to protect Bristol during WW2.
- D** Chavenage House: (just off map) built around 1400 as a monastic residence, the estate was taken by the Crown during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, then bought by the wealthy Stephens family in 1551. A major reconstruction made it into the classic 'E' shaped Elizabethan manor house. It has had a long and colourful history, being a base both for Parliamentary troops in the Civil War and Eisenhower in WW2. More recently, it has featured in film and tv productions such as Poirot, Lark Rise to Candleford, Wolf Hall and Poldark.
- E** Hermit's Cave & Wood: the cave that gave its name to this area of woodland is to the left of the path, up the slope hidden in trees.
- F** 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, take the access road ahead. At the Royal Oak turn left and after 150m turn right into a footpath (Love Lane) enclosed by stone walls. Cross the road ahead and continue along Love Lane to reach Northfields Road. Continue on this road; it soon turns left and after 150m reaches the main London Road.
- 2 Cross the road, turn right along the pavement to the mini-roundabouts. Cross back at the second mini-roundabout and continue on the pavement to just before the large roundabout. Cross over and follow the path through the hedge. Turn right and follow the pathway. Cross the road and bear left diagonally between the houses, then through the parking area to a wooden stile. Turn right and follow the signed path across a small meadow, then the drive to Highfield Farm, and on across the grass to another stile in a line of beech trees. The path bears left, aiming to the left of a tall pine tree in the hedgerow. Pass a derelict five-barred gate in the corner and continue following the signs into a field. Continue ahead across the field towards a gate in the far boundary, crossing the drive to Broadfield Farm.

Pass through the gate and up an incline, passing through a five-barred gate to the left of a large oak tree. Continue across the pasture crossing a wooden stile into a small spinney. Keep to the left of a pond, then over a wooden stile into the field beyond. Keep to the left edge of this field, crossing a wooden stile in the far corner into a small overgrown spinney, then over another stile into the next field.

Continue in the same direction, following the marked path towards the wall and hedge, then turn left following the waymarks around the field to reach a hedgerow with tall trees. Turn right, after 20m follow the path left down through the trees to the gate, then bear left up the hill to the high hedge. Keeping this to the left, pass through the gate in the corner of the field. After 200m bear left along a wide track through a wood, then after 200m turn right into Ridge's Lane. (If the fields have crops, it may be necessary to divert around the edge of the fields.)

- 3 Follow the lane for 800m to Star Farm, turn right then left between farm buildings to reach a metalled lane. Turn right to a junction in 150m, left down a green lane (Roundabout Lane) at the footpath sign and follow it for 1km to its end. Turn sharp right along metalled road, passing the entrance to Avening Court on the right. At the road junction turn left. After 300m cross the main road, following the pavement into Avening village. Continue down to the Memorial Hall on the left.
- 4 Immediately after the hall, turn left passing the school to reach Holy Cross churchyard. Follow the path through the churchyard, passing to the right of an ancient yew and to the right of the church. Continue to the left through the churchyard up the incline, passing through the wooden gate at the top and the adjoining kissing gate. Bear right and follow the path diagonally uphill across the field to a stile, then straight ahead to the next stile and on to a stone stile into Point Road. Go through the metal gateway directly opposite.

Now part of the Macmillan Way, the path passes through the gate bearing right following the steep grassy footpath and keeping close to the boundary on the right. Continue up through a wooden gate, passing to the right of a group of trees and over a stile into the next pasture. Continue ahead following a low stone wall to the left, crossing a wooden stile and tarmac track, to climb the next wooden stile. Continue over a stile into another field. Shortly before the far boundary, cross a stone stile near the field corner. Head diagonally left to the far corner of the next field, passing through a gap into the next field. Continue along the edge of the field and through the copse ahead to the corner of the next field.

- 5 Continue diagonally right across the field to reach a gap in the wall and hedge in the far corner. Pass through, crossing the road diagonally through a gap in an old low wall into a field. The path continues across the middle of the field to the far side. Continue into the next field, keeping to the edge of the field with the wall on the left. Cross a stone slab over a ditch and a wooden stile, then across the narrow field over a stone stile into Chavenage Lane.
- 6 Take the bridleway opposite, between the buildings and then into a field with a wood on the left. The path descends, emerging in a larger field through a gate. Bear left along the valley bottom, turning left into woodland through a metal gate at the end of this long field. Turn right after 20m and follow the curving path through the woods for 400m keeping to the bottom of the sloping ground. Continue where the path converges with a small stream (sometimes dry), keeping the stream to the right. A little further on, diverge from the stream bearing left towards an old stone wall. Continue through the wood, soon emerging through a metal gate onto Chavenage Lane.
- 7 Turn right and follow this lane for around 1 km back into Tetbury until it meets Hampton Street.
- 8 Turn right and continue to the crossroads, then straight passing the Market Hall. Turn left down Gumstool Hill (steep). At the bottom turn right beside Millennium Green, over the bridge and back to the Goods Shed.