









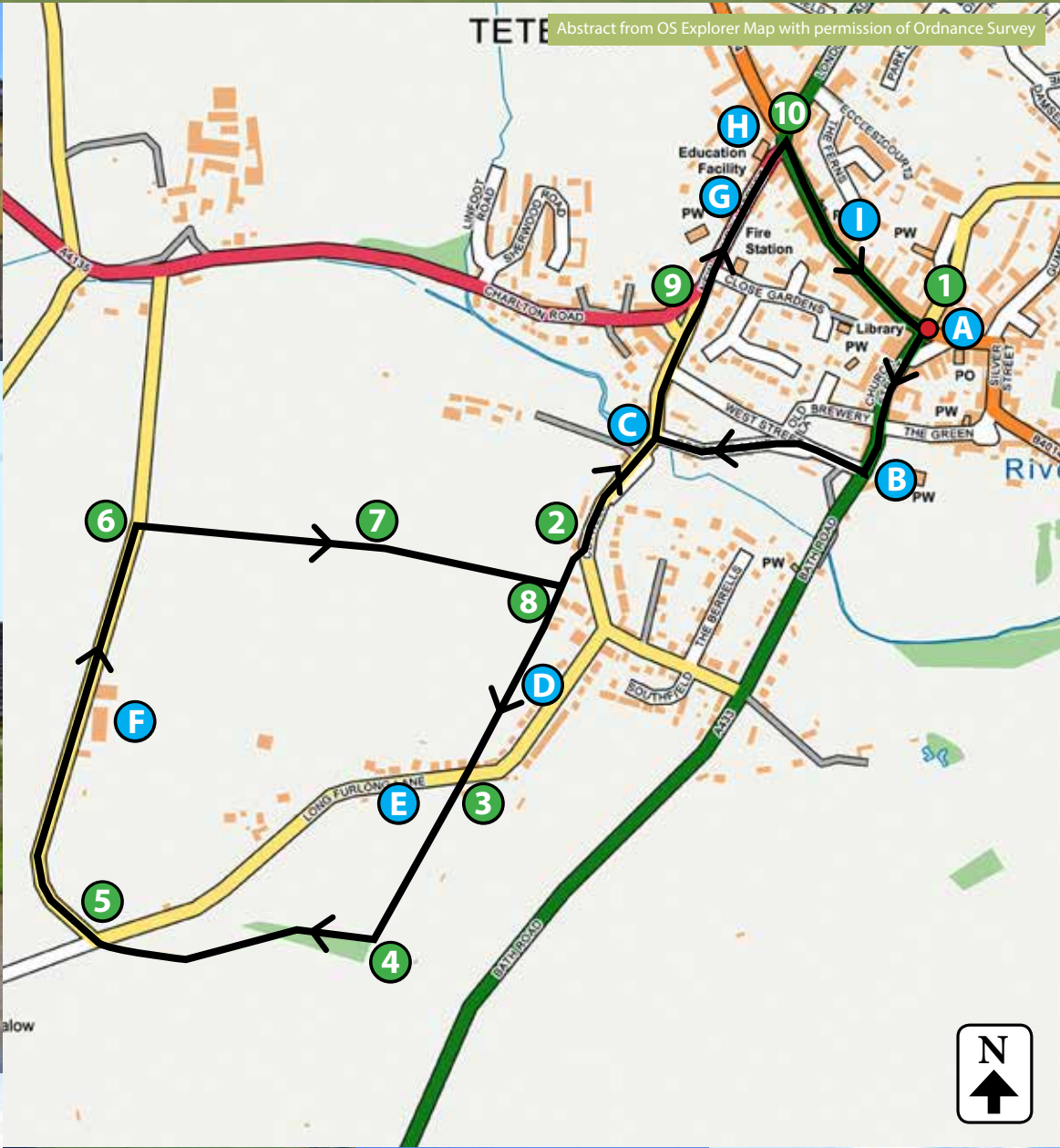
Walks around Tetbury

 Walk Route

 Points of Interest

 Route Instructions







To Be or Not to Be

A walk around the western fringe of Tetbury via the hamlet of Longfurlong, a pleasant country walk through local fields, but with rather a lot of stiles

Distance: 3.5 km (2.25 miles)

Walking Time: 1.25 hrs

Starts and finishes at Tetbury Market Hall

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

Description

Distance: 3.5 km (21/4 miles)

① From the Market Hall **A** turn down Church Street. Pass St. Marys' Church **B** and the turning into the Old Brewery Lane car park and take the next turning on the right into West Street. After around 100 metres take the left fork down Cottons lane. At the bottom, turn left to cross the ford **C**, often dry, and carry on up the opposite hill (Cutwell).

② At the end of a short row of cottages on the right (No 29), lookout for a Footpath sign and follow its direction over a stone stile and along a narrow path. (Ignore the stile on the right which you will return to later.) At the end of the path go over the high stone stile into a paddock **D**, divided into two by a post and rail fence with the necessary stile. Continue in the same direction to find a wooden stile leading to the right of way between two bungalows and pass through two garden gates into Longfurlong Lane **E**.

③ Turn right and, very soon after, left over a stone stile into a large field of pasture. Go forward, bearing slightly right, to find a wooden stile in the opposite hedge.

④ Go over the stile into a spinney, do not go straight ahead, but almost immediately turn right along a path that passes through the spinney. At the end of the spinney, turn left over a wooden footbridge and immediately right over a stone stile into a field. Continue with the course of the (probably dry) stream on the right. After about 175 metres emerge onto a lane, through a wooden farm gate, at a road junction.

⑤ Take the lane to the right of the "No Through Road" sign and continue along it, passing Parsonage Farm **F** and, after a further 250 metres, reaching a spinney on the right.

⑥ Turn right and follow the path through the spinney (known locally as "Cuckoo Pen"), to emerge over a stile into a field. Keeping the hedge on the left, after about 200 metres you will see a farm gate set in a wall on the left. Do not go through this, but instead carry on for a further 20 metres to find on the left a wooden stile into the adjoining field.

⑦ Go over this stile, turn right and continue, keeping the boundary hedge and then a wall on the right. When the boundary wall turns sharply right the right of way continues directly ahead to reach a double stile into the narrow path along which you passed on the outward leg of the walk.

⑧ Turn left down the path to emerge over the stone stile into the road. Follow the road downhill and back to the ford **C**. Continue straight ahead up the fairly steep hill.

⑨ At the top of this hill, where this road (Cutwell) joins a main road (New Church Street), go straight ahead along New Church Street, passing the Fire Station on your right and St Saviour's church **G** on your left and walk to the junction with Long Street.

⑩ At the junction, on the opposite side of the road can be seen the Town Council offices **H** previously the magistrates court. This building also contains the Tetbury Police Museum. At the junction turn right up Long Street **I** and follow this to return to the start of the walk.



POINTS OF INTEREST

A TETBURY MARKET HALL

The two storey 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, and the building is still the site of regular events.

B ST MARYS' CHURCH

This is the parish church of Tetbury; this magnificent Georgian Gothic revival building was opened in 1781, replacing an earlier medieval church on the same site. It is noted for the high box pews, the height of the nave and the size of the windows.

C CUTWELL FORD

This ford is often dry. On one side of the roadway is an old packhorse bridge, dating from c. 1662, now used by pedestrians. Before the Bath Bridge was built in 1774, this ford provided an alternative access to the town from the south west, having slightly easier gradients than the direct one via Black Horse Hill.

D CUTWELL FOOTPATH

This footpath runs parallel to Cutwell and joins that road to Longfurlong Lane

E LONGFURLONG HAMLET AND LANE

Longfurlong is an outlying part of Tetbury with dwellings on either side of Longfurlong Lane. This lane curves round the south west side of Tetbury and once was also the most direct route from Elmestree House and its estate to the town.

F PARSONAGE FARM

This old, traditional Cotswold stone farm, with out-buildings is passed on the right while walking along Longfurlong Lane. The name suggests that it may once have been a glebe property, owned by the diocese and providing income to the church.

G ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH

This church was built and opened in 1849 as a "Chapel of Ease" (a "daughter" church) to St. Marys', the parish church. The main impetus for its construction is attributed to the Revd. Charles Lowder, then the curate at St. Marys'. It was built so that poorer people in the town, who could not afford the pew rents in St. Marys' or find space there, had a place to worship. Revd. Lowder had a particular feeling for the less privileged in society and went on to become an outstanding "slum priest" in the east end of London.

H OLD POLICE STATION & MAGISTRATES COURTHOUSE

This building was the Magistrates Courthouse and Police Station for the town, built in 1883. By 1969 it was redundant, as a new Police Station was built in London Road, and the magistrates courts had moved to adjacent larger towns. It is now the offices of the Town Council and also the location of Tetbury's Police Museum.

I LONG STREET, TETBURY

Long Street in Tetbury is, one of the two main shopping and commercial streets in Tetbury, the other being Church Street, along which the walk started. Long Street's importance as a through route increased over time as it provided a link to what is now the principal road to Cirencester and that to Wotton-Under-Edge; being a much flatter route than the earlier roads to the east, which involved steep downhill and uphill gradients shortly after leaving the town centre.