



Walk Route



Points of Interest



Route Instructions



# Walks around Tetbury



## “TETBURY’S LUNG”

A walk through Preston Park to Little Lark Hill and back via Long Newnton.

Distance 5.5 Km/3.5 miles (Black) with an alternative finish (Blue) extending the walk to 6.3 Km/4miles.

Walking time: 1.75 hours (Black)  
2 hours (Blue)

Starts and finishes at the Market Hall.

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



## Description

Distance 5.5 Km/3.5 miles (Black) with an alternative finish (Blue) extending the walk to 6.3 Km/4miles.

① From the Market Hall **H**, go along Chipping Street to the left of The Snooty Fox to the Chipping car park, cross the car park to the Chipping Steps at the far right-hand corner of the car park. Go down the Chipping Steps, then up a short flight of steps (or avoid the climb by taking the level alternative path), cross the road to the footpath and turn right along the main road, which curves left, for about 100 metres to the Royal Oak public house.

At the Royal Oak, ② cross back across the road and take the tarmac bridle path called Herd Lane, passing the allotments then the electricity station, which you should keep on your right.

The farm gate/kissing gate **3** at the end of the bridle path leads into Preston Park **A**. Keep straight ahead on the higher ground until you come to some wooden seats some distance in front of you (ignore the footpath down into the valley and the first stone bridge) When you reach the seats look slightly to the right for a stone slab footbridge in the valley bottom Descend into the valley and cross this bridge **B** and go ahead through the gate on the right onto the former railway track (ignore the gate on your left).

Walk along the railway track **C** **4** avoiding the padlocked hunting gate on the bank on your right for about 300 metres until you reach double cattle gates across the path. Then, using the smaller pass gate on the right, walk diagonally across the field towards a house on the brow of the hill with a white barge board porch. When you reach the drive, turn left and walk over a cattle grid and through a farm gate. Go ahead past the new house on the right, for about 300 metres on a metalled road up to the crossroads.

At the cross-roads, **5** turn right and walk 1500metres along the road towards Long Newnton due South passing a WW2 pillbox by the roadside and another in the fields **D** both on the right, and with good views ahead on a clear day of Tetbury in the distance.

After about 800 metres, **6** look for a Footpath sign, immediately next to a farm gate, to the right over a stile into the fields. (In Winter or after a very wet spell this stile may seem to lead into a bog, or even a pond. In this case you would be well advised to take the Alternative Route described at the end of the walk description.)

The next two fields **7** might be grass or cultivated. Walk along the edge of the first field keeping the hedge on your right and after 500 metres look for the stile about 10 metres to the left of the corner of the field.

Cross the stile **8** and go diagonally across the second field with Tetbury Church always straight ahead (it might be easier to go round the edge of this second field, with the hedge on your right). Go through a gate into the third field of grass, and straight ahead through another gate to the milking parlour and cattle sheds of Folly Farm (which might be muddy underfoot), then ignoring the gravel track on your left walk 250 metres along a concrete track straight ahead towards The Tythe Barn and Folly Farm. Just before you reach the main buildings, turn right then immediately left, to pass through a kissing gate along the edge of a field with the farm buildings and recently built Folly Cottages on your left, for 200 metres to the bottom left corner of the field. Here the path leads down a slope and steps to the driveway of Tetbury Hospital **F**

Turn right along the main road **9**, down the hill to the Wiltshire Bridge past the white gates leading to old entrance to Tetbury station **G** and up the hill along Silver street back to the town centre.

### ALTERNATIVE ROUTE (longer by 800 metres)

Ignore the gap in the hedge **6** and stile and continue south along the road for a further 800 metres (ignoring another finger post opposite Church Farm) to reach Long Newnton Church on the left. **E**

Here **10** turn right down a broad green lane lined one side with an avenue of trees for 500 metres (some of these trees were planted as memorials to estate workers and members of the farmers family and you can still see some of the dedication plaques). Then, leaving the green lane where it bears left go straight through a hunting gate on the righthand side of the lane into a field, continue for another 400 metres with the hedge on your right, towards the main road.

You will then come to the main Malmesbury - Tetbury road **11**; cross this busy road to the pavement on the south side and turn right and walk about 1km back to Tetbury with the church straight ahead, past the Hospital and over the Wiltshire Bridge and up Silver street, as in the previous paragraph. (There is a pavement along this length of the main road but you will need to cross back over to the pavement on the otherside of the road when you get to the hospital before crossing Wiltshire Bridge.)

## POINTS OF INTEREST

### **A** PRESTON PARK

The old Herd (or drove way to the ancient Common) has long been Tetbury's "lung". Renamed Preston Park in 1995 when it was given to the Feoffees by the Preston family on a long lease.

### **B** SPRING

The spring near the footbridge is known as the Worwell, and is one of the sources of the Tetbury branch of the Bristol river Avon.

### **C** DISMANTLED RAILWAY

The branch line to Kemble Junction was in use from 1889 to 1964. At the point where the walk joins the line. There was a fatal accident to a deaf farm worker in 1894 at this crossing point and since then, until the line closed, locomotive drivers had to sound their whistle on approach.

### **D** WW2 PILL BOXES

The pill boxes and concrete blocks on the walk were part of the anti-invasion line of defence to protect Bristol during World War 2.

### **E** LONG NEWTON CHURCH

The Holy Trinity church serves Long Newnton as part of the Tetbury benefice. It has a C15 perpendicular style tower; the rest was rebuilt in 1841 with the north aisle added in 1870 by T.H. Wyatt. The West face has a Tudor arch doorway and 3-light above. The gabled south porch has a decorative timber frame. The interior is noted for its stained glass by Lavers.

### **F** HOSPITAL

In the late 1980s the NHS-run Tetbury Cottage Hospital was threatened with closure, so the people of the town decided to raise over £1 million to 'buy' it. Tetbury Hospital Trust Ltd was set up as a charity to run the hospital. The Friends of Tetbury Hospital came into being at the same time with HRH The Prince of Wales as its Patron and acts as the fundraising arm of the Hospital.

### **G** THE OLD RAILWAY STATION

You will look 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, ran increasingly quietly for seven decades and was closed by the Beeching cuts in 1964. The Goods Shed is currently being renovated by the Tetbury Railands Trust as an Arts Centre.

### **H** THE MARKET HALL

This 17th century Hall, owned by the feoffees of Tetbury is built on stone columns with stone flagged area beneath. Built in 1655, the Market House was part of the prosperous wool trade. It has undergone considerable alteration over the years, yet still has the distinction of being a Grade 1 listed building of historical interest and is the venue for a regular market in its cloisters twice a week and other events in the first floor hall.