



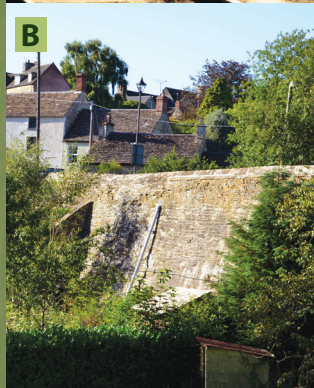
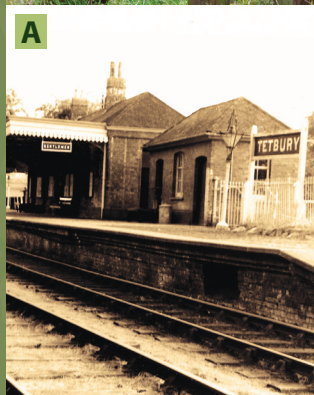


Walks around Tetbury

-  Walk Route  Points of Interest
 Optional Loop  Route Instructions



The Mill on The Fosse

Discover the River Avon, a Roman road, an old mill and an Arab stud farm

Distance: 8km (5 miles) - excluding 4.8km (3 mile) optional loop.

Walking Time: 2.5 hrs (or 4 hrs)

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

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

Description

Distance: 5 miles (excluding 3 mile optional loop)

This is a walk to the south east of Tetbury, mainly across flat farmland, through Estcourt Park, with a small section along or across quiet country roads.

NB There is no obvious stopping place on the walk so refreshments should be carried with you.

The walk starts from the old disused **railway station**, **A** now Tetbury Long Stay free car park. **1**

With the Goods Shed (dark brick building) on your left, follow the sign 'Town Centre via Wiltshire Bridge' until you reach the main road. Here, look right towards the **Wiltshire Bridge**, **B** and enjoy a fine view of Tetbury and St Mary's imposing spire. Turn away from the bridge and continue up the hill to Tetbury Hospital drive. Cross this and take the few steps up to a pathway signposted Monarch's Way. Continue along this pathway which becomes a grass track and joins a concrete roadway going straight to Folly Farm. Go through a metal gate into the farm with cowsheds on your left. The farmyard is usually muddy all year round. Veer right towards another metal gate. Cross the field, bearing left and heading for yet another metal gate in the middle of the far boundary hedgerow. Cross next field to a stile in the middle of the far hedgerow, go over this stile and bear right towards buildings. Go through a gate in the hedge, and follow a clear path across the next field towards them. To the left a stile leads on to a road. **2**

Turn right along the road past Holy Trinity Church on your left. Just before the 30 mile speed limit sign on your right, take a lane waymarked on the left. This becomes a quiet road and bears round to the right past the old Priory (now named Priory Cottage).

Soon another waymarked footpath appears on the left between a garage and an old cottage. Proceed to a wooden gate and just beyond look for a squeeze gate in the metal fencing that surrounds the field on your right.

Go through the squeeze gate, cross this field to the right corner and go over a stone stile to the main Tetbury – Malmesbury road. **3** Cross this road, taking care to watch for traffic coming over the brow of the hill to your left.

Go over the two stiles in the hedge opposite. Cross a large field bearing slightly left. As you cross, the far hedge is obscured by the rise in the field, but eventually a metal gate appears in the wooded boundary. Go through this gate and drop down to a quiet road, turn right and after 50m note **Shipton Mill**, **C** ahead of you.

At this point the extra optional loop of 3 miles (shown as a dashed line) starts, as follows:

Take the signposted route on your left through a wide metal gate and cross the field to the far right-hand corner. Here, go through a large wooden gate and bear right over a stone bridge (over the Tetbury branch of the river Avon), through another wide wooden gate and up a grassy incline. Keeping the wooden fence to your right, go to the far side of the field, through an opening in a wall and down a slight slope to a gate and stile. **4** (Follow the Palladian Way route to the left). Look for another stile with a gate on the far boundary. Go over this into another small field and, keeping close to the river on your left, follow it to the far side of another field. Here, a gate and stile open out on to the **Fosseway**. **D** At this point note the ford on your left and the fine example of a **Packhorse bridge**. **E**

Go uphill along the Fosseway for about half a mile. Another quiet road joins the Fosseway from the left and at this junction **5** a wooden stile appears in the high hedge on your right. Go over this and cross diagonally the field to two stiles in the wooden fence opposite. Turn left and take the grass pathway through a wood.

This opens out on to the neat and orderly stud farm part of **Estcourt Park**. **F**

Cross diagonally right the field in front of you, go over the wide, grassy track to a narrower path that leads to a T-junction in about 200m. **6** Here turn right, go through a large wooden gate and look for a white post to your right. This post points out a Permissive Pathway which you follow to the next white post about 200m ahead. Take the small gap in the hedge and, bearing partly right, head for another white post and stile in the far hedge. Cross this field, heading slightly left until reaching a double wooden stile only visible when close to the far hedge. Turn right, soon dropping down a slope and you will recognise the gate and stile crossed on your way out. Retrace your steps up the slight incline, bear right alongside the boundary fence and on the far side, drop down to the Tetbury Avon. Head back towards Shipton Mill. Turn away from the Mill and climb up the small road and short path to the metal gate you came through earlier.

This completes the optional loop.

Here bear left, following the boundary wooded area on your left. Head for a white wooden post and two more hidden from view at the moment. Drop down to a broken-down boundary wall in front of you. Head for the opposite hedge where a gate opens on to a grassy path that turns right and leads up to the main road **7** in Long Newnton.

Cross it and take the road opposite back to Holy Trinity Church, taking the wide hedge and tree-lined path on your left. After 200m take an opening on your right into a field.

Follow the boundary hedge on the right which ends at a metal gate on to the main road. **8** Take care (fast traffic) along the narrow footpath until the road drops down past Tetbury Hospital. Cross the road before the bridge to a single gate on your right, and take the footpath to the Long Stay Car Park from where your walk began.

POINTS OF INTEREST

A TETBURY RAILWAY STATION

Opened in 1889 with great fanfare but was one of the first to be closed when Dr Beeching's axe struck in 1964.

B WILTSHIRE BRIDGE

Strictly a causeway as it was built to ease the steep incline into town. The stream running beneath marked the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire border until 1935 when the border was moved further out of town to where the old Roman road (Fosseway) crosses the Tetbury – Malmesbury road.

C SHIPTON MILL

A mid 19th century corn mill which is now a specialist mill of organic flour. French prisoners-of-war helped re-direct the river to assist the stone grinding of the corn.

D FOSSEWAY

This Roman road ran from Lincoln to Exeter and is so named because it was bordered on both sides by a 'fosse' or ditch.

E PACKHORSE BRIDGE

As the name implies, this is a bridge to carry packhorses over a river or stream. Typically it has a narrow masonry arch and low parapets so as not to impede the horses' panniers.

F ESTCOURT PARK

1400 acres owned by the Estcourt family for centuries, before being sold in 1996 to an Arab Sheikh, Prince Khalid bin Abdullah Al Saud. He maintains a low profile and runs this large, important stud farm as his hobby.