

Walks around Tetbury



Walk Route



Points of Interest



Route Instructions



Good Manors

A walk along long established green lanes passing Highgrove and the hamlet of Doughton

Distance - 8 kms (5 miles)

Walking Time – 2.5 hrs

Starts and finishes at the Market Hall: point 1 on the map

Grade A on a scale where A is easy and D difficult (note there are ten stiles to cross, some of which are a little tricky)

Description

Distance – 8 kms (5 miles)

① With the steps of the **Market Hall** **A** behind you, walk past (or pop into) **St. Marys' Church** **B** and cross into West Street. Go down the next street left after Blackhorse Hill; cross the **Cutwell Ford** **C** at the end and proceed up the hill. After a short row of cottages on the right, follow the Footpath sign over a stone stile and along a narrow passage to its end. Go over the high stone stile into a paddock and continue in the same direction to a wooden stile leading to a passage between two bungalows and pass into Longfurlong Lane

② Turn right; very soon after, turn left over a stone stile into a large field of pasture and head for the tall tree lined boundary opposite. Go over the stile and follow the path bearing slightly left down through the spinney to cross a small wooden bridge; continue up the field with the low stone wall on your left, pass an old stone store on your right until you reach a stile. Pass through the small spinney and out onto the busy Tetbury / Bath road. Turn right and carefully take the Shipton Moyne road on the left.

③ Soon a footpath sign by a stone stile on the right points the way across the field to a gate in the far left corner. Bear right through the gate and go up the lane with the hedgerow to your right until you pass the garden wall of **Doughton Manor** **D**. Continue ahead along a lane lined with attractive cottages onto the Tetbury - Bath Road. Cross the road and turn left, keeping on the pavement to reach the entrance to Street Farm Workshops.

④ At this point on the other side of the road is Barber Lane. Take this lane, continuing straight ahead, ignoring the turning on the left, to reach at last a metal gate. Go through this, keeping the boundary wall on your right and pass over the stream. After heavy rain you may have to improvise a way over the stream by using stepping stones and the wooden gate. Follow the field boundary as it climbs to reach Wormwell Lane. Turn left along this old track until you reach the Shipton Moyne road. Turn right up the road and soon you will reach a pair of cottages where a sign points to a track on the left.

⑤ Continue along this track into **Estcourt Park** **E** and after a while turn left after some derelict farm buildings and follow the broad route to a gate when you drop down a steep bank to cross a wooden footbridge.

⑥ Turn right along the valley and soon climb to the double metal gates at the top of the bank on your left. Do not pass through. Instead continue beside the stone wall for some 50 metres to reach a wooden stile over the wall. Climb the stile into the corner of the field. The right of way may not be obvious if the field is under pasture. It bears diagonally right across the field, and the line keeps to the left of the slender spire of St. Marys' Church which should be clearly visible. Cross the wooden stile on the field's far side and go straight ahead across the next field to a wooden stile then an old stone stile in the hedgerow. Still keeping to a line slightly to the left of the Church steeple cross a stile into another field. Drop gently down to the far right hand corner, cross the culvert and walk beside the right hand hedgerow and shortly turn into Starveall Lane which leads you back to the Bath road. Turn right to return to Tetbury and as you approach **Bath Bridge** **F**, take the lane that drops down to pass under the bridge and climb up **Blackhorse Hill** **G**. Turn right at the top then left into the town centre.



POINTS OF INTEREST

A MARKET HALL

This two storey, attractively restored, pillared building dates back to 1655. Since that time the main change has been the addition of a Cupola on top to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It has had various uses and reflected the prosperous wool trade of the time.

B ST. MARYS' CHURCH

This is one of the earliest and best examples of Georgian Gothic churches in the country. The full name is the church of St Mary the Virgin and St. Mary Magdalen and replaced the medieval church because of its sad state of repair. It is thought to be on the site of an ancient burial site or 'bury' which gives the town part of its name. Listen out for the carillon which tunefully rings out at 9am, midday, 3pm and 6pm.

C CUTWELL FORD

This is a small tributary of the River Avon (Tetbury Branch) and, before Bath Bridge was built in 1775, provided a much easier route into the town.

D DOUGHTON MANOR

A fine example of an Elizabethan Manor house built in 1641 of local honey coloured Limestone on a conventional 'H' plan with near cylindrical elevations. It was occupied by tenant farmers whilst the owners lived close by in Highgrove House, which is now the country residence of HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

E ESTCOURT PARK

1400 acres owned by the Estcourt family since 1330 and the Park was created as early as 1515 and has been improved and enlarged on several occasions. It was sold in 1996 to an Arab Sheikh, Prince Khalid bin Abdullah Al Saud with planning permission for a new principal residence. The Sheikh maintains a low profile and runs this large important stud farm as his hobby.

F BATH BRIDGE

Built in 1775 to ease the incline for the Bath to Cirencester road and it then became the principal entry into the south of the town. It is said to be 'the most outstanding example of an arched dry stone road bridge in the whole of the country'. It is built of coarse rubble and all the arches are different sizes but no one seems to know why. In 1985 it was granted Grade 2 Listed Building status.

G BLACKHORSE HILL

This was named after the Pub which once stood at the top. Spare horses were kept here to help pull the coaches coming from the South up this steep incline into the town.