Walks around Tetbury

Abstract from OS Explorer Map with permission of Ordnance Survey

Of Princes and Paupers
Elmestree - Hookhouse - Beverston - Hermit’s Cave
Distance - 9 km 5.5 miles
Walking Time – 2.5 hrs
Starts and finishes at the Market Hall: point 1 on the map
Grade A/B on a scale where A is easy and D difficult (note there are ten stiles to cross, some of which are a little tricky)
**Distance – 8 kms (5 miles)**

1. From the **Market Hall** turn down Church Street. Pass the Church 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** (often dry) and carry on up on the opposite hill (Cutwell).

2. After about 300 metres the road curves sharply to the left - here turn right into Longfurlong Lane. Continue along this lane for 800 metres, passing beyond the houses and out into the open country. When the lane curves quite sharply to the right, continue straight ahead, past the “No Through Road” sign towards Elmestree Lodge.

3. Pass Longfurlong House on your left and continue along the lane, with the edge of the **Highgrove Estate** on the left of the lane. Just before reaching the Lodge at the end of the lane, look for two small Footpath signs in the trees on the right pointing into a field. Go through the left hand of the two gates into the field and go straight ahead with the field boundary on your right for around 150 metres towards a small spinney of trees. After passing this spinney on your right, go through a gate, turn left and, with the field boundary on your left, continue for approximately 300 metres to the end of the boundary wall – ignore the first wooden gate on the left. Go through the second gate to the right of another small spinney and then turn right to go anti-clockwise around three sides of a large field. In summer, the crops in this field can leave little room to walk so take care as you negotiate your route.

4. Half way along the third side you will arrive at the corner of a rectangular block of woodland (Hare Covert). Here turn right through a gap in the hedge and continue along with the edge of the wood now on your left. Where the wood ends, bear left through a large gap in the hedge. Go through the gap and then bear immediately right to continue in the same direction that you have been walking, with the hedge covered drystone wall now on your right and a field on your left. After a short distance you will reach a small wooden gate; proceed through the gate with care (it may be somewhat overgrown with brambles) and onto the lane.

5. Turn left along the lane, uphill, for about 400 metres to approach the road junction and pottery at Hookshouse Pottery. Just before the pottery turn sharp right through a wide wooden gate, along a stone-based track through a copse and then walk about 400 metres along the track between two field boundaries with a hedge on your right and a wire fence on your left, heading due north.

Go through a gateway; the track narrows and becomes bordered by trees as it dips across a shallow valley, slowly curving to the right, for another 500 metres. Ignore the path that forks to the left and keep right following the signed bridleway – the Macmillan Way. For the next 600 metres the path is now a wide grass bridleway at the edge of a field, with the boundary on your left. Tetbury Church spire is sometimes visible through the trees on your right. Reach the main Tetbury – Beverston road through wide wooden gates with a small pedestrian gate to the right.

4. Turn right along the main road, then turn left after about 30 metres, continuing along the Macmillan way. This shortly becomes a wider track for about 800 metres after which it reaches a metal gate. Go through this gate, down into the valley with the field boundary on your left. On reaching the bottom of the valley, turn sharply to the right to go along the valley bottom for about 700 metres with the stone wall on your left. On approaching the field boundary ahead of you (gate, hedge and fence) look for a stile by a metal gate on your left.

5. Cross the stile, go forward for about 20 metres, then follow the path curving right through a grove of young trees for about 400 metres, heading east. The path, which is sometimes difficult to follow and can be wet and rough underfoot, keeps near the bottom of the sloping ground. When it converges with the course of a small stream (sometimes dry) continue, keeping the stream on your right. But a little further on, diverge away from it, bearing left (towards an old wall) and continue through the wood to emerge quite soon through a metal gate onto Chavenage Lane.

6. Turn right. Ignoring an almost immediate right turn where the lane bends to the left, walk along the road for about 1 km to reach Hampton Street. Bear right and continue to the crossroads. Opposite can be seen the old Magistrates Court building, now the Town Council offices, this building also contains the Police Museum. Here take the road to the right of this (Long Street) to return to the Market Hall.

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- **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 it is still the site of regular events.

- **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 that the direct one via Black Horse Hill.

- **HIGHGROVE ESTATE**
  Highgrove is a Grade II listed building. John Paul acquired this land in 1798 built a fine new “modern” residence. Highgrove is now the country home of HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. The Georgian house was remodelled by Prince Charles with neo-classical additions in 1987; its gardens are open to the public by prior booking. The house and gardens are not visible from the route of this walk.

- **HOOKHOUSE POTTERY**
  Hookhouse Pottery is a craft pottery established in 1975 producing a range of hand-made ceramic ware, on sale from the pottery. It is housed in a much older Cotswold stone house.

- **HERMITS CAVE AND WOOD**
  The Hermit’s cave which gives its name to this area of woodland, cannot be seen from the path that this walk follows. It can be found in the wooded area to the left of the path, but is not now as deep nor as interesting as it once probably was.

- **TETBURY LONG STREET**
  Long Street in Tetbury is one of the two main shopping and commercial streets in Tetbury. Its importance as a through route increased over time as it provided a link to what is now the principal road to Wotton-under-Edge and that to Cirencester; being a much flatter route than the earlier roads to the east, which involved steep downhill and uphill gradients shortly after leaving the centre.