Walks around Tetbury

A Wander Around the Farms

Use an old coach road and see farms north of Tetbury.

Distance: 8.8km (5.5 miles)

Walking Time: 2.5 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: 8.8km (5 miles)

A circular walk from the town around several farms to the north of Tetbury.

From the long stay car park take the entrance road up to its junction with Cirencester Road. Turn right up the hill and take the first road on the left (Northfield Road), follow this until it turns right then after a few metres take the footpath on the left into the supermarket car park. Taking care, walk through the car park to its exit onto London Road. Cross over this road at the pedestrian lights, turn right and then take the first road on the left (Conygar Road). Follow this road and then take the first road on the right (Northlands Way), take the first footpath on the left between some houses into a cul de sac (Talboy’s Walk), turn right and at the end of the cul de sac turn right onto the footpath running alongside Sir William Romney’s School playing fields. This soon turns left, follow the path until it reaches the end of the playing fields, pass through a kissing gate and cross into the next field and take a diagonal route towards the far left corner (you should see a marker post in the distance). Go through the gate into a small copse and carry on through the next gate, just ahead where you will see a metalled track (Blind Lane) running between two hedgerows.

1. After the first farm building on your right, take the track to the right behind the farm buildings and, after approx. 50 metres, turn left and go on to reach a metal gate onto a metalled road. Turn right along the road for 150 metres to a crossroads junction. Go straight on for a further 150 metres where a footpath crosses the road, take the footpath on the right between two hedgerows and after 300 metres bear left onto a metalled road. After 70 metres bear right towards Tetbury.

Taking care, after 50 metres at the Y-junction bear left (not to Tetbury) and follow this road for approx. 700 metres where a track crosses the road, turn right through a wooden gate and follow this track between two hedgerows. Keeping the wood on your right the track curves to the left, at a Y-junction fork right through a wooden gate. Keeping the fence/hedge to your left follow the field boundary for approx. 200 metres when you bear right across the field towards double wooden gates in the far hedge (head for the a large house with tall chimneys on the skyline). Go through the double gates and cross the field towards a wooden stile in the fence. Go over the stile and pass through a copse and head across the field towards the house with tall chimneys. Go through the hedge and you face the stone house (Ilsom House).

2. Turn right and follow this track past farm buildings on your left. Leaving the metalled track, go straight on between two hedgerows and after approx. 70 metres go over the wooden stile. Go straight on, keeping the hedgerow on your left, to the end of the field where you go through a gap in the hedge into the next field. Continue straight on keeping the hedge on your left until you see a wooden stile in the stone wall on your left. Cross the stile and continue forward up the slight rise. At the top of the rise head diagonally across the field (or alternatively follow the left hand boundary to avoid crops) heading for the far left hand corner of the field.

Go through a gate and follow the path between hedgerows on each side, after 200 metres bear left where the path becomes a wide track through a wood. After approx. 100 metres turn right into a lane (Ridges Lane) keeping the stone wall on your left. Follow this for 800 metres until you reach farm buildings (Star Farm). 3.

Turn right and taking care follow this road for approx. 200 metres where you need to cross the road and turn left into Cirencester Road. Follow this road for approx. 600 metres until you reach a footpath sign on your left, turn left onto the metalled road between two low stone pillars (one is marked “Worwell Farm”). Follow this road for approx. 200 metres until you see a footpath sign on your right; take this path keeping the fence on your right and a stone wall on your left. Cross over a bridge and pass through a wooden gate, go up the slope ahead of you and through another gate. Turn right and walk along the old Tetbury to Kemble railway line back to the long stay car park. The Royal Oak PH is at the junction of the car park access road with Cirencester Rd.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1. SIR WILLIAM ROMNEY’S SCHOOL
Sir William Romney’s School was built in 1969; having moved from premises built in 1610 in Long Street (as Tetbury Grammar School) which is now a doctor’s surgery. Tetbury-born Romney set aside £13 per year in his will for “a schoolmaster to teach the children of the town and parish, gratis, to read and write, and to cast accounts in arithmetic.”

2. BLIND LANE
Blind Lane is the former Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road, constructed in the late 18th century.

3. RIDGES LANE
Ridges Lane is again part of the former Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road.

4. STAR FARM
The farmhouse at Star Farm is a Grade II Listed Building and was originally the Star and Garter Inn, lying on the Minchinhampton to Tetbury coach road.

5. ILSOM HOUSE/HILSOME FARM ESTATE
Hilsome Farm Estate was in existence by the 1730s when the then owner, Hopeful Vokin left a sum of money to the town, which was to be paid out of the rent from his estate. Sir Walter Rueben Preston MP had it rebuilt in 1922, to designs by Maurice Chesterton, and then had it enlarged in the 1930s. In recent times it was carefully converted into an elderly persons care home; now known as ‘Ilsom House’.

6. THE ROYAL OAK
The Royal Oak is a Grade II Listed Building (a 17th-century coaching inn) and has recently been restored into a fine pub. Over 200 years ago the vicar of Tetbury, Richard Davies, was the owner of the inn, leasing it out to tenant landlords. In 1891 the town had 22 public houses.