



Tetbury and The Monarch's Way

An easier walk with minimal ascent, much of it on good tracks around the delightful town of Tetbury, and past the estate of its Royal neighbours

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 11.3 km (7.0 miles)
- Approximate time: 3 hours
- Optional extension: 4.1 km (2.5 miles)
- Approx. total ascent: 75 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: ST 890 931
- GPS Ref: ST 89052 93147
- Recommended O.S. Map: Explorer 168
- Toughness Rating: Cotswolds 1

Please see the notes on Toughness Ratings at the end of this report

**Up For A
CHALLENGE ?**

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A Team Effort**

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

We start this walk from the centre of Tetbury. There is public or street parking in the town, subject to availability. Subject to arrangement, you could park at one of the several excellent hostelrys in the town.

From the Market Hall at the heart of Tetbury, **S**, head south, down Church Street. Just after the church turn right onto West Street, then left onto Cutwell. Cross the ford (there is also a bridge) and then turn right onto Longfurlong Lane. Ignore a right turn, then pass through the gates at Elmestree Lodge.

You are now on the Monarch's Way, which heads more or less straight across the fields ahead. The next stile or gate is always visible ahead, and the route is well waymarked. Over to your left you pass the Highgrove estate of Charles and Camilla.

Arrive at a crossroads at **A**, where a decision has to be made – whether or not to take the extension around Westonbirt. It is strongly recommended that you do take the extension, in which case go down the road to the left. Carefully cross the A433 and go through the kissing gate on the right hand corner. The path heads diagonally over the fields. Cross the access road to Westonbirt School onto a tarmac track.

When this track meets a minor road at **C**, go right, crossing another minor road and then recrossing the A433. A path now leads along a gentle valley. Pass the plant centre as you enter the precincts of Westonbirt Arboretum. Continue along the valley bottom until confronted by a gate into the wood at **D**. Do not go through this gate, instead turn right, uphill, along the woodland edge. Pass through a gate signed for the MacMillan Way and continue until again arriving at **A**.

Cross over and take the minor road on the left, signed for the MacMillan Way. This is little-used and has good verges. At a T-junction go briefly right on the Tetbury road, then left on a bridleway, still on the MacMillan Way. At the main road go right, then cross over onto another track. This descends into a valley, **B**. It is possible to make a detour by continuing uphill to have a look at Chavenage House, which is just along the road to the right. The main route, however, turns right along the valley bottom.

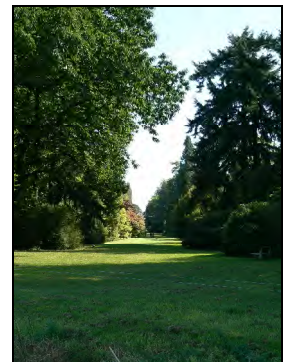
At a gate (usually padlocked) go over the stile on the left and bear right through the woodland. After heavy rain it may be necessary to detour from the path, which sometimes doubles as a streambed. Go right on arriving at the road. This leads back into the centre of Tetbury, **S**.



Tetbury Market House



Elmestree House



Westonbirt Arboretum

Refreshment

The Crown
Public House
Gumstool Hill, Tetbury
Tel: 01666 502469
Pub with conservatory

Edge's Tea Shoppe
Tea Rooms
Church Street, Tetbury
Tel: 01666 505660
Tea Rooms in the
centre of Tetbury

Hare and Hounds
Country Hotel
Westonbirt
Tel: 01666 880233
Hotel with extensive
grounds, and serving bar
meals

LOCAL INFO

The Monarch's Way may seem appropriate on this walk, as the outward leg from Tetbury passes the western edge of Charles' and Camilla's Highgrove estate. Of course, the estate is not open to the public and there are extensive security precautions on its boundaries.

The focal point of **Tetbury** is the Market House, which has a famous clock and a dolphin- surmounted wind vane. Nearby, The Chipping is a former market area surrounded by attractive houses. The picturesque Chipping Steps lead to the foot of Gumstool Hill, up which the famous Woolsack Race takes place every Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

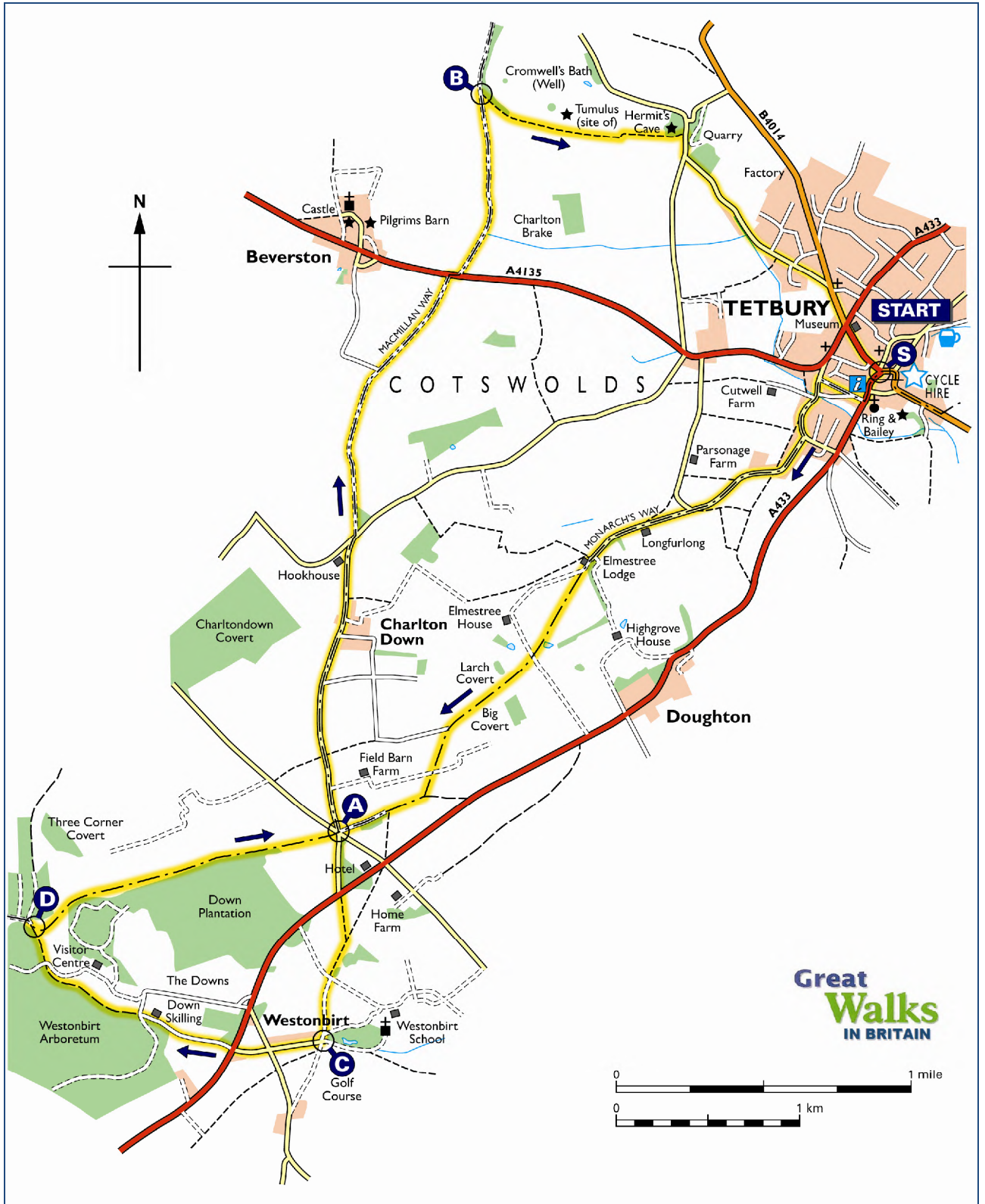
The parish church of St Mary the Virgin is visible for miles around. Mainly built in the late 18th century, it has one of the tallest spires in England (56.6m, 186ft). There is a small Heritage Museum, illustrating Tetbury's history, in one wing of the church.

Westonbirt House was designed in neo-Elizabethan style by Lawrence Vulliamy who was also the architect for the Snooty Fox Hotel in Tetbury. Now a girls' school, its gardens, designed by Robert Holford, are open to the public. Holford is better known for the famous Westonbirt Arboretum, now in the ownership of the Forestry Commission. The Arboretum covers some 600 acres with over 3,000 different trees and shrubs,

Chavenage House is an Elizabethan manor that has occasional public openings. Oliver Cromwell reputedly slept in the Tapestry Room whilst trying to persuade the owner, Colonel Nathaniel Stephens, to agree to the execution of King Charles I. He did so, but was apparently so distraught that he died only three months after the execution.

**TETBURY & THE MONARCH'S WAY
G.P.S. WAYPOINTS**

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
TET S	S	ST	89052	93147	121
TET A	A	ST	86104	90601	130
TET B	B	ST	86917	94593	132
TET C	C	ST	86031	89520	105
TET D	D	ST	84405	90122	110



MAP LEGEND					
	Great Walks route		Church with tower		Spot height - metres
	M6 Motorway		Church with spire		Information centre
	A23 Main road		Other place of worship		Parking
	B2116 Secondary road		Cathedral / Abbey		Public convenience
	Minor road		Building		Public house
	Other road		Built up area		Picnic site
	Track		Woodland		Camp site
	Footpath		Sand, shingle or mud		Major tourist feature
	Bridleway		Water feature		Other tourist feature
	National trail				
	Railway				

Safety First

Safety should always be your first priority in planning and undertaking a walk, whether on your own or leading a group. Please read these Safety First and Walking Our Routes notes.

Lead a group of other walkers only if you have leadership and navigational experience adequate for the 'worst case' conditions which may be encountered on the particular walk, bearing in mind the terrain, possible weather and navigational demands.

Weigh up the capabilities of your party, in terms of fitness and walking speed. Adjust your time expectations accordingly.

Ensure all your party are adequately clothed for the weather and conditions. Footwear is particularly important. Clothing must protect against cold, wet or strong sun according to the time of year.

Emergencies are quite rare, but it is essential to think ahead about what to do if someone in your party sustains an injury. Will you have a First Aid kit? Is there a qualified First Aider in the party? How could help be summoned in a serious eventuality?

Refreshment, particularly water, can be vital. Dehydration in hot summer conditions can be rapid, and frequent intake of fluids is essential.

On tougher walks it is a good idea to tell someone where you are planning to go – and when you expect to be back. Remember - mobile phones often lose reception in mountainous or isolated areas.

All our walks use legitimate routes: Public Rights of Way, Public Footpaths, Bridleways, Permissive Paths, Access Land, Byways and Roads.

Road walking calls for particular care. When there is no defined footpath or verge wide enough for safe walking it is usually best to walk on the right – facing oncoming traffic. An exception may be a tight bend, where walkers would be more visible on the left.

Occasionally you may find a public footpath blocked or unuseable. It is perfectly in order to take the shortest available diversion without damaging crops, perhaps around a field margin.

It is courteous to close gates after passing through, sometimes even if the gate was open when you arrived – particularly if it is obvious livestock may escape.

Mutual respect for farm animals is to be encouraged! Don't frighten or annoy them, but equally don't put your party members in danger or discomfort. You certainly wouldn't be the first walkers to go round the outside of a field of frisky bullocks.

Dogs should always be kept on a lead anywhere near farm animals, and under close supervision elsewhere in the countryside.

Walking Our Routes

Our walks are designed to be negotiated using the route directions in conjunction with the map section provided. We suggest walkers also take the Ordnance Survey Explorer or Outdoor Leisure map recommended for each walk.

On mountain, moorland and open heathland walks it is **ESSENTIAL** to have navigational expertise and tools, including the recommended Ordnance Survey map(s).

Take care to observe any cautions in the route description; exposed paths, areas liable to flooding etc.

Consider conditions before setting off. Will heavy rain have made a water meadow impassable? Will frost or snow make a path slippery?

When navigating the route look for clues to confirm you are in the right place. Are map features where you would expect on the ground? Are features mentioned in the text where expected? If you suspect you may have taken a wrong turn, take action sooner rather than later. It is better to re-trace to a known point rather than carry on regardless with the possibility of becoming increasingly confused.

All our routes are carefully checked before publication, but features can change on the ground – sometimes surprisingly quickly. Footpaths may be re-routed, buildings can appear or change significantly and these days pub names seem to change frequently.

The approximate time given for each walk is based on an average walking speed of 2.5 miles per hour (4 km/hour), plus an allowance for ascent, descent and any difficult terrain.

Total ascent is the approximate total ascent over the whole walk.

GPS users can enter in the waypoints provided in each of our walk reports. It is important to read our guide **Introducing GPS for Walkers**, available as a PDF file from the Great Walks in Britain web site.

Remember that GPS is a great navigational tool, but only one of those available to the navigator. Never dispense with conventional map and compass – and the training and skills to use them, especially on mountain, moorland or open heathland walks.

TOUGHNESS RATINGS

All our **Cotswolds** routes can be undertaken by reasonably fit walkers able to utilise our map segments, together with the route guidance notes. Always consider recent and forecast weather.

Each walk has been allocated a **Toughness Rating**:

1. Easier walks with modest ascent and generally on well defined paths. There may be stiles or narrow gateways to negotiate.
2. Routes which are more demanding. They may include more ascent and possibly paths which are looser or more difficult underfoot.
3. More strenuous walks with some steep sections, higher paths or places which may be wet and boggy.
4. The most demanding walks in this edition. There may be prolonged steep ascents. Conditions may be challenging underfoot.

Toughness Ratings are allocated in the context of the terrain in the edition area. For example a walk rated as demanding in Cambridgeshire may be equivalent to an easier or moderate route on Dartmoor,