



*Turnpike*  
COTTAGE

*Recommended  
Walks*

## ***Recommended Walks***

### **Walks from Turnpike Cottage GL8 8XA**

(All on the Ordnance Survey Explorer Sheet 168 – available to borrow).

There are many walks to suit all tastes, timetables and abilities.

Turnpike Cottage is on the route of two long distance footpaths, the Monarch's Way footpath and the Palladian Way which both run past the front door.

### ***The Monarch's Way***

This 625 mile footpath is believed to be the route taken by Charles II after defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651. If the historians are correct, Charles II travelled from Worcester Northwards to the famous Oak tree in Boscobel (the reason for so many "Royal Oak" public houses) where he hid and then on South through Stratford and down the Fosse Way towards Cirencester. From Cirencester the route meanders either side of the Fosse Way eventually arriving in Tetbury down the steps outside Tetbury Hospital, past the cottage and up the hill to the Church. Walk 5 incorporates some of this historic route together with the recently opened railway path (more recent, but equally fascinating history).

### ***The Palladian Way***

The Palladian Way is a 125 mile long trail named after the classical style of architecture established by Andrea Palladio in 17th century Italy. The trail starts in Buckingham and passes Stowe Landscape Gardens (NT) with its famous Palladian Bridge (one of only four in the world). The trail continues to the attractive market town of Brackley before heading south to Woodstock where it passes through the grounds of Blenheim Palace. The route then heads west into the Windrush valley, past Minster Lovell, with its ruined hall, and Swinbrook with the Mitford family connection, before arriving at the 'Gateway to The Cotswolds' the very attractive town of Burford. The onward route to Cirencester follows part of the old Roman road Akeman Street and then passes through the lovely villages of Barnsley and Bibury. The route continues south from Cirencester with two options - the main route proceeds straight to the Wiltshire market town of Malmesbury with its ages old church and ruined abbey whilst the shorter route goes to the most attractive Cotswold town of Tetbury with an additional half day walk to link up with the main route at Malmesbury. The route ends in Bath. Walks 1 and 2 take in a short section of this trail.

## *Recommended Walks*

### *Walk 1. Round Tetbury*

**About 2 miles starting in fields and ending in town streets and parks.**

From Turnpike Cottage, cross the road and head down the metal road opposite. Pass two cottages on the right and a newly converted outbuilding on your left and as you cross the stream (head waters of the Avon and often dry in summer), make your way through a kissing gate. Bear left up the slope (muddy at times) to a stile and then cross three fields in a straight line with the wall/hedge on your left. At the end of the third field there is a distinctive double line of trees marking a lane crossing the path. Turn sharp right and follow the line of trees. At a gate, do not go through the gate but go to the right to a wooden stile and then stone stile in the top left-hand corner of the field. Follow the path past newly planted trees and exit onto a lane. Walk down the lane and cross the main Bath Road into Berrells Road. Bear right at the end down over the ford and steep up to the green. Straight on with a very high stone wall on your right, past the fire station and all the way to the main crossroads. Turn right up Long Street noting all the Antique shops Lola & Co is a wonderful Tapas Bar on your right. Further up Long Street is the Ormond Hotel for good food or a pint. Opposite is the famous "Highgrove Shop" and further on the Close Hotel has a great bar, a walled garden and good food.

At the top of Long Street, visit the Snooty Fox for food and drink and perhaps meander in the market under the old market building before turning left along the Chipping to the car park. Head diagonally across the car park to the Chipping Steps (famous old Tetbury Landmark).

At the top of the steps is a famous and quietly hidden reminder of the Second World War. The Malt House was the secret location from where critical aspects of the D Day landings were drawn up by Special Forces stationed at Chavenage House. There are still the remnants of a baseball "diamond" in the field opposite the main gates to the historic Chavenage House (used in many recent TV dramas including Poldark and Larkrise To Candleford.

[wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/11248969.Mapping\\_out\\_a\\_vital\\_part\\_of\\_D\\_Day\\_history\\_in\\_Tetbury/](http://wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/11248969.Mapping_out_a_vital_part_of_D_Day_history_in_Tetbury/)

From December 1943 - June 1944 the Malt House was taken over by soldiers of the Head Quarters Company of 654th Engineer Topographic Battalion" for secret war work, part of which was the creation of a 3D scale model of Omaha Beach used for troop training.

Take care down the steps. At the bottom of the Chipping steps climb a few steps to exit on to the road and turn right down a path to the bottom of Gumstool Hill (Famous location of the Woolsack Races held every year). Cross Gumstool Hill into

Millennium Green and cross the stream bearing right down the path with the stream on your right. At the end of the path you are back at Turnpike Cottage (on your left).

## *Recommended Walks*

### *Walk 2. To Shipton Moyne (and back)*

About 6-7 miles (mainly flat fields and lanes).

From Turnpike Cottage, cross the road and head down the metal road opposite. Pass two cottages on the right and a newly converted out-building on your left and as you cross the stream (head waters of the Avon and often dry in summer), make your way through a kissing gate. Bear left up the slope (muddy at times) to a stile and then cross three fields in a straight line with the wall/hedge on your left. At the end of the third field continue straight on this time with the hedge on your right. There is a small gate on your right towards the end of this field (note also a stile ahead which is where you will return later on). Go through the gate and steep down over a waterway (usually dry) bearing slightly left to a gate. Usually best to climb the gate as it is difficult to open. Cross the large field staying roughly with the river across several fields until you hit the road (there is a river bridge on your left). Pass through a gate on the other side of the road and follow the river again until you come to a small stone bridge over it (If there are cows or any problems with this field you can alternatively turn left on the road, over the footbridge and turn right into a bridle path that follows the river on the other bank without going into the field). Cross over the river on the stone bridge and climb steeply up to the bridle path and turn right. Follow the bridle path all the way to the road. Turn left and walk for about 300-400 yards looking out for a footpath sign through a gate on your right. The path goes straight across the field (slightly to the left) and at the far corner bears further left across a couple of grazing pastures. In the final pasture the stile is in the right hand corner and the narrow path emerges in Shipton Moyne village (right by the Cat and Custard Pot – how convenient!!)

Once you have sampled the delight of the Cat turn left out of the pub and look out for a footpath on the other side of the road. This goes down the side of a beautiful high Cotswold stone wall. At the end of the wall, go over the stile on the left into the field and head diagonally over two fields crossing a tarmac access road and eventually coming to some gallops. Cross these and wend your way over more fields diagonally until you can see a lodge in the distance. At the lodge go around it to the right and turn left on to a tarmac drive that goes between spectacular dry stone walls to an electric gate. On your right is a large country house but this stands on the footprint of what once was a spectacular mansion. “Estcourt Estate”. This estate dates back to 1303 and the Estcourts owned it until 1996. It is now owned by an Arab who loves horses and maintains it beautifully. The main stately home was pulled down in 1779 after a fire but the park remains a beautiful place to walk across. Ahead is a view of Tetbury Church and you continue straight on passing a large tree on your right keeping an eye out for a white marker on your left which takes you off the tarmac and across the field dropping down to the river and a wooden footbridge. Weave your way through the undergrowth stopping to admire the tiny pack-horse bridge. Cross the bridge and then climb up a muddy rise to a small gate. Turn left and keep going straight until you recognise the path you were on at the start of the walk.

Retrace your steps to the cottage.

## *Recommended Walks*

### *Walk 3. Preston Park, Herd lane*

About 2 miles or shorter if options taken.

From Turnpike Cottage, turn right and just before the bridge turn right through the gate following the path along to the millennium Green. Walk past the old railway building which is now a vibrant and popular arts centre and keep going up the valley on a good path. As you leave town there are several options to turn left and come back on the other side of the valley making the walk as long or as short as you wish. The return route becomes a lane (Herd Lane) and comes back into town by the Royal Oak Inn from where you cross Millennium Green and retrace the last 200 yards back to the cottage.



## *Recommended Walks*

### *Walk 4. Westonbirt*

#### **Hare & Hounds and Arboretum, about 9 miles.**

From Turnpike Cottage, turn right and walk up the steep hill crossing the road where safe to walk along "The Green" and entering the Churchyard through the small entrance immediately after the houses on your left. Walk through the Churchyard keeping the Church on your left and exiting down the steep steps onto A433 Church Street. Cross the road in to West Street and keep your eyes open for a small passage called "Black Horse Hill" about 50 metres on your left. Go steep down, under the Road Bridge and bear left keeping the road bridge on your right. Note the small packhorse bridge on your left. This was the main bridge out of Tetbury until 1776 when the big bridge was built. Keep an eye open for a plaque on the wall on your left which describes the Monastery (where the Church is now) and explains the name "Tetbury" dating back to the 5th Century.

Exit onto Bath Road (A433) by a tiny cottage and cross the road. Turn right into Berrells Road and in 150 metres turn left into Long Furlong Lane. After about a kilometre, the road bears right but there is a "dead end" going straight on. This is still Long Furlong Lane. Go straight on and note the large sculpture of a large heron on top of a pillar on your left. This is one of Prince Charles' sculptures in his gardens. It was designed by Julian and Isabel Bannerman and sits atop of a cast iron column rescued from the old Victoria Station in London.

At the end of the road you reach Elmestree Lodge. Go through the gate and after a few metres bear left to leave the track and follow a faint footpath across the field to a gate. Keep going in the same direction to another gate (at the right time of year you can see parts of Highgrove House from here but it is well hidden by the trees).

Continue past a pond on your left and cross the metal road to Elmestree House and keep going straight over a number of stiles. After a small copse on your right, keep an eye open for a stone stile on your left into a field. Cross the field to another stile and cross that field to another stile. Over the stile bear slightly right following the hedge.

Here there is a choice:

- 1. Hare & Hounds Hotel.** Bear away slightly from the hedge up to a stile in front of some stables. Keeping the stable and the house on your right, cross this land and exit through a small wood onto the road at the cross roads. The Hare & Hounds is a welcome break on your right.
- 2. Westonbirt Arboretum.** Stay close to the hedge and enter a small track exiting at a cross roads. On the far side is a stile taking you along the back edge of the Arboretum on part of the famous "Monarch's Way"; a 615 mile long-distance footpath which is supposed to be the route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester.

## *Recommended Walks*

### *Walk 4. Westonbirt*

Westonbirt can also be reached from the Hare & Hounds being about 700 metres further along the A433 road away from Tetbury.

Return can simply be a re-trace of your steps or alternatively at the cross roads on the main A433 just before the Hare & Hounds cross over towards Easton Grey and Sherston and walk along the lane until you reach Whitehouse Lane on the left (about 700 metres). It is about 2 kilometres to Shipton Moyne cross roads. You have a choice.

1. You can turn right and go into Shipton Moyne Village (The Cat & Custard Pot is a lovely village pub). Then follow walk 2 to get back to Turnpike Cottage); or
2. Go straight across the cross roads and down the little lane. At an absolutely massive oak tree the road swings right but continue through the gate into the gallop ahead. Keep an eye open for a stile (gate) on the left after about 200 metres. You are now on the route of walk 2 and a series of gates/ stiles brings you to the site of Estcourt House. Bear left and follow the metalled road through the estate to a big wooden gate. After about 400 metres the road starts to bear right and there is a faint path slightly left across the field which drops to a bridge over the stream. Cross the bridge and weave your way through a muddy area up some rough steps to a gate/stile. Turn left and follow a series of stiles about 1 kilometre eventually dropping down to a road which is the road opposite Turnpike Cottage.



## *Recommended Walks*

### *Walk 5. Charles II and Lord Beeching history trail*

**About 6-7 miles or shorter if options taken.**

From Turnpike Cottage, turn right and just before the river bridge turn right through the gate following the path along to the millennium Green. Walk past the old railway building which is now a vibrant and popular arts centre and keep going up the valley on a good path. This has recently been opened up and extended and follows the route of the Tetbury branch line which ran from Kemble to Tetbury opening in December 1889. There is a series of keep-fit apparatus along the first few hundred metres for those inclined to add a bit to their walk!

After about a mile the path opens out onto a narrow country lane which is crossed and the line of the railway is picked up again for another half mile or so at which point there is a metal gate preventing further progress and a choice is to be made to go left or right. To the left just 100m away is the famous "Trouble House" which is a café, bar and dining establishment of great renown. If you partake, then once satisfied, retrace your steps back to the old railway line where you have a choice to return the way you came (2 miles back so 4 miles in total) or for a more substantial walk (about 6 miles in total) go straight across the line of the old railway this time and proceed up a gentle climb alongside a large field. At the top keep to the left and keep a wall and then hedge on your left until there is a break in the hedge at which point cut through and keep following the hedge (this time on your right) past a large barn and down a track with a row of planted trees on your left. You will emerge past a riding stable onto a lane in a quiet hamlet called Ashley. From here you are on part of the famous 625 mile "Monarch's Way". Turn right and in a few yards just after a phone box and a Victorian letter box in the wall, turn right again on a lane signposted Tetbury.

Keep walking down the lane for about 1/3 of a mile until you see a double 5 bar gate on both sides of the road. Take the gate/ stile to the left and go down over a stile and then head up across a large field. At the end of the field emerge into a bigger field with the path distinct across the middle. At the far end go through the hedge and bear left with a high hedge on your left. Just before you meet the small wood ahead, cut through the hedge and walk up the side of the wood (on your right). At the end of the wood turn right and follow the edge of the wood again keeping an eye out for red deer and muntjac deer (it is a favourite place for them if it is quiet). At the next corner of the wood (the opposite corner from where you started) either cut through the hedge keeping it on your left or keep going and cut through at the end of the field; either way keep going straight with a hedge on your left until you emerge on a small road. Go straight across avoiding some small pools if it is wet and cross three fields aiming for the small disused farm in the last field. Pass through the yard on the concrete roadway and eventually climb a stile and kissing gate to walk down the side of the Great Tythe Barn (a popular wedding venue) before descending steps to the entrance to Tetbury Hospital. Turnpike Cottage is directly ahead.