3

Ladyswood

Using Noble Street, Sherston 26, Forlorn, Foxley Road, Sherston 13 & 37, Ladyswood Estate and Sherston 15.

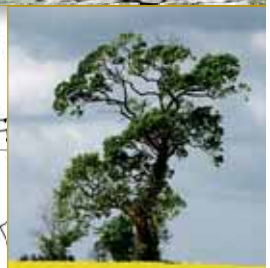
4.1 miles - *a bit hilly.*

Go towards Malmesbury and turn right by the Rattlebone Inn into Noble Street, beside the triangle and large acer tree. This is known as the Jubilee Tree, as it was planted in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. A short way down the hill turn left up the steps onto SHER26. Follow this across the road and through the houses to a metal kissing gate and along a field edge with houses on your left. Continue through the next kissing gate, veer diagonally right across the field, over a stile, then on the same line to another kissing gate in the field corner. Descend the steps to the road and follow it with care downhill to Forlorn Bridge over the River Avon. Cross the bridge and immediately turn left, climbing through pleasant woodland.

Do not take the track on the left that leads to Keeper's Cottage but continue along the road until you reach the T-junction. Go left onto Foxley Road, cross the road and then go right, through a gate onto SHER13 (do not go onto the track to the right of it which is a signed bridleway).

Go diagonally across the first field, cross the stile and bear right to another stile in a gap between the end of the hedge and a tree. Walk directly ahead across the large field aiming for the middle of two large trees and through the gap in the hedge, up steps and down over a bank. Bear left to pick up the footpath on the other side of the track, cutting across the corner of the polo pitch and through the gap in the gallop beyond. Make your way across the stile and through the field ahead, where is a gap in the hedge and a bridge. Go over this bridge and keep the hedge on your left as you walk up the left field to another gap the hedge that brings you out onto the old Fosse Way (SHER37). Turn right on this long, straight byway and take care as vehicles sometimes use this track. After about 400 yards, SHER15 is on your right.

Cross the plank bridge and stile onto this footpath, which re-enters the Ladyswood Estate where polo ponies may be grazing. Continue between the post-and-rail fences and across a stile. Keeping the hedge on your left, cross the next field by bearing slightly left, aiming between two spinneys and then heading for a gate into an area of woodland. Go straight on keeping a green fence on your left until post and rails, then turn left and walk between the post and rails and the horse exercise track. At the end of the horse track turn right keeping hedge on left and post and rails on right. Cross the field going through two small gates which lead into a large arable field. The footpath now goes diagonally left across this field where skylarks can be heard in spring and summer. Head for two telegraph poles close together to the left of the view of the church and cross the stile and bridge there onto the road. Turn right and go down the hill back to Forlorn. Cross the bridge and retrace your steps up the hill on the other side and along SHER26 back to the High Street.



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