6

Willesley

Using Sherston 30, Tetbury Road, Sherston 28A & 28, Willesley Road, Sherston 3 & 29, Knockdown Road and Sherston 4.

4.5 miles - *very gentle incline near the start, bridleway sections can be muddy.*
3.9 miles - *if missing out the Willesley village loop.*

Leave Sherston High Street, walking towards Malmesbury, along Church Street and passing Easton Square. Turn left by a pillar marked Hunters Field, down the shared gravel driveway of the three houses and continue along the footpath (SHER30) to the right of the far house. This well-trodden path leads across two fields, each entered through a kissing gate with a final third kissing gate bringing you onto Tetbury Road. Turn left and follow this country road for 3/4 of a mile, leaving the houses behind and with open farmland views, until you reach a signed, wide bridleway (SHER28A) on your left as the road bends around to the right.

Follow this track for around 3/4 of a mile. Over the hedges are farmland views and if you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of deer in the fields. The hedgerows here are abundant with wild flowers, particularly during the late spring and summer months. There is also a wide variety of established trees along the way. At the footpath/ bridleway crossroad SHER28 continues in narrower form both left and right.

Either: turn right and continue a short distance on SHER28. After a sharp lefthand bend, you will see a stone wall on your right-hand side and an equine clinic on your left (just before you reach the main village road, slightly to your right). Turn left at the road, noting the fine shell porch of Byam's Farmhouse where Siegfried Sassoon was a frequent visitor. In his autobiographical novels he called himself George Sherston! Walk through the village, passing Anne Brayne's cottage on the right and a beautiful cedar tree on the left, opposite Willesley House. Just beyond the willow tree on the village triangle, turn left (opposite the phone box), onto a bridleway (SHER3) passing between two houses. Follow this gravelly track as it passes the entrance

to a farm on your left. Where the gravel track turns to the right carry on straight ahead on the grass track to the left edge of a field, keeping the hedge on your left. ***You will eventually reach a tarmac farm driveway at a bend, with a bridleway sign. Turn right here (SHER29) and continue for a short distance until you join the sharp corner on Knockdown Road. Turn left and walk along the road for about 1/3 of a mile. After stone walls on the left-hand side are replaced by hedgerow, look out for a gateway on your left and a bridleway signpost for the Macmillan Way (SHER4) where you rejoin the directions above*.

Or: if you would prefer a shorter walk, avoiding the loop through Willesley, turn left here and follow SHER28 for approximately 250 yards, until the bridleway meets a farm track at a T-junction.Turn left onto SHER3 and then follow the directions from above*** .

*The official route for SHER4 from Knockdown Road is diagonal across the first field from the gate (as on the map). However, local usage is typically through the gap in hedge prior to the gate and then on the broad grassy strip round the field margin. Now keep the hedge on your left and continue to follow the path along the field edges. On your right you will see the tower of Sherston Church in the distance. The path briefly turns into a track before bringing you out onto Tetbury Road. Almost immediately, turn right at the footpath sign, and go up the steps back onto SHER30. Cross the fields via the kissing gates, turn right out of Hunters Field and retrace your route back to Sherston village centre.

Tetbury Road
SHER 30
SHERSTON CP
SHER 28A
Leach Lane (Track)
SHER 28
SHER 28B
Willesley Road
SHER 3
SHER 29
SHER 4
Knockdown Road
SHER 22
Wood Lane (Track)
Sherston Parva or Pinkney
Pinkney Park
Pinkney Court
Eaglefield House
Quems Piece Farm
Middle Lodge
Garden House
Home Farm
Cricket Ground
Lower Farm
Easton Town
Easton Town Farm
Sherston
Sewage Works
Vancelette's Farm
Willesley House
Willesley
Anne Braynes Cottage
The Cottage
Byam's Farm
Quarry (disused)
Silkwood Place
Halfway Bush Farm
Pyke Farm (rems of)
Manor Farm
Pavilion
Reservoir (covered)
Water Works
Hillberry Lodge
Pyke Boarding Kennels and Cattery
Landfill Site

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