

# THE COTSWOLDS

## Outstanding Circular Walks

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# Northleach and Hampnett

Start	Northleach	<b>GPS waypoints</b> <div><div>SP 113 146</div><div>A SP 108 149</div><div>B SP 100 156</div><div>C SP 095 141</div><div>D SP 109 137</div></div>
Distance	4 miles (6.5km)	
Height gain	260 feet (80m)	
Approximate time	2 hours	
Parking	Northleach	
Ordnance Survey maps	Landranger 163 (Cheltenham & Cirencester) and Explorer OL45 (The Cotswolds)	

*A very pleasant short walk in the valley of the infant River Leach, mainly on field paths, most of which offer superb views over lovely countryside. Two churches, both gems, form the main focal points of this walk: one at Hampnett and the better-known one at Northleach itself.*

The 15th-century church at Northleach, with its magnificent south porch, is acclaimed as one of the grandest among the many ‘wool churches’ of the Cotswolds, its imposing Perpendicular tower dominating the streets of the small town. It reflects the heyday of the wool trade; inside are many monuments to the wool merchants who created the town’s prosperity. Handsome stone and half-timbered buildings line the High

Street and the inns are a reminder of Northleach’s importance in the days of coach travel.

 From the Market Place walk north-westwards out of the town, passing the fire station on your left. At the traffic lights cross straight over the A429, keeping Cotswolds Discovery Centre and **Café** and a former police station on the right. Go through a kissing-gate **A** and head diagonally across the field, crossing a ditch at one point. Hampnett church can now be

seen in the distance ahead. Keep Prison Copse over to the right, go through a gate and continue on the Monarch’s Way, keeping by the wall on the right. Where the woods end, cross a field towards Hampnett and exit to the lane. Turn left opposite Manor Farm.

The church, mainly








On the Monarch’s Way

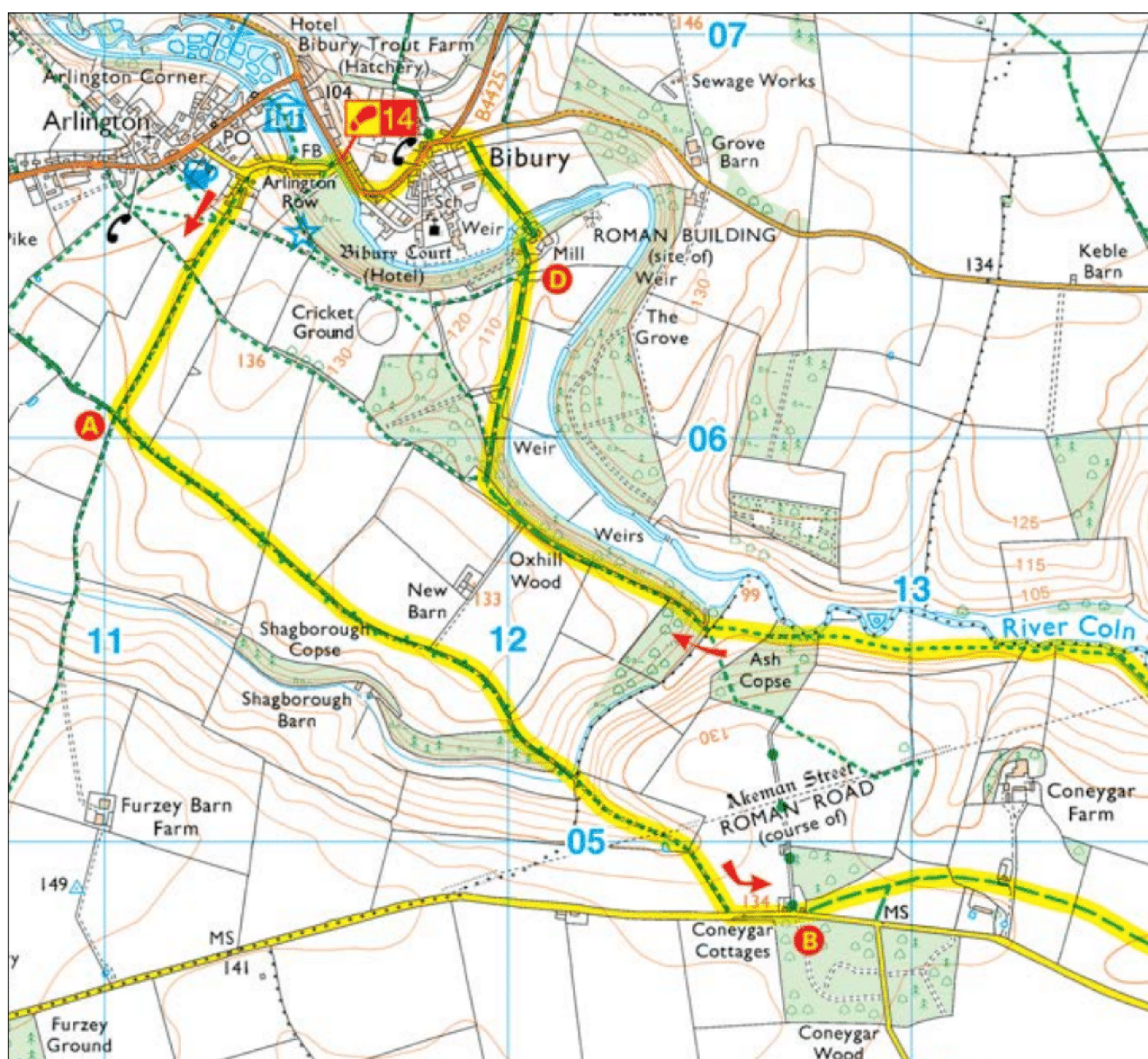
# Bibury and the River Coln

<b>Start</b>	Bibury
<b>Distance</b>	6 miles (9.5km)
<b>Height gain</b>	440 feet (135m)
<b>Approximate time</b>	3 hours
<b>Parking</b>	Roadside parking by river at Bibury or car park beside bridge
<b>Ordnance Survey maps</b>	Landranger 163 (Cheltenham & Cirencester) and Explorer OL45 (The Cotswolds)

## GPS waypoints

-  SP 115 066
-  SP 110 060
-  SP 127 048
-  SP 143 047
-  SP 120 065

*This relaxing walk takes you through the gentle and pleasant scenery of the Coln valley on the south-eastern fringes of the Cotswolds. Fine views extend for miles over wide and undulating country towards the upper Thames valley and beyond to the line of the Berkshire Downs. There are some delightful riverside meadows and woodlands, and two enchanting Cotswold villages.*

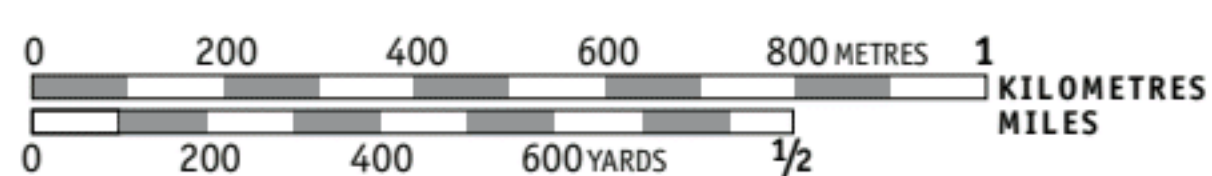
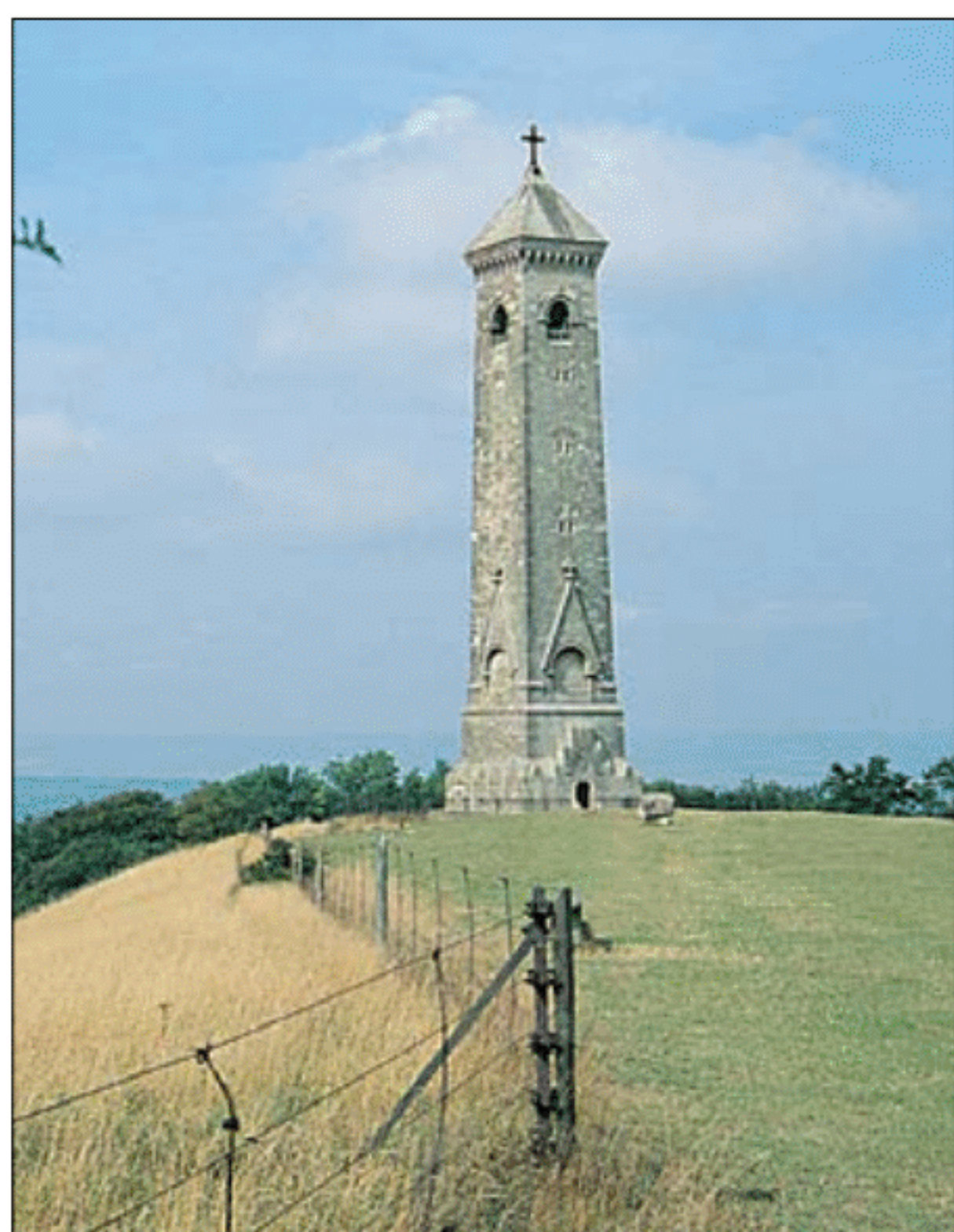


SCALE 1:25 000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM



SCALE 1:25 000 or 2½ INCHES to 1 MILE 4CM to 1KM

*The Tyndale Monument*



visible beyond the twin piers of the Severn Bridge. A bronze plaque helps to identify the various landmarks. From the monument return to the stone slab and 30 yards beyond it and the gate, look for three paths on the left. Take the third one and a waymark seen after a few paces confirms your position. Keep right at the waymarked fork just beyond it, go up the slope and cross two paths to rejoin the Cotswold Way. When you reach a T-junction with a field opposite, bear left and keep a line of fir trees on the right. Continue to the next major



SCALE 1:29 412 or 2 1/4 INCHES to 1 MILE 3.4CM to 1KM

France, it was partially demolished and left in ruins after the Civil Wars in the 17th century, but fortunately restored and made habitable again in the 19th. It has a pleasantly irregular appearance, dominated by the Portmore Tower and the ruined, but nevertheless most impressive, Banqueting Hall. Sudeley Castle played an important role in the turbulent political struggles of the 16th-century and is particularly well-

known because of its associations with Catherine Parr, the sixth and last wife of Henry VIII, who came to live here, died here and is buried in the 15th-century church close to the castle.

Return along the drive and follow it through the park. Go through a gate by the side of a lodge **J** and keep ahead along the road, cross over the river and make your way back to the starting point in Winchcombe.



*The lychgate at Long Compton church of St Peter and St Paul*

next field, making for the right-hand edge of the trees on the horizon. Climb a stile at the top end of the field and turn left along a road **B**. Keep along this for ½ mile (800m) and just past the turning on the left to Long Compton and Shipston there is a T-junction **C**.

Go across a stile opposite, at a footpath sign and walk along a broad farm track heading downhill. Pass some barns on the left and continue downhill on a track across the middle of a field towards Little Rollright church. At the bottom end of the field turn left in front of the mainly 15th- century church and follow the track (Shakespeare's Way) round to the right. Continue for a few paces to turn left along the d'arcy Dalton Way to reach a lane beyond the field **D**. Cross over and continue on the trail. Farther on the path crosses the middle of a field and when you reach the boundary **E** turn left and walk along the edge to visit the Whispering Knights. The path leads on to the Rollright Stones and the Kings Men. Return to the d'arcy Dalton Way and continue towards the A3400. Keep going until you reach the corner of a field where there is a gap in the trees leading to the Stratford–Oxford road.

Here turn right for a short distance, looking for concrete steps in the wooded embankment on the left **F**. Climb these to a footpath sign for Great Rollright at the top and go along a path, between fields both sides, keeping more or less in a straight line. Eventually veer slightly to the left, between a hedge on the left and a line of trees on the right, to a gate and a lane. Go through and turn right along the lane for ¼ mile (400m) to a crossroads **G**.

Here detour to the right if you wish to

*The King's Stone at Rollright*



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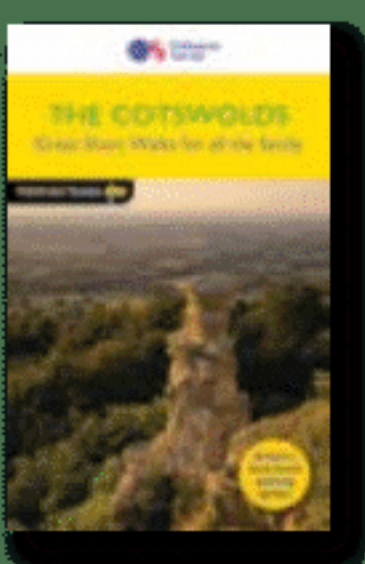
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