



Bibury Village

A gentle walk by the River Coln, affording a visit to the tourist honeypot of Bibury, one of several said to be 'The prettiest village in England'

Essential Facts

- Route distance: 11.5 km (7.2 miles)
- Approximate time: 3 hours
- Optional shorter route: 8.0 km (5.0 miles)
- Approx. total ascent: 70 metres
- Start point Grid Ref: SP 145 050
- GPS Ref: SP 14598 05040
- Recommended O.S. Map: OL 45
- Toughness Rating: Cotswolds 1

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

Up For A
CHALLENGE ?

Take a Great Walk and HELP
your favourite charity with

A Donation
An Individual Walk
A Team Effort

Full Info from the Great Walks web site

THE ROUTE

The route starts at the New Inn, in the village of Coln St Aldwyns, **S**. Parking is possible in the main street, between the Post Office and the river.

From the pub walk downhill over the stream bridges to cross over the main bridge and immediately turn right past a lodge at **A**. Go through the gate and uphill over parkland, with a wall on the left. Keep in the same direction for 15 minutes, passing in front of the farm cottages, and after the next gate, **B**, bear right across the field to where it narrows by a water trough to find a gate.

Walk along the left edge of the next field, and after about 200 metres turn left at **C**. You are here walking along the line of the Roman Akeman Street. After 100 m turn right across the field towards some woodland. Turn left and then right into the woods, and downhill through the trees to a gate into a field.

Opposite you is a small wooden bridge, **D**. Cross this and follow the path to the left for about 15 minutes. At the end of the wood at **E** ignore a gate leading downhill and turn left, following this track by the side of a wood and along field edges to the tourist honey pot village of Bibury.

Turn right for the pubs, restaurant, trout farm and Swan Hotel, **G**.

To continue the walk, turn right and then left opposite the telephone kiosk, bearing left at the signpost past the front of Arlington Farm. Walk along the right hand field edge to some woodland, cross a driveway and go straight across two more fields. Then go to the right of the next field to find a stile into a lane. At the end of this lane turn right along a minor road to the tiny village of Ablington. Turn right at the junction **F** and the next two turnings and follow the little used road to Bibury Swan hotel, **G**.

The walk continues along the road past the public conveniences and up the hill, taking the third turning right signposted reassuringly to Coln St Aldwyns at **H**. Turn right where indicated to Bibury Mill and follow this gravel track, past the mill, uphill to meet the path used in the morning, through the wood to the little wooden bridge, **D**.

A short cut is available from Bibury, using the little bridge signed to Arlington Row. Turn left before the cottages into the car park and walk up the steps into a wood. Fork left over a stile behind the cricket pavilion. At the far end of the field a stile leads into a lane to a junction with the path from Bibury Mill.

At the wooden bridge, **D**, turn left for a pleasant walk back to Coln St Aldwyns bridge along the river Coln. The path does not slavishly follow the river, obligingly cutting off meanders by sometimes following the right hand sides of the fields, but is well worn and well marked.

As with all water meadows, this path can become waterlogged after heavy rain. If this is likely, you may wish after the little wooden bridge, **D**, to go straight across the field to the gate and return by the outward route back to the start point, **S**.



Cottages En Route



Elegance in Bibury



A Country Stile

Refreshment

The New Inn
Public House
Coln St Aldwyns
Tel: 01285 750651
Meals and bar snacks
available

The Swan
Hotel
Bibury
Tel: 01285 740473
Upmarket restaurant
and bar snacks

The Catherine Wheel
Public House
Arlington
Tel: 01285 740250
Pub food



The Swan Hotel

LOCAL INFO

Bibury revels in the quotation from William Morris, that it was “The most beautiful village in England”. You are unlikely to visit it without meeting a good many other visitors. It is on everybody’s itinerary. It is actually two villages, Arlington and Bibury, situated on either side of the river Coln.

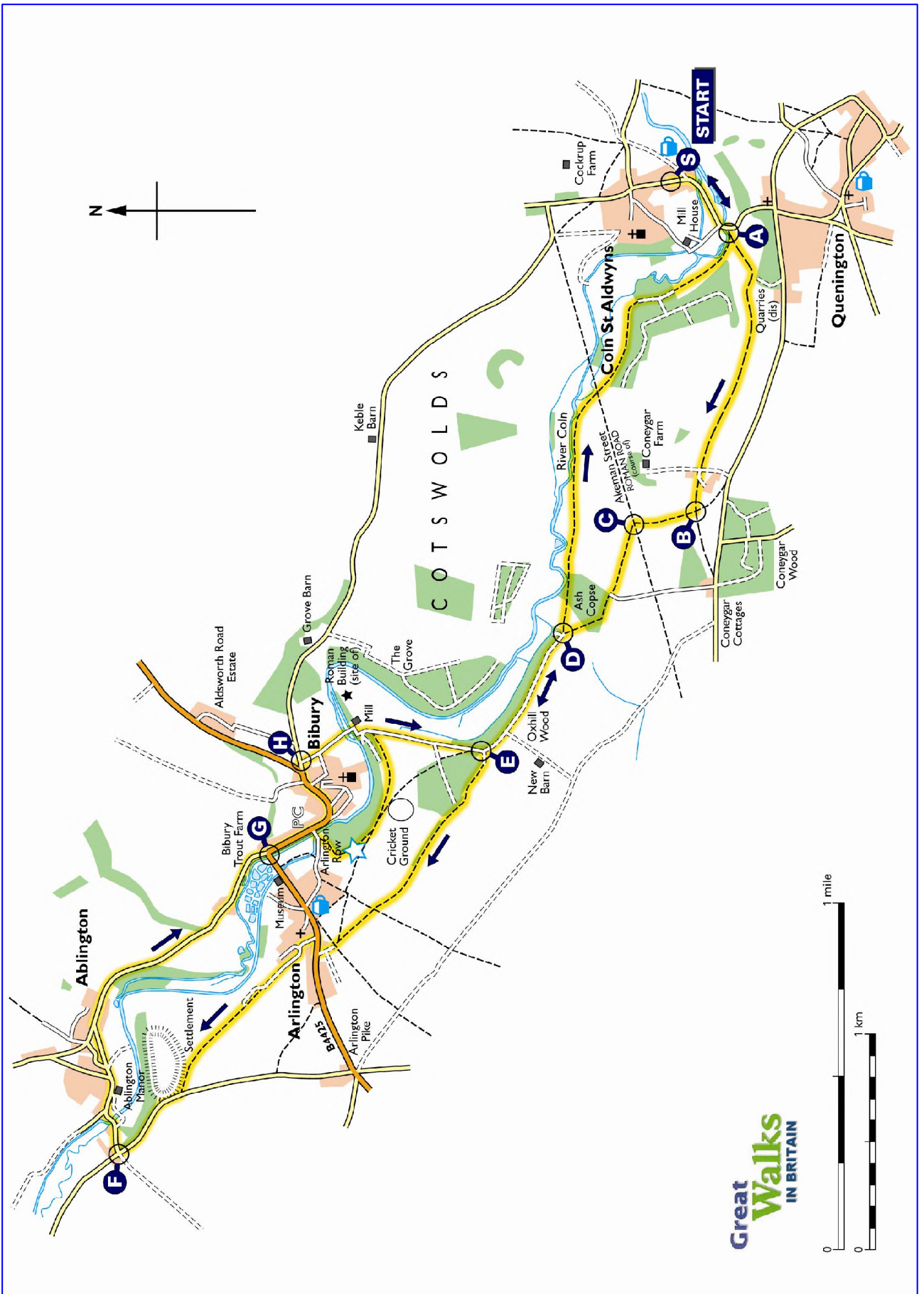
Arlington Row cottages were built in 1380 as a monastic wool store and were converted into weavers’ homes in the seventeenth century.

Bibury Trout Farm is a working Farm, with facilities to “fish your own” and a beginners’ fishery, picnic area, as well as a shop and restaurant.

The parish church of St. Mary’s is of Saxon origin but boasts a twentieth century window which featured on a Christmas postage stamp in 1992

BIBURY VILLAGE G.P.S. WAYPOINTS

WAYPOINT NAME	MAP REF		CO-ORDINATES		ELEVATION: Metres
BIB S	S	SP	14598	05040	100
BIB A	A	SP	14310	04705	95
BIB B	B	SP	13101	04915	130
BIB C	C	SP	12997	05195	125
BIB D	D	SP	12557	05452	100
BIB E	E	SP	12166	05958	95
BIB F	F	SP	10374	07328	120
BIB G	G	SP	11477	06889	105
BIB H	H	SP	12045	06422	115



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,