

summary:route4

This route offers a chance to experience the stunning Cotswold villages known locally as the 'String of Pearls' and offers a rewarding way of discovering some of the loveliest quietly nestled villages as well as great scenery around the Roman town of Cirencester. This route has a few short stretches of hilly bits but is well worth the relatively small efforts. It is a very attractive route and is relatively easy for the less experienced cyclist.

*Alternative Routes

(Descriptions of the alternative shortcuts not included on this map are available from the following website: <http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning/cycling>)

- 4a Calmsden to Chedworth Roman Villa (NT) and Northleach. (6.5 miles)
- 4b Northleach to Winson. (3.9 miles)
- 4c Northleach to Coln St. Aldwyns. (7 miles)
- 4d Fosseway to Bibury. (3 miles)
- 4e Coln St. Aldwyns to Lechlade via Hatherop, Eastleach and Southrop. (9 miles)
- 4f Lechlade to Quenington. (5 miles)
- 4g Quenington to Fairford. (2.1 miles)
- 4h Fairford to Sunhill via Honeycomb Leaze. (2.4 miles)



directions:route4

- 1 From Cirencester Market Place, head northward along the road to the left of the Parish Church as you face it. Cycle along this striking medieval part of Cirencester and continue straight on along Gloucester Street. At the Petrol Station, join the cycle path northward. Join the main carriageway by the Plough Inn (alternatively cross the road and use the footpath on the other side). Steadily climb up the hill ignoring the School Hill turning on the left. Filter left at the next signposted turning, towards Daglingworth, Itlay, and Park Corner, and past the cemetery on the right.

Alternatively you can carry on straight uphill and join the route at the A417 underpass.

The Daglingworth road is gently undulating with a gradual climb uphill. As you enter the village itself, (3.6 miles), turn right, where signposted (17T except for access) steeply uphill. Don't be afraid to get off and walk this quiet but steep short stretch of about 0.2 miles. Once at the top, continue along the ridge to the very quiet double roundabout underneath the A417. Go straight on to Perrots Brook and Bagendon. Follow the narrow quiet country lane. Ignore the first junction to Middle Duntisbourne. Just before the bottom of the hill, before the main road, take the turning left signposted to Bagendon, and Woodmancote. 2

Carry on straight up through a shady leafy avenue of trees on to Woodmancote ignoring the left hand turn to Bagendon after 0.2 mile. At the top of this hill (about 1 mile) turn right to North Cerney/Cheltenham, turn right, where signposted (17T except for access) steeply uphill. Don't be afraid to get off and walk this quiet but steep short stretch of about 0.2 miles. Once at the top, continue along the ridge to the very quiet double roundabout underneath the A417. Go straight on to Perrots Brook and Bagendon. Follow the narrow quiet country lane. Ignore the first junction to Middle Duntisbourne. Just before the bottom of the hill, before the main road, take the turning left signposted to Bagendon, and Woodmancote. 2

At the top continue cross over the 'Whiteway' continue straight on to the picturesque Cotswold village of Calmsden. Continue downhill and at the bottom of the hill, turn left up, past the water trough through the idyllic village. At the top of the hill, the road swings round in front of the 'Forge' workshops towards Fossebridge and Northleach (8.7 miles). 4 Alternative route 4a

Continue straight along the gently undulating landscape, to the junction with the Fosseway. Cross over the A429 Stow to Cirencester Road (Fosseway) to take the turning to Coln Rogers. 4a

*Alternative route 4d

- 5 Almost immediately after turning right off the Fosseway, turn left (signpost hidden) to Coln Rogers. The roads gently winds down hill offering some fabulous views as you descend into Coln Rogers.

By the junction signposted for the Saxon Church, turn right towards Winson (11.5 miles).

At the bridge bear left towards Winson and Bibury. At the next junction bear right over another small bridge, up hill into Winson. In the village turn right to Ablington, Fosse Cross, and Bibury (12.7 miles). At the top of the hill turn left to Ablington/Bibury and bear right in the village, in front of the converted barn. Gently descend through the shady avenue of trees and at the grassy knoll take the left turn signposted Ablington/Bibury. After you have passed over the brook in the middle of the picturesque village, bear right at the next grassy triangle.

Continue straight past the bus stop and Manor Farm B & B, and turn right to Bibury at the next T-junction. Continue on into the popular tourist village of Bibury and at 'The Swan' carry straight on towards Arlington Row (14.5 miles). 6

Just past Arlington Row the road swings uphill, bear right at the No Entry Signs and you will pass through the quieter pretty old part of the village.

At the top of the hill you will join the main road again for a very short stretch before turning right again to Coln St. Aldwyns (signposted the New Inn). This ridge is gently undulating and offers great views back towards Bibury and the impressively set Bibury Court Hotel. After about a mile, you will meet a T-junction, opposite Cockrup Business Farm Units, turn right into Coln St. Aldwyns village. At the little green by the Post Office and the old Telephone Exchange, descend to the right past the New Inn.

Alternatively turn left towards Hatherop and the picturesque villages of Hatherop, Eastleach, and Southrop and on to the Market Town of Lechlade-on-Thames, which connects with Oxfordshire Cycle Networks. 4e

At the bottom of the hill bear right towards a small bridge, opposite the house where Joanna Trollope lived when writing many of her recent novels. Just over the bridge continue up the short stretch of very steep hill into Quenington. At the top ignore the first turning to Cirencester and carry on to the village green. Alternative route 4f

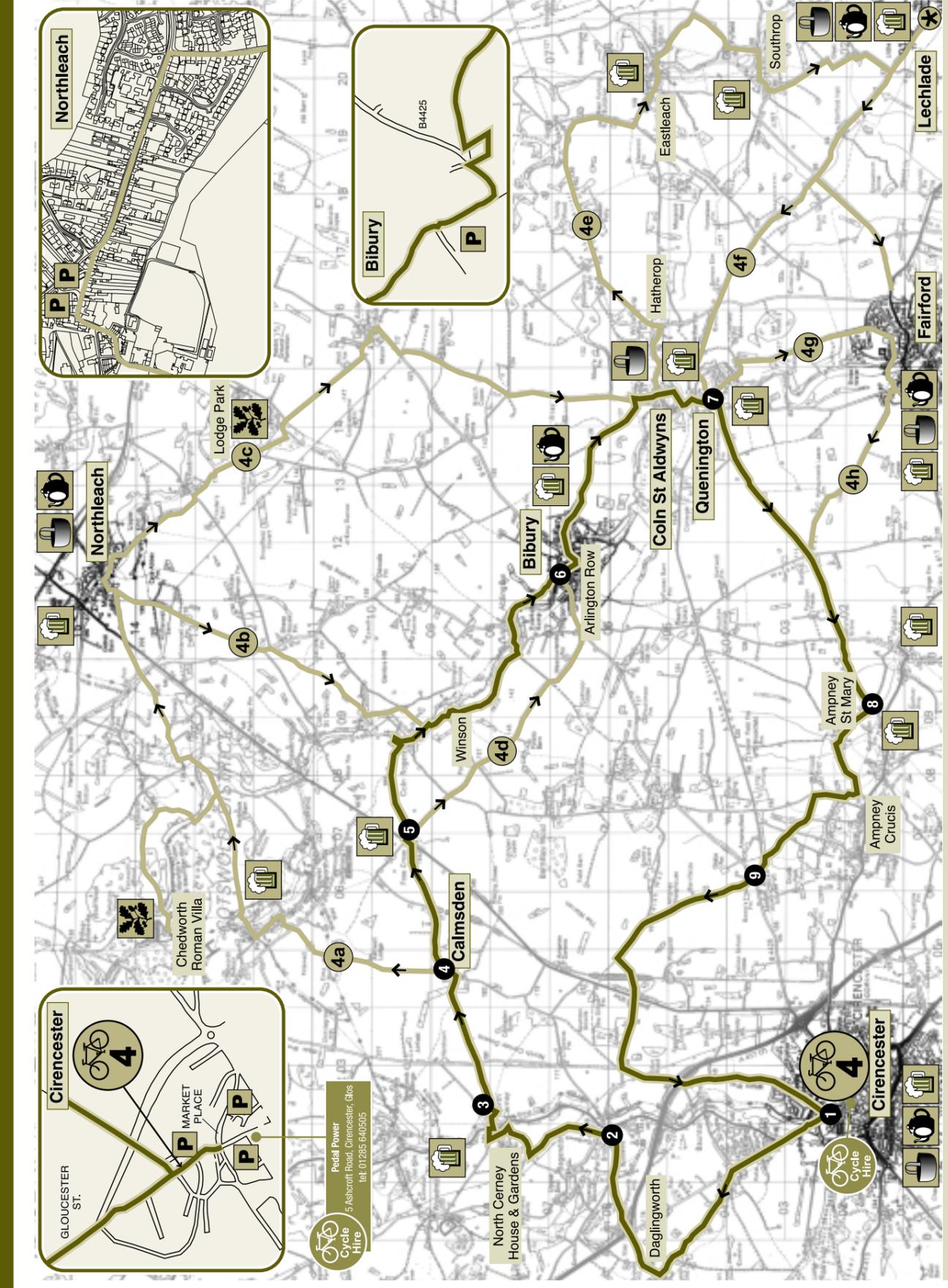
Turn right to Cirencester by the Fairford sign (17.8 miles). This road gently descends almost all the way to Ampney St.Mary. 7

Alternatively turn left downhill at the green in Quenington Village and continue straight onto the ancient Market Town of Fairford. 4g

Continue on to Ampney St. Mary and ignore the subsequent turning to Fairford and continue past Betty's Grave (the site of the burning of a witch from nearby Poulton). Eventually just about 100 yards before rejoining the A417 turn right to Ampney St. Mary. 8

Continue through the village, past the farm buildings and on to Ampney Crucis. At the grassy knoll turn right to Ampney Crucis village. At the Dudley Farm turning, continue straight on out of the village. Just after the right turn to Hilcote End, turn left, along a farm track. At the end bear right along the more developed road. Next T-junction bear right again and carry straight on. Where you meet another grassy knoll, turn left to Cirencester. At the Traffic Lights in Cirencester continue straight on. At the STOP sign turn left along Dollar Street back to the Market Place, highlighted by the Church. (30 miles). 9

Eventually you will cross the railway line and pass through an avenue of trees. At the A429 to Stow and it's very flat all the way back to the Whiteway. Turn left at the junction signposted Cirencester 2.5 miles. At the Traffic Lights in Cirencester continue straight on. At the STOP sign turn left along Dollar Street back to the Market Place, highlighted by the Church. (30 miles).



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| Starting point | Main route | Take extra care! | Teashop | National Trust Property | Parking |
| Orientation point | Alternative routes | Directional arrows | Public House | Shops | |

0 2km

Also available are: the Oxfordshire Cycleway to the east of Lechlade and the emerging Gloucestershire cycleway at Whelford and Kempford.

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