

Little Cotswold Walks



Coln Valley - South



RR Gordon

A series of short, circular walks around the Cotswolds
Following the Coln Valley from Ablington to Fairford

You can also download other booklets in the series from www.rrgordon.com
including 1. Birdlip & Beyond, 2. Painswick Valley, 3. Toadsmoor Valley, 4. Frome Valley, 5. The Oak, Painswick,
6. Stroud & Surrounds, 7. Stroud Brewery, 8. Windrush Valley-West, 9. Windrush Valley-East,
10. The Daisy Way, 11. Lockdown Allsorts, 12. Holy Brook Valley, 13. Cherry Tree Glamping,
14. Coln Valley-North

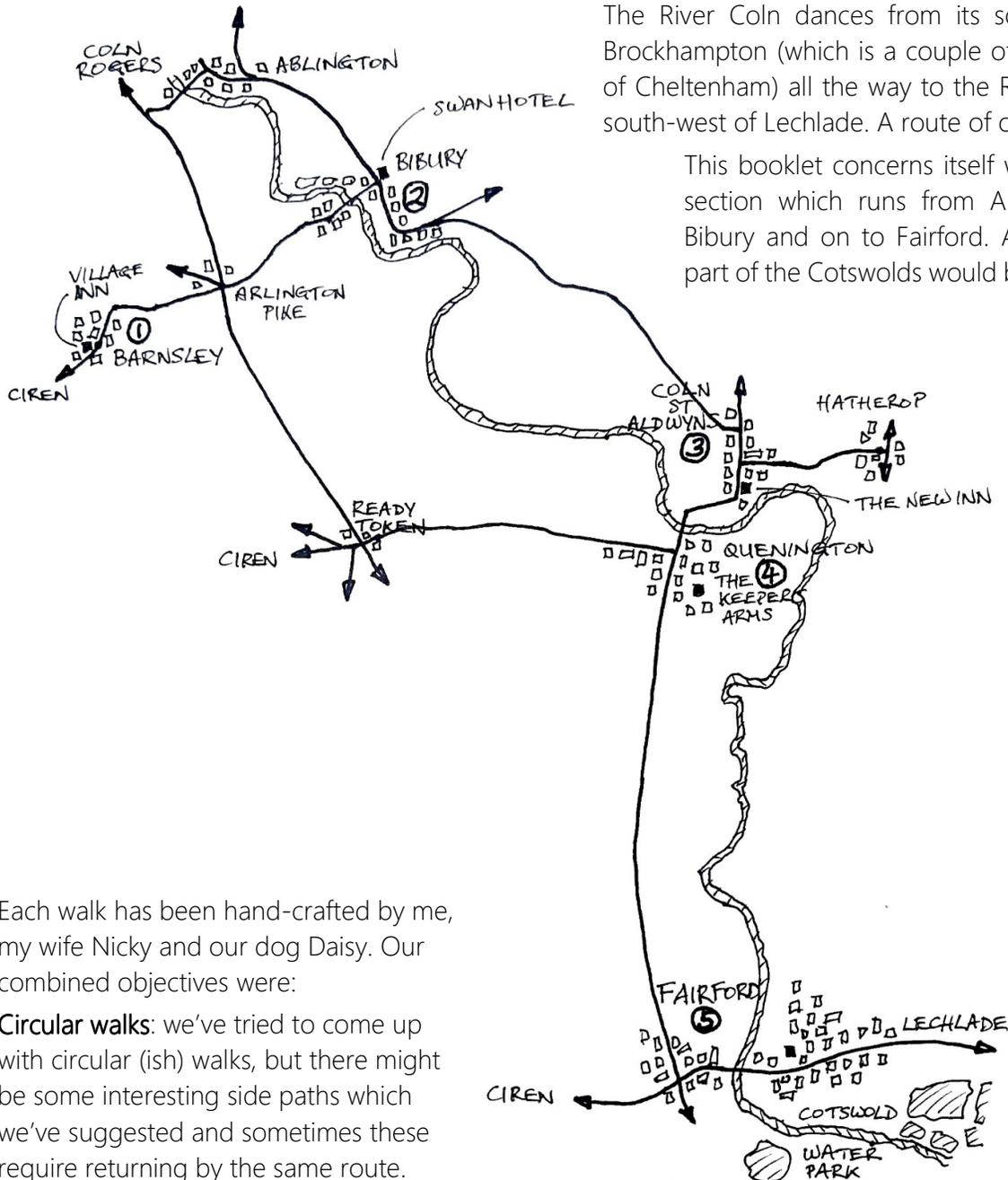
50,000 published to date

Little Cotswold Walks
Book 15. Coln Valley - South 2023 Edition
Copyright © 2023 by RR & NL Gordon

Introduction

The River Coln dances from its source just above Brockhampton (which is a couple of miles north-east of Cheltenham) all the way to the River Thames, just south-west of Lechlade. A route of over 50 miles.

This booklet concerns itself with the southern section which runs from Ablington through Bibury and on to Fairford. A more delightful part of the Cotswolds would be difficult to find!



Each walk has been hand-crafted by me, my wife Nicky and our dog Daisy. Our combined objectives were:

Circular walks: we've tried to come up with circular (ish) walks, but there might be some interesting side paths which we've suggested and sometimes these require returning by the same route.

We aim for an hour but sometimes they end up as a couple of hours – one in this booklet ended up at over three hours which was a mistake, but oh well!

Some exercise for Daisy: uppermost in Daisy's mind was her desire that each walk should contain a stretch where she could be off the lead. For longer walks, I'm also aware that Daisy will need a drink so a stream, lake, horse trough is a very useful landmark on the walk.

Please note our 'Difficult for Dogs' (DD) symbol – where stiles are not easily managed. Daisy says she's not getting older, the stiles are just getting higher!

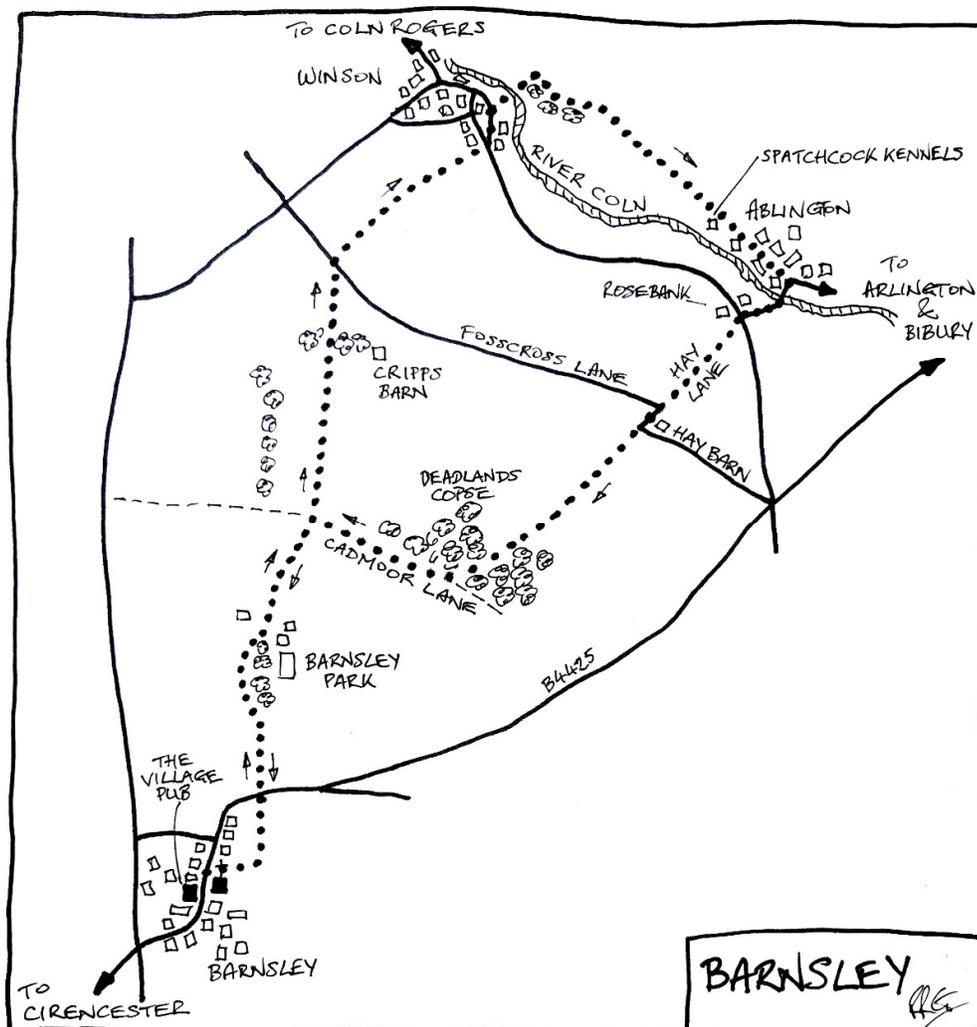
Daisy absolutely insists that we regularly re-trace the walks in case anything has changed, but if you spot any errors then please let me know – we will both be mortified and will correct the error immediately and re-publish on www.rrgordon.com

Rod Gordon

rod@rrgordon.com

1. Barnsley

Rod's Rating	 <p>A great walk, but quite long! We normally aim for our walks to be an hour or an hour and a half, but we wanted to tie in a lovely pub with a good stretch of the River Coln and this was the best option. Anyway, it's a great walk with not too much up and down.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>This walk is quite challenging as there were a lot of stone stiles – one that is huge! – but there's the stream to dive into and the open fields.</p>
Parking & Pub	The Boot, Barnsley, Cirencester GL7 5EF Tel: 01285 740421 https://www.thebootbarnsley.co.uk/ (Formerly known as The Village Inn)
How long did it take?	3 ½ hrs 6.7 miles/10.8 km 70m up/down



THE WALK - In summary:
 North through Barnsley Park and on to Winson. Then follow the River Coln to Ablington before looping back south.

THE WALK - In detail:

- > Turn left out of the pub car park
- > After 20 yards turn right up a small lane opposite the village hall, signed to the church
- > Follow the path to the left of the church through the churchyard and over a stone stile (DD) at the end
- > Head straight across field to another stone stile (DD) next to a double metal gate
- > Turn left and walk along the left edge of field

- > At the end of some houses on left, continue straight ahead across open field to cross stone stile **(DD)** on far side
- > Nip across the busy road and over a stone stile **(DD)**
- > Continue straight ahead, wire fence to left, into Barnsley Park
- > **Turn left** onto tarmac drive for 20 yds & as drive bends to right, continue straight ahead & over a stile
- > Follow right edge of field as it curves to right around a small wood (manor house on right at midpoint)
- > Go through a large wooden gate onto a stone track for a few paces then **turn left** through a black metal kissing gate
- > **Turn right** just before large gates of a walled garden and at end of walled garden continue straight ahead over a wooden stile
- > Head **diagonally right** (1 o'clock!)
- > Go over a stone stile **(DD)** and straight across field (very slight right)
- > Go over highest stone stile in the world **(DD and humans!)** and you come to a crossroads of paths
- > Go straight ahead into a large arable field. Technically the footpath goes straight through the middle of this field and the next but there is rarely any sign of it, so we normally turn left and skirt edge of the field and then keep to the right-hand edge of the second field. (I defy you to find the footpath!) This is a tricky section actually as there are no footpath signs and between the two fields you will need to step over the tumbledown stone wall; we normally do this about midway. Remember, you are aiming straight ahead.
- > As you walk along right edge of second field you will see Cripps Barn to your right ahead, at the end of some trees (this is a large 18th century Cotswold stone barn which is now used as a wedding venue)
- > Half way along this second field go through a gateway on **right** (no footpath sign though, so tricky again!) and walk along left edge of this grass meadow with Cripps Barn and woods at the end
- > Follow a track into the trees and **turn right** onto track and then straight ahead (going past carpark for Cripps Barn on right)
- > You should see Public Footpath sign on post, just past the carpark, walk along left edge of arable field
- > At top left corner of field, exit field to the left around a wide metal gate
- > Go straight across the road (Foss Cross lane) (actually left for a few yards then right) and walk along left edge of an arable field and the one after. The Coln valley is in the distance ahead.
- > At a huge tree go straight ahead (very slight right actually!) down towards the valley
- > At the end of field go into bushes/trees and go left through a gate, then **turn right** over a stile. *You have effectively gone straight on, down to valley, cutting across a Public Bridleway going left to right across*
- > Go down right edge of field to a metal gate to right of stables
- > Continue straight ahead then over a stone stile **(DD)** and straight across road to go down a narrow path to left of Thatched Cottage. You are now entering the lovely village of Winson
- > **Turn left** onto road (opposite parking for Spring Road Cottage)
- > After house on right **turn right** through a wooden gate at stone footpath sign and go down to River Coln through another wooden gate; cross the river on a wooden bridge
- > Follow a grass track uphill and **turn right** just before a wooden gate to follow a narrow path with barbed wire fence to left and bushes/trees on right
- > Go over a stile and head up & diagonally left towards the left edge of trees on horizon. Turn and look at the view!
- > Go through a gateway in the corner and down on right edge of field
- > Go through another gate and follow farm track on left edge of field – River Coln to right

- > Go through yet another gate and past Spatchcock Kennels on right
 - > Exit the kennels through gate and follow the tarmac drive into the village of Ablington
 - > At Mill House **turn right** and cross bridge over the Coln – isn't the river wide here?
 - > Continue up the road and at a T junction go straight across onto a Restricted Byway passing house called Rosebank on your right. After a while the footpath narrows and continues until it meets a road
 - > **Turn left** onto the road
 - > After 50 yards, as road bends to left, go straight ahead onto a Public Bridleway and across a field
 - > At the end of field, before two large metal gates, **turn right** through gap in hedge and follow the Bridlepath through Deadlands Copse
 - > When you eventually arrive at the high Cotswold stone wall surrounding Barnsley Park **turn right** to follow the wall on your left. The footpath is narrow and overgrown in places
 - > After approx. ½ mile, at a waist-high Footpath post on right, climb over the very high stone stile on the left that you scaled earlier. *You are now retracing your earlier steps through Barnsley Park ...*
 - > Continue straight ahead to cross field and go over stile heading towards estate buildings ahead
 - > Go over wooden stile at estate buildings and continue straight ahead (walled garden to right)
 - > **Turn left** onto tarmac drive, go through black kissing gate and **turn right** onto gravel driveway
 - > After a few paces go through large wooden gate on left (do NOT continue down driveway)
 - > Follow grass track as it curves to the left (woods and manor house to left)
 - > Exit field through wooden stile and continue on grass track onto tarmac drive
 - > After a few paces, at end of wooden fence, **bear right** along edge of field (wire fence to right)
 - > Cross a stone stile **(DD)** and then carefully cross road going over another stone stile **(DD)** into the field
 - > Go straight ahead across the field, then continue with stone wall to right. Just after a large metal gate in wall go over a stone stile **(DD)** on right
 - > **Bear left**, cross the field and enter the churchyard via the stone stile **(DD)**
 - > Pass church on left and exit the churchyard
 - > Cross the main road carefully and head left towards the pub and enjoy a drink or bite to eat!
- Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)*

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Barnsley's history dates to the Iron Age settlement in Barnsley Park, later occupied in the 2nd century by a Roman villa, but by 577, after the capture of Cirencester, a Saxon village called Bearmodeslea (Bearmod's glade) existed here.

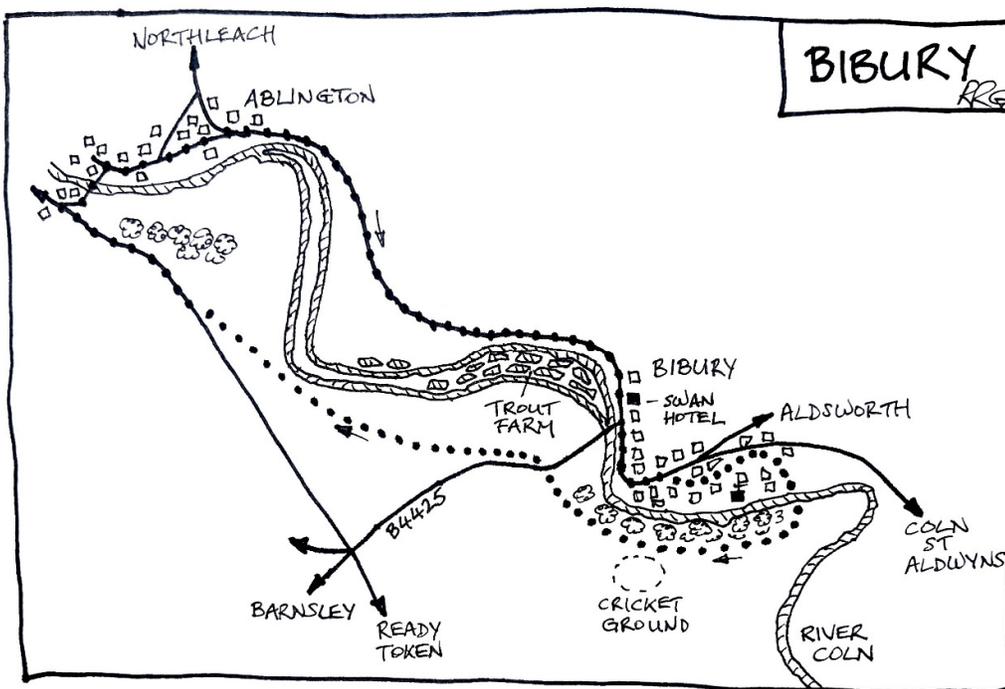
The Domesday Book recorded total heads of house or slaves as 24. It was granted to Magaret de Bohun, daughter of the Earl of Hereford by 1180, which she assigned to the monks of Llanthony Priory, and it became known as Bardesley in 1197.

The village became royal property under the reign of Henry VIII three hundred years later. Henry was known to let each of his wives enjoy the village by turns. During the time of the village's status as royal property, many of its inhabitants earned their living through agriculture, grazing sheep on the 'yardlands' of common mead, helping make the Cotswolds the centre of the wool trade.

In 2019, the village hit the headlines after Australian snooker player Neil Robertson had to withdraw from qualifying for the World Championship due to following sat nav directions to Barnsley, Gloucestershire instead of Barnsley, South Yorkshire. He did win the tournament in 2010 so you'd think he'd have known where he was going.

2. Bibury

Rod's Rating	 <p>One of the busiest villages in the Cotswolds – for good reason – but we quickly take you away from the tourists! A lovely stretch of the River Coln, a nice walk – and a choice of great hostelries at the end.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Fields to romp in and places where you can jump in the river to cool down.</p>
Parking & Pub	<p>Bibury has plenty of places to eat and drink but our walk starts and ends at The Swan, Bibury, Gloucestershire GL7 5NW Tel: 01285 740 695.</p> <p>https://www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk/the-swan-hotel/</p> <p>Or a lovely pub on the Barnsley road: http://catherinewheel-bibury.co.uk/</p> <p>Parking in Bibury is a bit of a nightmare however there are sometimes spaces available on the road. There are also car parks if you turn up left after the bridge when facing The Swan.</p>
How long did it take?	1 ½ hours 3 miles / 4.8 km 75m up/down



THE WALK - In summary:

Head east with the river on your right, then circle back around the south of the village to Ablington.

THE WALK - In detail:

- > **Turn left** out of The Swan Hotel and walk along pavement on the other side of the road, with River Coln on your right
- > **Turn right** (actually it's straight on!) where main road goes around to the left and slightly uphill; go past Village Hall on left
- > At the end, follow the road around to left (where church is on your right)
- > Go through gap at end of road (near phone box) and cross over *side* road and **bear right** to walk along the pavement of the *main* road
- > Where the road bends, **turn right** at a quiet country road signposted to Coln St Aldwyns and Quenington
- > After 50 yards **turn right** down an even quieter country lane with a Public Bridleway signpost to Coln St Aldwyns (2 miles) Don't go across field. Follow tarmac road downhill to the river.

- > Cross a bridge over the River Coln (ignoring Private sign halfway down which is aimed at cars)
- > Follow the road right, then left, through the houses, then uphill
- > Go through gateway for Bibury Court Estate and **turn right** to follow a Public Footpath sign (the Public Bridleway continues straight ahead into the valley)

NB. After the bridge which you crossed a few minutes ago, the Coln bends around to the right almost 180 degrees to go along the valley which you see ahead and to your left here; at the far end of the valley the Coln then bends left again to return to its original direction; the Public Bridleway also provides another nice walk, following the river to Coln St Aldwyns; that's for another day perhaps

- > Go uphill with fence (and Bibury and Coln Valley) on left
- > Go through gate at the top and go to the right of the cricket pitch, ie following the Cotswold stone wall on your right
- > Near the end of the field, the path splits, take the **left fork** (not following the wall any longer), up through the big trees to a kissing gate
- > After going through kissing gate, go straight ahead along a wide farm track with grass along the middle (don't be tempted to go left or right!); follow barbed wire fence which runs along the right-hand side after a wide double metal gate; NB this farm track is actually the access track to the cricket pitch
- > Where the cricket pitch track turns left, go straight ahead through a wooden gate (marked "Private Land, stick to paths") or over the stone stile to right
- > Take the middle mowed path which leads diagonally to the far left of this meadow, going to left of a huge oak and straight across a wide mowed avenue in the middle of the field (if it's still there)
- > Climb over wooden stile in the corner of the meadow and **turn right** onto the good old cricket pitch track, going past a playground on left
- > **Turn right** onto main road and after 50 yards turn left up a small road (opposite phone box); Long Cottage is at the entrance of the small road
- > Go through a gateway and keep left along a wire fence following Public Footpath sign to Ablington (not Arlington which you are just leaving!)
- > Go through wooden gate to left of gravel driveway
- > Go through wooden gate and continue straight ahead, tall hedge on your right
- > Go through wooden gate or climb over a stone stile (**DD**), go straight across a gravel drive to follow right edge of a field; the Coln is in the valley to your right, but you can't see it!
- > Climb over wooden stile
- > Climb over a stone stile (**DD**), go straight across a drive which leads to Rawbarrow Farm, through kissing gate and straight ahead following double fence on your right
- > Go through a wooden kissing gate, immediately followed by a stile, walk straight ahead following right edge of this field
- > Go over two stiles and through two gates (crossing a track between the two gates) and into a passageway through the trees/hedges
- > Emerge at a road and **turn right** through wooden gate; follow the road
- > After a while you arrive at the edge of Ablington. **Turn right** towards the centre of the village (signposted Ablington, Bibury 1 ¼)

NB. This is where you overlap with the previous walk, from Barnsley; if you had boundless energy you could join the two walks together; another day perhaps ...

- > Follow the road down to the bridge over the River Coln and then follow the road around to the right through the main street in the village
- > After leaving the village behind, **turn right** onto another road (at a house called Ablington Old Barn, on your right) and follow this road all the way back to Bibury; you will catch occasional glimpses of the Coln to your right
- > The Swan is on your left as you re-enter Bibury; fancy a drink?

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

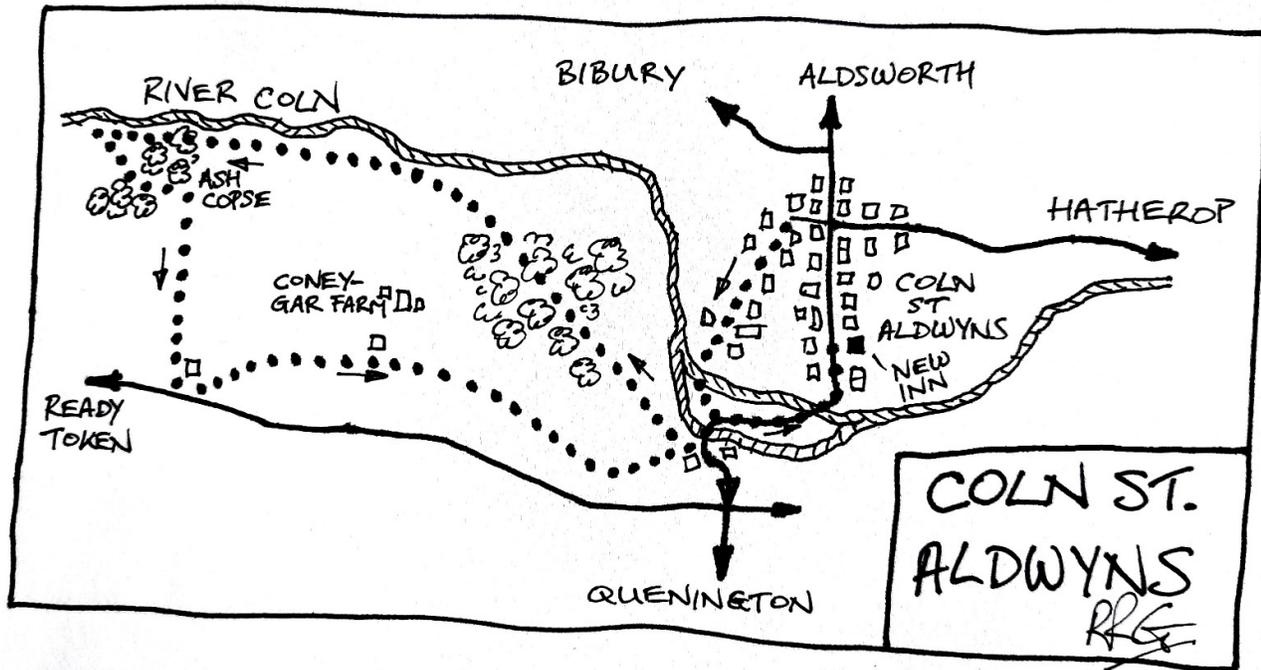
It is said that Arlington Row on Awkward Hill in Bibury is the most photographed landmark in the Cotswolds and is depicted on the inside cover of all United Kingdom passports. It was built in 1380 as a wool store and converted into weavers cottages in the late 17th century. A Grade I listed building, owned by the National Trust, it has been used as a film and television location, most notably for the films Stardust and Bridget Jones's Diary.

The artist and craftsman William Morris (1834-96) described Bibury as "the most beautiful village in England". The Coln, along with the Bibury Spring, supplies Bibury Trout farm, founded in 1902 by the naturalist Arthur Severn, to stock the local rivers and streams with the native brown trout. The hatchery spawns up to one million eggs every year. They produce three types of trout - Brown, Blue and Rainbow - which they sell to fisheries, fish farms, angling clubs and private lakes, reservoirs and rivers throughout the country- and also a number of pubs and restaurants.

3. Coln St Aldwyns

Rod's Rating	 <p>Perhaps my favourite walk in this booklet, as you are right on the riverbank for a considerable time – and then up on the hillside to look down on the valley as you walk back.</p> <p>Great pub – or try the café at the lovely village stores. If only all villages had a shop like this one ...</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Great walk for dogs to roam around the meadows and woods.</p>
Parking & Pub	New Inn, Coln St Aldwyns GL7 5AN https://www.thenewinncoln.co.uk/ or Coln Community Stores (and Café), Coln St Aldwyns GL7 5AN http://colnstores.co.uk/
How long did it take?	1hr 30 mins 3.6 miles/5.8 km 60m up/down

THE WALK - In summary:



THE WALK - In detail:

- > Coming out of the Village Stores **turn left** around the side of the shop and left again signposted for the Church
- > Follow the lane as it bends to left (following Dead-End). Vicarage on right
- > At end of lane continue onto grassy track straight ahead
- > Continue onto narrow path between two walls
- > Cross over stone bridge (River Coln?)
- > **Turn left** along tarmac drive to the end
- > At the road **turn right**. Go over a bridge over River Coln (again)
- > At Yew Tree Lodge (first house on right) go through gateway, through large wooden gate into field
- > **Turn right** following Public Footpath sign to Bibury (2 miles). You will now follow the river

- > Enter woods via large wooden gate
- > Exit woods and continue to follow track (woods to left, river to right)
- > Go through large metal gate into wide open field. Hill to left. You are now going parallel to road back to village
- > Exit field through large metal gate
- > Continue along path with Ash Copse to left and go through another large metal gate into field
- > Follow path as it bends to left. Do NOT turn right over wooden footbridge into Oxhill Woods but **turn left** opposite bridge and walk uphill into Ash Cops through large wooden gate
- > Continue up through woods
- > As you leave woods at the top **turn right** onto a track (other route of public access) with hedge at both sides
- > Follow track to road. (Conygar Lodge)
- > At road **turn left** and then almost immediately **left again** through large wooden gate (Bridleway) into large field
- > Cross field heading for tree in middle and over to other side. Exit through large metal gate. River to left across rolling hills)
- > Enter another field and head towards another large metal gate
- > Exit field through gate at two cottages on left
- > Follow gravel drive, cross main gravel drive to cross field ahead
- > Go through gap in hedge and cross next large field
- > Exit field through large metal gate continuing along right edge of field towards wood. Wall to right
- > Cross small field towards and through another metal gate
- > Enter field and **bear left** and down towards river, bridge and wooden gate you came through at beginning of walk
- > Exit through the wooden gate, go out along drive and through wooden gate at Yew Tree Lodge to road
- > **Turn left**, cross over River Coln and continue along road back into village of Coln St Aldwyns. You will find pub (New Inn) on your right

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The designation "St. Aldwyns" (Culna Sancti Aylwini) is attested from the 12th century, and differentiates the village from Coln Rogers and Coln St. Dennis, situated further along the River Coln. In 1086 in the Domesday book only a single undifferentiated "Culne" is recorded.

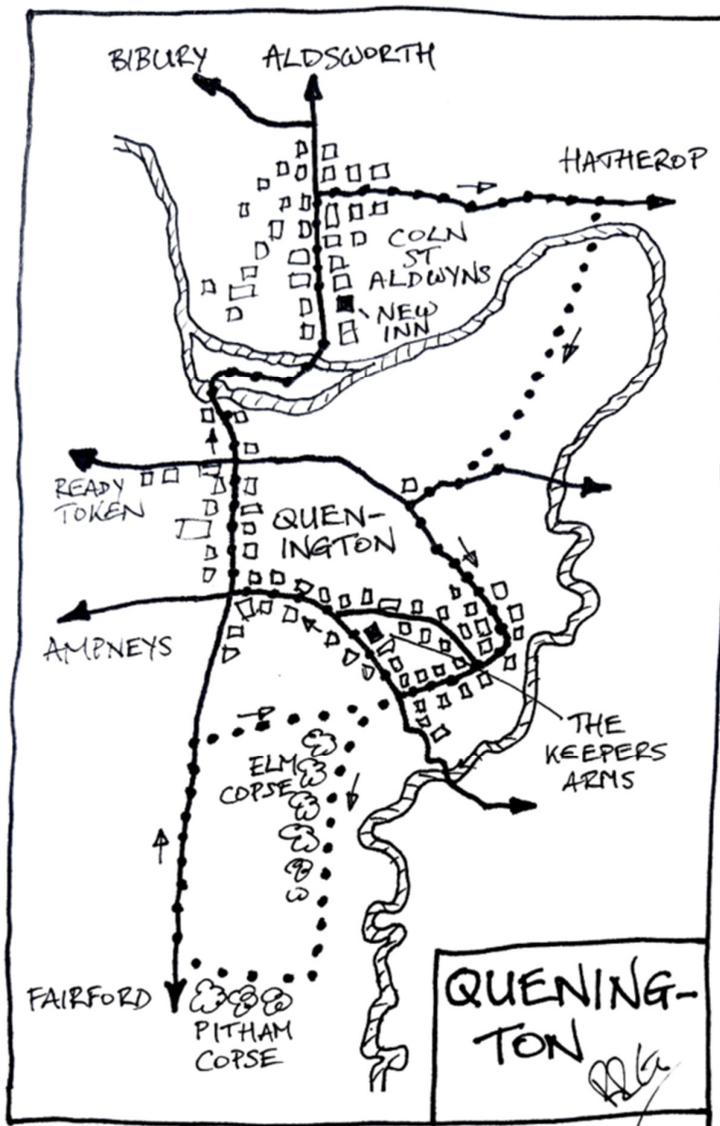
There are two possible origins of the name:

One theory goes that the church in the village was originally dedicated to St Aylwin, taken to be a form of St Æthelwine, which later became St Aldwyn. However, at some point between 1535 and 1700 the dedication of the church was changed to St John the Baptist.

The alternative theory is that the village is named after Aldwyn, Bishop of Gloucester, who was known to be a tutor of Charles the Great (Charlemagne). It became part of the domain of Gloucester cathedral in the middle of the 8th century.

4. Quenington

<p>Rod's Rating</p>	<p></p> <p>We decided to start the Quenington walk in Coln St Aldwyns! This is in order to get in as much of the River Coln as possible, and the first section is through a lovely valley which starts halfway between Coln St Aldwyns and Hatherop. It does make the walk a little longer, but there is the added benefit of two pubs. Why not stop at both? I can't decide which is best ...</p>
<p>Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?</p>	<p></p> <p>Great meadows and long stretches of riverbanks for exploring.</p>
<p>Parking & Pub</p>	<p>The Keepers Arms, Church Road, Quenington GL7 5BS https://thekeepersarms.co.uk/ New Inn, Coln St Alwyns GL7 5AN https://www.thenewinncoln.co.uk/ Coln Community Stores (and Café), Coln St Aldwyns GL7 5AN http://colnstores.co.uk/</p>
<p>How long did it take?</p>	<p>1 hr 20 mins 2.8 miles/4.5 km 30m up/down</p>



THE WALK - In summary:

We decided to start the Quenington walk in Coln St Aldwyns!

Follow the river Coln southwards through Quenington and beyond, before looping back.

THE WALK – In detail:

- > **Turn right** out of the New Inn pub (in Coln St Aldwyns) and walk uphill
- > Go past phone box and post box on right continuing along road past village hall on left
- > **Bear right** off main road and go up the right hand edge of green (don't go down No Through Road)
- > **Turn right** at the top and walk along road (Xylem on left)
- > Follow road as it bends to right and downhill (Coln St Aldwyns ½ mile)
- > Cross bridge and follow road into Coln St Aldwyns.
- > The lovely New Inn is on right where you can pause if desired or you can continue uphill towards the Coln Stores on left ahead
- > At a bench around a large tree **turn right** along road towards Hatherop
- > Walk past large gates on left (and ignore Footpath on right)
- > As you enter Hatherop, just before 30mph sign, **turn right** to cross the river on wide metal bridge
- > Enter field through wooden gate and cross field with river to your left
- > Leave field via a wooden kissing gate and head into next field. Walk along bottom left of field and go through another wooden kissing gate
- > Head straight across next field exiting this field via small wooden gate
- > **Turn right** onto road and then **turn left** at next road signposted for Quenington and into village
- > Continue uphill and round to right through village. Post box on left
- > At a T junction cross straight over and go straight ahead through wooden gateway along gravel drive
- > As driveway bends to left (dovecote to left) continue straight ahead onto a wide grassy track
- > Go through a small wooden gate and, keeping fence to left, continue on track bearing left
- > Enter next field and keep to right hand side. Elm Copse to right, River Coln to left. Exit over a temporary stile and follow path right next to river
- > At end of field go through metal V shaped stile up into copse
- > At top of path **turn left** to follow left hand side of field (woods at first then barbed wire fence to left) where river bends back round again
- > At end of field go through gap in hedge and continue straight ahead along left hand side of field (copse to left)
- > At end of field cross stile onto tarmac road and **turn right** uphill
- > After approx. one mile, just before village of Quenington and 30mph sign, **turn right** off road onto public footpath (Ernest Cook Trust on sign) and keeping to right side of field follow path (Quenington lies ahead)
- > Go thru metal stile and then **bear left then diagonally right** across and down towards valley and small wooden gate next to a large metal gate (yes, you were here earlier!). Follow grass track back to road
- > At road **turn left** and uphill. The Keepers Arms is on the right. Why not take a break here?

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

The place-name 'Quenington' is first attested in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it appears as Qvenintone. This is from the old English 'Cwenenatun' meaning 'the women's town or settlement' (the word 'queen' has the same derivation).

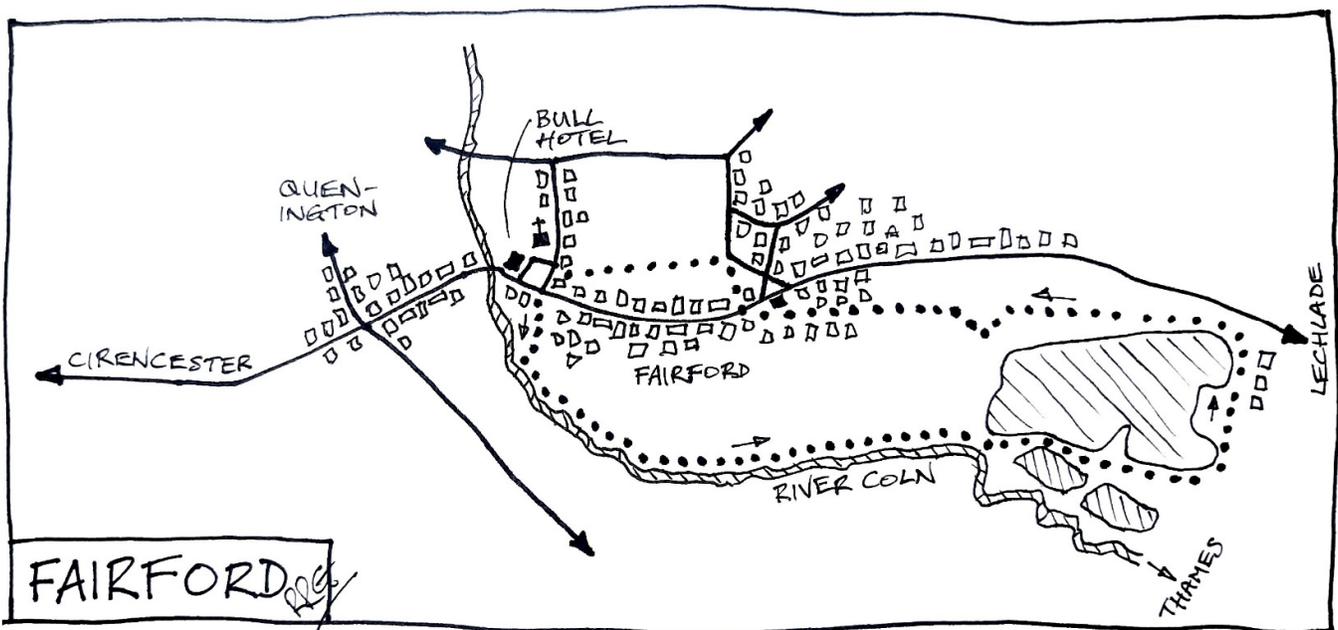
The largest business in Quenington is Xylem (previously HJ Godwin Ltd). Harold Godwin started it from modest beginnings making water pumps behind his house on Coneygar Road and by 1939 there were 100 employees. In 2012 the business was taken over by Xylem, making it part of an international company that exports the pumps worldwide.

5. Fairford

Rod's Rating	 <p>Great walk through the lovely ancient town of Fairford, starting along a walk used by many of the locals. Then say goodbye to the River Coln before it wends its way to Lechlade where it joins the Thames.</p>
Daisy's Rating/Difficult for Dogs (DD)?	 <p>Daisy wasn't able to be off the lead for quite as much as she would have liked, but nevertheless was very happy.</p>
Parking & Pub	<p>The Bull, Market Place, Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4AA https://www.thebullhotelfairford.co.uk/</p>
How long did it take?	1 hour 15 mins 3 miles/4.8 km 20 m up/down

THE WALK - In summary:

From the market square, follow the first part of a marked walk along the river bank – and then continue out around a lake and back again.



THE WALK - In detail:

- > Turn right out of the Bull Hotel, cross directly over the main road and go down Back Lane signposted to the River Walk.
- > The lane wiggles left and then turns right becoming Gas Lane, still following sign to River Walk.
- > Pass houses (Retort House, Colnside House); the River Coln is on your right.
- > When you come to long metal bridge don't be tempted to cross it; carry on the left hand side of the river, ie the river on your right
- > Ignore Snake Lane after a while to the left and continue straight ahead still alongside the River Coln
- > The stone path ends, but continue straight ahead, across the grass field with the river on your right
- > Go past a black metal **BENCH**
- > Follow the river for some way, across a couple of fields, before finally crossing over a side tributary on your left using a wooden footbridge with metal railings
- > **Bear right** after crossing the bridge; you now start to leave the River Coln behind (never to see it again!) and you start following the edge of a large lake on your left (through some bushes) to begin circling back to Fairford; this is Lake 104 but I would like to propose the name Lake Daisy as a better name!

- > Go through a gap in a tall wooden fence to continue following the edge of the lake around to the left
- > You go through a new development, keep following the lake around to the left
- > After going three quarters of the way round the lake, just after the new development, the path starts to drift away from the water along the right hand side of a field
- > At the end of the field (just before a 15 foot post), when you are level with the end of the lake away to the left, **fork right** towards some houses
- > Go past a large metal gate, there are houses on your right
- > Ignore lane (Cinder Lane) which goes off to the right past Fairford football club; the path continues along behind the houses of Fairford
- > Where a path called Home Ground forks off to the left, you should **continue straight ahead** following a high Cotswold stone wall through a kissing gate towards some houses
- > Go between two houses to emerge on a road, Beaumore Place and continue straight ahead (past Keble Lawns on right)
- > **Turn right** across the front of The Eight Bells pub onto East End, then follow the road to the main road (if you're happy to walk back alongside the main road then you can turn left here, but we're going to take the quieter route)
- > Go straight across the main road, and through a gap and follow footpath straight ahead
- > When you emerge at a road, turn left following signs towards the library (the road is marked as a dead end but there is a footpath at the end)
- > Go past a road called The Orchard on your left and then past Fairford Hospital, also on your left
- > At the end of the road go down an alleyway between some houses
- > **Turn left** and you are back at the market square and The Bull Hotel

Any problems with these directions? Please email me at rod@rrgordon.com (also if you liked the walk!)

SOMETHING INTERESTING:

Fairford, first mentioned in written records in AD 850, gained its name from the Saxon "*Fagrinfordia*", which means "fair" (easy to cross) ford. In the Domesday Book, Fairford was listed as *Fareforde*. In 1066 there were three mills in the town, one of which was still used in the wool trade by the 13th century. It received a royal market grant in the 12th century.

Download the other walks booklets in the series from www.rrgordon.com

RR Gordon is the best-selling author of **Gull Rock**
#1 in Crime, Thrillers & Mystery bestseller list on Amazon

We hope you enjoyed this book of Cotswolds walks - you may also wish to read the novels by RR Gordon:

Gull Rock: *What would you do if you needed to disappear after stealing a million pounds? Unfortunately you don't have the money anymore, which makes it a bit trickier. Dan Lawrie's solution is to move around, working a few days in each place in exchange for food & lodging. His itinerant lifestyle leads him to North Cornwall where unfortunately he gets stuck - and the reason is a girl by the name of Sophie. And while Dan stands still, the man who is chasing him is getting closer and closer.*

RR Gordon has also published two novels set in the Cotswolds:

Meaningless – a modern-day parable of a normal man struggling to find his way in the world

Cotswold Debris – a post-apocalyptic story of one family's fight for survival

For further details go to www.rrgordon.com or search for "RR Gordon" on Amazon.