

# **CYCLING IN THE COTSWOLDS**

**21 HALF AND FULL-DAY CYCLE ROUTES, AND A  
4-DAY 200KM TOUR OF THE COTSWOLDS**

**by Chiz Dakin**

**CICERONE**

JUNIPER HOUSE, MURLEY MOSS,  
OXENHOLME ROAD, KENDAL, CUMBRIA LA9 7RL  
[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk)

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First edition 2014  
ISBN: 978 1 85284 706 7  
Reprinted 2017, 2021 (with updates)



Printed in Czechia on behalf of Latitude Press Limited on responsibly sourced paper.  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.  
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Base maps by Lovell Johns [www.lovelljohns.co.uk](http://www.lovelljohns.co.uk)

### Acknowledgements

As ever there are far too many people to thank for all the help – big and small – I've had along the way, but without the support of my wonderful husband Reuben this project would have been very much harder. Thanks also to everyone who tirelessly answered my queries on subjects such as obscure rights of way and the new Sustrans Two Tunnels route, and to my friends Patrick and Jessica Wooddisse for local info in the southern Cotswolds (and for coming out on a ride or two with me) and to sister-in-law Jo (in Stratford) for the coffees. A big thanks also to the Lion Inn in Winchcombe and the Old Brewhouse B&B in Cirencester for helping me keep my own costs to a minimum while researching the multiday route: I'd happily recommend them both, regardless of their help.

*Front cover:* In summer, the ford at Upper Slaughter is just the right depth for a cooling splash-through!

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The **Two Tunnels Greenway** section of route was opened in April 2013 after significant local fundraising, much of which was generated from the sale of King Bladud's Pigs. These sculptures commemorated the local legend that Bath was founded when the discovery of leprosy-curing mud enabled Prince Bladud (then living as an outcast leprous swineherd) to return to society and become King of Britain. The Combe Down tunnel, at 1670m long, is claimed by Sustrans to be the longest tunnel in Europe on a cycle route.

At a junction where the Two Tunnels Greenway splits, turn left (taking the main route, not the alternative option) which leads to the dead-end of a residential road (Inverness Road).

At a T-junction turn right onto Burnham Road. At the end take a cyclepath left along the pavement of the A36. Use the toucan crossing to cross the A36 by Lidl, then turn right onto Fieldings Road. As the road narrows, cyclists should dismount to cross a pedestrian footbridge over the river (it's pretty narrow!).

At the end of the ramp down from the bridge, bend almost immediately right then left onto the riverside path heading to Bath City Centre. (You should now be able to follow NCN4 signs all the way to Bradford). Continue straight ahead for roughly 1.5km, taking particular care at narrow sections of path.

Shortly after Victoria Bridge, fork left onto a residential lane with a green to your right. Continue straight ahead into a road marked 'No Entry (Except Cycles)'; go across the next crossroads and over a short section of cycle path to reach a main road.

Cross this via a toucan crossing and head left (continuing uphill) on a pavement cycle path. Another toucan crossing takes you across Monmouth Street, then head right on a dedicated cycle path. This bends left around The Griffin Inn and crosses into Beauford Square. Continue through bollards and go right onto Barton

Street. Go through more bollards by Pizza Express and bear left. ▶

At a T-junction, turn right onto High Street and immediately left onto Bridge Street. Stay left to go straight ahead onto Pulteney Bridge, where most other traffic has to turn right. Give way to traffic as Grove Street joins from the left and continue over Laura Place. ▶ Continue to the end of Great Pulteney Street.

The Laura Place **fountain** is a much shorter replacement for the 'Nelson's Column' that the residents of Great Pulteney Street commissioned in the late 18th century – which they rejected when they realised it would be significantly taller than their own houses.

Turn left onto the very busy A36 towards Warminster. Get into the right-hand lane as soon as possible to filter right at the traffic lights. Bend sharp right (the road then rises steeply uphill) and go across a (not very obvious) bridge. Immediately after this turn left onto the canal towpath. Head E to **Bathampton**. The route now stays on the canal towpath for roughly 14km back to Bradford-on-Avon.

Pass the George PH after roughly 2.2km, then continue along this towpath for roughly 5km further (passing the Claverton Pumping Station on the way) heading towards the Dundas Aqueduct.

Cross the canal on Bridge 177 to Avoncliff. The path then immediately winds around a stone Waterways building, continuing left over the swing bridge where you parted from the canal earlier. Continue over the **Dundas Aqueduct** and along the right bank of the canal towpath to the **Avoncliff Aqueduct**, using the underpass to gain the towpath on the far side. Continue on this side of the canal back to **Bradford on Avon**.

Beware joining traffic from the right.

Beware the roundabout cunningly disguised as a central fountain.