

# Miles Without Stiles

## Bibury and the River Coln



Away from the sightseeing crowds in Bibury, a delightful walk through woodland and meadow rich in wildlife, across a Roman road and past a hidden dewpond.

**Distance:** 6.5 km/  
4 miles with an up and  
down of 110 m/360ft

**Time:** 2 hours

**Start:** Bibury (near Cirencester) on the river bridge by the Swan Inn (SP 115/069). Refreshments at two inns or the trout farm, and toilets near the start.

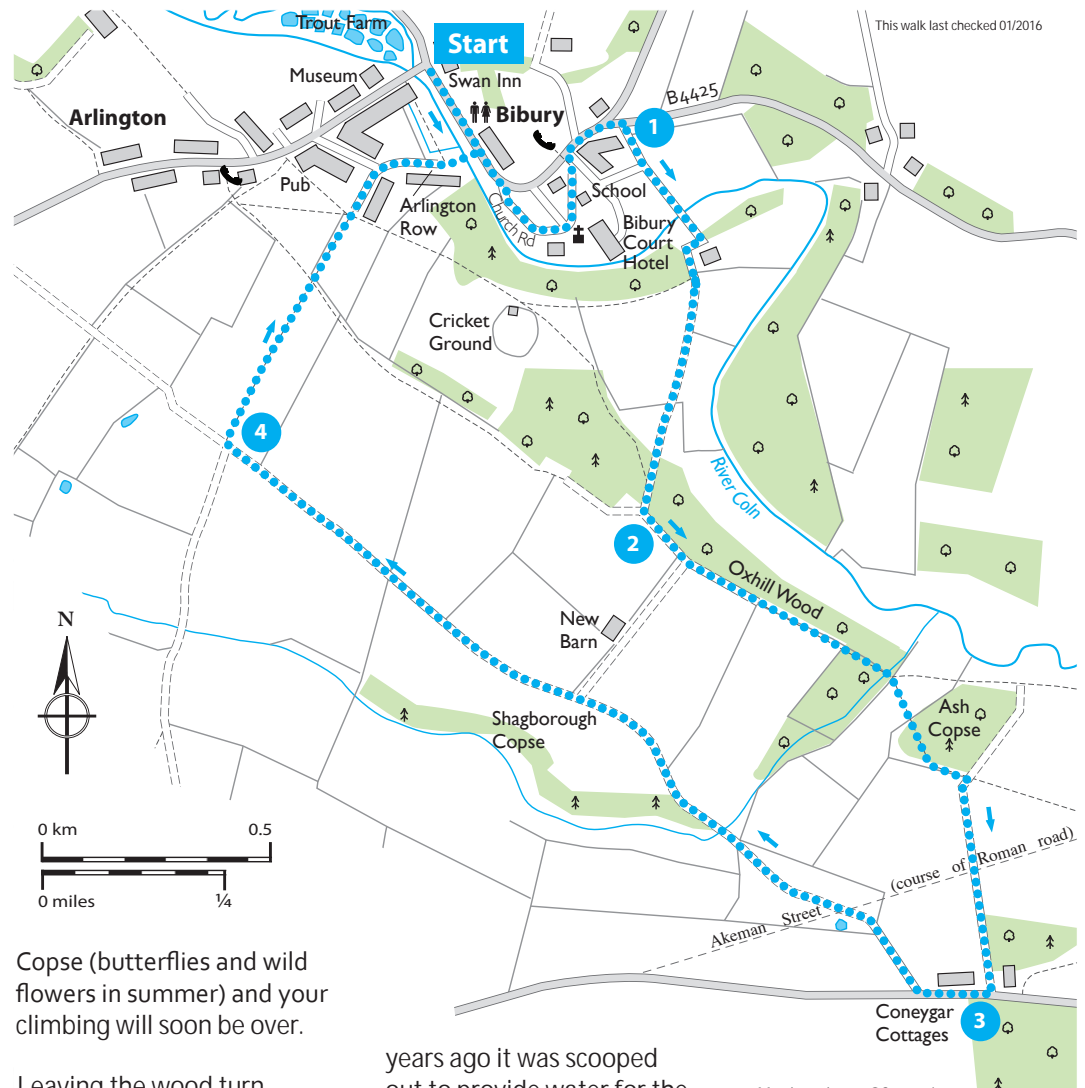
Bus 855 (Pulhams) from Cirencester to Moreton. Swanbrook 853 from Gloucester, Cheltenham and Oxford.

### Route:

Park by the river near the Swan Inn and walk downstream along the B4425. After a footbridge bear right into the village, then left before the church uphill to the main road. Turn right along the pavement for 80m then fork right on a lane signed to Coln St. Aldwyns for 40m. Here turn right downhill on a private road alongside the former Bibury Court Hotel **1**.

Cross the river and bear right uphill past the old mill stones following the tarmac past a big house on your left. After a wide gate take the track ahead, soon climbing into Oxhill Wood. At the top **2** bear left for 600m (muddy at times) and drop down to a gate or a stone stile into a meadow via a footbridge.

Now head half right uphill through a gate into Ash



Copse (butterflies and wild flowers in summer) and your climbing will soon be over.

Leaving the wood turn right onto a track between hedges. Where there's a gap on the left you cross the line of Akeman Street, a Roman road from London to Cirencester.

At the road **3** turn right past Coneygar Cottages for 200m, then right again on a footpath gently downhill. After a gate at 200m walk across to your left to a mound that hides a small pond (it may be dry). Many

years ago it was scooped out to provide water for the sheep grazing on the high pasture.

Follow the track, crossing the invisible Roman road again and go straight ahead gently down and up for 2km. Look out for a water tank on bricks on your right, because you'll soon turn right. Follow the stone wall until it ends **4**, turn right on a grassy path and head for the gate ahead that leads between

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houses to a tiny triangular green. Fork right downhill to Arlington Row, the most photographed cottages in the Cotswolds.

From here you can turn left before the cottages and walk alongside the meadow back to the bridge; or go past the cottages to the river and the road where you started.

