

Miles Without Stiles

North Cerney - Cirencester



This picturesque linear walk snakes through the Churn Valley from the Bathurst Arms in North Cerney into the Capital of the Cotswolds - Cirencester. Stagecoach Bus Route 51 (Cheltenham to Swindon) enables easy access to the walk at North Cerney and Cirencester.

Distance: 6.4 km / 4 miles with an up of 64m / 210ft and down of 84m / 276ft

Time: 2½ hours

Start: Bathurst Arms, North Cerney SP019079

Finish: Gloucester Street, Cirencester

Route:

We suggest you use the local bus service number 51 from Cirencester and alight at North Cerney. The Bathurst Arms is set back from the main road.

Before leaving North Cerney it is worth visiting the church with its beautiful interior and on the outside walls its two graffiti-like beast drawings.

The walk begins along the minor road to the left of the Bathurst Arms. **1**

After 200 metres take the right fork towards Calmsden and Chedworth and after a further 200 metres turn right through a gate. **2** Follow the path south along the Churn Valley for about a mile (1.6km) to Perrotts Brook Farm.

After the farm, turn right on a minor road **3** and continue until another road **4**.

Cross this road to the restricted byway opposite, and continue along the valley. You will pass under the A417, a noisy intrusion into this quiet valley

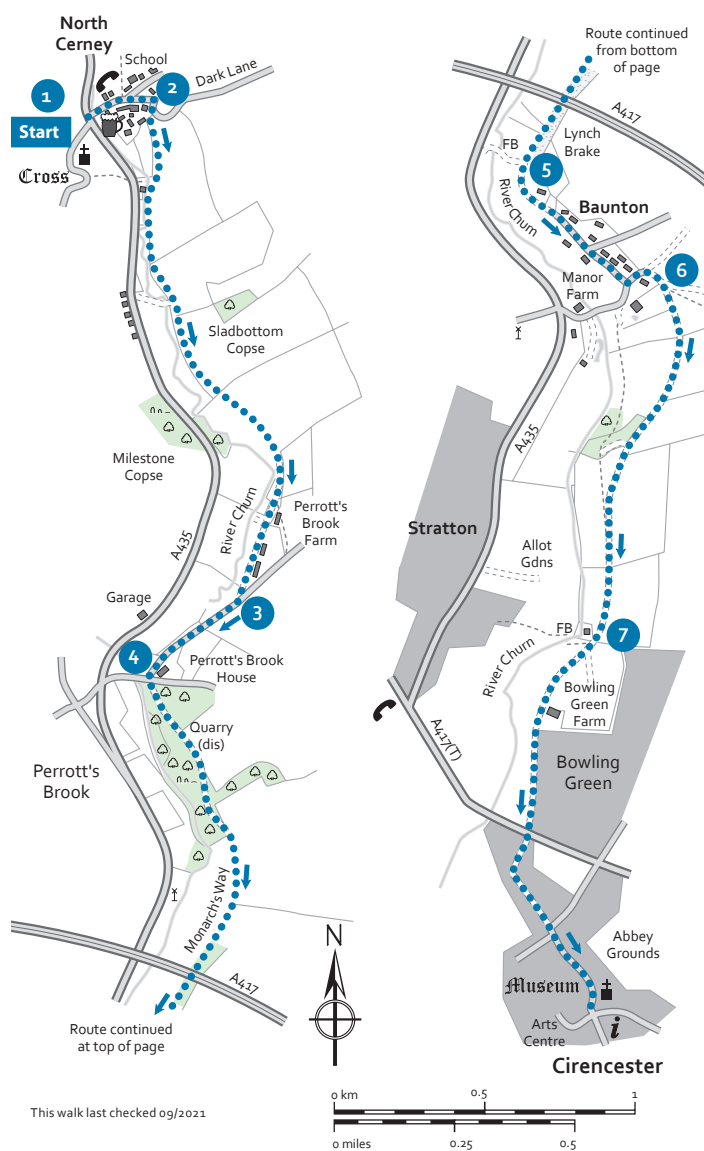
About 300 metres after the A417 look for the turning **5** on your right down to a bridge.

Divert to the bridge to see an ancient sheep wash restored by the Voluntary Wardens. On the other side of the bridge is an old water meadow and beyond that Trinity Mill, the site of a mill since Saxon times. There are old water meadows in the valley from here all the way to Cirencester. They were flooded in winter to provide an early crop of grass.

Go back to the track and continue into Baunton. The church is famous for its 14th century wall painting of St. Christopher, an old embroidery.

In Baunton take the second turning left uphill at the T-junction. After the road has swung to the right take the bridleway to the right **6** and continue along the side of the valley. Cross several fields with gates and soon you will see the tower of Cirencester Church.

After a mile (1.6km) the path reaches a road at Bowling Green **7** and at the end of this road you reach the main road. Cross



carefully, now you will cross the River Churn again as it flows to join the Thames at Cricklade. Carry on for 200 metres and turn left down Gloucester Street to reach the Market Place in the centre of Cirencester.