

**The
Cotswolds
Way
National Trail
(Late Aug
2017)**



Photo 1: Travelled by National Express coach from London Victoria Coach Station to Oxford. Photo shows statue of an Ox found opposite Oxford Railway Station's main entrance.



Photo 2: I then travelled by train to Moreton-in-Marsh where I caught a bus to Chipping Camden; the start/finish point of the Cotswold Way. Photo shows the start/finish stone which is located beside Chipping Camden market hall. Date: 26/08/17.



Photo 3: External View of Chipping Campden Market Hall. Like most buildings in the area it is made from honey coloured Cotswold Stone (Oolitic limestone) which was procured from the surrounding Hills.



Photo: 4: Internal view of Chipping Campden Market Hall. Built in the early 1600's its main use was as a place where local people could trade goods. It currently belongs to the National Trust.



Photo 5: Toposcope located @ Dover's Hill. The summit is 230 metres above sea-level and its about 1 mile's hike (uphill) from Chipping Camden.



Photo 6: View from Dover's Hill.



Photo 7: Toposcope @ top of Fish Hill.



Photo 8: Dead Bank Vole found on path near to Broadway Tower.



Photo 9: Broadway Tower, which overlooks the town of Broadway, is located on Broadway Hill.



Photo 10: Broadway Tower: It stands approximately 1000 feet above sea-level & 65 feet high.
Distance Completed: 4miles (6.5KM) from start @ Chipping Camden.



Photo 11: Horse and Hound Pub located in the village of Broadway.



Photo 12: Cotswold Way signpost in the village of Stanton.



Photo 13: The village of Stanton with its buildings made from honey coloured Cotswold Stone (Oolitic limestone).



Photo 14: Plaque commemorating the launch of the Cotswold Way National Trail 24th May 2007.



Photo 15: Main Gatehouse (built-in 1630) at entrance to the Stanway House Estate. The estate contains the tallest gravity-fed fountain (300 feet) in the world.



Photo 16: View of surrounding landscape near Stumps Cross.



Photo 17: Cromwell's Seat. Where Thomas Cromwell supposedly stood while supervising Hailes Abbey's dissolution.



Photo 18: Cromwell's Seat.



Photo 19: Another Signpost; Distance to Hailes Abbey = 1 mile. Camped Overnight at 'Hailes Fruit Farm' campsite. Distance completed: 15.3 Miles (24.5km) from start @ Chipping Camden.

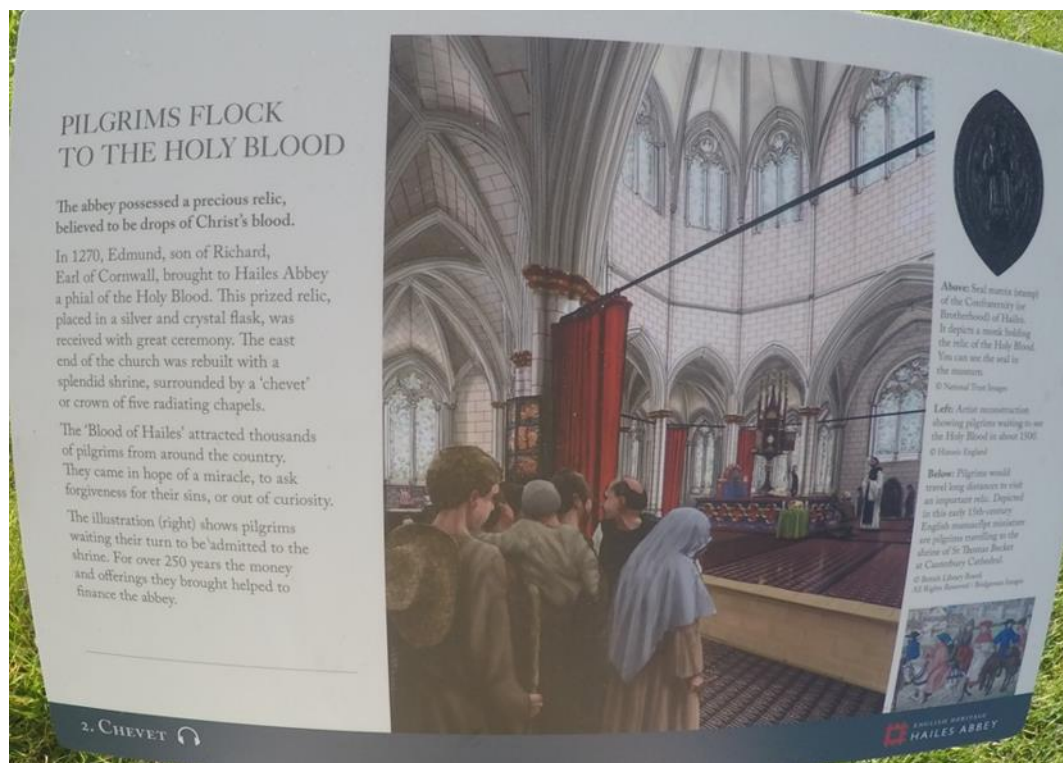


Photo 20: "Fake (Duck) Blood on sale for just £5.99p a vial". Date: 27/08/17.



Photo 21: The ruins of Hailes Abbey. Founded in 1246, Hailes Abbey is a former Cistercian Monastery. The abbey was abandoned during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries.



Photo 22: Doorway to the Frater (Dining Room) of the Abbey.



Photo 23: Square lawn which is surrounded by the ruined remains of what were once cloisters.

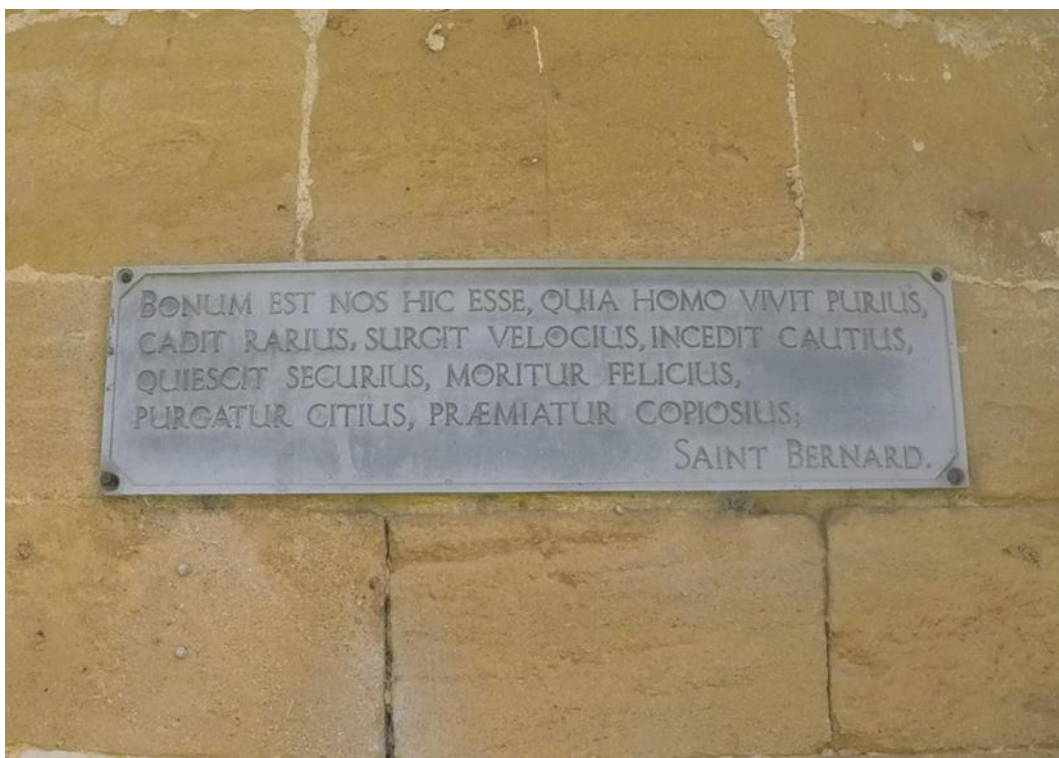


Photo 24: Latin Inscription by Saint Bernard. Found inside arch along north cloister.



Photo 25. Ruins found to the west of the Cloisters. After the Abbeys abandonment this part was converted into private housing for wealthy noble families.



Photo 26: The remains of a pillar base which once supported a vaulted ceiling.



Photo 27: Remains of stonework found in Hailes Abbey museum.



Photo 28: Meccano windmill located in window of antiques shop @ Winchcombe.



Photo 29: View towards the town of Winchcombe. After leaving Winchcombe I climbed to the summit (300 metres above Sea-Level) of a hill where I found...



Photo 30: ...Belas Knapp Long Barrow, photo shows the main (false) entrance.



Photo 31: Side chamber of Belas Knapp Long Barrow which is located south of Winchcombe. Constructed around 3000BC it comprises of a main (false) entrance and two independently accessible side chambers.



Photo 32: Inside burial chamber on western side of Belas Knapp Long Barrow.



Photo 33: Inside burial chamber on eastern side of Belas Knapp Long Barrow. Excavations of the barrow have recovered human skeletons; Neolithic pottery & flint implements.



Photo 34: Photo of Belas Knapp taken from adjacent field.
Total Distance completed: 19.5 Miles (31.2km).



Photo 35: Toposcope at summit of Cleeve Hill. Cleeve Hill is the highest point on the Cotswold Way, about 330 Metres above sea-level.



Photo 36: Looking back along Cotswold Way with woods down below.



Photo 37: Following the Cotswold Way while admiring the excellent views. In the evening I stopped & camped overnight @ Colgate Farm Campsite. Total Distance completed: 28 Miles (44.8km).



Photo 38: Toposcope at summit of Leckhampton Hill. Date: 28/08/17.



Photo 39: View from Leckhampton Hill towards the town of Cheltenham.



Photo 40: Shows the Devils Chimney (a limestone rock formation) which is located in a disused quarry near Leckhampton. Total Distance Completed: 33.5 miles (53.6km).



Photo 41: The Air Balloon pub @ junction of A417 & A436.



Photo 42: Signpost located near B4070 & Village of Birdlip. Cheese chasing 3 miles...



Photo 43: Following forest track through Witcombe Wood.



Photo 44: I wild camped in woods near Cooper's Hill. Cooper's Hill is the UK's only professional cheese rolling / chasing hill. Date: 29/08/17.



Photo 45: Entrance to Hill Fort (now re-utilized as part of a golf course) at top of Painswick Beacon. It's considered to be one of the UK's most challenging golf courses...*although I managed to negotiate it easily enough ☺.*



Photo 46: Defensive ditch down the side of Hill Fort + lots of *golf balls*.



Photo 47: Another Toposcope...this one was at the summit of Painswick Beacon. Sheepcombe 3Km.



Photo 48: St Mary's Church in the town of Painswick. Total Distance Completed: 47 miles (75.2Km).



Photo 49: Old door opening with carved lintel & coat of arms @ Washbrook Farm, which was once a former mill house. Grade II listed building.



Photo 50: Above front door of Washbrook Farm is another carved lintel dated 1691.



Photo 51: Just outside Painswick there was a milestone which stated...Total Distance Completed: 47miles.



Photo 52: ...and 55miles to be completed before reaching the finish point at Bath Cathedral.



Photo 53: Old Disused well (cliff well) @ Haresfield Hill.



Photo 54: A memorial (Cromwell's Stone) located on Haresfield Hill which is dedicated to the lifting of the siege of Gloucestershire 1643.



Photo 55: Following forest trail through Standish Wood.



Photo 56: Remains of another Long Barrow located (near Randwick Village) in Standish Woods, North of Stroud.



Photo 57: Gatepost near Westrip.



Photo 58: Oak tree with hollow trunk.



Photo 59: Signpost Near Ryeford. This was the point where the Cotswold Way split into two alternative routes – one via Kings Stanley while the other followed...



Photo 60: ...canal towpath past Ryeford double locks. Total Distance Completed: 56miles.



Photo 61: Finally, route went through the village of Selsey before climbing across Selsey common and re-merging with the other route. Wild Camped in nearby Woods.



Photo 62: Plaque dedicated to Nora Yoxall who lived to a rather impressive 105 years of Age.
Date: 30/08/17.



Photo 63: Nympsfield Long Barrow which is located near village of Nympsfield, Gloucestershire.
Belongs to English Heritage.



Photo 64: Nympsfield Long Barrow. The long barrow was damaged by 'Farmers' ploughing fields so only the bottom layers can be seen, which allows the internal (Cruciform) layout can be viewed.



Photo 65: Misty view of surrounding landscape from top of Coaley Peak.



Photo 66: Toposcope located at summit of Frocester Hill. Tyndale Monument 4 miles.



Photo 67: Uley Long Barrow, which also belongs to English Heritage, is Located in a field just of the main trail.



Photo 68: The main, and only, entrance to Uley Long Barrow. Also known as Hetty Pegler's Tump.



Photo 69: Internal Chamber inside Uley Long Barrow.



Photo 70: View into side chamber inside Uley Long Barrow.



Photo 71: View from Cam Long Down near the town of Dursley.
Total Distance Completed = 63 miles.



Photo 72: Camped @ Nibley House Campsite. Nibley House is a Grade II listed Manor House in the Village of North Nibley, Gloucestershire. Date: 31/08/17.



Photo 73: Tyndale Monument. Dedicated to William Tyndale who was the first person to translate the bible into English...*He was burnt at the stake for heresy soon afterwards!*



Photo 74: View through grated window @ top of Tyndale monument.



Photo 75: Another view through grated window @ top of Tyndale monument.



Photo 76: Hilltop monument, called Jubilee Clump, which is dedicated to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.



Photo 77: Hiking towards Lord Robert Somerset's Tower. Built in 1846 to commemorate Lord Robert Edward Somerset.



Photo 78: Close-up of Lord Somerset Monument, it was locked so was unable to climb to the top. The monument is 100ft (30m) height.



Photo 79: Battered / Wornout Feet.



Photo 80: View of surrounding landscape near village of Horton.
Total distance completed = 80 miles.



Photo 81: Millennium Folly – Built to provide a nesting site for swallows and barn owls. The Tower was built in 2000 and is located near Horton Camp (Iron Age) Hillfort.



Photo 82: Wild camped near Doddington Park (above). Date: 01/09/17.



Photo 83: Wind turbine located near Beacon Lane Plantation & M4 motorway J18 (Tormarton Exchange).



Photo 84: View taken from near Wind Turbine.



Photo 85: Lion Statue on wall near Dyrham Park.



Photo 86: Dyrham House, owned by National Trust, is located within the grounds of Dyrham Park (an ancient deer park).



Photo 87: Cold Ashton Church. Total Distance Completed = 95 miles.



Photo 88: Rather grand and spectacular gateway to house in Cold Ashton.



Photo 89: View of surrounding countryside near Rushmead Wood.



Photo 90: Display near site of Battle of Lansdown which took place in 1643 during the English Civil War. Oliver Cromwell (Parliamentarians) vs King Charles I (Royalists).



Photo 91: View of landscape in direction of Bath City.



Photo 92: Sir Bevil Grenville Monument who was killed during battle of Lansdown.



Photo 93: View of landscape near Hanging Hill. Wild camped nearby.



Photo 94: Made a big detour (about 3-4 miles from the Cotswolds Way) to look at Beckford's Tower, which was built by William Beckford using the wealth he obtained through slavery. Date: 020917



Photo 95: Toposcope and view of landscape @ Prospect Stile, just outside Bath.



Photo 96: View of landscape in the direction of Beckford Tower.



Photo 97: Obelisk, dedicated to Queen Victoria, at entrance to Victoria Park in Bath.



Photo 98: Bath Abbey, which makes the start/finish point at other end of Cotswold Way National Trail. Total Distance Completed: 102 miles (163 Km).



Photo 99: The Finish/Start stone (made from Limestone) located in front of Bath Abbey.



Photo 100: World famous Roman Baths which are located next door to Bath Abbey. I caught the National Express Coach from Bath to London Victoria on Sunday 03/09/17.

The Cotswold Way National Trail is a 102-mile (163km) trail which starts at Chipping Campden (Gloucestershire) and finishes in Bath (Somerset). It involves walking / hiking through an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) following the western edge of the Cotswold Hills. The route passes through woodland, across meadows and through picturesque villages with houses comprised of honey-coloured Cotswold stone (Oolitic limestone). The Cotswold Way has a multitude of historic sites which include Neolithic Long Barrows, hill forts, castles/abbeys and battlefields. It also has a number of towers & follies, which were either built to commemorate notable people or as an extravagant use of money by wealthy people. It takes about 7-10 days to walk.

Steps Completed Per Day Of The Walk

3	DAY	DATE	STEP	TOTAL	Kilometres				
190	Friday	25/08/2017	15979	71688	11.35	Miles			
191	Saturday	26/08/2017	39659	111347	28.16	17.60			
192	Sunday	27/08/2017	34519	145866	24.51	15.32			
193	Monday	28/08/2017	36517	36517	25.93	16.20			
194	Tuesday	29/08/2017	41275	77792	29.31	18.32			
195	Wednesday	30/08/2017	31917	109709	22.66	14.16			
196	Thursday	31/08/2017	39756	149465	28.23	17.64			
197	Friday	01/09/2017	29729	179194	21.11	13.19			
198	Saturday	02/09/2017	27285	206479	19.37	12.11			

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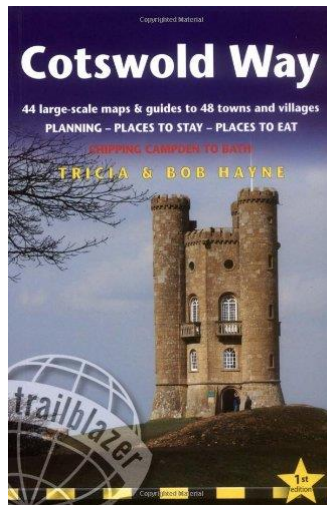
Useful Websites

National Trails Main Website: https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/cotswold-way/

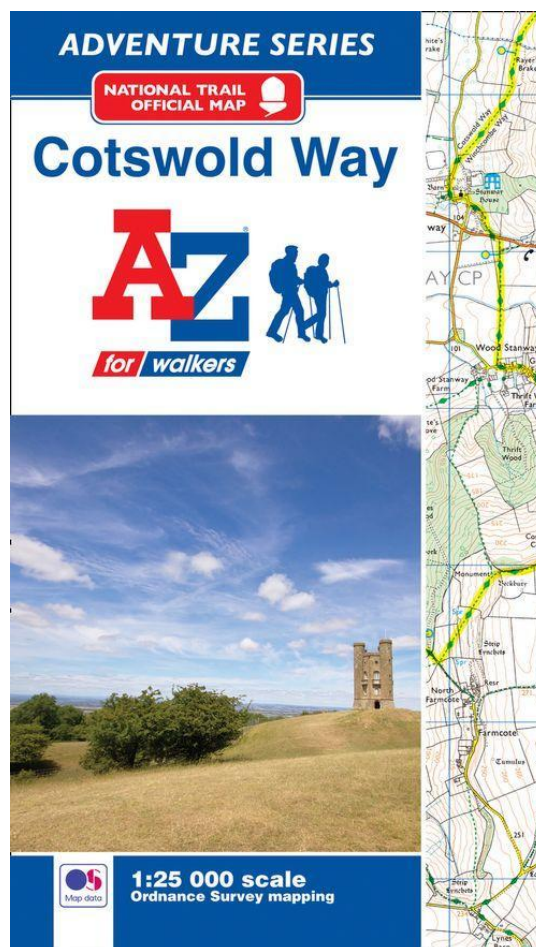
<http://www.cotswold-way.co.uk/>

<http://www.jbutler.org.uk/e2e/cotsw/index.shtml>

Books & Maps Used



Cotswold Way British Walking Guide by Trailblazer



Cotswold Way A-Z Adventure Atlas by Ordnance Survey