



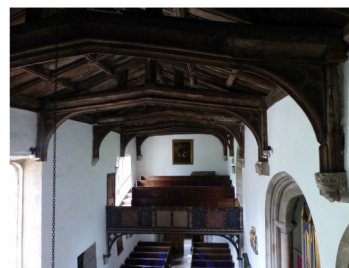
Bagendon Church has possible Saxon origins and forms the centrepiece of its pretty village. The brook that flows meekly through the village looks benign, but the church has flooded many times over the years, including twice since the year 2000.



Rendcomb College is a Grade II* listed former country house, built in the 1860s in the Italianate style. Nowadays it is an independent school, whose alumni include National Hunt jockey Richard Dunwoody.



The **River Churn** joins the Thames near Cirencester, but it is longer than its "parent". Some authorities therefore consider that Seven Springs, the source of the Churn, should be treated as the official start of England's longest river.



The rare rood loft in **All Saints Church, North Cerney**, affords this unusual elevated view of the interior, which is full of interest.

three circular walks from the



NORTH CERNEY
BATHURST
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North Cerney village
1 or 1½ miles: Fairly easy

Stroll round this lovely Cotswold village, with a visit to its well-preserved medieval church.

Bagendon and the Churn Valley
3½ miles: Moderate

Walk down the valley and then divert to a picture-perfect Cotswold hamlet and church.

Bagendon, Woodmancote & Rendcomb
7½ miles: Fairly strenuous

Explore four contrasting Cotswold villages in and around the glorious Churn valley.

The Bathurst Arms

North Cerney, nr Cirencester, Glos GL7 7BZ
tel 01285 832150
website www.bathurstarms.co.uk
email contact@bathurstarms.co.uk

bar open
Mon—Sun: all day

food served
Mon—Fri: 12 noon—2.30pm, 6pm—9pm
Sat: 12 noon—9pm
Sun: 12 noon—8pm

North Cerney village (1 or 1½ miles: Fairly easy)

Allow 1 hour. Two moderate climbs on the longer route, one on the shorter. Mostly on roads; wet grass on field paths after rain.

1 From the front door of the Bathurst Arms, turn right. **2** Turn right up the village street, away from the river. **3** At a grass triangle, turn left, passing the school on the left and a village pump on the right. **4** At the top of the hill by a second, similar, pump, turn right into Hill View. **5** Pass to the left of the last house to find a footpath beyond, alongside a wall. Follow the path through fields until you meet a lane. **6** Turn right down the lane, with good views over the village. **7** Just before the first building, turn left through a gate by a grit bin onto a footpath. **8** Follow the fence downhill, switching to the left-hand side at a metal gate partway down. **9** Beyond a wooden field gate, continue downhill, still following the fence. **10** At the bottom of the hill, turn right through a gate, cross the River Churn and pass between buildings out to the main road. **11** Cross the A435 and climb the wooded bank opposite to a stile. **12** Walk up the field to a stile in the far right-hand corner beside a cottage. **13** Turn right towards the church. **14** For the shorter route, simply follow the road past the church to return to the Bathurst Arms. For the longer route, take a footpath on the left that leaves the road at a right-hand bend to skirt the grounds of the Old Rectory. **15** Beyond the buildings you enter a field through a wooden gate; head uphill to the far corner, where a metal gate leads into a lane. **16** Turn right and walk downhill to the main road. **17** Turn right back to the Bathurst Arms.

Bagendon and the Churn Valley

3½ miles: Moderate

Allow 2 hours. Includes some road walking along quiet country lanes.

1 From the front door of the Bathurst Arms, walk out to the main road, cross over and turn left. The church is obvious away to your right. **2** After 250 yards along the pavement, cross back over and walk between two houses, crossing the River Churn to a gate. **3** Beyond the gate, turn right and walk parallel to the river along the bottom of several fields until you reach Perrott's Brook Farm. **4** Beyond the farmhouse, walk out to the road along the metalled drive, passing various farm buildings on the way. **5** Turn right along the public road and walk down to the main road, crossing the River Churn en route. **6** Cross the main road and then climb a stile to the right of a wooden bench, onto a footpath. **7** Walk diagonally across the field to a stile in a barbed-wire fence, then continue to a gate into a lane. **8** Follow the narrow lane opposite, signposted to Bagendon and marked "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles". **9** When you reach Bagendon village, bear right at the phone-box to pass the church and walk up the hill to the war memorial. **10** Turn right, along a lane signposted to North Cerney and Cheltenham. **11** Follow the lane uphill until you meet a crossing lane after half a mile. **12** Go straight on, again signposted to North Cerney and Cheltenham, and

marked "Unsuitable for long vehicles". **13** After a further half-mile, the descending lane curves round North Cerney church, before reaching the A435 opposite the Bathurst Arms.

Bagendon, Woodmancote & Rendcomb

7½ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 4 hours. Several moderate climbs; may be occasionally muddy or overgrown in places.

Follow steps **1** to **8** of the [Bagendon and the Churn Valley](#) walk.

9 At the phone-box at the entry to Bagendon village, take the narrow lane on the left (though the church is well worth a visit first). **10** Ignoring a no-through road off to the left, follow the lane past the old school on the right. **11** The lane passes below a wood (ignore footpaths to the left) and then descends to the cottages of Upper End. **12** When the road bends sharp right in the valley bottom, go through a gate on the left and turn right along the bottom of the field. **13** The path leads pleasantly along the bottom of the valley, then enters woodland and turns left to climb a track through the trees. **14** When you reach a gravel track by a house, ignore the downhill ride to the right and take the waymarked track that continues uphill in the same direction as before. **15** At the top, turn left and follow the track above the property until you meet the driveway. **16** Turn right and leave the wood, following the stony drive out to a minor road. **17** Turn right and follow the road for a little over half a mile. **18** Just before the road passes under the A417 dual carriageway, turn right onto a concrete driveway with a sign for Dartley Farm. **19** At a crossroads by a house, turn right, signposted Stancombe House. **20** At a five-point junction, take the "second exit", continuing straight ahead along a stony track between hedges. **21** The track descends to the valley bottom, latterly with woods on the right-hand side, before curving to cross the stream. **22** The path climbs in similar fashion before reaching a track alongside another wood. **23** Turn right and follow the track up to Moor Wood Farm, joining a metalled drive that bends right and left between the farm buildings and passes in front of the main house. **24** Beyond a further large cottage, do not follow the obvious exit along the tarmac drive, but turn left then immediately right onto an indistinct path that follows a hollow way up through the wood. **25** This passes behind the lodge house and emerges in the road in Woodmancote. **26** Turn left and walk up through the village, keeping right at the phone-box and ignoring further minor turnings to left and right. **27** At the end of the village turn right, passing under pylons and then past a house on the left. **28** Follow the road for half a mile passing through woodland and descending to the main road. **29** Cross over, turn right then left, signposted to "Rendcomb & College". **30** Walk down the road to cross the River Churn, then continue up to Rendcomb village, ignoring a drive on the right and passing under an ornamental bridge. **31** Turn right at the entrance to Rendcomb College and walk past the French Renaissance-style stables. **32** Beyond the post office and phone-box,

turn right, signposted to Chedworth. **33** Opposite the last house on the left, take a footpath on the right. **34** This leads along a fence then follows a mature hedgerow before descending towards the bottom of the valley at the far end of the field. **35** Beyond a kissing gate, cross a driveway onto a path which bears left into woodland. **36** Follow the path along the bottom edge of the wood, crossing a footbridge, until a kissing gate on the right leads out into a riverside field. **37** Turn left and walk below the woodland edge to a step stile. **38** Turn right towards a bridge, but then immediately left through the trees to a gate into fields (ignore paths on the left). **39** Follow the path along the bottom of the bank with the river close on your right. **40** Ignore a footbridge and go through a metal gate. **41** The path departs from the river slightly to reach a field gate in the wall on the left, ahead of a wooded bank in a bend in the river. **42** Go through the gate and bear right, up the hill, to pass behind the wood. **43** Continue above the wood to a gate, which leads into a grassy driveway. **44** On reaching the main street in North Cerney village, turn right and walk downhill to the Bathurst Arms.



The Bathurst Arms has a well-stocked bar for customers to enjoy, complemented by fine food and six comfortable guest rooms (one king-size double, four standard doubles and a twin room, all en-suite).

We aim to provide a warm and relaxed traditional environment which will make you, our guests, want to visit often and stay a while.

The distinctive pinkness of our lovely building has been restored and, thanks to the hard work of our local gardener and arboriculturalists, you can now enjoy the sparkling River Churn as it meanders through the bottom of our garden; or sit and admire the quintessentially Cotswold view across to the 12th-century All Saints' church.

We hope these carefully chosen circular walks will help you appreciate our beautiful surroundings and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return to the Bathurst Arms.



Directions, mapping and photography
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www.walksfromthedor.co.uk