**Cotswold Challenge route 18 ml** ( 20/06/21**)**

Abbreviations:

CB= compass bearing; AH=Ahead; R=Right; L=Left; TL=Turn Left; FL= Fork left; BL=Bear left: TR=Turn Right; FR=Fork Right; BR=Bear Right; BW=Bridleway; FP=Footpath; FPS= Footpath sign; TK=Track; X= Cross/over; CW= Cotswold Way; WW= Wysis Way; WMK=Waymark; RD=Road; ST=Stile; KG=Kissing gate; SWG= Small wooden gate; LMG= large metal gate; FB=Footbridge

**Start: Birdlip Village Hall. GR SO928143**

**1.** From Birdlip Village Hall TL to RD. TL on RD for ¼ ml & at end of pavement on L, TR on BW (concrete path) between ‘Hilcot’ & ‘Birdlip View’. In 10yds thru gate. AH on stony BW for 150 yds & on reaching stone wall on R, TL thru metal gate opposite into field. AH, keeping parallel to and about 20yds from hedge on R. In 200yds at hedge corner ignore gate & AH with hedge on R. In further 50yds, as hedge descends & veers to R AH to reach ST by gate & tree. **(O.7** **mls GR SO 933136)**

**2.** Over ST & TL (CB 110) on track. In 200yds BR to follow hedge on R. On reaching hedge corner, descend slightly to R & AH with lowest hedge on R & bushes on L. After 200yds TR over ST by gate. Ascend field diagonally L (CB 130) to reach hidden LMG gate in far top R corner (ignore LMG on R) **(1.1 mls GR SO938132)**

**3.** Thru gate, TR & with hedge on R ascend grassy TK which bends to L around a copse. At end of copse, AH in field with hedge on R. In 100yds TR thru KG. AH on TK between hedges to reach road at edge of Brimpsfield. **(1.3 mls GR SO 940130)**

**4.** TR on road In 300yds at RD junction, by War Memorial, AH, SP ‘Caudle Green’.

**Clue A GR SO 939127**

AH on RD for 300yds to pass blue ‘Single Track Road’ & ‘30mph’ signs. In a further 50yds TR on FP & thru KG to L of metal gate. AH with hedge on R. In 250 yds drop R, into ditch, to go thru hidden SMG by LMG & descend on path. **(1.9 mls)**

**5.** AH with wood on R & grassy slope on L to reach ST. Over ST & in 50 yds X 2nd ST. Continue AH (SSE) with woods on either side, following valley bottom on grass path for ¾ ml. AH thru KG. 50yds before cottages TR onto stony path following valley to gate & RD. Thru gate (WMK), TR & in 10 yds TR (FPS) X stone ST to ascend steep bank to X stone ST to RD. TR on RD passing sign ‘Caudle Green’. Ascend RD to village green.

**Clue B GR SO943104**

TL across green to FPS, stone ST & wooden gate. **(3.0 mls GR SO 934105)**

**6.** Over ST & in 30 yds over further ST. Cross narrow field & over ST in hedge. Up steps, BL & AH on narrow FP thru crops (cutting corner of field) to reach WMK post 15 yds before wooden electricity pole at edge of woods. TR & follow edge of field with woods on L. 20 yds before wall TL on TK thru gap to T-jct. TR **(3.2 mls GR SO942102)**

**(1)**

**18 ml route cont.**

**7**. In 50 yds at WMK TL on TK. AH on TK (initially CB 210) for 500 yds, ignoring forks on R. FL. In 50 yds X TK onto initially faint path & descend steep slope. X narrow FB.

X TK & AH to ascend FP (indistinct WMK on tree) (CB 190). At top of steep bank by largest tree, BL (no obvious path) (CB 180) for 40 yds to WMK. TR to reach ST in fence. Over ST & BL on faint path to reach sunken grassy TK. TR & follow TK with fence on L to reach drive. TL on drive & descend. X TK & AH, shortly going thru LWG & ascend on TK to reach gates & RD. AH on RD to reach circular bus shelter. (**4.3 mls GR SO 937089)**

**Clue C**

**8.** FL on RD (pub on R) for 400 yds to reach T-junction. TL (ignoring 1st L) for 30yds. TR at Lypiatt Cottage on enclosed FP, thru 2 gates & field (hedge on L) to reach gates. AH, X RD, thru gate, AH to ST, X & descend steeply to reach TK. TL for 50 yds. TR thru metal gate & descend into valley, joining TK from L (CB 262.) Thru LMG, into trees & thru LMG, AH on descending FP to bottom, then ascend on FP (CB 226) to reach KG at copse. **(5.3 mls GR SO 927075).**

**9.** Thru KG. AH thru copse on FP to field. AH on FP (CB 225), X 2 fields to X stone ST. X TK, AH on same FP to X ST, AH X field to X double ST. TL along LH field edge thru gate to RD. TL for 40 yds, TR thru LMG & TR to descend FP (CB 260), aiming for wall on R (ignore LMG in wall). Thru SWG & descend on FP (CB 260) to reach stream at bottom. Thru SWG & stream to ascend on FP opposite, keeping fence on L. 30 yds before top LH corner BR to LMG.  **(6.4 mls GR SO915064)**

**10.** Thru gate, AH on wide TK, with fields on R, to RD, then AH to T Jct. **(7.3 mls GR SO 915064)**

**Clue D**

**11.** Cross RD to pub, TR & AH on pavement to Manor Street. Re-cross RD, cont. along main RD facing traffic **(care, busy road)** to end of village. At Jct BR (SP The Camp/Birdlip) & after 150 yds at blind bend, cross RD **with care**, to enclosed path (SP Wysis Way). Follow FP thru 2 gates to RD. **(8.1 mls GR SO 900072)**

**12.** X RD & AH on RD opposite. Follow Rd for ½ ml passing under power lines, and thru estate farm buildings. Stay on RD, & in further ¼ ml TL, (by ‘No Thru Road’ sign) & descend on RD.

**Clue E GR SO 890079**

At TK Jct by cottages (FP sign on L) desend on TK AH (CB 290). Ignore TK on L to house, & in 20 yds FL on path to lower path. TR to reach small gate. **(9.0 mls GR SO 888080)**

**13.** (On WW in this section) Thru gate & descend thru field to KG by metal gate. Over stream & ascend on FP to reach ST & TK. **(9.9 mls GR SO 885080)**

**14.** (On WW in this section) Over ST & TL on TK which soon becomes a metalled RD. Pass cottage on R to T-Jct (George Whittaker Memorial seat on R) TL & AH on RD. In 100yds at FP (WW) TR & follow enclosed TK. At sign (Trillgate) FL & descend on TK. In 100yds (FPS to Bulls X/Trillgate) TR thru gate into field. **(9.9 mls GR SO879083)**

**(2)**

**18 ml (cont)**

**15.** (On WW in this section) Descend LH edge of field, X stream & ST into field. Ascend grassy slope to top. Thru SMG to R of farm buildings. TR on drive to reach RD (B4070) at Bulls Cross. X RD ½ R onto road to Sheepscombe. **(10.2 mls GR SO 877087)**

**Clue F**

**16.** (On WW in this section) Pass bus shelter. In 150 yds at FPS FR on RD behind houses for ¼ ml. (Views of Painswick on L). Thru gate to follow TK thru Blackstable Woods for 800 yds to Jct (keep on TK behind gardens, ignore R forks.). At FPS on R TL (Cockshoot House sign low down on R). Then TR on RD to RD Jct (Sign Stroud/ Sheepscombe). AH over ST into field. **(11.2 mls GR SO 882098)**

**17.** (On WW in this section) AH heading N on faint path across field & ditch to ST in far fence. X ST & thru small wood to X 2nd ST. BL across field to join grass TK to LMG in middle of hedge opposite. (Ignore LH gate) Thru & X field (CB 300) Follow path down to go thru gate in bottom RH corner of field & X stream.

BL to LMG in 100yds by WMKs. Thru & TR immediately (N) Follow FP thru woods (stream on L), to eventually reach FPS (WW) & RD at Damsell’s Mill. TL on RD for 50 yds. **(11.9 mls GR SO877111)**

**18.** TR on driveway towards Damsell’s Farm. At tree on L TL across field to ST. X & AH on permissive path/diverted FP across field to gate & FB to rejoin public FP. **(12.1 mls GR SO 875113)**

**19.** (Stay on WW in this section) Cross stream & AH across fields (CB 340) to KG into wood. Thru and follow path to ST. X ST & TL on TK to gate in 40 yds. AH on path across field, X stream & thru gap into field. In 40 yds over ST by gate & ascend field to ST in fence. X & TR on RD to A46. (Beware traffic) **(12.5 mls GR SO 868116)**

**20.** (Stay on WW in this section). TL on pavement & shortly after bus stop on L, by double bend sign, cross A 46, extreme care. Ascend narrow FP thru trees to reach quarry RD.

**(12.5 mls GR SO 867116)**

**Clue G**

AH to public RD & TL. In 75 yds at FPS TR onto CW

**Beware Golf Course. Keep to LHS**

**21**. (On CW in this section) AH with wooded slope on L to reach earth work. BL up steps to ascend earthwork. Follow path along top to pass Trig. Point with topograph. (Extensive views.) BR down with path to continue NE with wooded slope on L & golf course on R. At end of golf course AH on TK to reach metalled RD. AH on RD for 200 yds then FL into Buckholt Wood. In ¼ ml X minor RD & AH on winding FP opposite to reach A46**. (13.8 mls GR SO 881130)**

**(3)**

**18 ml cont.**

**22.** (Stay on CW in this section) X RD with care & AH along Buckholt Road opposite. In 100 yds TL at CW sign. (Follow CW WMKs or white/yellow spots thru woods.) Ascend on TK (Ignore L & R forks) to reach T-junction. TL & AH on TK for 30 yds

**Clue H GR SO 886135**

Cont. AH on TK. At forks BL to descend following wall on L. At bottom by grass triangle, FR to continue following CW. In 300yds by fork AH on lower FP. In 200 yds FR to follow upper FP. In 80 yds up steps & TR thru KG. In 50 yds TL on CW. In ¼ ml by FPS TR to ascend on L FP. At top BL across open ground towards FPS and fence across steep drop. Coopers Hill (cheese rolling fame) (Extensive views.) TL & descend into woods on WMK path. At WMK TR on path, TR on path to car park below Coopers Hill. **(15.2 GR SO 982184)**

**23.** (Leave CW in this section). Onto RD & TR. In 50 yds ignore KG on L. In further 130 yds, by telegraph pole no.67, ignore ST on L, & thru rusty gate, leaving CW. AH along narrow field & thru green gate AH. Descend on LH side of field to X ST (WMK) in far L corner. (Ignore ST in corner of LH hedge) Into large open field & bear diagonally L, (CB 106) over rough, uneven ground to reach gate in LH corner. Thru gate & AH to X ST by TK. (**15.5 ml GR SO 899146)**

**24.** X TK & thru gap into narrow field to trees. TL & AH with trees on R for 120 yds to power lines. TR to X ST & FB. TL & AH with stream on L to X ST in field corner.TL on TK for 5 yds then TR into field & continue AH with stream on L. (Rough tracks being laid) At end of field TL & follow TK with reservoir on R **(15.9 ml** **GR SO 903146)**

**25.** TR on causeway between reservoirs. At end of reservoirs turn sharp R across ST. Cross field, BL under power lines to reach ST in far hedge. X ST & X next field to X ST to L of farm buildings. TL on farm TK, thru LMG to RD. TR on RD to church. **(16.5 mls GR 910147)**

**Clue I**

**26.** Pass church, keep R, passing ‘No Thru Road’ sign, to reach FPS, green gate & KG. TL thru KG Follow LH hedge thru field & X ST. Continue along LH hedge, at end of field thru KG. Ascend AH, gradually aiming L to reach KG in top L corner. **(17.4 mls** **GR SO 917144)**

**27.** Thru KG, X TK & AH to enter woods, ascend on FP, AH across TK, to reach TK junction with CW. Ignore CW path that descends L & TL on gently ascending TK to reach RD in Birdlip. X RD, TL on raised pavement, round bend & AH for 300 yds, X RD to opposite pavement, AH along ‘No Thru Road’ & in 75 yds TL at school to village hall.

**FINISH 18.3 mls GR SO 928143**

**Congratulations**

**(4)**