

What to see along the route

A St Mary's Church, Newent

Dating back to the 13th century, it features the largest unsupported wooden ceiling in the country, a fine church organ built by a local novice in 1737 and a 750 AD Celtic stone cross in the entrance porch.



B Gwen and Vera's Fields

In spring these meadows are full of little wild daffodils, also known as Lent lilies, which have pale yellow petals with darker yellow trumpets. These daffodils grow in abundance in the surrounding area, known as the "Golden Triangle".



C St Mary's Church, Kempley

Owned by English Heritage, a Norman church with medieval wall paintings dating from the 12th century. In the 16th century, during the reformation, the wall paintings were whitewashed; they were rediscovered in the 20th century. The church became isolated when the villagers moved to higher ground two miles away, where a new church was built. In spring the churchyard fills with wild daffodils.



D Chartist Cottages, Lowbands

In 1847/48 a Chartist community was set up to provide families with smallholdings of 2 to 4 acres each, by which they could be self-supporting. The idea eventually floundered, as the land given to each family was insufficient to support them and people were unskilled in agriculture. Although most of the cottages have been altered, many of the original plots can still be identified. Land ownership was the means by which people had the right to vote, with the idea that the working classes would eventually be able to influence government policy.



E Gadfield Elm Chapel

Built in 1836 by a small religious group known as the United Brethren. They joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon Church) and in 1840 gave the chapel to them. Many members migrated to America where Salt Lake City was founded. The chapel was sold to raise funds to enable poorer church members to emigrate. The building eventually became derelict and at an auction in 1994 was acquired and restored by members of the Mormon Church.



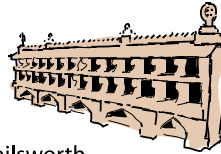
F The Orchard Centre, Hartpury

This centre has the national collection of perry pears with over 100 varieties. Signboards outside the building provide information. Beyond in the field are the pear and cider apple trees, beautiful in blossom time. There are occasional open days here and courses are run on various aspects of perry and cider-making.



G Bee Shelter, Hartpury

Built in the mid 19th century from Cotswold stone by Paul Tuffley, a stonemason and quarrymaster to showcase his skill. Originally from Nailsworth and threatened with destruction, it was relocated to Hartpury churchyard in 2002 and repaired.



H Hartpury Church Tithe Barn & Old Chapel

Dating from the 14th century, the church has a lovely carved oak porch. The name Hartpury derives from the Saxon word for hard pear. At the far end of the churchyard is a Hartpury Green perry pear tree, which was planted in 1999.



On the opposite side of the road is a 14th century tithe barn (privately owned), one of the largest in the country. It was built to store produce from the local manor. At one end of the roof is a dragon looking towards Wales and on the other a lion looks towards England.

The Old Chapel, built in 1829 by nuns from Hartpury Court, eventually fell into disrepair and became a chicken shed. Bought in 1997 by the Hartpury Historic Buildings Trust, it was repaired and restored, and is now used as a village hall. Visitors are welcome to look inside.

I Church of St John the Evangelist, Pauntley

Pauntley church dates from Norman times and has a fine carved Norman south doorway. Adjacent to the church, Pauntley Court was home to the Whittington family for nearly 300 years until 1545. It is said to be the birthplace of Dick Whittington, who travelled from here to become Lord Mayor of London.



Newent Cycling Loop

28 mile circular cycle ride exploring the lanes of north west Gloucestershire



Optional shorter routes 19 miles

