

Cotswold Villages Weekday Rideout August 2017

After a rained off first attempt the previous week we certainly enjoyed better weather for the only weekday rideout of the year and hats must be raised to Chris who valiantly turned up on both occasions. Not unreasonably, quite a few riders arriving at Starbucks had expected to refuel at the neighbouring BP garage only to find, much to their surprise and mine, that it was closed for refurbishment. So we delayed starting for a quarter of an hour while we topped up on the opposite carriageway of the A46. The road into Chipping Campden had been closed by police ([details here](#)) necessitating a lengthy detour. A combine harvester clogged Dovers Hill whilst trying, with no little difficulty, to extricate itself from a gateway which, whilst ample for a horse and cart, was not made for 400 horse power. Given these setbacks we were unbowed but slightly behind schedule by the time we pulled into the Cotswold Discovery Centre in Northleach.



Apart from the usual chatter over a cuppa, I learnt about the peculiarities of the Napoleonic code of property inheritance which I thought was pretty esoteric at the time but appeared quite ordinary once we had moved on to the Italian Civil Code. Time to go!

We soon veered off the Fosse to tucked away Notgrove and Naunton on the bubbling Windrush. Barely touching the Swells we passed through Longborough and down into busy Moreton. It was

then a rural route through the Wolfords and the sweeping road beyond Honington to Whatcote to finish at The Granville in Barford more or less on time.

On reflection, for a hundred mile ride, despite their inherent interest, there were possibly too many villages with their attendant speed restrictions and the next time I'll certainly favour a route with fewer 30mph areas. On the plus side however, we all stayed together and didn't get lost. Thanks to all those who kept me company. I enjoyed it.

The route - Hampton Lucy, Charlecote, Loxley, Halford, Armscote, Ilmington, Hidcote Boyce, Ebrington, Chipping Campden, Weston sub Edge, Willersley, Broadway, Stanton, Stanway, Ford, Bourton on the Water, Northleach, Turkdean, Notgrove, Aylworth, Naunton, the Swells, Longborough, Sezincote Bourton on the Hill, Moreton, the Wolfords, Honington, Whatcote, Oxhill, Kineton, Wellesbourne, Barford.