


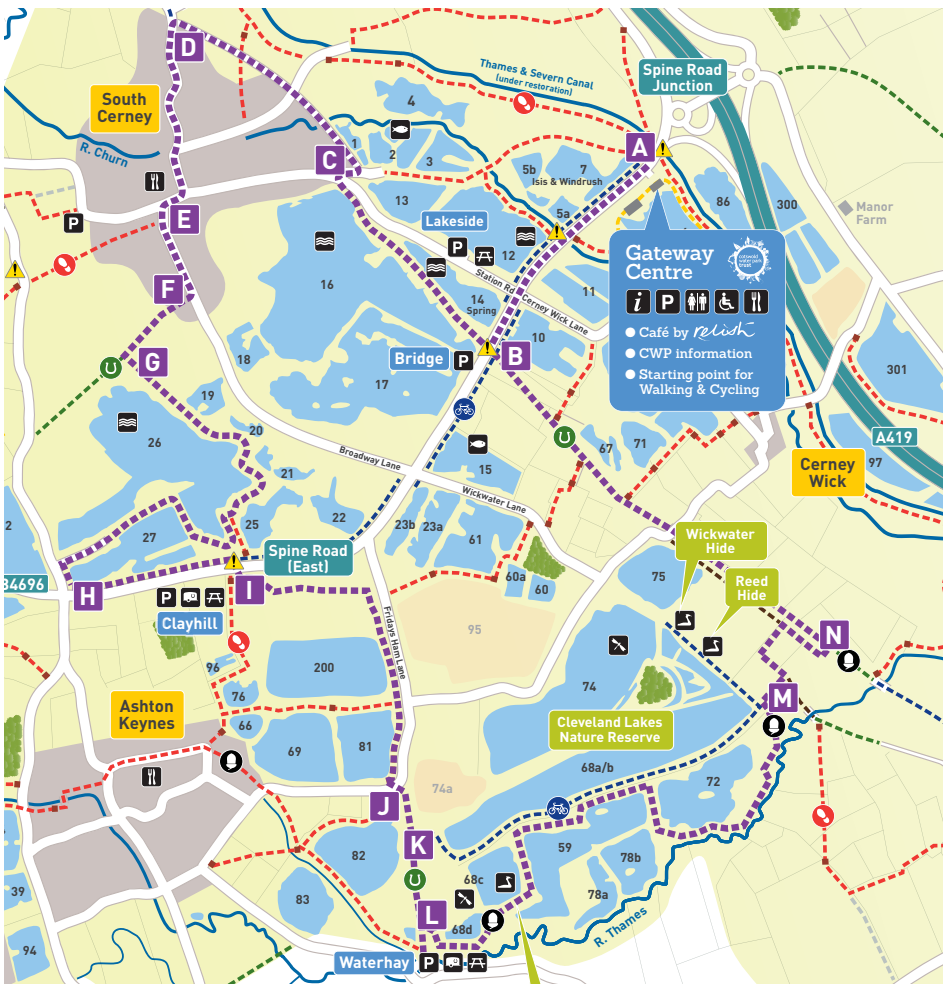
WALK/CYCLE 5

 **Time:** 2-3 hrs (cycling)

 **Distance:** 16km or 18km

Bike it or Walk it!

Seek out some of the peaceful parts of the Cotswold Water Park on this great circular off road cycle ride. If you have time, take a detour to the Reed Hide in the Cleveland Lakes Nature Reserve. Suitable for competent cyclists – the route can be rough and around the Thames Path it can be flooded in times of wet weather.



Start: Gateway Centre

Cross Spine Road **(A)** (slightly right) with care from Gateway Centre following National Cycle Network 45 signs. Left onto cycle path following signs and crossing roads (care) until opposite Bridge car park at 1.2km.

Cross road **(B)** (care) through arches onto bridleway, crossing over at top of Station Road. **(C)** Follow signs NCN45 for 2.3km, under more brick arches, past houses, along embankment until steep slope down to road. **(D)** Turn left back into South Cerney past pubs & shops. Bear right, turn right then left at memorial cross (Broadway Lane) **(E)**.

Wildlife Watch



From left to right: Hobby, Glow Worm, Yellowhammer and Great Crested Grebe.

(F) At end of houses after The Leaze take bridleway on right (wooden motorcycle barrier). After narrow wooden bridge/400m **(G)** take immediate left, keep stream on left. Follow grass then gravel track around lake past Whitefriars Sailing Club then tarmac to road.

Turn left onto road (extreme caution). Next left (Spine Road), join cycle path after 50m, **(H)** follow for 800m. Just past Clayhill car park cross road (care) onto bridleway (motorcycle barrier). **(I)** Follow track ahead then right along field edges then through gap in hedge (motorcycle barrier), and on permissive bridleway to road. (extreme caution) **(J)** Cross road on bend to gate and bridleway.

(K) (Wet weather alternative: after 200m, take kissing gate on left (Cleveland Lakes), follow cycle track for 2km to rejoin Thames Path **(M)** through kissing gate on right).

(L) Main route: pass kissing gate, left at track junction joining Thames Path following around lakes and river to humped wooden bridge **(M)**.

(Detour here to Reed hide)

Continue Thames Path, left at first T junction, right at second T (Elmlea Meadow) then left onto Old Railway Line **(N)**. Follow to main Spine Road, turn right onto cycle track and retrace route back to Gateway Centre (care road crossings).



 Refreshments: Gateway Centre