

Why hares?

Well, the brown hare has been part of Cotswold culture for a very long time, lending its name to villages and special places - Harescombe, Haresfield, Harebushes, Harnhill, (once Harehill).

Hares can often be spotted in our Cotswold fields - mysterious creatures which have fascinated people for centuries. Look around and see the hare represented in art from the Roman hare mosaic in Cirencester to the tapestries of medieval halls, Saxon carvings on church porches to the 21st century hare images that adorn so many current artists work.

Whilst the brown hare numbers decline across the county due to much loss of their natural grasslands habitats, they are thriving in the Cotswolds and being so woven into the legends of the area, are a natural choice of animal to celebrate with our Festival.

Why March?

March has been chosen to start our Festival since this is the month primarily associated with hares. Hares are closely associated with Easter which often falls in March. Hares were sacred to the goddess for Spring, fertility and rebirth; Oestra after which Easter is named.

"This has been a brilliant, brilliant idea beautifully carried out by everyone."

A quote from one of last year's Festival visitors.



How to find out more



Follow us on [Instagram](#) for sneak peeks of the hares visit www.instagram.com



Follow us on [Twitter](#) for live tweets of the trail @cirenhare



Like us on [Facebook](#) for Cotswold Hare Trail news: Cirencester March Hare Festival

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Our Patrons and Charity Partners

Dame Janet Trotter DBE H.M. Lord Lieutenant of the County of Gloucestershire

The Right Honourable The Earl Bathurst

Vanessa Arbuthnott

Prof. Chris Gaskell

The Right Honourable Countess Bathurst



A percentage of the proceeds will go towards our Charity of the Year. The National Star Centre.



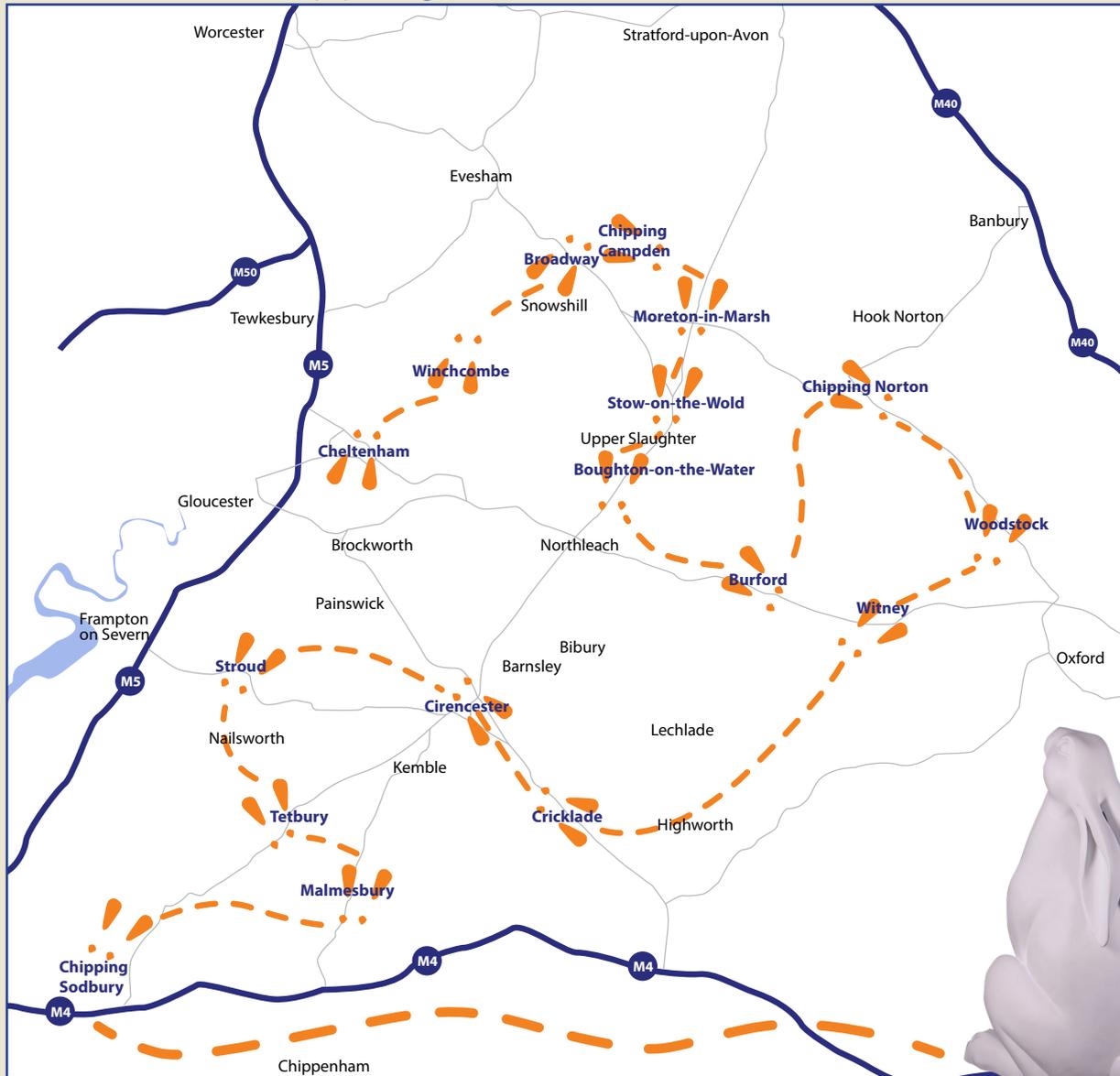
Hares unite the Cotswolds!



from the 25th March until 10th September 2017

The Cotswold Hare Trail

hares are hopping all over the Cotswolds!



Please check with our website for any variations and for new additions.
Follow the trail on our website at www.cirencesterharefestival.org.uk



This is one of our Hare sculptures before decoration.



Get your Town or Village on the map - Sponsor a Hare

Hare sculptures, hand painted and decorated by a range of local artists have adorned public spaces in and around Cirencester since 2014 during the March Hare Festivals.

As the Cirencester Hare Trail has been such a great success, we are now looking to populate the whole of the Cotswolds with fabulously decorated giant hares. **It all starts NOW, here's how you can get involved.**

Sign up for a hare choose an artist to decorate it, and advertise your business in a unique way by putting your name and logo on the plinth. When you sponsor a hare you can enjoy exclusive sponsor events, and additional benefits from association with the festival.

Town Hares

Suitable for businesses, large and small and individuals. Not only do you get a range of sponsor benefits - including increased tourism and visitor spending in your town - we also reward you by giving back 10% of the auction sale price of your hare!



Country Hares

Put your village on the map by all clubbing together to buy one hare. The more people join - the less it costs!



For more information and to request a sponsorship form:
cirenharefest@gmail.com