



Short Walking Trails in Bath

www.bathscape.co.uk



**AMAZING WALKS
IN & ROUND
BATH
FROM EASY ACCESS
TRAILS FOR ALL
TO MORE ADVANCED HIKES**



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WELCOME TO OUR WALKING BOOKLET

Bathscape is a Landscape Partnership with a mission to enhance the countryside around Bath and encourage people to enjoy it.

We hope that you will find this booklet an easy way to explore together. Each walk has a map and step by step directions on where to go and what to look out for along the way.

We've taken the walks from our range of self-guided walks (you can find more on our website). All the walks in this book are less than four miles and have something for kids to do along the way.

If you haven't used a walking book before, then why not try one of the shorter walks to get used to it. Then have a go at the ones that take you a bit further into the wonderful countryside right on your doorstep.

The walks are based on our self-guided walks created for us by Cotswolds National Landscape and our team of volunteers.

At the back of the book are links to longer walks.

We'd love to hear your feedback on the walks and this booklet. Or tag us in on social media when you're out and about enjoying them.

We hope you enjoy them all!



> The Bathscape team at Bath City Farm

**FROM THE
BATHSCAPE
TEAM**





› Family enjoying a nature walk

WALKING IN BATH

Every part of Bath is close to the countryside – you can easily get to it!

Neighbourhoods on the edge of the city like Twerton, Batheaston, Whiteway and Foxhill are particularly close to some wonderful places to walk.

We've put together these easy-to-follow guides to help you and the family explore. Some walks will take about an hour and up to three hours for the longest – depending on how fast any little ones walk and how often they want to stop and play.

Each walk has got information with it about how far it is, whether there are steps, whether or not it's wheel-friendly so you can find a walk that suits your needs. All the routes have resting points along the way.

There is also a 'Getting there' section, which includes an address, postcode and 'What3Words' reference. What3Words is a website and app which is an alternative way of giving precise locations. You can use it for free to see these locations on a map.

For information about public transport – the nearest bus stop is named, and you can use travelinesw.com to see timetables.

A note about dogs. Lots of people enjoy walking with their dogs. The step-by-step guide lets you know when you get somewhere that you need to put your dog on a lead, like a busy road or fields with farm animals. Please take any dog poo home with you, as that's healthier for people and local wildlife.

Pull on a pair of comfortable shoes and something to keep you dry, don't forget some snacks and water if it's hot and you're ready to go.

'CURE WALKS'

The NHS describes walking as 'simple, free and one of the easiest ways to get more active, lose weight and become healthier'. But did you know that doctors in the 18th century thought it was good for us too? They described walking as "the most natural and effectual exercise" and "the best preserve of health".

People have come to Bath for thousands of years to get healthy, with its "health breathing hills", and that tradition carries on today.

But it's not just for the visitors, everyone can enjoy a walk in nature on their doorstep.

How can something that's good for you, be so enjoyable?! In Bath we're surrounded by such beautiful countryside and parks that all your walks will be in nature, whilst staying close to home.



› Thursday's Wellbeing Walk with Bath Mind. Photo Ruby Barber

SAVE THE DATE!

› Walking Festival. Photo Paolo Ferla



We also run the annual Bathscape Walking Festival each September and a series of monthly walks throughout the year. Or you can join any of our daily wellbeing walks at locations across the city.

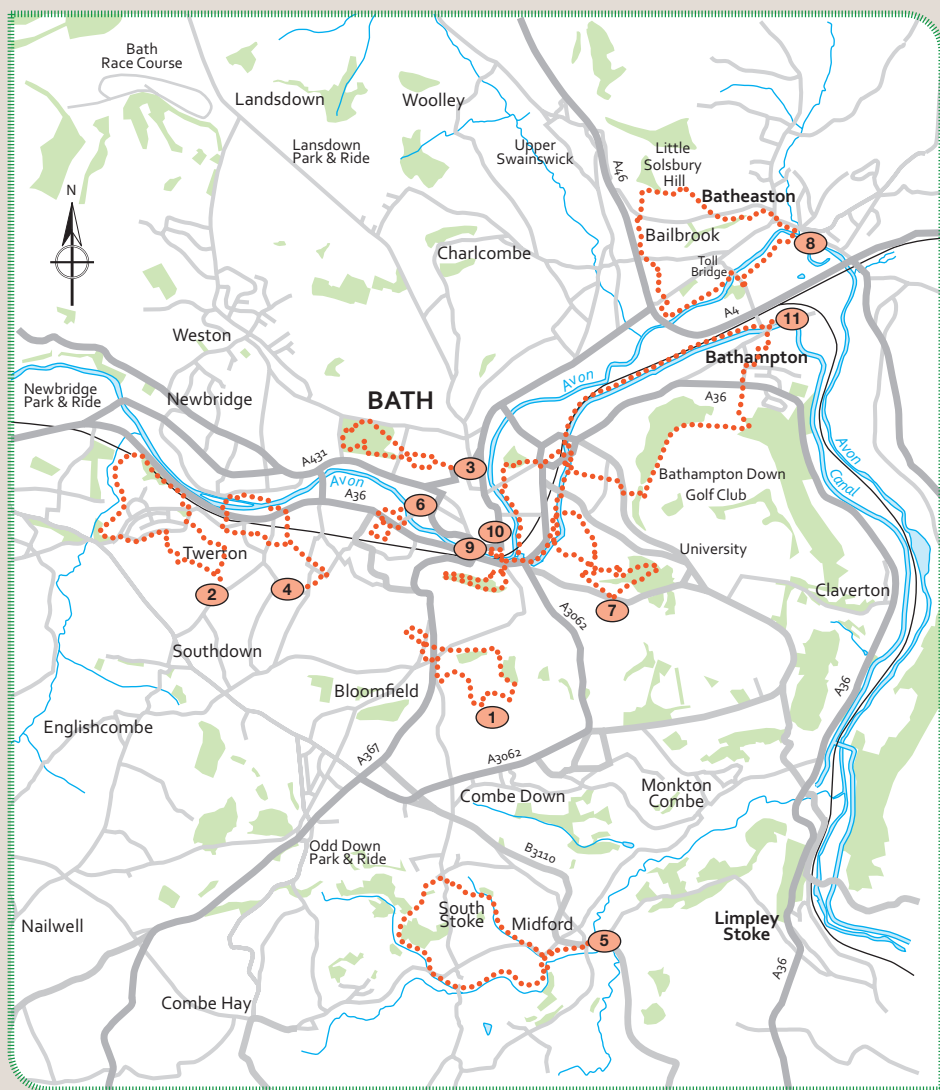
Bathscape and Cotswolds National Landscape

This book has been produced by Bathscape with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Cotswolds National Landscape and our team of volunteer route testers have put together the routes and checked them.

We are working together on making some of the routes more accessible, by making physical improvements and by leading guided walks with guides for visually impaired people.



OVERVIEW MAP OF BATH



Maps throughout this booklet based on OS mapping, © Crown copyright and database rights 2023 OS licence AC0000807498 Bath & North East Somerset Council

KEY INFORMATION

Each walk in the book comes with some symbols, and this is what they mean. You can check which walk suits you best, whether you're looking for something to do, or want to know if there are hills.



LESS THAN 2 MILES



2 TO 4 MILES



INCLINES



STEEP/LONGER SLOPES



MAINLY PAVED



PAVED AND UNPAVED, MIGHT BE MUDDY



SOME STEPS



STILES OR STILES AND STEPS



TOILETS



REFRESHMENTS NEAR THE START/LIMITED



REFRESHMENTS MORE THAN ONE DURING THE WALK



SOMETHING FOR KIDSTO DO



MORE THAN ONE PLAY AREA/ACTIVITY



RESTING POINTS



BUGGY OR WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY

STILES

The Stiles icon, means that the walk includes one or more stiles. These aren't easy for everyone to use, some examples of stiles are shown here, it makes that walk less accessible/wheel-friendly than the other routes.



WAY MARKERS

You'll notice we refer to 'way marker posts', 'waymarkers', 'public footpath' signs and 'Circuit of Bath waymarkers'. These are what they look like.



1. One tunnel from Springfield Park

A circular route taking in parks, one of the famous 'two tunnels' and incredible views over Bath. Two play parks to keep you entertained.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at Springfield Park, Meare Road, BA2 5PP. What3Words played.puts.broad
- › Bus stop on Queens Drive, 150m from the start. Free parking on residential streets off Meare Road. Please park respectfully.
- › No public toilets on this route.
- › Two playgrounds – Springfield Park and Bloomfield Road Open Space.

DIRECTIONS

Standing on the pavement of Meare Road head into Springfield Park downhill keeping the playground on your left. Go past the playground and at the bottom turn right and when you reach the edge of the basketball court take the path on your left continuing downhill through a wooded area towards a gate.

The gate is no longer in use, walk round it and a mature tree, to enter a field. Continue downhill to the bottom left

of the field and take the footpath left, through a gate and onto a path that soon runs alongside a wall. There are steps along the way as you go down to a minor road at the bottom.

Follow this road (Lynbrook Lane) round to the left and then as it curves right up to meet the main road (Entry Hill) 1. Turn right and walk along the pavement of Entry Hill until you see the Devonshire Arms ahead. Carefully cross the road and walk up past the pub to Wellsway. At the top turn right and cross the road so you are outside the Devonshire Arms 2. Turn left to use the pedestrian crossing to cross the road.

Turn left and then right into the next road, Hatfield Road. There is only pavement on the far side of this road, however you're only going to walk a short distance along the road until you find St. Luke's Church on your right. Walk through the church car park heading for the far-left corner where you will soon see a path down past the church to the green space, which is churchyard, beyond. Stay on this path until you reach Bloomfield Road. Turn right along the pavement until you see the gate into Bloomfield Green on the opposite side of the road, immediately after house number 102.

Carefully cross the road and enter the open space 3. Follow the left hedge down towards the basketball court. On the far side of the court turn left onto a paved path. After a few metres you will come to a gate. On the other side of the gate is the Linear Park and Greenway. Look out for cyclists using this route. Turn left onto the path and ahead you will see the entrance to the Devonshire Tunnel, the first of the two tunnels. This is the shorter of the tunnels and takes approximately 10 minutes to walk through. Notice the difference in the air temperature as you enter the tunnel.

Walk through the tunnel which curves slightly, but you'll soon see the 'light at the end of the tunnel'.

When you leave the tunnel 4 you'll soon cross two bridges, the second being a red brick bridge with metal railings. A short distance after the bridge, keep an eye out for a small path on your right which will take you back down the side of this bridge till you eventually pass under it. Once you have walked under the bridge, passing through a gate, turn right onto the quiet Lyncombe Vale Road. Walk down the road until opposite the new houses you see a footpath on your right leading uphill into the woods 5.

Follow this path gently uphill to reach a crossing path. Go up a flight of steps on your right leading up above the two tunnels path below. At the top of the steps turn left until you reach a bridge over the path below. Turn right through a gate, across the bridge and through another gate into a field. If you have dogs check for grazing animals before following the best worn path uphill towards a gate ahead and slightly to your left, on the other side of the field.

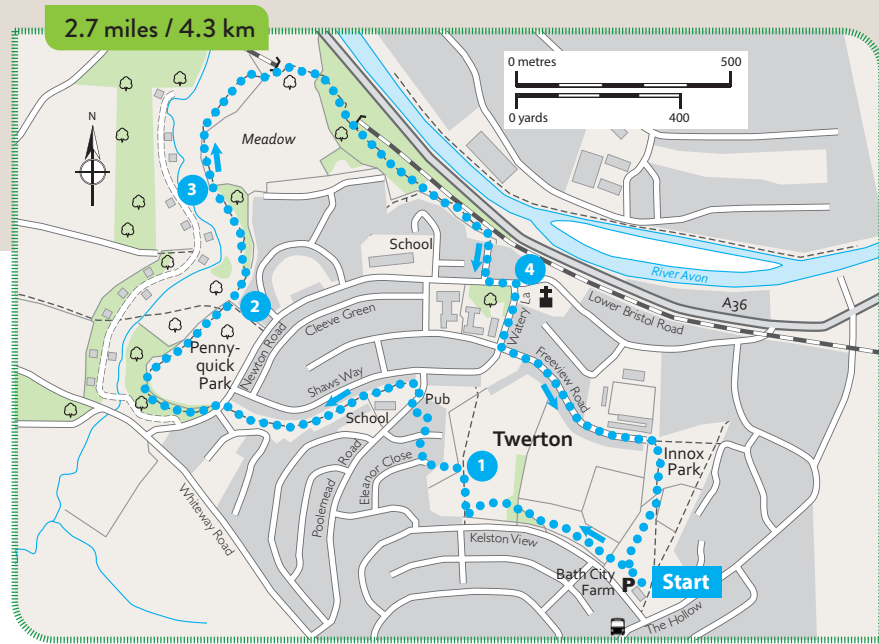
At the top, turn around to enjoy the views. Then pass through the gate and turn left onto the lane away from Honeysuckle Farm. At the T junction 6 turn right up Fox Hill. Halfway up the hill just before a driveway turn right into a meadow and follow the footpath across the meadow, with far reaching views on your right.

The path forks just before some woodland. Take the left fork. Pass into the edge of the wood and soon you will see up and on your left the exit from the woodland back into Springfield Park. Head straight up hill from here, until you return to Meare Road.

2. Green Twerton

A varied walk taking in the often overlooked green spots of Twerton. Starting at Bath City Farm with spectacular views of the city before heading down to Pennyquick Park. This is followed by a woodland stroll before returning via another park to the farm. Several play areas.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at Bath City Farm, BA2 1NW. What3Words lance.intent.pounds
- › Buses – Kelston View bus stop on The Hollow, limited free parking at the Farm and in nearby residential streets. Please park considerately.
- › Public toilets and a café at Bath City Farm, but check the opening times ahead of your visit.
- › Playgrounds at Bath City Farm, Pennyquick Park and Inox Park.



› View from the wilder part of Bath City Farm

DIRECTIONS

Bath City Farm is a 37-acre plot between two neighbouring areas, Twerton and Whiteway. It is free to access and provides education, training, therapeutic activities, venue hire and events for the local community as well as an opportunity to meet a variety of farm animals including sheep, pigs, chickens, goats and rabbits, so you may want to add some time to look around before you start your walk.

Find the main farm buildings below the car park (not the new café) and turn to admire the view. From here turn left walking slightly uphill with the view on your right. When the path forks, take the left fork which will take you past rabbits, chickens, then pigs before bringing you to a metal gate. Pass through the gate into a field (where sheep and other animals are often grazing).

Keep an eye out for the lumpy mounds in the field – these are yellow meadow ant hills. Beneath your feet the ants are busy farming root aphids! They feed on the honeydew (and sometimes the aphids themselves) that the aphids produce.

Follow the path along the top of the field to a wooden gate, go through the gate and up a few rough steps into a woodland. Follow the path through the woodland, down a couple of steps and continue ahead to a metal gate.

Go through the gate and into a meadow. Follow the path along the top of the field until you see a metal gate on your left. Ignore the gate and turn right heading downhill until you are next to a large fallen log with a carved seat just beyond. Keeping these on your left continue downhill and where the path forks take the left fork over a stile **1**, rather than straight down into another meadow.

On the other side of the stile cross the green following the most worn path to the other side, aiming for the gap between the houses, next to a hedge. Pass down a short track which has a hedge on the left and a fence on the right to join a quiet residential street (Eleanor Close).

Look for a short flight of steps on your right onto a tarmac pavement with a

EXPLORE...

Bath City Farm

Bath City Farm is an amazing community facility, covering the hillside between Whiteway and Twerton. It is home to over 1000 species of animals and plants. It supports young people and those with learning difficulties in its skills development programmes and now has a café selling food from the Farm.



Pygmy goats at Bath City Farm Photo Ruby Barber

metal handrail. Follow this down until it meets another residential street (Linley Close). Carefully cross to the pavement on the other side, then turn right and immediately left past a yellow grit box and down another path between buildings which ends with a flight of steps.

Turn left passing between garages on each side until you reach the main road opposite Twerton Infant School.

Carefully cross the road. Turn right and follow the pavement down passing the Centurion Inn, a listed building, on your right. Soon after turn left onto a footpath with a bollard in the middle.

Take this path. When the path forks take the left fork and continue until it starts to curve downhill ending at the main road (Newton Road). Immediately opposite you will see an informal entrance into the woods at the edge of Pennyquick Park.

Carefully cross the road, which though has a 20mph speed limit, can often have cars travelling faster than this along it. Once in the woods turn right and then left and left again to pick up the main path through the woodland. Follow it round in an arc until you pop out in the open park. You will have newly planted trees on your right.

These trees were planted by volunteers in 2019 as part of the Bathscape project.

Continue ahead keeping the new trees on your right and more mature trees on your left. Pass the basketball courts and playground, both on your right. You will eventually find the edge of the park in front of some houses 2. You should be able to find (and follow) Circuit of Bath way markers from here. The Circuit of Bath is a 20.5 mile walk that circles the city. Walking guides are available for that route on the Bathscape website.

The way markers take you along a tarmac path to the left of the houses. Then through a metal gate on your left into Carr's Wood West. There is one main footpath through these woods, bearing right. Follow it along, passing some very old beech trees. Eventually you will meet a way marker post at the entrance to a meadow 3. Leave the Circuit of Bath way markers now by take the right fork into the meadow. Follow the footpath along the edge of the meadow, past another post and through a metal gate into Carr's Wood East.

Continue ahead on the main path, ignoring any forks up to the right. Though

halfway along, at one of the forks near the back of some houses, keep an eye out on your right for a flight of old stone steps. This is all that remains of a grand house, owned by the Carrs, a prominent local family, that was demolished in the 1960s.

The railway line is below you and you may hear a train intermittently rumbling past. This is the line Isambard Kingdom Brunel bought to the West Country in the 1840s and is the main Bristol to London line.

Eventually you will come to a set of wooden steps which will bring you out of the woods onto a quiet residential street (Walwyn Close). Carefully cross onto the pavement and continue up Walwyn Close to the main road by a bus stop and bench. Carefully cross the road and turn left 4. Take the first right up Watery Lane - St. Michael's and All Angels Church is on the corner. Cross when safe and continue on Watery Lane until you reach Freeview Road. Turn left onto Freeview Road and walk its length until you reach Innox Park at the end.

If you aren't stopping at the playground turn right up the slope before you get to it. In the spring and summer months there is a clear wild meadow section here. This was also planted by Bathscape volunteers in 2019. Even in the winter months the grass has a slightly different colour to it. This is because it is mown less

regularly than the rest of the Park to allow wildflowers to grow and set seed. As you walk past you should be able to see how this area is made up of lots of different types of plants, not just grass.

At the top of this meadow section, you will find two gates in close succession. Go through the gates and back into Bath City Farm (please put dogs on leads). On your left are some allotments and an orchard. Head straight up towards a bench.

Take a well-earned rest on the bench to enjoy the views. Ahead of you on the slope is an orchard, planted by volunteers in 2022. It contains 175 fruit trees including apples, pears, cherries, plums, damsons and green gauges.

When you are ready, continue up the hill through a metal gate and up some steps passing goats and sheep on your way up. Near the top look out for a bench held up by pigs! This is another good place to stop as there is an information board picking out key places in the view.

To finish the walk, continue up and then turn left passing the edible herb beds on your right. These herbs, plus other produce grown on the city farm are used to create delicious meals and snacks in the café.

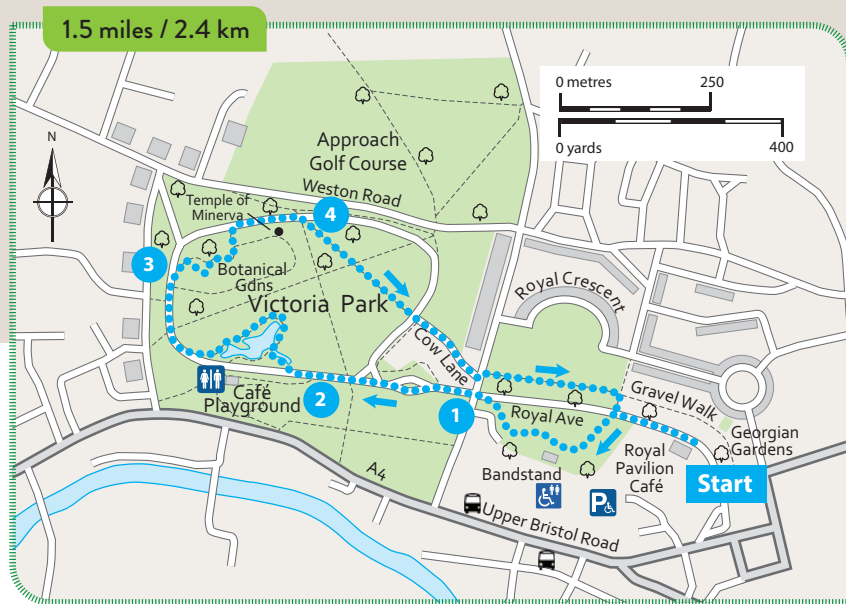


We run lots of events at the Farm. Photo Alex Montacute

3. Royal Victoria Park Highlights

A flat, wheel-friendly tour of just some of the special places in Bath's famous and beautiful park. Cafés and a huge play area halfway round.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- Start and finish at Royal Pavilion Café, BA1 2NR. What3Words drew.delay.chemistry
- Area well served by buses, Pay and Display parking at Charlotte Street car park and in parking bays round the park.
- Public toilets in Charlotte Street car park and by Herbert's Café near the playground (both 20p).

DIRECTIONS

With your back to the Royal Pavilion Café, turn left to walk along the pavement of Royal Avenue.

On your left the path soon splits. Take the path signposted to the Bandstand and follow it round. You will pass round the back of the Grade II listed Victorian bandstand but may want to take a minute to explore it.

When ready, continue on the path, as it curves round back to Royal Avenue. Turn left and pass through the ornate gates

before carefully crossing the road and passing through another set of gates **1**. Continue on the footpath passing the Victoria Obelisk.

The park was opened in 1830 by Princess Victoria who was 11 at the time. The obelisk, erected in 1937, is dedicated to her.

Continue along the pavement until you see a path on your left forking slightly downhill **2**.

You may wish to divert down the path here to visit Herbert's Café, the toilets or the extensive playground. To continue, carefully cross the road here and carry on for approximately 50m and then take the path on the right ahead that follows the edge of the duck pond. Stay on the road side of the pond, the path slopes gently upwards. Turn right at the top to cross the bridge over the pond. Follow the path around the edge of the pond. See if you can spot the fish swimming in the water below. There is a bench by a large stone vase to take a rest with views of the pond along the path.

Continue along the path until it forks, shortly after the bench. Take the right-hand fork, which soon opens out onto the pavement of the road. Continue on the pavement as the road curves round to the right.

3 The path then leaves the roadside and continues uphill to the gates of the Botanical Gardens.

Pass through the gates and continue straight. The Botanical Gardens are wonderful to explore at any time of year, so you may wish to divert off the route for a while in here.

When ready, continue on the path as it curves around to the right and then snakes past a wildflower bank. Where the path splits again, you can take a short diversion to the Temple of Minerva by bearing right or continue straight up to pass the coffee hut, which is open seasonally. On the left you will see a large wooden sculpture, which was partially damaged by the winter 2022 storms.

Carry on straight up towards the road, cross the road carefully to the pavement on the other side. Here, if you fancy another diversion, you can continue straight into the Great Dell which feels much wilder than the rest of the park and is often quiet when the rest of the park is busy. It is however unpaved and so is not suitable for all wheels. To continue on the circular route, once you have crossed the road, turn right and follow the pavement until you see an avenue of trees in the parkland on your right. Cross back over the road at the dropped kerb and continue straight down the avenue (left fork) **4**. This is the only part of the route which is not hard surfaced. The path here is compacted gravel, and in good condition.

The path crosses a tarmac path and continues to a road. Take care as you cross this road into Cow Lane and follow it downhill to the end. It brings you out at the road you crossed early in the walk.

Cross carefully, and take the path, called Gravel Walk, that runs below the Grade I listed Georgian Royal Crescent.

The Royal Crescent is a row of 30 terraced houses built between 1767 and 1774 and an internationally renowned landmark in Bath.

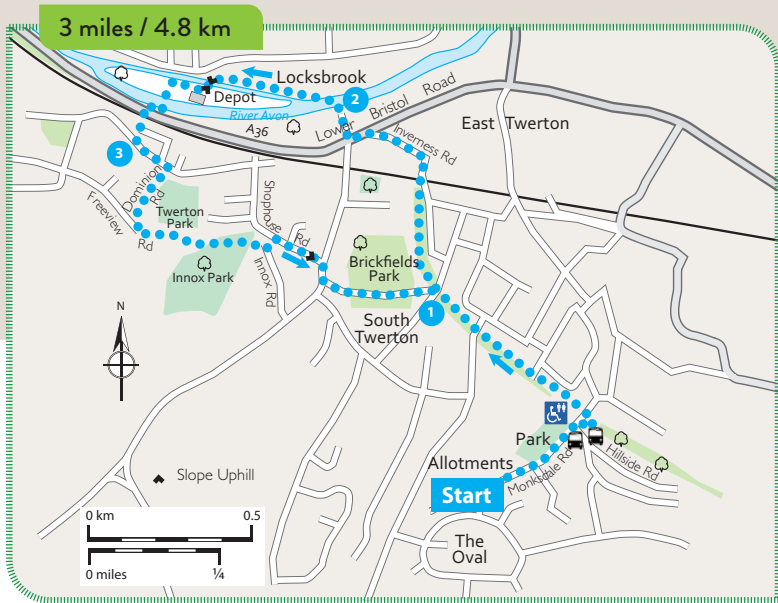
At the end of Gravel Walk turn right, down the path past the flower beds, back to the main road. Cross the road and turn left to return to the start.

You may extend the walk by turning left then immediately right, slightly uphill (instead of heading down to the road), to continue walking on Gravel Walk that runs parallel with the main road. It was a route taken by sedan chairs from the town to the Royal Crescent. A short distance along the Gravel Walk, on the left, there is free entry to the reconstructed Georgian Garden (open daily from 9- 5 and free) via a few steps so may not be suitable for all. At the end of the Gravel Walk at the top of the steep flight of steps, turn round and retrace your steps back to the path below the Royal Crescent and follow the instructions back to the starting place.

4. Wildlife & Waterways (with Wheels)

A wheel around the green and blue spaces of West Bath. Featuring wildlife, the river, three playgrounds, parks and a community garden.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at Monksdale Road Allotments, BA2 2JD; What3Words pint. posed.using.
- › Buses to and from Hillside Road, free parking on Monksdale Road residential street, please park respectfully.
- › Public toilets by Sandpits play area open during the day – 20p.
- › Playgrounds at Moorfields Sandpits, Innox and Brickfields Parks.

DIRECTIONS

Standing on the pavement at the gate to the allotments head downhill keeping the allotments on your left. Shortly you reach a red gate into a park. The path through the park has a number of steps, if you are OK with steps, cut through the park heading downhill, otherwise stay on the pavement.

At the end of the park look right to see a footpath up to the bridge you can see over the road in front of you. Cross over

the road to take this path. At the top of the slope turn left to cross over the bridge you were just looking at from beneath. Look out for cyclists.

Stay on this path along the Linear Park and Two Tunnels Greenway going underneath a bridge and then across another green bridge 1. Soon after this second bridge you will come to a junction of paths. Bear right and across a brick bridge.

Soon after the end of the bridge turn left off the footpath onto a residential street (Inverness Road) following signs for 'Two Tunnels Greenway'.

Walk to the end of the street and cross Burnham Road, then turn right. At the T-junction turn left along the pavement of Lower Bristol Road (A36) until the pedestrian crossing. Cross the road using the crossing and turn left and then immediately right down Fielding's Road by the Golden Fleece pub.

When the road starts to bear right, cross the road to your left to take the footpath down the side of the large building and through metal railings. Follow this route over another green coloured bridge, this time over the River Avon 2. At the end of the bridge turn left to join the Bristol and Bath Railway Path. Continue along the path with the river on your left until you reach a stone bridge just past the Locksbrook Inn.

Turn left onto the bridge to cross the river. The path here is quite steep in both directions. Then follow the path round to the right to continue walking along the river, now on your right.

The path curves around and pops out by a bus depot. Stay on the footpath passing through some metal barriers. Then cross the river once again over a large vehicle bridge. Be cautious of the very high kerb here.

At the T-junction turn right and then immediately left to cross the road at the crossing point. Then continue onto

the footpath through the tunnel signed Arches 1 - 13. The path is steep to start with before levelling out. At the T-junction turn left onto the pavement of High Street 3.

Keep on the left-hand pavement, past the shops on the Parade, until you see Clyde Gardens on your left. Use the zebra crossing to cross High Street opposite Bath College. Continue uphill on Dominion Road.

As Dominion Road bears right take the footpath on your left, behind a lamp post and between the signs for Dominion Road and Hanna Close. At the top of the path, either take the flight of steps up to Freeview Road, or use the ramp loop to your right to do the same thing. Turn left and continue along Freeview Road until you reach Innox Park. Continue through the park using the surfaced path and out through the exit.

At the T-junction of The Brow and Innox Road turn left. At the next T-junction turn right uphill on Shophouse Road. This section is steep. At the brow of the hill as the road curves right you will see the One Stop Shop on your left. Cross the road just before it to take the path that runs alongside it. Pass through a metal entrance barrier straight ahead and follow the path down past another playground on your right.

After leaving the park through a metal exit barrier, just before you meet the road where the path forks, take the left fork slightly uphill 1.

Turn right to re-join the Linear Park and Two Tunnels Greenway. Cross the green coloured bridge again and continue along the path. Remember to check for cyclists once again.

Retrace your footsteps for approximately 550m back over the first bridge you crossed. Once across, turn right back down to Monksdale Road. Return to the start via the way you came.

5. South Stoke Circular

A pub-to-pub walk in the beautiful countryside south of Bath. Start with an undulating climb up to the quintessential village of South Stoke before heading down to follow the route of the Somersetshire Coal Canal back to the start.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at the Hope and Anchor Pub, Midford, BA2 5SD. What3Words doing.shaped.pushed
- › Bus stops on Midford Road, outside the Hope and Anchor and in South Stoke.

- › Patrons only car parking behind the Hope and Anchor.
- › Refreshments and toilets at the Hope and Anchor Pub and The Packhorse in South Stoke.

DIRECTIONS

Standing with your back to the Hope and Anchor, carefully cross the busy road. In front of you, you should see a footpath signposted from the road and down a short flight of steps.

Follow this path, under the brick and steel former railway bridges. Go through a wooden gate and continue along the raised path beside the disused Somersetshire Coal Canal.

Just before a pipe mounted on red bricks crosses the canal, the path forks **1**. Take the right fork to cross the old canal ditch and follow a path slightly uphill until you meet a stile. Take care crossing the stile as on the other side you are straight on the road.

Turn left onto the minor road and walk past Upper Midford Farm and several other houses until you see a footpath sign on your right, ignore the arrow pointing right that goes up the steep grassy hill.

Pass through a wooden gate and cross the bottom of the field beyond to

another wooden gate. Go through this and onto a path, uphill again through a meadow (which is full of wildflowers in the spring and summer) between the trees, to another wooden gate **2**. Go through and follow the tree lined path uphill to a wooden gate. Then follow the fenced path round the edge of the field and uphill until it widens out into a track. Follow the track around to the left ignoring the footpaths on the right, be sure to turn to enjoy the views here, before continuing on along a minor road passing Ivy Cottages. At the T-junction turn right onto another minor road (Old School Hill) and follow it uphill passing the village hall and the Packhorse Pub.

The Packhorse is over 400 years old, and much research has gone into trying to establish when it was built, with the general view being it was actually before 1674, the date carved in the stone above the door. In 2018 it was opened as a community pub after locals rallied to save it from development into offices. So, a stop off here can be fully guilt free!



› Midford Castle. Photo Nicole Daw

Continue uphill and follow the road as it curves round to the left. As the road levels out, the road forks. Continue along the level road and then take the right fork beyond a wooden field gate, with a pedestrian gate next to it. Follow the track along until it meets a fork 3. To continue the walk right away take the left fork downhill on a concrete track. Alternatively continue straight for a few metres to find a bench to take in the view.

When you are ready, pick up the route downhill and look out for Circuit of Bath way markers. You can follow these all the way back to the start or continue to use these instructions.

Pass through the metal gateway (called a squeeze stile) to cross the field beyond, heading to the bottom left corner. Stay on the path as it runs parallel to the track for a short while and then pass through another squeeze stile onto a woodland path. Continue downhill passing a spring on your right and then an attractive stone house on your left.

Go through a wooden gate into a field. Follow the path diagonally left across the field and down into the woodland below. Continue straight on by a tall post with lots of footpath signs on it. The post will be on your left and a stream on your right as you continue downhill albeit on a gentler slope.

The path will meet a metal field gate with a wooden pedestrian gate next to it. Go through the wooden gate and continue straight ahead. On your right you will see the ditch of the Somersetshire Coal Canal you were walking alongside at the very beginning of the walk.

Soon you should be able to see the stonework of what remains of a lock system which raised the canal level 135ft (41m) at this point. This point was known as The Bull's Nose and it is the sharpest canal bend in the country. The 22 locks were opened in 1805 and allowed coal to be transported from the North Somerset Coalfield to Bath and Wiltshire more cheaply than by horse and cart.

Continue along the path, parallel to the canal until you pass through a gateway and under a brick bridge, beyond which is a minor road. In the tunnel is an information board all about the lock flight and canal 4.

Cross the road to a wooden gate and path beyond, to the left of Bridge Farm. Follow the fenced path along the edge of a meadow where you should be able to see the canal ditch down to your right, into a woodland and through a metal gate. Turn right and then almost immediately left through another metal gate and down to the field below. The canal ditch is now on your left.



› Midford Castle

EXPLORE...

Somersetshire Coal Canal

The 'Somersetshire Coal Canal' (the 'Shire' part was to make it sound more appealing to investors) was completed in 1805 and linked the coal pits of Paulton and Radstock to the Kennet and Avon Canal, and on to developing markets in Bath and beyond.

It includes some extraordinary engineering. It was the most profitable canal of England in its heyday. It declined later in the 19th century when the coal began to run out. The Somersetshire Coal Canal Society is restoring the canal and its structures and has produced a walking guide.



› Combe Hay Locks on the Somersetshire Coal Canal

Follow the slightly raised footpath, which was once the tow path, through the field, through another metal gate and through another field to a wooden gate. Go through, staying on the path under a viaduct of the Great Western Railway which has a fantastic sycamore tree growing below, and then dividing around it.

Follow the path as it curves round to the left, through another wooden gate and then past a stone bridge.

This is the Upper Midford Accommodation Bridge and it carried the road from Combe Down to Twinhoe across the canal before the Somerset and Dorset Railway provided an alternative route next to their viaduct in Midford.

The path continues to curve round to the right to meet a wooden gate with the Midford aqueduct on your right. This is where the Radstock branch of the canal joined. Pass through the gate, taking care if you have dogs as horses often graze here. Stay on the path all the way back to the start.

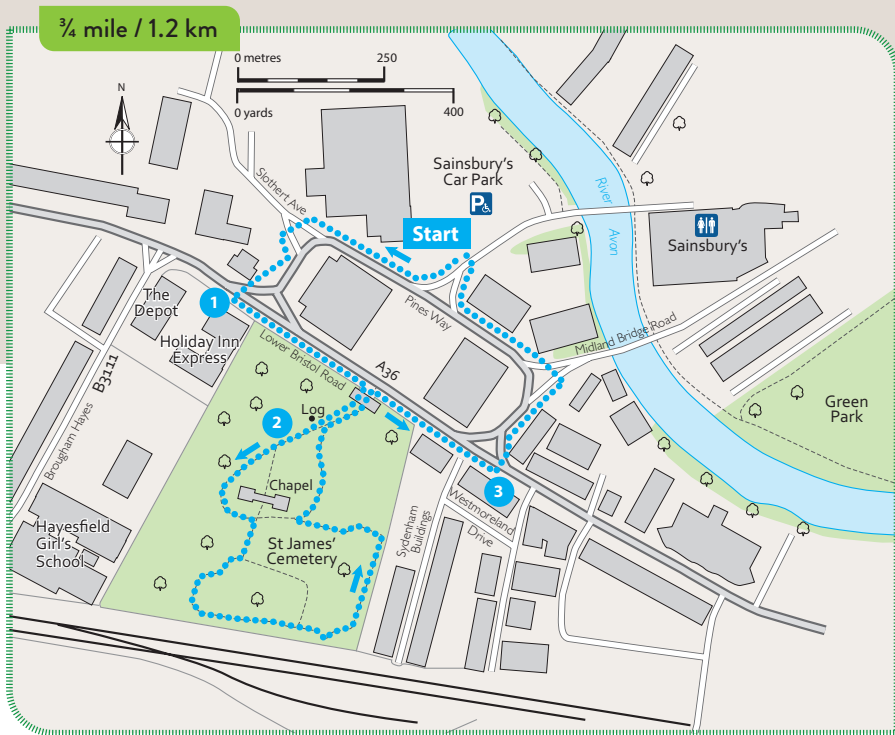


› Wildflower meadow near South Stoke Village

6. St James' Cemetery Little Loop

A short, wheel-friendly, flat route in central Bath to a hidden gem.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- > Start and finish on Lower Bristol Road, BA2 3BQ. What3Words unity.dragon.shots
- > Buses to and from Lower Bristol Road, parking for 1.5 hours at Sainsbury's, where there are also customer toilets.
- > Cafés near the entrance to the Cemetery.
- > Cemetery closes at 4.30pm October – March and at 7.30pm April – September.

DIRECTIONS

From Sainsbury's main car park cross the footbridge adjacent to the road access, turn right and almost immediately left across the zebra crossing. (Start here if you parked in the first car park.) Follow the pavement through the car park, turn left and follow the bus stop sign. Turn left through the railings and follow the pavement to Pines Way. Turn right along the pavement and follow Pines Way round to the left, using the pedestrian crossings to safely get to the pavement on the far side of the busy Lower Bristol Road (A36). **1**

Turn left and walk along the pavement of Lower Bristol Road. You will have the cemetery wall on your right. Follow this along until you find the entrance into St. James' Cemetery which was opened in 1861 as Lyncombe & Widcombe's fourth graveyard and the second graveyard for St James'.

Enter the cemetery, and where the path forks take the right-hand path, take the next right-hand path at the second fork. Shortly after you take this path there is a log (in early spring, amongst the snowdrops) just off the path to the right which makes a good spot for a rest if required.

Carry on along the path as it curves round behind the chapels. One of which is Anglican and the other nonconformist. From here **2**, if you would like to stay on the paved path continue round to **3**. If you are looking to make the route a little longer, look for a grassy path on your right which is opposite the central archway of the chapels. Follow it up towards the back of the cemetery, passing gravestones along your way.

Once at the back boundary, turn left and follow the fence line until you reach the corner. The fence line runs parallel to the train track so you may spot a train or two pass by as you enjoy the walk.

At the end turn left to continue alongside the boundary, taking care not to trip on the small marker stones along the edge of the path, until you are almost parallel with the chapels. Turn left towards the chapels along a grassy path. Look out for a fascinating gravestone on the left of the path in the shape of an ammonite. Continue ahead to pick up the paved path again at **3**. From here you can either explore the outside of the chapels or turn right back towards the entrance. For more information on the cemetery visit: www.batharchives.co.uk/cemeteries/lyncombe-and-widcombe-st-james-cemetery

At the entrance turn right onto the pavement of the Lower Bristol Road. If you need a pitstop there are some cafés to choose from on the right here. However, remember to keep an eye on the time if you have parked at Sainsbury's!

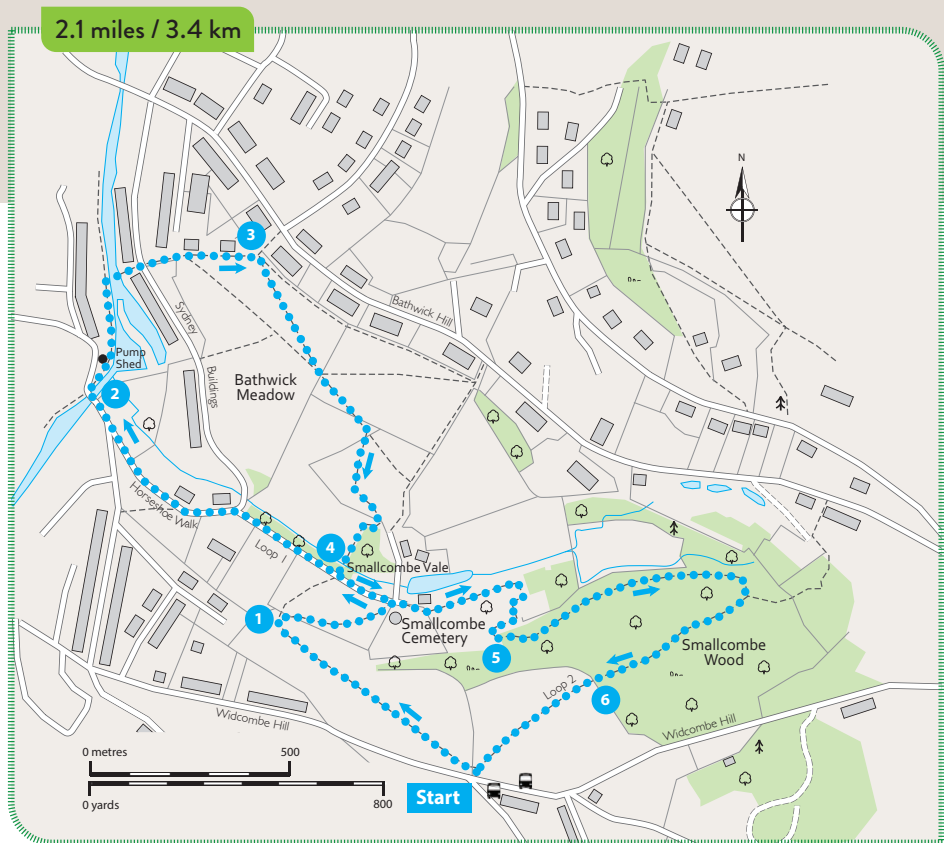
Use the pedestrian crossing to cross the Lower Bristol Road to your left and then follow Pines Way back around the left until you find the start. Please note a bus shelter partially blocks the pavement on the last stretch of Pines Way which means a push or wheelchair may have to drop into the road briefly to get around it. Cross over Ivo Peters Road and turn right and follow the outbound route back to the start.



> The tranquil setting of St James' Cemetery. Photo Nicole Daw

7. Sensory Smallcombe

A figure of eight walk which can easily be split into two circular walks. A varied route exploring this hidden corner of Bath and encouraging you to tune into all of your senses. A picturesque cemetery, wildflower meadows, fantastic views over Bath, a calming canal side and beautiful woodland.



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at Widcombe Hill, opposite Prospect Place/Macaulay Buildings, BA2 6AS. What3Words chimp.mint.desk You can also get to the walk from the canal (point 2 on the map) if you're coming from the city centre.
- › Bus to Macaulay Buildings bus stop at the start on Widcombe Hill. Loop 1 can be reached from Pulteney Road (A36)
- › Free parking available near the start on Widcombe Hill. A small number of 2hr limited parking bays available where Pulteney Gardens meets Horseshoe Walk.
- › No public toilets
- › The Pump Shed refreshment kiosk is open seasonally
- › Rest points: Benches in Smallcombe Cemetery, two benches on Bathwick Meadow, logs in Smallcombe Wood, arms of lock gates along the canal.

DIRECTIONS

This walk is a figure of eight which means it can also be walked as two shorter loops. In both loops we encourage you to explore your senses with suggestions along the route.

Loop 1 – Canal Side and Bathwick Meadows Viewpoint

From Widcombe Hill pass through the metal gate into the National Trust's Smallcombe Vale. Turn left and pass through another gate. The view here suddenly opens up in front of you. First the meadow and then the City of Bath beyond. Take a moment to be still and notice the contrasts in shapes and colours between the natural and built landscapes.

Take the most worn route ahead down the hill, staying on the right when the path splits. The slope at first is gentle then becomes steeper. Where the slope changes, on this exposed spot, see if you can use your body to detect the direction the wind is coming from. Closing your eyes might help.

At the bottom you will pass a stone cattle trough and then see a metal gate 1, go through and turn right along a path that runs along the edge of the field and

slightly downhill. As you walk keep an ear out for birds singing, how many different calls can you detect?

At the bottom of the field pass through another metal gate. If you are continuing with Loop 1, turn left after the gate and walk along the lane, pausing to look right to see the entrance to the cemetery which is explored in Loop 2. If you are following Loop 2, turn right after the gate and pick up the directions after Point 4.

At the end of the drive, you will come to a road (Horseshoe Walk). Cross over to the pavement on the other side and turn left. Follow the pavement all the way along until you reach a bridge over the canal. Stop on the bridge and listen to the water running through the locks 2.

Continue over the bridge and then turn right as soon as you reach the other side to pass through a gap and onto the tow path. The canal should be on your right. Walk along the tow path until you see a small white railed bridge up ahead (just before lock 13). Use the bridge to cross the canal.



› Smallcombe Vale

The path heads uphill soon coming out onto a road. Cross the road and walk up two shallow flights of steps until you reach a metal gate on your right into the National Trust's Bathwick Meadows **3**. Before continuing, take a moment to feel your heartbeat. Is it beating a little faster after the climb? Can you feel it starting to steady as you rest?

When you are ready, go through the gate and continue on the most worn path across the middle of the field, enjoying the views as they open up on your right. At the other end of the field there is a bench, go through the gateway to the right of this and take the right-hand path along the field edge to another metal gate. Go through the gate into Richens Orchard. There is another bench slightly down the hill if you wish to sit for a while.

To continue, follow the path to another metal gate which leaves the orchard into another meadow. Bear right towards a way mark post you should just be able to see the top of. Beyond the post you will see the main path as it sweeps downhill. The path narrows before reaching a metal gate. Go through the gate and then on to pass through a wooden gate (which may be propped open), before going down

a short flight of steps to a fenced in path which runs all the way down to another wooden gate before meeting the drive up to Smallcombe Cemetery **4**.

Loop 2 – Smallcombe Cemetery and Smallcombe Wood

Turn left up to the ornate metal gates next to a cottage. The gates can be stiff, but the left-hand gate will open. Pass through, there is an information board about the cemetery on a rock to your right which you may like to read before continuing. For further details about the cemetery and some of the people buried here go to www.smallcombegardencemetery.org. Return to the gate.

From the gate take the mown grass path to the left, alongside the cottage shed. Stop a little way down the path to pick out the different shaped headstones. Do you have a favourite?

Continue along the path, ignoring other paths to the right. Notice how some of the older gravestones are covered in moss and lichens. Feel the moss with your fingertips – how does it feel? How does it contrast with the bare stone it grows on?

At the end, the path turns to the right and slightly uphill. On the corner here Garlic Mustard grows in the spring and early summer. It is an edible plant – which people tend to love or hate.

At the T-junction turn right to walk through the middle of the cemetery. Trees, grass, flowers are all ahead, can you pick out as many different shades of green as you can along this path?

Soon you will see, on your left, a pair of dark green yew trees standing sentry on a path up to a bench beneath a wall. Head up to the bench. On your way, have a feel of the yew leaves as you pass. Did you expect them to feel this way?

Take a seat on the bench and close your eyes for a moment, what can you hear?

When you are ready to continue, go back down to the original path and turn left just before the yew trees. As you pass from the open cemetery into the more wooded part of the site can you feel any difference in temperature on your skin? Is it a pleasant or unwelcome change?

Take the paved path left **5**, uphill and as it curves to the right take a sharp left to take a short flight of steps up into the woods. If you want to head back, without entering the woods, you can at this point by continuing along the stone path which will bring you back around to the entrance of the cemetery.

Go through the gap in the stone wall and turn left to follow a woodland path. In the spring and early summer, the woodland is covered in wild garlic. All parts of this plant give off a strong garlic smell if crushed. The whole plant is also edible and can be eaten raw.

Stay on this path as it continues uphill through the wood. As you pass the trees, close to the path, brush your hands along the bark to see how different each tree feels from the next.

Eventually you will see a field on your left. Listen carefully and you might start to pick up the sound of water. Can you hear it before you see it? Using your hearing alone, can you find the source of the sound?

The path then turns to the right, parallel to the stream, and heading uphill. Take a moment to look into the water, can you see anything reflecting in it? If you are able to, scoop some water into your hand, how does it feel?

Further up the slope, staying close to the stream, climb over a fallen tree to stay on the path, then go up three flights of steps and then follow the path as it eventually bears right at the junction. Look in the mud of the path for prints, can you work out who has been here before you... people, dogs, a deer?

Follow the path and it soon widens. If it is a sunny day, can you spot dappled light dancing on the path in front of you?

The path eventually meets a field gate with a pedestrian gate next to it (known as a Bristol Gate) **6**. Go through the gate into the meadow beyond. Take the path straight ahead which will lead you back to the start.



› Above Smallcombe Fields

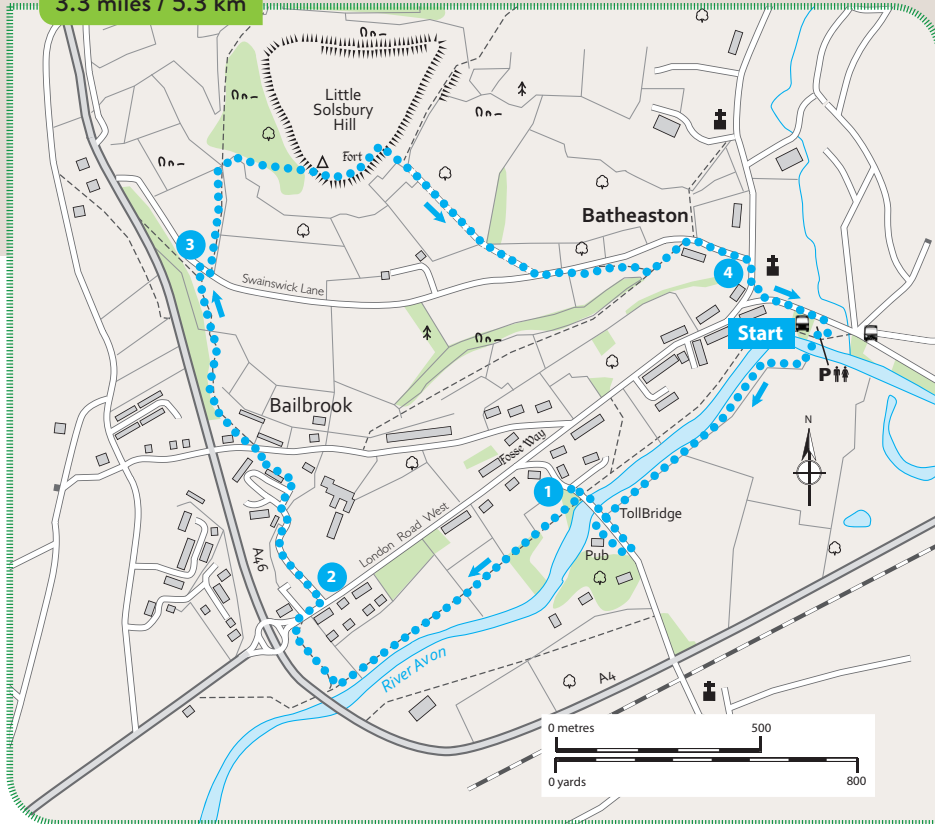
8. Little Solsbury Hill Circular

Starting and finishing on Batheaston High Street this circular route starts with gentle riverside views before a steep climb up to the top of Little Solsbury Hill for magnificent views, then returning via the shops and cafés of Batheaston.

VIEW ONLINE



3.3 miles / 5.3 km



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at Batheaston Riverside and Gardens car park, BA1 7NB. What3Words pepper.fills.bleak.
- › Bus stop next to start point on London Road East. Car park free but restricted to 2 hours. Free parking available elsewhere in the village. Please park respectfully.
- › Public toilets at the start in the car park (20p).
- › Shops and cafés in Batheaston and The Bathampton Mill Pub.



› Riverside, near Batheaston

DIRECTIONS

From the Batheaston Riverside and Gardens car park, cross the river via the bridge which ends in a footpath. Follow this along the river, when it curves sharply to the left, take the right fork to cross a small wooden bridge, keeping an eye out for Batheaston Watermill information board. Pass under the road and then bear left into the car park of the Bathampton Mill Pub. Turn left at the car park entrance onto Mill Lane. Turn left again to walk along the pavement of the road and across the toll bridge which is free to pedestrians.

1 Once on the other side, take a sharp right towards The Old Mill Hotel and the road "The Willowfalls" and look for a tunnel under the bridge on your right. Go through the tunnel to pass under the toll bridge. You should have a fantastic view of the weir on your left. Follow the footpath along the river to a metal gate. Go through the gate and continue straight passing along the back of some gardens, between some fields and then onto some rugby pitches. Keeping the river on your left walk the length of the pitches until the footpath enters a small wooded area.

Soon you will pop out onto a shared use path. Look out for cyclists as you turn right and follow the path uphill to meet London Road West.

Use the pedestrian crossing to cross over to the far side of the road, then turn right. Take the first left up Eveleigh Avenue **2**. Follow the pavement up hill and then take the left turn, staying on Eveleigh Avenue (rather than continuing on to the hotel).

As the road curves round to the right follow it round. Soon you will see a short flight of steps in front of you. Go up the steps and follow the tarmac path up and round to the left until it pops out on Bailbrook Lane.

Look to your right and you will see a tin church a little further up the road. You may wish to take a closer look before retracing your footsteps back to continue.

Turn left and look for the track that runs along the back of the houses, to the right of number 35. You will pass a post box in the wall on your right.

Walk along the track which then narrows to a footpath along a garden fence. Continue straight ahead onto a stone path which heads up hill. You should be able to hear the A46 to your left. Follow the tree-lined path all the way up and then down a couple of short sets of steps. Shortly after these look out for a marker post at a fork. Take the right-hand turn up a path which ends on Swainswick Lane 3. Carefully turn right onto Swainswick Lane and soon after turn left to take the sign posted public footpath on your left into a field, through a gate.

Keeping the hedge line on your right, walk along the edge of the field until you meet a wooden gate at the bottom of Little Solsbury Hill. Don't forget to look behind you for the views of Bath.

Once through the gate, take the steep path ahead, ignoring the footpath to the left, up to the top of Little Solsbury Hill. Please take care after wet weather here as it can be very muddy and it is easy to fall. This part is the worst, once round the corner the path continues to dry as you climb higher. Soon you will see the trig point.

'Trig points' are 'triangulation pillars' - a concrete post just over a metre tall. They are usually found on the highest point in an area and used by mapmakers to measure the height and shape of the land.



› The trig point on Little Solsbury Hill. Photo Nicole Daw

Catch your breath at the trig point and enjoy the views. When you are ready to start making your way back, with your back to the view, turn right and follow the edge of the hill, which was once the site of an iron Age Hill Fort, until you see the back of a National Trust sign.

Turn right here downhill towards a gate. Pass through the gate and follow the lane all the way downhill to a T-junction. At the T-junction turn left, continuing downhill until you see a footpath on your right.

Take the footpath across a field to a metal gate. Go through the gate, from here the public right of way is diagonally across the field to a metal gate. However, in the summer months it may be easier to go round the edge of the field, following the left field boundary downhill, then turning right, following the hedge to, and then through a metal gate. Turn left after the gate and walk across another field before going down some steps and turning right back into the lane. Take care walking in the narrow lane.

At the T-junction turn right, continuing downhill. Pass the Church of the Good Shepherd on your left and as the road bends to the right take the flight of steps straight ahead 4.

At the bottom turn left onto Batheaston High Street. Use the crossing to cross the road, then turn right and after a short distance left into the car park.

EXPLORE...

Little Solsbury Hill



› Family on top of Solsbury Hill

The top is 191m (625 feet) high and has been owned and managed by the National Trust since 1930. The sides are owned and managed by Batheaston Freeholders Association. The two organisations work together very closely to look after the whole site.

Little Solsbury Hill was occupied as a hill fort during the early Iron Age. Archaeological remains suggest people lived here between 500 to 100BCE. There would have been about 30 buildings made from timber, wattle and daub.

In more recent history, there is evidence of medieval field systems on the hilltop, and the summit was still being used for agriculture well into the 19th century.

Mostly unimproved limestone grassland, in the spring and summer

it is covered in wildflowers including early purple and pyramidal orchids. Keep your ears open for the remarkable song of the skylark, a ground nesting bird which breeds here (so please keep dogs to the main paths).

The hill was also the inspiration for Peter Gabriel's song "Solsbury Hill".

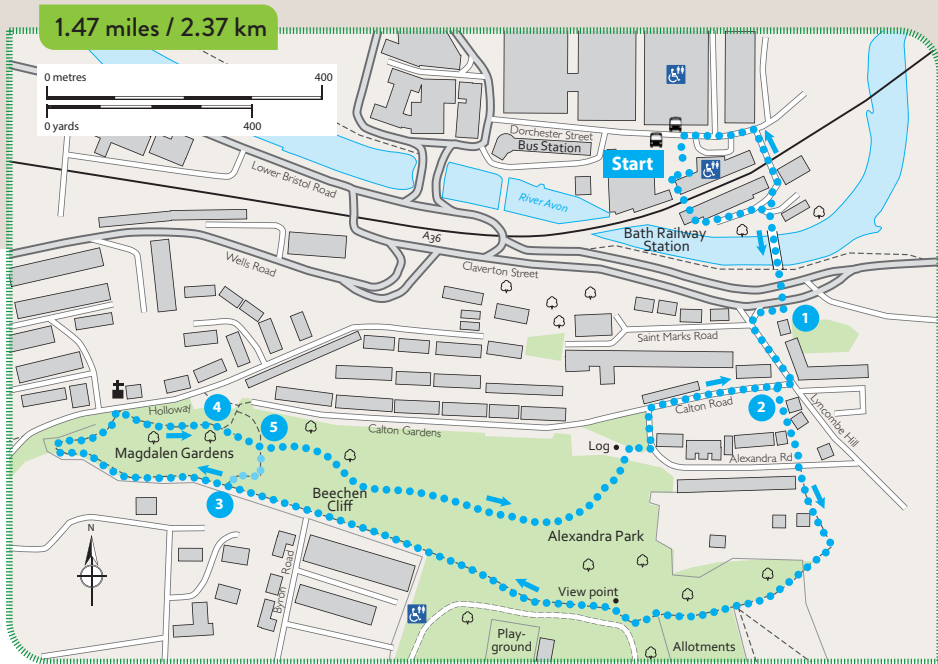


› People walking down Solsbury Hill

9. To Bath's best view!

A short walk to one of the most famous city centre viewpoints in Bath, at Alexandra Park. Walked as a circular, this walk takes you very steeply up via steps and gently down through lovely Gardens and woodland. The gentler route could be taken in both directions for an easier climb. Play area at the top.

VIEW ONLINE



GETTING THERE

- > Start and finish at Bath Spa train station, this is also very close to the bus station. What3Words scrap.broke.chew.
- > Pay and Display city centre car parks, or around Alexandra Park.
- > Public toilets are in Southgate (city centre – free) and Alexandra Park (20p).

DIRECTIONS

With your back to the train station main exit turn left, passing an old telephone box which is now a planter! Pass through the tunnel (under the railway tracks) and on the other side turn left, along the pavement which runs alongside black railings until you reach a pedestrian bridge across the River Avon.

Turn right and cross the bridge, then cross the main road ahead (Rossiter Road) using the pedestrian crossings. Once safely across both parts of the road **1**, turn right and then left to start going uphill on Lyncombe Hill. Take the second road on your right, Calton Road, following the pavement a few metres until you reach a railing. Opposite the railing is a flight of steps uphill to your left **2**. This is the start of Jacobs Ladder. Start climbing the steps! You will soon pop out on Alexandra Road and should see brown signs pointing up to Alexandra Park.

If you would like to avoid the steep climb (and go up and return the same route), follow the sign to Beechen Cliff Woodland. There are still steps in this route, but the climb is gentler. Use the map to help guide you.

To continue, stay on Jacobs Ladder, following the steps as they curve round to the right. You will pass a bench with a '40 steps to go' sign and then a metal gate on your left. This gate takes you into Lyncombe Hill Fields, a 10-acre site of former farmland.

It is looked after by the Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields who aim to conserve the area for wildlife as well as safeguard public access.

For this walk do not go through the gate (though a future visit will reward you with other great views), but continue up the steps, passing allotments on your left until you reach the top between two mature beech trees. Follow the tarmac path round to the right to find the viewpoint. Enjoy the spectacular views across the city and, on a clear day, beyond. There is an information board at the top of the viewpoint which points out some of the main features in the landscape. Jane Austen has her heroine of Northanger Abbey, Catherine Morland, walk up to this viewpoint. For further information visit janeaustenworld.com or photograph QR code.



> Enjoying the view from Alexandra Park Viewpoint

Behind you is Alexandra Park playground which you may wish to visit to if you have children with you.

To continue, from the viewpoint, return to the tarmac path below the information board as it gently slopes left downhill, with black railings on your right. Just before you reach a second viewpoint there is an opportunity to turn left, to find the toilets if you need them.

Continue down the tarmac path as you leave Alexandra Park behind you, and are instead passing the backs of houses, on your left.

Where the black railings on the right are replaced by a low stone wall you will see a set of steep steps on your right 3. For a short cut back down, you can take these steps, then turn right at the bottom to pick up the return route at point 5.

To enjoy a slightly longer, gentler return, continue on the path with the low stone wall on your right. Pass another viewpoint and topograph before you finally meet a short flight of stone steps going to the right. Go down the steps and follow the path beyond to some more steps which sweep left. At the bottom, turn right to pass between two black metal posts next to a lamp post, into Magdalen Gardens. Do not go as far as the road.

It is thought these gardens were laid out in 1902 and what you see today is a fair representation of what they would have looked like then. You can find out more information on the board within the gardens near the path. In front of the gardens is Mary Magdalen Chapel which is one of Bath's oldest buildings, founded in the 11th century and rebuilt in 1495.

Follow the tarmac path through the gardens, passing an information board on your left, and into Beechen Cliff Woodland. Leave the tarmac path 4 by taking the right fork onto a stoned track, up a small flight of steps with a wooden handrail on its left. You will then meet a crossing path and the steps you saw earlier looking down from the top on your right, and then a bench as you stay on the meandering path through the woodland. There is evidence of several buildings in the woodland. One of which is an Anderson Shelter from WWII. You can find out more from the information board in the woods. The woodland is a city centre haven to much wildlife including birds, invertebrates and fungi. Keep your eyes peeled and your ears open as you wander through.

Eventually you will meet a flight of steps with a wooden hand rail on the left. Follow these down to a small green at the bottom. There is a large log here which can serve as a useful rest point if required. Take the stone path to your right in front of a council noticeboard until it joins a road (Alexandra Road).

Cross the road onto the pavement beyond and then turn left to follow it downhill and then right onto Calton Road. You will pass the first steps of Jacobs Ladder 2 that you took earlier and then re-join Lyncombe Hill.

Retrace your footsteps back to and over the bridge to the back of the train station. Once over the bridge, take the zebra crossings ahead of you to the tunnel under the railway tracks. Once through the tunnel, turn left to find Bath Spa train station.

EXPLORE...

A Wild Hilltop Paradise



Walking in Lyncombe Hill Fields

Once you've been to the viewpoint, or perhaps on your way up, near the top of the steps you can visit Lyncombe Hill Fields.

Ten acres of undulating pasture – a secret paradise close to the centre. The fields offer exceptionally beautiful views over the city and also out to Bath's wooded skyline.

It is looked after by the Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields, whose mission is to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the land and maintain its wild nature whilst safeguarding public access. The Friends have managed it since 2020, under licence from Bath and North East Somerset Council.

They have regular volunteer sessions, schools visits and public events. They work extremely hard to make the area as wildlife friendly as possible, creating meadow areas, ponds, bug hotels and planting tiny forests and a tree nursery.

Well worth a visit or check their social media - instagram @friendslhlf.



Bugingham Palace – the bug hotel in Lyncombe Hill Fields

10. Blue Lines City Centre Circular

A mostly flat circular route around historic central Bath along the blue lines of the River Avon and the peaceful Kennet and Avon canal, linking the two via tranquil Henrietta Park and newly refurbished Sydney Gardens.

VIEW ONLINE



2.75 miles / 4.3 km



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish at Bath Spa train station, this is also very close to the bus station. What3Words scrap.broke.chew
- › City Centre car parks, or use any of the Park & Ride facilities.
- › Public toilets at Southgate (city centre - free), Sydney Gardens and Henrietta Park (20p)
- › You're close to all the shops and restaurants of Bath, The Holburne Museum café, The Pulteney Arms pub and The Pump Shed (seasonal opening times).
- › Play areas or fun for children at Beazer Maze garden, Henrietta Park and Sydney Gardens.



› Sunset on the Kennet & Avon Canal

DIRECTIONS

With your back to the train station main exit turn left, passing an old telephone box which is now a planter! Pass through the tunnel (under the railway tracks) and on the other side turn left, along the pavement which runs alongside black railings until you reach Halfpenny Bridge across the River Avon.

Turn right and cross the bridge, then turn immediately left down the pavement of the main road (Rossiter Road) until you meet a minor road. Turn left down this road and over a little bridge over the canal. The locks will be on your right.

Continue under a bridge and then onto the pavement of a minor road. The river should still be on your left. When the road bears round to the right, continue straight ahead onto the footpath running parallel to the river. Pass under another bridge 1.

Continue ahead passing Bath Rugby Ground on your right and Parade Gardens, on your left on the far side of the river.

The current Pulteney Weir was rebuilt in the early 1970s. However, a weir of some description has been here since 1603 to protect the city from flooding. Opposite the weir on your right is the Beazer maze, a small garden labyrinth created by Randall Coate in 1984. Coate is a famous "labyrinthologist" who designed over 50 mazes around the world.

After having a look, follow the footpath round to the flight of steps up onto Pulteney Bridge. Follow the steps all the way up until you pop out onto the street 2.

Pulteney Bridge is to the left and is one of only four bridges in the world with shops that fully span both sides. It was built in the 1770s, replacing a ferry service.

EXPLORE...

Sydney Gardens

Between 2017 and 2022, the Council's Parks team, Friends of Sydney Gardens, Holburne Museum and local residents carried out an extensive Restoration Project. The Gardens now boast fantastic play and leisure amenities for families and other visitors and restored the original 1795 structures. Take time to sit or play!



› The restored toilets at Sydney Gardens

Turn right to walk along Argyle Street towards a roundabout with a fountain on it. Just before the roundabout, turn left and cross Argyle Street, pass a post box and follow the pavement onto Henrietta Street on the left.

Walk up this classic Bath street lined with terraces of Bath Stone town houses, most of which are now divided into flats. After the end of the terrace and outside 1 Bathwick Villas, cross Henrietta Street to the entrance of Henrietta Park. There is a noticeboard next to the entrance with information about the park, and a plan of the site.

As you enter the park down a slight slope on your left there is the Garden of Remembrance which was opened in 1936 to honour King George V. It makes a pleasant rest stop.

There are several paths through the park, explore a while as you make your way across to the far right-hand corner, where an upward-sloping pathway with a metal railing brings you out on the corner of Henrietta Mews and Henrietta Gardens. Cross the road onto the pavement on the other side of Henrietta Mews, then

continue straight up the road (Sutton Street) passing the Pulteney Arms on your left.

At the T-junction turn right and carefully cross Great Pulteney Street, then turn left onto Sydney Place and use the pedestrian crossing to cross to Sydney Place.

Pass the map mounted on the pavement and then turn left to enter Sydney Gardens via the metal gates in front of the Holburne Museum. (If the gates are locked, continue straight on to find an alternate entrance to Sydney Gardens on your left). Pass between the columns on the right of the main museum building and continue past the museum café to the stone steps behind the outside seating area. Head up the steps into the main part of the Gardens. There is lots to explore in the park so take your time. Turn left to find the toilets, extensive play area (installed in 2022) and tennis courts.

When you are ready to continue, go straight ahead on the wide tarmac area towards a stone bridge. Just before the bridge, on the left, is the Minerva's Temple which holds an exhibition all about Sydney Gardens and is well worth a look.

› The new play area in its gorgeous setting at Sydney Gardens



Cross the bridge over the train tracks and where the path divides four ways on the other side of the bridge, take the diagonal right towards a white metal gate next to a litter bin. Go through the gates and turn right along the canal. Pass under a white metal bridge and then go through a tunnel. When you emerge from the tunnel use the steps or the ramp to turn right up to the bridge.

The building on the bridge is Cleveland House. It was built as offices in the early 1800s and originally called Canal House as it was the headquarters of the Kennet and Avon Canal Company until 1864.

Cross the canal and turn right to pick up the tow path 3. The Kennet and Avon canal will now be on your right. Follow the tow path until a ramp takes you up to a main road. Use the zebra crossing to carefully cross the road then turn right to cross the stone bridge over the canal. Immediately on the other side of the bridge turn left to find stone steps back down to the canal. Turn right to continue on the tow path, this time with the canal on your left.

Soon after the old Pump Chimney, the tow path meets a road. Carefully cross the road and continue along the tow path on the other side. At Bath Deep Lock (locks 8/9) the tow path meets a busy road. Turn right and almost immediately left to use the three pedestrian crossings to safely navigate to the other side 4. Then turn left to cross the bridge over the canal. Once over the bridge, turn right to continue down along the tarmac path. The canal is now on your right.

Go through the tunnel to emerge at the canal basin. Follow the path up to the minor road you walked down at the beginning of the route. From here you can retrace your footsteps, or for an alternative way back, continue straight on to remain on the tow path.

Pass under Halfpenny Bridge, the bridge you walked over at the start, and then under a second green bridge. The tow path then rises to meet a paved bridge with black metal railings. Turn right to cross the bridge over the river. Follow the pavement round to the left and then when it meets the road, turn right and use the pedestrian crossing to cross over to the right. Turn left and walk to the corner. Turn right to pass in front of the bus station to the start.

11. Bathampton Down Loop

Starting with a long steady climb to fantastic views from the top of Bathampton Down this circular walk then returns with an easy amble along the picturesque Kennet and Avon canal. Play area at Sydney Gardens.

VIEW ONLINE

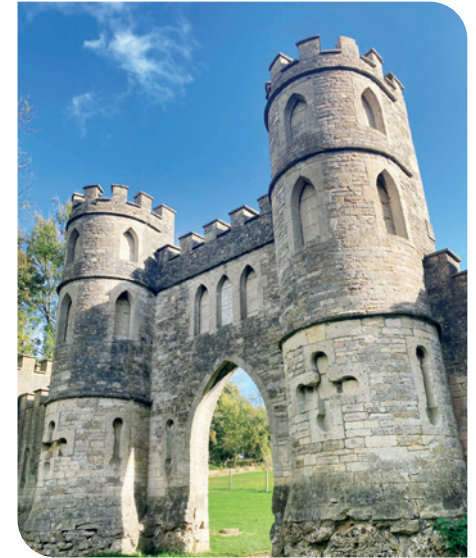


3.9 miles / 6.3 km



GETTING THERE

- › Start and finish outside Bathampton Primary School, Tying Road BA2 6TQ. What3Words film.chains.chose
- › Nearest bus stop is on Down Lane close to Point 1 on the map. Limited 4-hour parking outside Bathampton Primary School. Plenty of parking in nearby residential streets. Please park considerately.
- › Public toilets in Sydney Gardens (20p).
- › Refreshments at The Holburne Museum café and The George Inn, Bathampton.
- › Playgrounds at Bathampton and Sydney Gardens. You'll also pass Undercliff Urban Farm, shop (seasonal opening times).



› Sham Castle. Photo Nicole Daw

DIRECTIONS

With your back to the school, turn right to walk to the end of Tying Road. At the end turn left onto High Street and use the pavement to cross the bridge over the canal. Follow the curve of the road round, passing the entrance to King Edward's School playing fields. Immediately after this, turn left up Dark Lane.

Continue up Dark Lane, until you meet a crossroad of paths just before a metal barrier. Turn right to take the secluded path that runs along the back of gardens until you pop out at a grassy patch, just after a short row of garages.

Turn left to cross a concrete path, then continue up the wide grassy path which ends at Bathampton Parish playing field. Cross the field diagonally, up to the top right-hand corner. The playground will be on your left.

Exit the field and turn right onto the pavement. Walk along the pavement to the end of Holcombe Lane 1. Turn left and head uphill on the pavement of Down Lane.

At the T-junction, turn left then almost immediately right to cross the busy A36 (Warminster Road) using the crossing point. Once safely across turn right and then opposite Down Lane turn left up a quiet lane, with the Scout Hut on your right.

Follow the lane uphill and when it veers round to the right, continue straight up on to the tree lined path. To distract from the steep climb ahead you can practice your tree identification skills! On this short stretch you should be able to find sycamore, blackthorn, dog wood, hawthorn, crab apple, field maple, hazel, beech and ash. Pass through a metal field gate and continue up the path, passing a magnificent oak tree on your left.

When you see a waymark post pointing to the right, ignore this, and continue on the main path as it bears left uphill. Continue the climb and as the path starts to level slightly, follow the curve round to the right, ignoring the grassy left fork, which leads into the undergrowth.

Soon up ahead you will see a waymark post with a blue bridleway waymarker. To the left is a metal gate signposted 'skyline'. Ignore this and continue up, where the top, Bathampton Down, is in sight!

Bathampton Down is a limestone plateau formed of oolitic limestone. Evidence of human activity dates back to the Mesolithic period (or the Middle Stone Age, between 6000 and 10000 years ago) with flints being found here and the remains of a stone circle. There are also four Bronze Age tumuli (a round mound, usually covering a grave) though they cannot be easily seen on the ground, and evidence of either an Iron Age hill fort or stock enclosure on the other side of the Down, the area is therefore a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Follow the path as it widens into a grassy track in a slight hollow. Don't stay in the hollow, instead stand atop the right-hand edge and look towards the masts. Take the right-hand fork onto a grassy path heading towards the masts 2. Cattle often graze here, so please be prepared to put dogs on leads. Enjoy the views as they open up on your right over Batheaston.

At the next fork in the grassy paths, take the left, wider path, continuing towards the masts. The masts are actually telecommunications towers. As you continue towards them, soon you will see the golf course on your left behind a barbed wire fence.

Once you reach the masts, the path bears left to pass behind them and then meets a stone track (Golf Course Road). Follow the track gently downhill. First you will see the golf course on your left, and then woods on your right. Follow the track all the way to the end. Then go through a metal gate and into the car park of Bath Golf Club.

Carefully cross the car park and follow the tarmac drive to the right of the golf club buildings and into another car park. Pass through this second car park to the 'public footpath' finger post beyond. From here continue straight ahead to Sham Castle.

Sham Castle, is actually just a folly, built in 1762 for Ralph Allen by Richard James. The sole purpose is believed to be "to improve the prospect" from the Allen home in Bath, ie to give him something nice to look at from his house!

After exploring the folly and enjoying the views down to Bath Abbey from here, find the path to the right of the bench and follow it down to a tarmac drive. Cross over to another bench next to a National Trust sign. Turn left to follow the fence line into the corner by the stone wall to a metal gate. Pass through the gate and follow the steep path down, being careful on the stepped section in particular that can be muddy after wet weather 3.



› The canal behind Sydney Gardens

EXPLORE...

Wildflower meadows

Bath's steep hillsides and calcareous rock make ideal conditions for wildflower rich grasslands to flourish. Bathscape works with landowners to improve their meadows. Bathampton Down is owned by the National Trust, who share their expertise with us! In summer, look out for orchids.



› Pyramidal Orchid

At the bottom, go through the metal gate and carefully cross the road to the pavement on the other side. Turn right and walk down the pavement passing two huge beech trees which are worth admiring! Soon after you will see a footpath on your left down a short flight of steps. Take this path and follow it all the way down to the road. Cross the road onto the pavement of Sham Castle Lane. Walk all the way down the length of the road. Towards the end, where the pavement stops, carefully continue until you reach a T-junction with a wall ahead and a private road going left. Turn right to stay on Sham Castle Lane. As you walk look over the wall on your left, and you should see the canal below you.

Follow Sham Castle Road down to the main road. Turn right and before the entrance to Bath Spa Hotel, carefully cross the road into Sydney Gardens 4. Where the path forks, take the left fork and follow it along to the second, larger white bridge. Cross the canal over this bridge, built in 1800, into the main part of Sydney Gardens, which are well worth exploring a little. You can also reach the Holburne Museum easily from here.

Once over the bridge, turn immediately left, then left again through white metal gates on to the tow path. Turn left to walk under the bridge you just walked over.

Pass through a tunnel and continue along the tow path with the railway down below you on your left and the canal on your right. Pass a wooden pedestrian bridge on your right then pass under stone bridge 184. Continue along the tow path, enjoying the views and glimpses into canal life.

You can tell you are nearing the end of this walk when houses start to appear on the right. Pass in front of a row of attractive stone cottages on your left. Just beyond these, before the next bridge, there is a short flight of steps down to the George Inn.

To find the start, continue on the tow path under the stone bridge ahead of you. Once on the other side you will be back outside the school.



BATH'S URBAN TREE TRAILS

Trees are really important to the look of Bath as a landscape city – both the trees on the distant hillsides and trees in the city centre. To celebrate the trees, our group of volunteers have developed four Urban Tree Trails.

- Botanical Bounty Trail
- Riverside Ramble Trail
- Tremendous Twerton Trail
- Leafy Legacies Trail

Each trail takes you on a route around 20 trees and tells you something about that species of tree, when it was planted and other fascinating facts. Did you know that fossil records show trees similar to the Ginkgo from 170 million years ago?!

The trails include activities to keep you entertained.

Find out more about the trees in the city centre and in Twerton on these trails. You can find the trails on line, by visiting Bath Urban Treescape website www.bathurbantreescape.com

VIEW ONLINE



OTHER BATH TRAILS

If you've enjoyed the walks in this booklet, and want to walk further, then you might like our longer walks, all available on-line.

There are links to even more walks in the Bath area on our website www.bathscape.co.uk/explore including the National Trust's skyline walk and the Cotswold Way.

Weston to Primrose Hill Climb

A short, sharp route to get the heart pumping. Totally worth it for the brilliant views from Primrose Hill. It's short (just over a mile) and very steep both up and down.

VIEW ONLINE



Light and shade along the Midford Brook

A beautiful flat four mile walk through the countryside of south Bath along the babbling Midford Brook.

VIEW ONLINE



Charmy Down up, down and over

A five mile circular walk climbing up to an atmospheric ex-airfield, stunning ever-changing views and a climb to the top of Little Solsbury Hill.

VIEW ONLINE



Bathampton Meadows City to Countryside Meander

From urban Bath to wide green spaces. This six mile flat loop uses Bath's canal to travel out of the city and the green finger of Bathampton Meadows to bring you back again.

VIEW ONLINE



OTHER BATH TRAILS

Lansdown on the Level

A mostly flat six mile walk high on the Cotswold plateau, passing through an Iron Age Camp and views from Prospect Stile of Bath and beyond.

VIEW ONLINE



West of Bath Circular

A mostly flat seven mile route along the River Avon tow path into the city centre. Pass the famous Royal Crescent and through Royal Victoria Park before a long climb on the return leg up to rewarding views over Bath.

VIEW ONLINE



Monkton Farleigh, a folly and a feat of engineering

A varied eight mile circular walk taking in a quaint Cotswold village and Dundas Aqueduct. Return via a canal stroll followed by a climb to Browne's Folly for panoramic views. Also makes quite a good pub crawl!

VIEW ONLINE



Circuit of Bath - The big one!

Our twenty-mile hiking trail, taking you through the amazing countryside that circles Bath. This walk offers stunning views, history, heritage, countryside and city. A beautiful walk in any season as it takes in river, canal, meadows, woodland and peaceful valleys.

VIEW ONLINE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lots of people have contributed to this booklet, especially Cotswolds National Landscape, Avon Valley District Cotswold Voluntary Wardens and our team of volunteer walk testers. They have researched, written, refined, checked and double checked all the routes.

The volunteer team behind Bath's Urban Treescape project for the maps, routes, testing and website. We are very grateful for their generosity of time and knowledge sharing.

Robert Talbot is the cartographer, creating the maps for each walk and the general overview map (on page 6). He designed the original trail guides that we link to throughout the booklet.

Bathscape's work is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and players of the national lottery and our partners.

If the online versions of these walks need to be revised in the future, and the links/QR codes in this book no longer work, please use the search tool to find self-guided walks in the Walking & Exploring section at www.cotswoldsaoonb.org.uk – which will be kept up to date with newer versions.



› Photo Nicole Daw



› Enjoying Royal Victoria Park.
Photo Ruby Barber

ACCESSIBILITY

This booklet will soon be available as an eBook on our website.





Each walk outlines its accessibility and we have included walks which are wheelchair accessible, where possible. The Cotswolds National Landscape Team is currently working hard to make a wheelchair accessible route in Lansdown. Bathscape and Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have trained guides so that people with impaired vision can join our guided walks.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Look out for the Bathscape Walking Festival every September – lots of free guided walks around the city and its countryside.



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