

**1 Magdalen Chapel:** St Mary Magdalen Chapel was originally built in about 1100 and was used by pilgrims making their way to Glastonbury. It was rebuilt in 1495 and restored in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the oldest buildings in Bath.



Next door is the former leper hospital originally built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but rebuilt in 1761.

website: <https://www.magdalenchapelbath.co.uk>



**2 Holloway Horse Trough:** This horse trough is opposite the chapel on the site of an old spring and was built in 1770s. It is said this poem was put up in the 19<sup>th</sup> century after the death of a horse from a cruel blow on Holloway.

*A man of kindness to his beast is king  
But brutal actions show a brutal mind  
Remember! He who made thee, made the brute  
Who gave thee speech and reason, formed him mute  
He can't complain, but God's all-seeing eye  
Beholds thy cruelty and hears his cry  
He was designed thy Servant, not thy Drudge  
Remember! His Creator is thy Judge.*



**3 Bear Flat - option B:** The area of Bear Flat is rather informal in its bounds. At its heart is the shopping area along a few hundred metres of the Wells Road from Hayes Place at the top of Holloway to the division of the road into Bloomfield Road.



The area is not named after bears – the word is derived from barley-village or barley-farm. But a well-known local

landmark is the Bear Hotel with its polar bear statue. There was a Bear Brewery and The Bear pub (pictured), which were both destroyed by bombing in World War II.



c1976 - courtesy of David Baker

A perfect area for a coffee or a bite to eat.

website: <https://bearflat.org.uk>



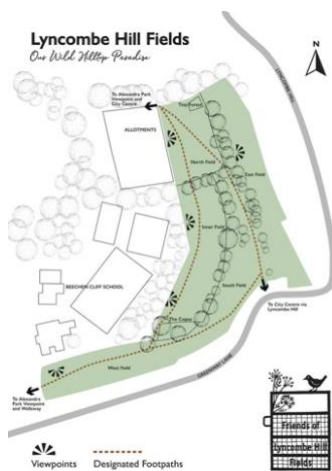
**4 Alexandra Park:** When you reach the top, the viewpoint gives one of the best views of the city. The park was opened in 1902 and was named after Queen Alexandra, King Edward VII's consort. Roger Bannister, the first person to run a mile in under four minutes, went to nearby Beechen Cliff School and may well have trained here. Take time to see the park and its views east as well as north; it has an excellent children's play area too.



website: [www.alexandraparkbath.org](http://www.alexandraparkbath.org)



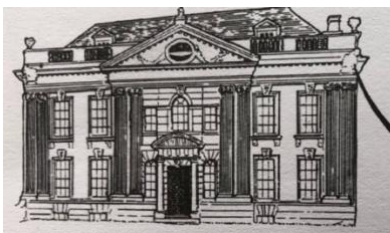
**5 Lyncombe Hill Fields:** These fields were taken under licence by a new community interest company in Sept 2020. The mission for the fields is to *'conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the land and maintain its wild nature whilst safeguarding public access'*. Work has already started with support from local volunteers, so look out for a tiny forest, a bug hotel and a hidden copse, as well as local fauna and flora.



website:  
[www.friendsoflyncombehillfields.co.uk](http://www.friendsoflyncombehillfields.co.uk)

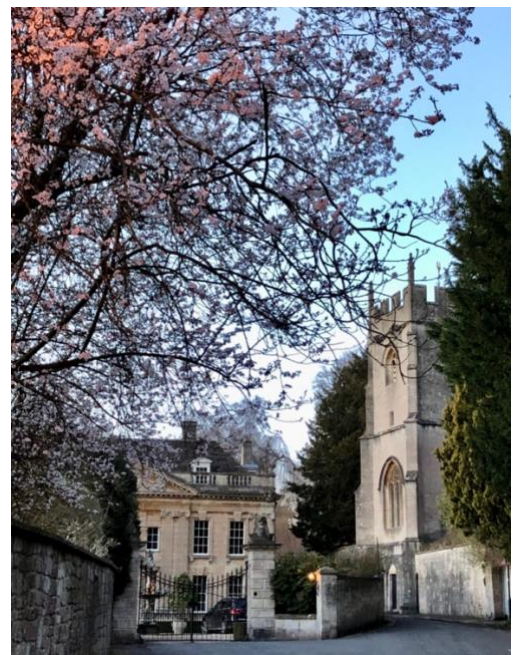


**6 Manor House and St Thomas à Becket:** Widcombe Manor is regarded by many locals as the most beautiful house in the city. Often referred to as The Golden House, the main part of the house was built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The façade was added in 1726 when the house was extended.



Just opposite is Widcombe Old Church, more usually known as St Thomas à Becket. It was built around 1500 on the site of an earlier 12<sup>th</sup> century church.

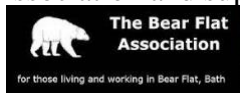
website: [www.widcombe.church/organiser/st-thomas-a-becket/](http://www.widcombe.church/organiser/st-thomas-a-becket/)



Bought to you by the Widcombe Association and supported by



Bath & North East Somerset Council



Bath Ramblers Walk with us



**6 Prior Park:** As you proceed up Church Lane you will glimpse Prior Park, now a school. The landscape garden is a National Trust property and you can catch sight of the famous Palladian Bridge built in 1755 and one of only four in the world.



Ralph Allen was a successful Bath businessman firstly as Chief Postmaster at

Bath and then as the owner of several Bath stone quarries. The mansion was designed by illustrious Bath architect John Wood to illustrate the fine qualities of Bath stone and to provide a home in which Allen could live and entertain in style.



The main entrance is not on this walk but on Ralph Allen Drive (no onsite parking available). There is a lower entrance from which you may enter on foot - currently closed for restoration works on the dams (check for updates with the National Trust).

website: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/prior-park-landscape-garden](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/prior-park-landscape-garden)



**7 Skyline:** This section takes you through open countryside with magnificent views back over Widcombe and Lyncombe to the city. This special area where the countryside reaches right into the heart of the city is one of the factors that gave Bath its World Heritage Site status.



The view from the top is worth the climb and here you can join the National Trust's Skyline walk.

websites: [www.bathworldheritage.org.uk](http://www.bathworldheritage.org.uk)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-skyline](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-skyline)



**7 Smallcombe Cemetery:** There are two cemeteries here. The larger Church of England section was opened in 1855 as the original St Mary's Bathwick cemetery was full. It was designed in the garden cemetery style with a chapel designed by Thomas Fuller.

In 1861 the adjacent Non-Conformist section was opened, run by the Bath Burial Board, and served by a small octagonal chapel designed by Alfred Goodrich.



Bought to you by the Widcombe Association and supported by



**Bath & North East Somerset Council**

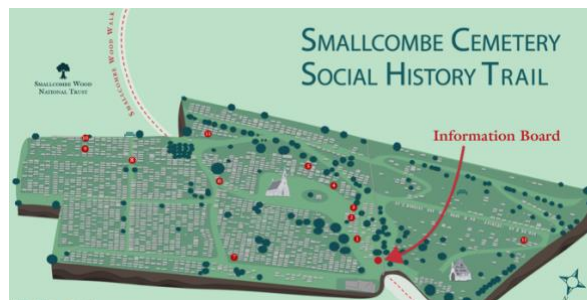


**Bath Ramblers**  
Walk with us

No plots were available after 1988, and the site was rather neglected. By 2013 the decay had become critical, so the local community raised the funds and put in the work needed to prevent the closure and loss of this inspiring and valuable place.

There is also a social history trail.

website: [www.smallcombegardencemetery.org](http://www.smallcombegardencemetery.org)



**9 Kennet & Avon Canal:** The canal was completed in 1810 and linked the River Avon to the River Kennet, a distance of 87 miles and 104 locks. It was as early as 1841 that competition from the railway hastened the canal's decline. It finally fell into disuse in the 1960s but it has now been restored to its former glory.



As you reach the main road you pass Widcombe Deep Lock (number 8/9). This was created when the canal was restored, and the road bridge constructed. It is 5.92m deep, making it Britain's second deepest lock.



Website: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

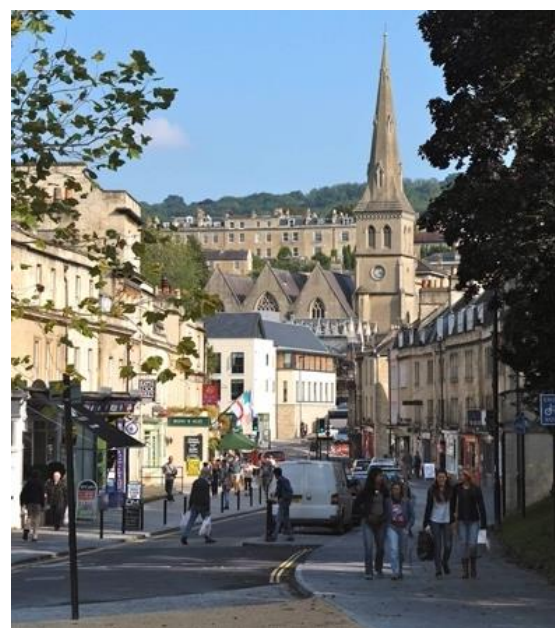
**10 Widcombe Parade & Claverton Buildings:** Before returning to the city via the Halfpenny Bridge, why not dally a while in Widcombe Parade with its range of eateries and independent shops.

- two gift shops
- food and flower shops
- four pubs and restaurants
- two cafés/delis
- three takeaways, and
- two mini markets.



Claverton Buildings were built in 1770 and Widcombe Parade a little later. A fairly complete Georgian shopping street.

website: [www.widcombeassociation.org.uk](http://www.widcombeassociation.org.uk)



Bought to you by the Widcombe Association and supported by



**Bath & North East Somerset Council**



**Bath Ramblers**  
Walk with us