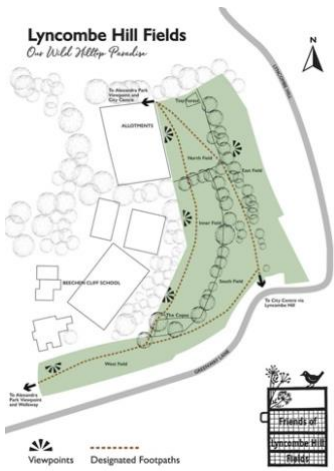


1 Halfpenny Bridge: This footbridge opened in 1863. The toll was one halfpenny, and the original toll house remains at its southern end. Fourteen years after it was built, the bridge collapsed under the strain of large crowds crossing towards what is now Bear Flat for the 100th anniversary of the Bath & West Agricultural Society Show. As the bridge fell into the river below, eight people sadly lost their lives. The bridge was rebuilt within a few months and strengthened in 1992 so it's safe to cross now!



2 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'*. Its development is already taking shape 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



3 Lyn stream: Coming down the steps from Greenway Lane into Lyncombe Vale. You reach the Lyn brook which gives Lyncombe its name – Watery Valley. This extract from a poem by W Jones-Hunt was published in the Bath Chronicle in 1895.

The Owls of Lyncombe Vale
 Not often do you hear the cry
 Of screech owls where the town's so nigh
 As 'tis to Lyncombe-vale....
 Yet here at night they come
 And make sombre trees their home.



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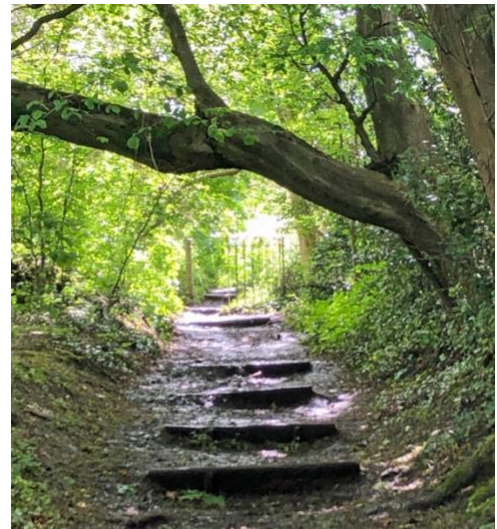
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You still often hear owls hooting and screeching here.

4: Countryside: You walk up steps and paths skirting Entry Hill Drive before emerging into open fields on the skyline. Here you have extensive views across Bath and on a fine day you can see Bristol and the Welsh hills in the distance. A forest is being established here: with the support of over 300 donors, native saplings are being planted - including English oak, sweet chestnut, bird cherry, rowan, crab apple and many more.



website: www.treemendo.com/bath/

5: Perrymead: You descend down Perrymead towards the city. The name is derived from its having been a portion of the Priors' Orchard or Mead. Bishop Robert in the 12th century granted 'a tithe of the Vines at Lyncumb to the monks of Bath'.

On the lower reaches is Perrymead Court. The celebrated 18th Century Italian castrato Venanzio Rauzzini lived here. As well as being a famous singer, he was a composer and leader of the Bath Concerts which he ran from 1780 to 1810. The Bath Concerts were held each year over the peak winter season and formed a key part of high society events for the affluent visitors coming to take the waters and enjoy the social scene.



6 Prior Park Buildings: This imposing terrace was designed by John Pinch the Elder. Completed in about 1825, it was intended for 'lower middle-class residents'. The mill stream running in front of the houses is fed by the Lyn Brook and other streams. The mill, once near the River Avon, is long gone.



Bath novelist Ellen Pickering lived at No 3; she published 16 novels, the most famous being *Nan Darrell: or, The Gypsy Mother* published in 1839 and still in print. It was a romantic story about gypsies of a type that was popular at the time. She died of scarlet fever in 1843.



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7 Ralph Allens Cottages: In the 1970's these Georgian cottages were scheduled for demolition to widen road. But they were saved and, instead, restored.

This is an excerpt from the official record of their Grade II* listing: *Eleven terrace houses, including Priory Cottage. 1728-1740, restored 1983. For Ralph Allen, by John Wood the Elder. They are of considerable interest also as part of Ralph Allen's extensive quarrying business and were built, like Prior Park, to demonstrate the capabilities of Bath stone. Wood's design applied the principles of Palladian order to the hitherto-unexplored realm of workers' housing, and they marked the western approaches to Allen's domain. The houses are close to the wharf from which Allen shipped his stone, brought down from the quarries by rail on the line of the current Ralph Allen Drive. They thus formed part of an exceptional industrial landscape and are of very considerable significance as part of Ralph Allen's working landscape, as well as being early industrial houses of unusual architectural interest.*



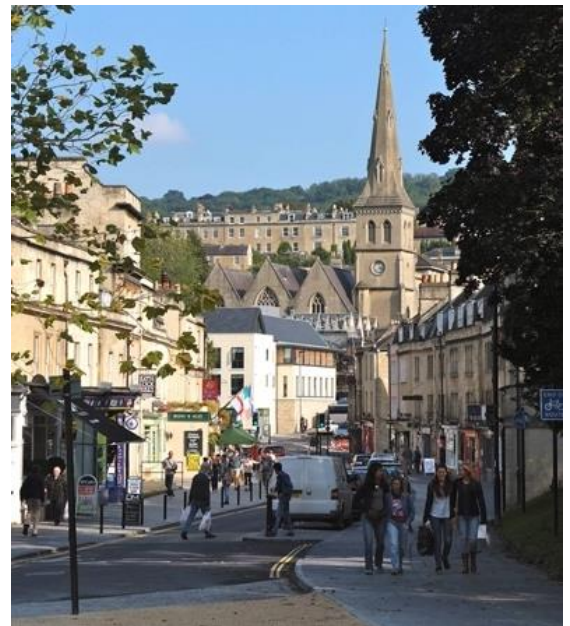
8 Widcombe Parade & Claverton Buildings: Before returning to the city via the Halfpenny Bridge, why not dally a while in Widcombe Parade with its range of eateries and independent shops.

- 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



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