

1 Lyncombe Hill: This road is flanked with some 60 listed buildings and terraces. They vary from grand detached Georgian houses and terraces, to Regency villas and two Tudorbethan Villas. Most of the houses were built around 1817.

At the top of the hill, at its junction with Rosemount Lane, a zoo known as the Little Zoo was run by dealers Walter Payne and Jack Wallace (known as the Bushmen). It was on land behind Montault Cottage between 1904-11 and housed emus, parrakeets, parrots, cockatoos, budgies, wallabies, and kangaroos.



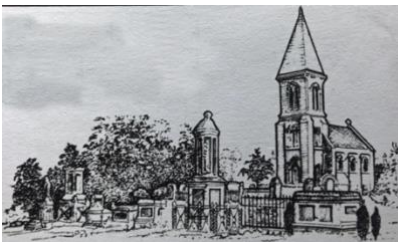
View of Lyncombe Hill from Widcombe Hill

2 Rosemount Lane: This is a steep lane (the road sign says 25% gradient) and there has been a track here since at least 1779. The road was only surfaced 60 years ago and until that time was known as Rough Lane. Over the wall there is still an orchard often with grazing sheep. Widcombe had extensive market gardens that serviced the city and fragments still remain. A modern addition is the alpacas - Zippy is a local celebrity!



3 Bath Abbey Cemetery: John Loudon was celebrated in his day as the 'Brunel' designer of cemeteries and Bath Abbey Cemetery is considered one of his best. It was one of the first cemeteries in England to be Grade II listed as of particular historic interest.

There are excellent views over to Widcombe Manor, Thomas à Becket Church and Crowe Hall. It is the last resting place of many Victorian nobles, including Rear Admiral John Bythesea VC CB CIE, one of Britain's first holders of the Victoria Cross. Charles Richardson was a popular draper's assistant who was sadly drowned in the river at Bath. A grave trail is available at www.widcombeassociation.org.uk



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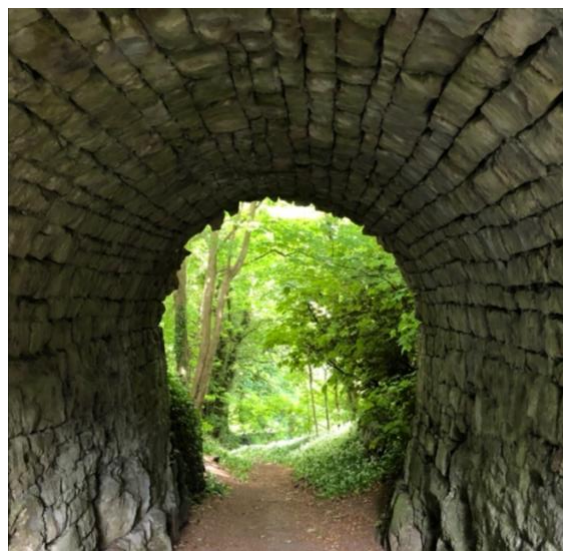
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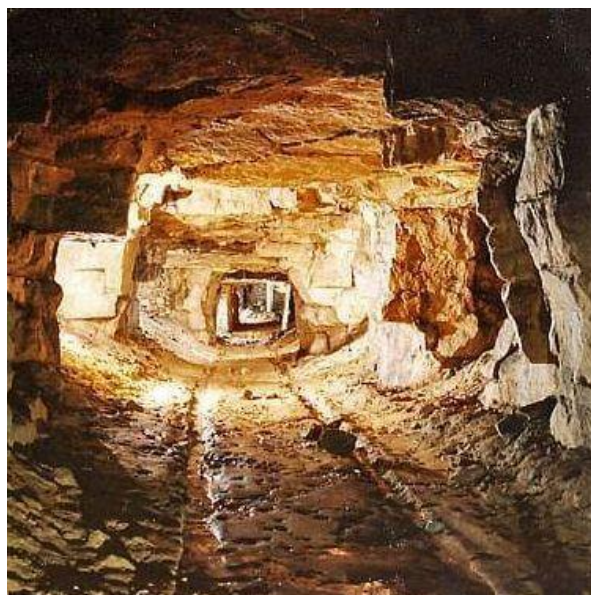
4 Blind Lane: As you leave the Abbey Cemetery take a moment to visit the Catholic cemetery next door with its three elaborate chapels. Continue up Blind Lane, which becomes Pope's Walk, in honour of the poet Alexander Pope who spent time at nearby Prior Park in the 1700s. It was also called Hanging Lands Lane in the 19th century.

At the top is a low bridge and local legend has it that the ghost of a highwayman visits here. He was galloping down the hill on his horse at night and not seeing the bridge was decapitated. Listen out for sound of horse's hooves!



5 Church Road, Combe Down: As you come into Combe Down, you are walking right over the Bath stone quarries, which date from the 17th and 18th centuries. The terrace at 83-101 Church Street was probably developed uniformly by John Wood but varied approaches to the design of individual properties have wrought changes since. Intended for the quarrymen's families, the houses served as an advertisement for the economical employment of locally quarried stone, as well as providing convenient accommodation for the quarrymen, who did not have to travel and were consequently more efficient. Along with those at the bottom of Prior Park Road, the two terraces are very early examples of dedicated industrial housing.

website: <https://www.museumofbathstone.org/>



6 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
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-skyline



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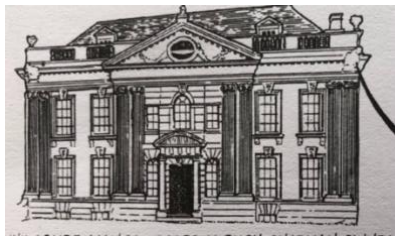


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7 Manor House and St Thomas à Becket: Widcombe Manor is regarded by many locals as the most beautiful house in the city. Often referred to as The



Golden House, the main part of the house was built in the late 17th 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 12th century church.

website: www.widcombe.church/organiser/st-thomas-a-becket/



8 Widcombe Lodge and the Fieldings: In Church Street you pass Widcombe Lodge, possibly the site of the former vicarage and the oldest house in the area. The house was substantially remodelled in the 19th century.



The bronze plaque to Henry and Sarah Fielding, who lived here in 1739-1757, was unveiled by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1906.

Henry was a celebrated English novelist and dramatist, his most acclaimed work being *Tom Jones*. His sister Sarah, also an author, is credited with writing the first English novel for children.



9 No 1 Widcombe Crescent: The crescent and terrace were designed by architect Charles Harcourt Masters and completed in 1805. The Crescent is Grade 1 listed. No1 still has its lamp-holder over the entrance. The plaque on the wall



informs us that Sir James Brooks (1803-1868), who ruled as the first white Rajah of Sarawak lived here. His actions in

Sarawak were directed at expanding the British Empire and the benefits of its rule, assisting the local people by fighting piracy and slavery, and securing his own personal wealth.



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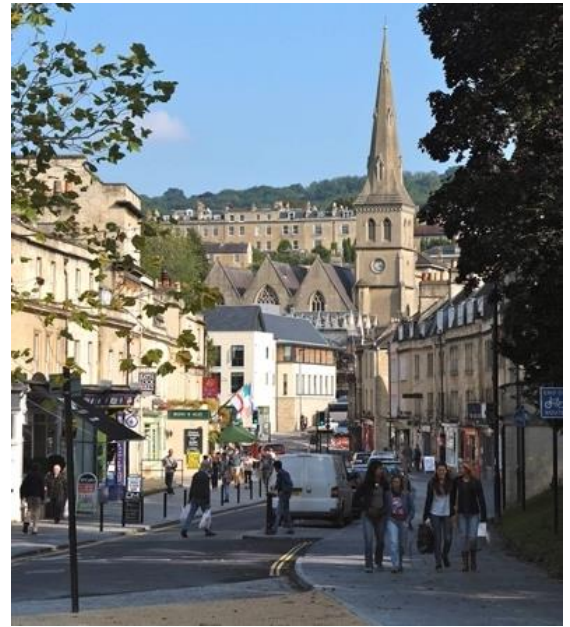
10 Widcombe Parade & Claverton Buildings: Before returning to the city via the Halfpenny Bridge, why not dally a while in Widcombe Parade with its range of eateries and independent shops.

- 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



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