

1 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



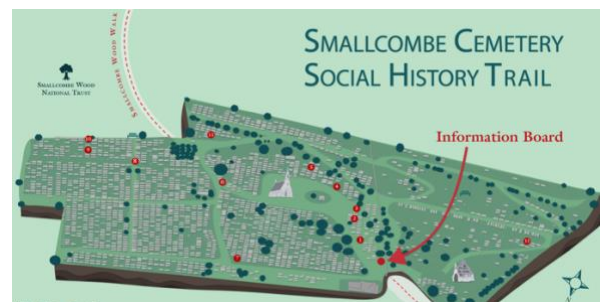
2 Smallcombe Cemetery: There are two cemeteries here. The larger Church of England section was opened in 1855 as the original St Mary's Bathwick cemetery was full. It was designed in the "garden cemetery" style with a chapel designed by Thomas Fuller.

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.

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



3 Smallcombe Wood: Bath's only ancient woodland, known to be over 400 years old. Lime, ash, and veteran oaks trees can be found here as well as a network of well-worn paths. A pretty stream meanders through it. In the spring the air is full of the pungent smell of wild garlic.



4 Skyline/Macaulay Buildings: These fine houses were built on land known as 'The Nedges' owned by Thomas Macaulay. They were completed in 1830. Before Widcombe Hill was laid, they were accessed via a narrow lane by Widcombe Old Church, now known as St Thomas à Becket.



5 Crowe Hall: Built in 1760 it was named after Mrs Barbara Crowe, widow of the late Colonel Crowe. The impressive portico was added in about 1870. The gardens were landscaped with the advice from the Prince of Wales's gardener, William Carmichael. It was originally a three-storey house. Unfortunately, in 1926 it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt with only two storeys in 1937. It recently started in the ITV detective series McDonald & Dodds (pictured). You can only glimpse the Hall through the impressive gates.



6 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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7 Horse trough on Widcombe Hill: Early 19th century, the trough was originally lined with zinc and the natural spring water would have been welcomed by horses, cattle, dogs and their owners. The first troughs were provided by charitable associations. Maps were provided for Hansom cabs showing free troughs and they were known as Victorian filling stations.



8 White Hart: The White Hart stands at the bottom of Widcombe Hill and was built before 1733 as a public house for the local stone masons. The white hart statue above the door was moved from the White Hart in Stall Street when it was demolished in 1867. It is now a popular gastro pub with a secret garden.

Outside are an elaborate lamppost and an old red telephone box, now adopted by the community (Widcombe Association) and planted with flowers.



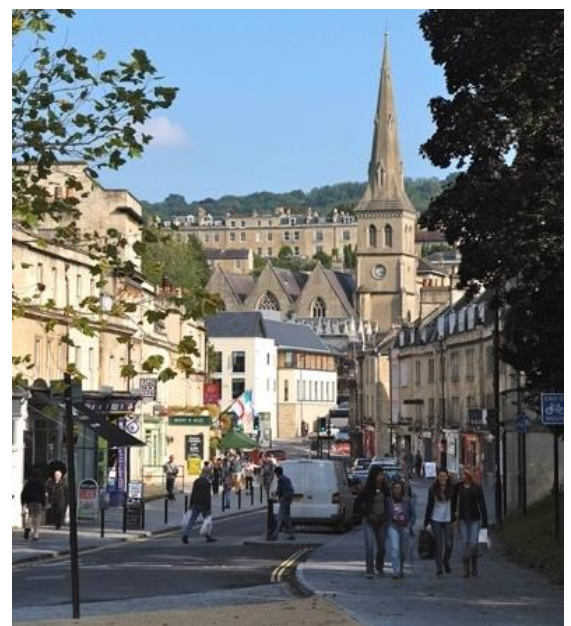
9 Widcombe Parade & Claverton Buildings: Before returning to the city via the Halfpenny Bridge why not dally a while in Widcombe Parade with its range of eateries and local shops.

- independent 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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