

## Walk 1 - Beechen Cliff circuit

Please read the general introductory notes before walking.

Total distance - 2.2kms. 1.3miles. Duration - approx. 1 hour at a moderate pace

Starting from the rear of the Bath Spa railway station cross the River Avon by the footbridge.

*Halfpenny Bridge was originally built in 1863 as a toll bridge. In 1877 it collapsed as hundreds of people were crossing the river to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society Show at Beechen Cliff. Sadly, eight people lost their lives. Shortly afterwards the current bridge was built and was strengthened in 1992. The toll house became a newspaper kiosk for a short time but is now a private house.*

At the end of the footbridge cross the dual carriageway at the traffic lights, then turn R and take the first L to go up Lyncombe Hill. Immediately on the R is St Mark's Road - ignore this and take the next R - Calton Road. After 10 metres turn L up a path, cross the road at the top and continue up the stepped path.

Continue following this path as it bends R at the top, passing the allotments on the L, and enter Alexandra Park. Immediately on the R is the main viewing point overlooking Bath with a low-level seating area on the R and an information board above on the L.

*Alexandra Park was opened in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII and named after his wife. This is a lovely spot for a picnic with extensive views across the city. There is a children's play area and toilets (20p coin required).*

Continue along the top of Beechen Cliff until the path turns downhill at the end of the park, then pass a second viewpoint with an information panel. Continue downhill ignoring the flight of steps on the R and pass another viewpoint with a topograph and go straight ahead until the path turns sharp R down steps.

Follow the stepped path down to a junction of paths, turn R and follow the footpath (signed Beechen Cliff Woodland) to an information panel about Magdalen Gardens. At the end of the gardens fork R up a stepped path.

*The lower slopes of Beechen Cliff were historically full of densely packed housing. During the Bath blitz of April 1942 many of these houses were damaged and eventually demolished in the 1960's but it is still possible to see remains along the foot of the cliff.*

At the next junction go straight ahead and continue on the path until it turns L down a stepped path.

At the bottom of the steps turn L. At the end of the path (down a few steps) cross straight over and go down the steps past the turning to Calton Walk to the bottom of the path which turns

sharp L. Continue to the bottom of the path, turn R and walk along St Mark's Road to the junction with Lyncombe Hill.

Cross over the dual carriageway at the traffic lights and go over the footbridge to return to the back of the railway station.

### Map of the walk

