

Walk 1 Circuit of Bath - Lansdown to Batheaston

The walk is one of four that together circle Bath. This leg starts with A panorama of the city before heading north for breath-taking views across the Swainswick Valley to iconic Little Solsbury Hill, which you later ascend, before finishing in the village of Batheaston.



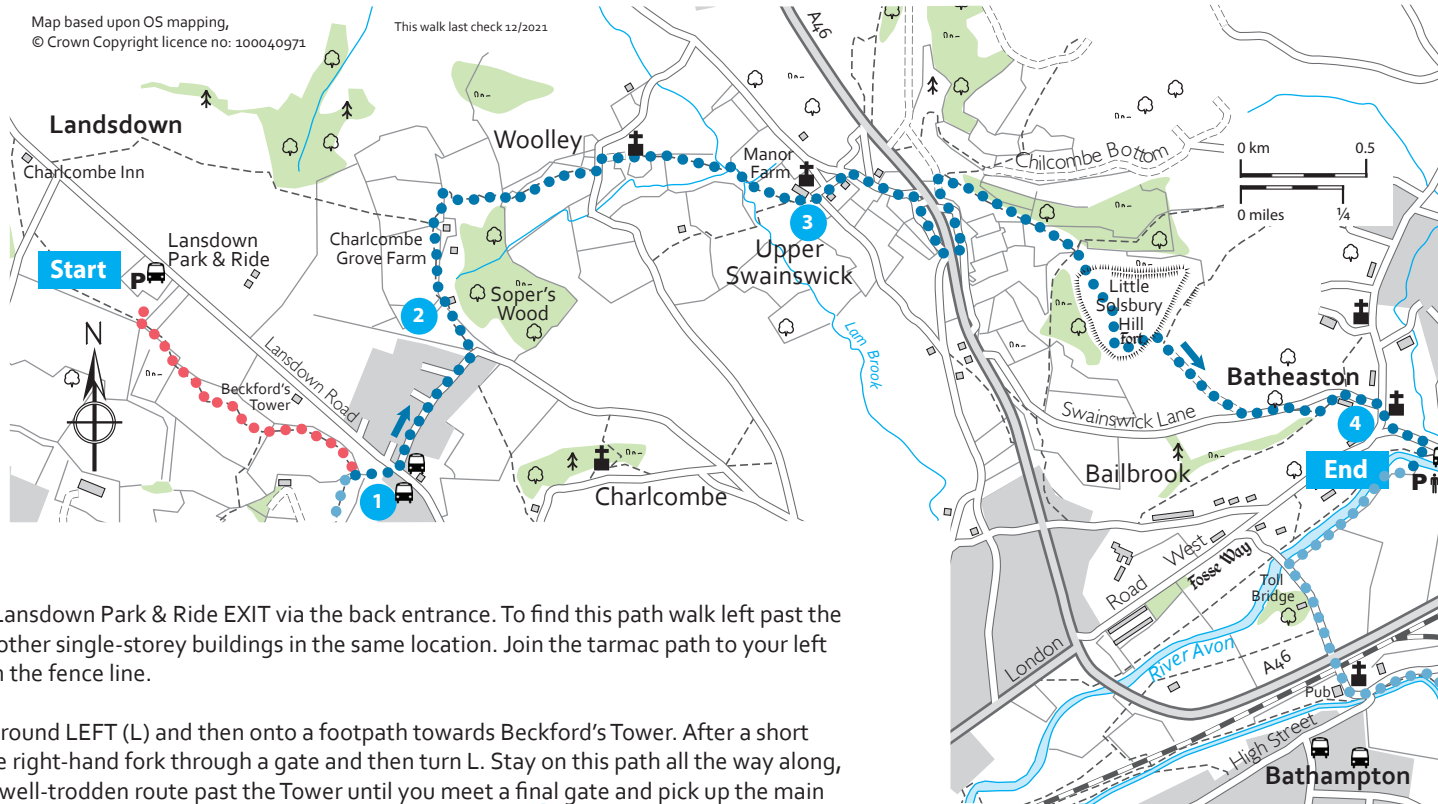
Look for the way markers to guide you round this route.

The Circuit of Bath is waymarked in both a clockwise and anti-clockwise direction.

These walk guides take you around in a clockwise direction.

They can be walked in any order.

Route



Route:

If starting from Lansdown Park & Ride EXIT via the back entrance. To find this path walk left past the toilet block and other single-storey buildings in the same location. Join the tarmac path to your left which runs down the fence line.

Follow this path round LEFT (L) and then onto a footpath towards Beckford's Tower. After a short distance take the right-hand fork through a gate and then turn L. Stay on this path all the way along, taking the most well-trodden route past the Tower until you meet a final gate and pick up the main Circuit of Bath path. Turn L onto the Circuit of Bath footpath beyond **1**.

Or if continuing from walk 4 carry on up the hill towards Lansdown Road. When the footpath meets the road turn L and use the pedestrian crossing to cross over to Granville Road.

Walk to the very end of Granville Road then take the way marked L (not the hard left) up the tarmacked track as far as the stone arch into Charlcombe Grove Farm. Do not go through the Arch. Keep dogs on leads for a while longer **2**. In front of the arch turn L to some large metal gates and railings. Go through the pedestrian gate; this is the public right of way. *Please close the gate after you.*

Follow the track and at the wooden gates veer L onto a grass path alongside a hedge on your R. Follow the way markers through two more gates until you reach a set of steps taking you steeply down the open hillside.

Continue straight down the hill to a way-marker in front of an area of brambles. Follow the indicated path down and through a wooden gate in the field boundary. Follow the winding path downhill. Pass through a metal gate and once clear of the bushes, veer slightly RIGHT (R) to the gate at the bottom corner of the field. Ignore the free-standing kissing gate.

Go through the gate and turn R, go down a short track to meet the tarmac road. Turn L and after c.50m turn R into Church Street. Cross the stone stile at the end of Church Street and head down an alleyway. Once in the field bear diagonally R down to the bottom. Cross the stream.

Turn R alongside the stream. After c.120m cross the stream again then bear L and walk diagonally up the steep hill ahead, aiming for the extreme right hand house on the far edge of the field. *Dog owners beware- there may be sheep in this field.*
Continued on next page.

Start: Lansdown, Granville Road
W3W - stocks.flock.curve (see next page)

Finish: Batheaston Village

Distance: 4.8 miles / 7.7km with an up of 646 ft/197m and down of 1,286 ft / 392m

Terrain: Mix of pavement and unsurfaced paths. Can get VERY muddy in the winter months.

Transport: Visit travelinesw.com.
Lansdown Park & Ride for buses and pay & display parking at the start. Buses run to Batheaston or find some limited parking in the village.

Public toilets: Lansdown Park & Ride and Batheaston (20p access for both).

Refreshments: Shops and cafés in Batheaston village.

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Towards the top of the slope, bear L again and leave the field by the obvious steps, through the garden of Woodbine Cottage, (yes, this really is a public footpath!) *Please close the gate after you* to emerge onto a road in Upper Swainswick **3**.

Go straight up the steep road, with Swainswick Church on your L. At the T-junction turn R. Proceed through the village and continue to the 'Give Way' sign.

Turn R (signed 'Bath A46') and head down the hill. Cross the road with care when a pavement appears on the other side. Continue downhill and soon turn L under the A46. Bear L uphill. **CAUTION: Beware of fast traffic leaving the A46.** Just before meeting the A46 cross over the road and head up the lane marked 'Private Property - No Unauthorised Access'. After c.100m turn R through a gate and go straight across the field, aiming for the lone telegraph pole.

Turn R at the telegraph pole and follow the hedge line uphill through two gates. Head straight on, up to the flat top of Little Solsbury Hill. Bear R following the edge until you find the trig point.

From the trig point, continue on along the edge keeping the views on your R until you see a National Trust sign. Turn R here down hill towards a gate. Pass through the gate and follow the lane all the way down hill to a T-junction. At the T junction turn left, continuing down hill until you see a footpath on your right.

Take the footpath across a field to a metal gate, go through the gate and across another field before descending some steps and turning R back into the lane. *Take care walking in the narrow lane.* At the T-junction turn R, continuing downhill. Pass the Church of the Good Shepherd on your L and as the road bends to the R take the flight of steps straight ahead **4**.

At the bottom turn L onto Batheaston High Street. Use the crossing to cross the road, then turn R and after a short distance L into the car park.

From the road in front of the car park you can pick up a bus into Bath city centre where you can pick up the bus back to Lansdown Park & ride or else see travelinessw.com. Alternatively, to walk back into Bath navigate to the canal at Bathampton, via the footpath over the bridge on the far side of the car park. You can use the Circuit of Bath way markers to guide you. Then turn right and follow the canal all the way into the city centre.



W3W stands for What3Words, which is an alternative way of specifying precise locations. You can use the W3W app or website for free to see these locations on a map.

Bathscape is a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported scheme overseen by a partnership of local organisations and led by Bath & North East Somerset Council. The Scheme was launched in October 2018 to promote better management and use of the Bathscape, the beautiful natural landscape surrounding the historic city of Bath. It delivers a range of projects, including practical volunteering, advice to landowners, meadow creation, learning and skill projects and encourages the active enjoyment of the landscape.

In addition to the Circuit of Bath the scheme promotes a range of shorter local walks, runs the annual Bathscape Walking Festival each September and a series of weekly walks throughout the year.

Little Solsbury Hill

The top is 191m (625 feet) high and has been owned and managed by the National Trust since 1930. The sides, are owned and managed by Batheaston Freeholders Association. The two organisations work together very closely to look after the site as a whole.

Solsbury Hill was occupied as a hill fort during the early Iron Age. Archaeological remains suggest people lived here between 500 to 100BC. There would've been about 30 buildings made from timber, wattle and daub.

In more recent history, there is evidence of medieval field systems on the hill top, and the summit was still being used for agriculture well into the 19th century.

Mostly unimproved limestone grassland, in the spring and summer it is covered in wild flowers including early purple & pyramidal orchids. Keep your ears open for the remarkable song of the skylark, a ground nesting bird which breeds here (so please keep dogs to the main paths).

The hill was also the inspiration for Peter Gabriel's song "Solsbury Hill".

If you'd like to attempt the Circuit of Bath all on one day, we'd recommend you try the Julian House sponsored walk each September. If you used this resource, please consider donating to Julian House to help the work they do supporting vulnerable people.



Made possible with
Heritage Fund



Cotswolds National Landscape