

Bath Skyline Access Statement



Open countryside to South East of Bath and Little Solsbury Hill
Skyline Walks starts at Bathwick Hill, Bath, Somerset, BA2 6EP
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Introduction

This property offers views down into the Georgian World Heritage City of Bath along a variety of trails including the National Trust's most downloaded walking route. While strolling through the countryside there is history to discover. From an Iron Age hill fort to 18th-century follies. Stroll through hidden valleys, woodlands and patchworks of small meadows, all rich in wildlife.

Trails

There are three way-marked trails on the Bath Skyline.

- **Bath Skyline** – Hilly and uneven surfaces, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles, about 4 hours
- **Walk to the View!** – mostly flat and even surfaces, one steep climb, small kissing gates and a stile, 3 km, 1½ hours
- **Family Discovery Trail** and Access for All Trail – Flat, access for all friendly, wide self-closing gates, stone surfaces plus two flat fields, 3km, about 1 hour.

There is some overlap between these trails, especially the Skyline Walk and the Access for All trail

Bath Skyline Walk



The main 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ Skyline walk is marked with a green National Trust waymarker and features information boards at various locations along the route. It is a circular trail and can be picked up at a number of locations; the usual starting point being from Bathwick Hill (address above) where there is a bus stop which features information about the walk. A complete circuit takes about 4 hours.



Information Panel



Bus Shelter at start of Skyline Walk with Information Panel



Skyline waymarker



Points 1-3 and 8-9 marked on the map is hilly with many ascents and descents, while points 3-6 is on mostly level ground. The route crosses busy roads on three occasions at point 1 on Bathwick Hill, Widcombe Hill just after point 2, Claverton Down Road after point 4, and point 8 near Sham Castle. The surface varies from smooth stone to undulating and rocky through unsurfaced woodland and some steep sections with steps.

Steep steps on Skyline



Uneven surfaces through woodland



Roadside crossing via kissing gate



Many of the roadside entrances are marked with green Threshold signs. There are benches located at many of the viewpoints.

Bench at viewpoint on Skyline and Walk to the View

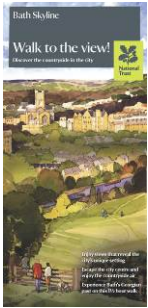


Green Threshold signs by roadside access points



[Click here](#) to see download the Bath Skyline walk

Walk to the View!

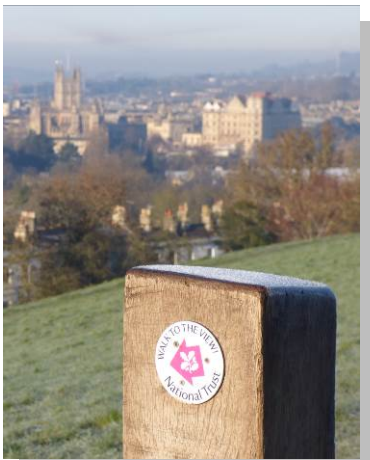


A second self-led trail is aimed at those with less time. Called a Walk to the View it follows a circular route from the Abbey in the city centre. Much shorter than the full Skyline trail it offers a Bath visitors a break from the bustle of the city and a fresh perspective of the city's rich heritage. The route follows a chronological trail of Bath's Georgian development.



The trail is 3km long and signed with a purple waymarker. The surface by the city and canal is mostly flat and either tarmac or stone. There is a 400m section of moderate hill on a stoned path by Bathwick Fields to the viewpoint. There is one stile en-route and the return leg crosses unsurfaced open fields descending down-hill, passing three small kissing gates which run through the fields, but can be avoided by returning back onto the road.

Waymarker on Walk to the View



Canal Tow Path on Walk to the View



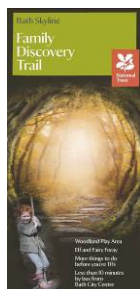
Kissing gate on Walk to the View



Stile on Walk to the View



Access for all and Family Discovery Trail



A third trail has been purpose built as an access for all trail. It is a 3km mile route around Claverton Down on level ground with no gradients exceeding 1:20, apart from a possible detour to a lovely viewpoint which follows ramp with a 1:6 incline. There are passing places and benches. [Click here](#) for the Family Discovery Leaflet

The route is marked with orange Family Discovery Trail waymarkers and has 5 information boards posted around the route



Wheelchair and pushchair friendly self-closing gate



Waymarking



Information Panel



The surface of the trail is mostly smooth compacted stone accessible year round for pushchairs and wheelchairs. There are two sections that cross flat fields (one 300m, one 400m). All gates are purpose made to be easy access and self-closing suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs.

Activity Station on Access for All (Family) Trail



Stone path of Access for All trail



Flat but unsurfaced route through grass fields on Access for All Trail



Little Solsbury Hill

Car park at Little Solsbury Hill with the bridge for the cycle route to the city in background



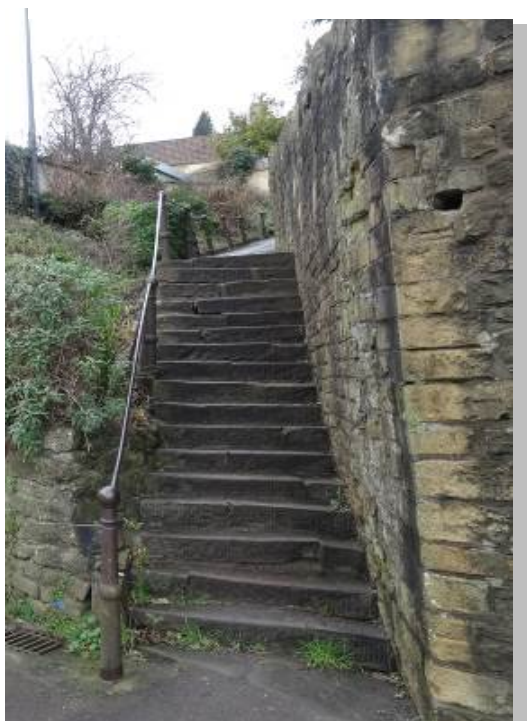
Little Solsbury Hill offers stunning views down on to the city of Bath from the location of an Iron Age hillfort. Access from the base of the hill is via a steep unsurfaced path.

There is no parking on-site but there is a free public car park for up to 35 cars in the centre of the village of Batheaston (by the river), which is about 1 mile from the site.

There is a cycle route from the centre of town via the pedestrian bridge over the river that links with the car park.

Access to the hill fort from the car park is along the high street and up some steps and then following the course of a narrow road without a pavement

Steps up from Batheaston High St



Walking route from car park via narrow road



Arrival & Parking Facilities

There are no car parks directly serving the open countryside. There are a number of lay-by pull ins that give access to the Bath Skyline walk but these only have capacity for 3 or 4 cars and are time restricted and availability is limited. There are kissing gates along the path leading from lay-by B on the map below. The best option for ease of access is point C which connects directly with the access for all trail and cycle track (see map and photos).

There is also parking in the Bath University Campus West Car Park for vehicles **at the weekend only** (near the Sports Training Village shown on the Skyline map below). From this car park the Bath Skyline is accessed via a flat route and an access for all gate. This leads to the field marked Bushey Norwood on the map below

Access for all self-closing gate connecting University Car Park (West) with Bath Skyline



Lay-by car parking- Point B



Lay-by car parking- Point C with good access



There is a free car park about 1 mile from Little Solsbury Hill in the village Batheaston. The access to the hillfort is via a steep road (see section on Little Solsbury).

There are many paid parking options in the city centre with connecting public transport.

Public transport and cycling

Cycle track leading on from point
C on map below



There are good public transport links from the city to the countryside: Take the U1 (First Group), or U18 (Wessexbus) from the Bath bus station/Dorchester Street towards the University of Bath. [Click Here](#) for the First Group leaflet for the Bath bus network.

There is one cycle path that crosses the middle of Claverton Down connecting Combe Down with the University. Bath is well connected to the wider network of cycle paths via the round Bath Two Tunnels route (Sustrans route 244), the Colliers Way (Bath to Frome, Sustrans route 24) and the Bath to Bristol cycleway (route 4). [Click here](#) for the Sustrans two tunnels leaflet and map

Dogs

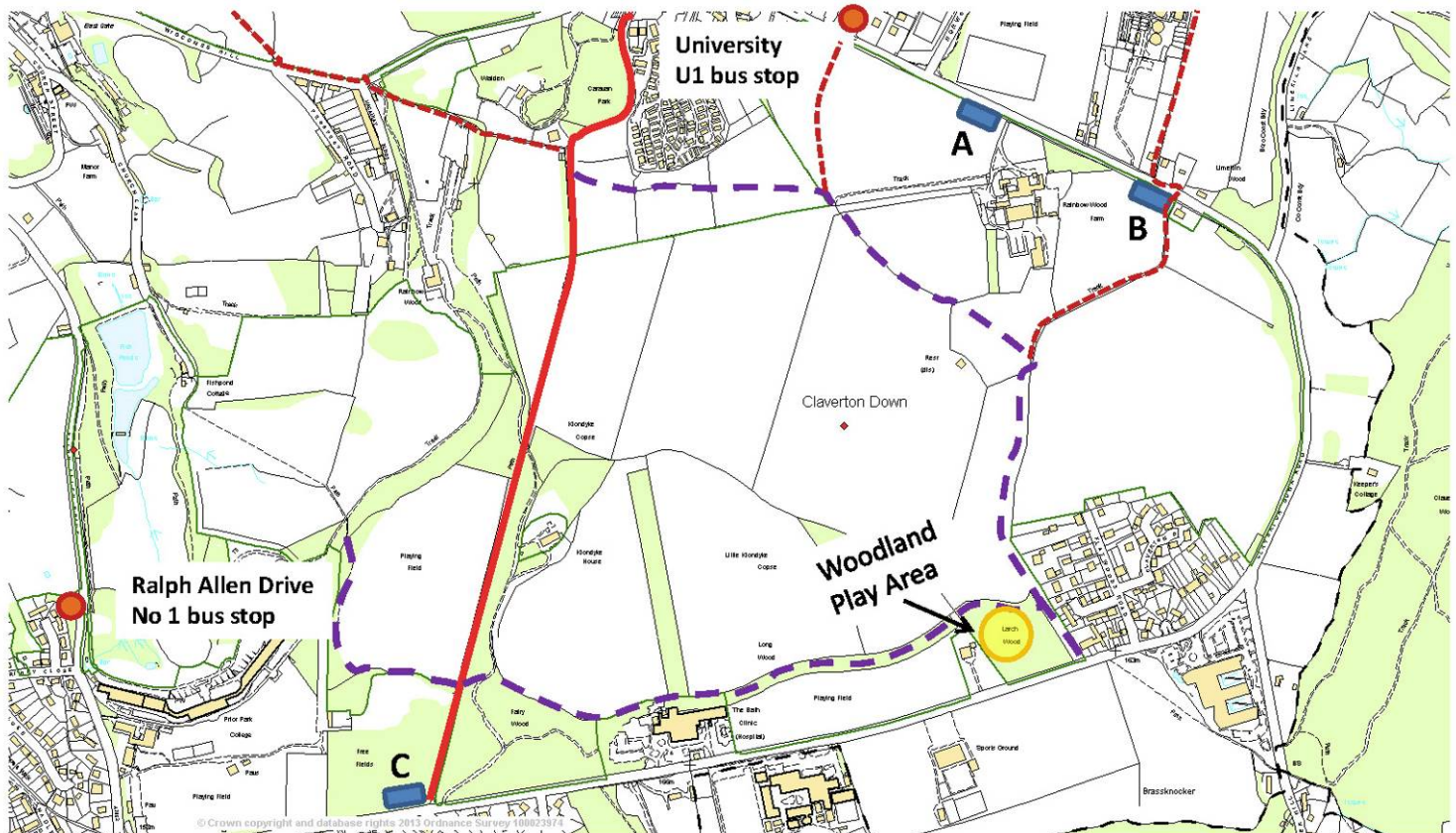
Across all sites all dogs are welcome, including assistance dogs. There can be farm animals in the fields and dogs must be under effective control when passing through these fields. .

Family Activities

There is a Woodland Play Area within the Family Discovery Trail featuring a range of natural play activities including stand on sea saw, swing, climbing logs, den building, wobble boards and the winding woodland walk and also featuring a fairy trail and a variety of self-led children's activities. There is a geocaching trail around Claverton Down

Access map for Claverton Down

Lay by car parks with very limited capacity shown in blue, access for all route in purple
cycle track in red, principal bus stops in brown, connecting footpaths in dark red



Refreshments and Facilities

There are no refreshment facilities available in the open countryside. There are refreshments and toilet facilities at number of nearby locations on the Walk to the View including the **Holburne Museum**, Sydney Gardens and a café at the **Pump Shed** on the canal open during the main season only – see point 3 on the Walk to the View! Map below.

Refreshments and facilities are also available at the **University of Bath campus** (see parking for further details), a café with toilets at the **American Museum** behind the University (admission fees apply) and a National Trust café and facilities at **Prior Park**, ½ mile through a steep field from the Bath Skyline and Calverton Down Family routes (near point 3 on the Skyline map below).

Café at the Pump Shed near the Walk to the View!
Open in main season only



Access from the Skyline walk near Bushey Norwood to the American Museum for café and facilities (entrance fees apply)



Mobile Phones

Mobile phone reception generally very good across the site.

Bath Skyline Map



Family Discovery Trail Map



Walk to the View Map



KEY:

— 3 miles/ 4.75 km (1½ hrs)



View points



Public toilets

REFRESHMENTS

- ① **Garden Cafe** at the Holburne Museum for dining and light snacks. Open daily.
- ② **Supermarket** for picnic provisions. Open daily.
- ③ **Pump Shed** for tea and cakes outdoors. Seasonal opening

Further information about trails around the property is available on our main website.
<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bathskyline>

Contact details for more information

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Date January 2016