

The Architect, Kennet and Avon Canal, Bathampton Down and Sham Castle



Easy or moderate to steep terrain

A 5.5 mile walk of two halves



Access notes

1. There are a number of kissing gates along the way which makes this walk unsuitable for pushchairs.
2. There are a few roads to cross. Please do take care.
3. The low level route is relatively gentle apart from a short sharp ascent as you leave the canal. The full route also has a long, pretty steep ascent to the walk's highest point and this should be considered if choosing this route. For both walks please consider the weather when choosing clothing and suitable footwear, and please take a drink.

The Architect is the perfect pub for refreshments before or after your walk.

The first half of this walk takes you out along the canal (at which point you can choose to return to the start, after a short steep ascent, via Warminster Road – the low level route). The second half of the full route isn't for the faint hearted with a pretty steep climb, up to Bathampton Down, so be warned! The view is well worth it if you do choose this route though.

The walk starts and finishes outside the Architect, The Empire, Orange Grove, BA1 1LP.

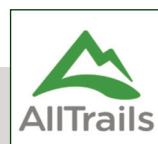
The walk

Exit the pub turning left at the bottom of the steps. At the lights on the corner, turn right and walk across Putney Bridge.

Continue straight past the fountain and walk to the end of the road where you will find the Holburne Museum in front of you. You need to cross over the road towards the museum and go through the grounds of the building and out the other side where you will find some steps up into the park. (If the gates are shut, you can walk around the left of the grounds and enter the park just behind the museum).



Keep going straight at the main wide path of the park, walking upwards and over the bridge that passes over the railway, then take a right turn and it will drop you down to the little gate that leads onto the canal path. Turn left and walk along the canal towpath.



We have created this walk with the help of AllTrails. Download the app to follow the route on your phone for live updates of your position and distance walked amongst other things. You will find lots of walks across the country including walks from the rest of the Brunning and Price family of pubs.

[alltrails.com](https://www.alltrails.com)



We're going a long way along this path (nice and flat!) you will pass the George pub where you can pick up some duck food if you fancy.



Keep going until you reach a black and white swing bridge, numbered 182 (fantastic piece of engineering!). Cross the bridge and on the other side take the path through the shrubbery to the left which follows the canal line (not the path that heads straight on).



Keep going up a steep hill until you find a road at the top. Turn right and walk along the pavement until just around the corner where you can cross with care and follow the public footpath sign up another hill to the left. (At this point, if you don't fancy the climb, don't cross the road and simply continue along the pavement through the houses back down the hill, turning left at the main traffic lights and you'll end up back at the park).

To continue on the full route, head up the steep straight path through Brampton Wood. Near the top you'll see a fork in the path and a post with footpath arrows pointing each way. Take the right path, dropping down a little (you may be glad to hear).



At the mast the path turns into a gravel path and continues. At the end go through the kissing gate to the golf course car park. Head straight on and around the right side of the club house to be treated with a visit to Sham Castle and views over Bath and down to the pub and your finish line. It's at this point we think you'll agree the climb was well worth it.



Home stretch now. Take the footpath in front of the castle that descends a short way, crosses Golf Course Rd with the iron gates to your left and carries on through the kissing gate and down steeply to another gate at the bottom. Take care crossing the road and turn right to head a short way before taking a tarmac footpath down to your left. At the bottom head straight across the road and continue down Sham Castle Lane.

The Lane bears right and narrows to the end at Sydney Rd. Cross here and take the path just to your right, down over the canal and back into Sydney Gardens. From here retrace your steps past the museum and back to the pub for some well-earned refreshment.

Disclaimer: We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

Walking Safety: For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks (who doesn't love a mid-walk snack), a mobile phone and to wear sensible footwear. If the weather has potential to be a little wet or cold, be sure to carry a waterproof jacket, a woolly hat and maybe a fleece. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Some routes include sections along roads, for these please take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs.

