

## Suggested Walk

Distance: 3.7 km. Time: approx 1h 20min. Start: from the Scout Hut at the top of Down Lane

Sturdy footwear advised!

Head up the bridleway leading directly away from Down Lane. After a few minutes you will pass through a gate with a Bath Golf Club sign on it. The track bends left then sharply right between high banks.

Ignore a stile on your left signed Bath Skyline Walk. The path soon bends sharply to the left (southwards) up a grassy slope to a wooden gate in the golf course boundary.

Cross the fairway (beware of flying golf balls from the right!) and go up the short incline opposite. At this point, the bridleway carries on south but you should turn right (west) onto footpath 30 which you follow along the edge of the escarpment.

Walk along the escarpment for 500 metres until you meet a wall. With the wall on your right, follow the footpath as it turns towards the south.

In a further 100 metres, before a patch of trees, is a footpath junction. Turn right (watch out for flying golf balls from the left). Cross the fairway, through a thin belt of trees and then another fairway (direction of play is from the right). Join a track and descend towards the clubhouse. At the foot of the track, to the left, is Sham Castle.



Turn right (onto footpath 20), walk through one car park, then along the back of the clubhouse, through another car park to a gate and a stile. Cross the stile and follow the track which skirts the edge of the woods and leads to the communication masts.

Continue past the masts along open pasture land (footpath 45). After a while, go through a gap in the hedge in front of you. Continue until you rejoin the bridleway. Ignoring the stile now on your right, follow the bridleway back down to the Scout Hut.

This walk has been reproduced with kind permission from the Bathampton Footpaths Association. It was featured in **Walks Around Bathampton** published in 2008. Copies are available from the Bathampton village shop.

Produced by Bathampton Parish Council April 2013

## Your guide to the footpaths around Bathampton



## Please follow The Countryside Code

1. Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
2. Leave gates and property as you find them
3. Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home
4. Keep dogs under close control, especially around sheep
5. Consider other people

If you want to find out more information about the footpaths in Bathampton or would like to report a problem, please contact us:



[www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk/footpaths](http://www.bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk/footpaths)  
Email: [footpaths@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:footpaths@bathamptonparishcouncil.org.uk)  
Follow us on Twitter: @bathamptonpaths

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Bathampton Footpaths Guide, especially the following individuals:

David Mayo	Co-ordinator
Matt Hounsom	Map illustrator
Liam McMurray	Designer
Simon Potton	Wildlife guide
Jennie Regan	Map accuracy and illustration

## Wildlife Guide

We've put together a small selection of the wildlife you can see around Bathampton while you're walking the footpaths.

### Buzzard

Medium to large bird of prey. Eats small mammals, birds and carrion. Often seen circling high in the sky over the village or searching for prey in the meadows. Can be seen, and often heard, all year round.



### Pipistrelle Bat

Pipistrelles are tiny bats with reddish-brown coats and blackish-brown ears, nose and wing membranes. In the winter they hibernate in trees and buildings. In the summer you can see them flying with speed and agility at dusk as they feed on small flying insects.

### Kingfisher

A bright jewel-like bird you may catch sight of flashing by over water, near the river or canal, as it hunts for fish. Can be seen all year round.



### Meadow Brown

A common butterfly seen in the summer over fields and meadows. Look for orange on the forewings and black spots on the underside of the hindwings.

### Roe deer

The European roe deer is relatively small, reddish and grey-brown, and grazes all types of ground vegetation, shrub layers and the growing shoots and leaves of holly and beech trees. Deer can be seen in the woods above the village - and sometimes even in people's gardens!



### Horse chestnut

A large deciduous tree that produces conkers in the autumn (good for games but can be poisonous). Fine examples of mature trees can be found by the path near New Leaf Farm holiday cottages.

### Yellow flag iris

The yellow flag iris is primarily an aquatic plant, and can be seen growing beside the canal. Its yellow flowers attract insects such as butterflies and moths. You may find dragonfly larvae feeding on the sword-shaped leaves.



### Lichens and mosses

Many varieties can be found growing on walls, bridges, trees and the ground. Take a magnifying glass, look closely and discover a whole new world!

### Photo Credits

Roe deer - Alexi Francis  
Pipistrelle bat - Chris Shields ([rspsb-images.com](http://rspsb-images.com))  
Kingfisher and Buzzard - Mike Langman ([rspsb-images.com](http://rspsb-images.com))