Walk 3 Circuit of Bath - Brassknocker Basin car park to Odd Down

This walk is one of four that together circle Bath.

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

Starting gently this leg first follows the Midford Brook, and then the disused Somersetshire Coal Canal passing the site of the historic Combe Hay Locks. It then climbs up to rewarding views from the Millennium view point over the Southern Bathscape.

Start: Brassknocker Basin car park, off Lower Stoke. (Gates locked at 9pm in summer and 6pm in winter). W3W - punk.moods.split (see next page)

Finish: Odd Down Park & Ride

Distance: 5 miles / 8km with an up of 702 ft/214m and down of 240 ft / 73m

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

Transport: Visit travelinesw.com. Buses run to Brassknocker Hill and Warminster Road. Pay and display parking available at Brassknocker Basin car park. Odd Down Park & Ride for buses and free parking at the end.

Public toilets: Canal visitor centre at Brassknocker Basin, Odd Down Park & Ride (20p)

Refreshments: Angelfish Café at Brassknocker Basin, The Hope & Anchor Pub, Midford & The Packhorse, South Stoke.

Route:
Head out of the car park main entrance towards Lower Stoke, but before reaching the main road, turn immediately RIGHT (R) into a lane. Walk under an arch and past the sports fields of Monkton Combe School on your LEFT (L). Immediately after the sports fields, fork L onto a footpath, which runs parallel to and slightly above the lane.

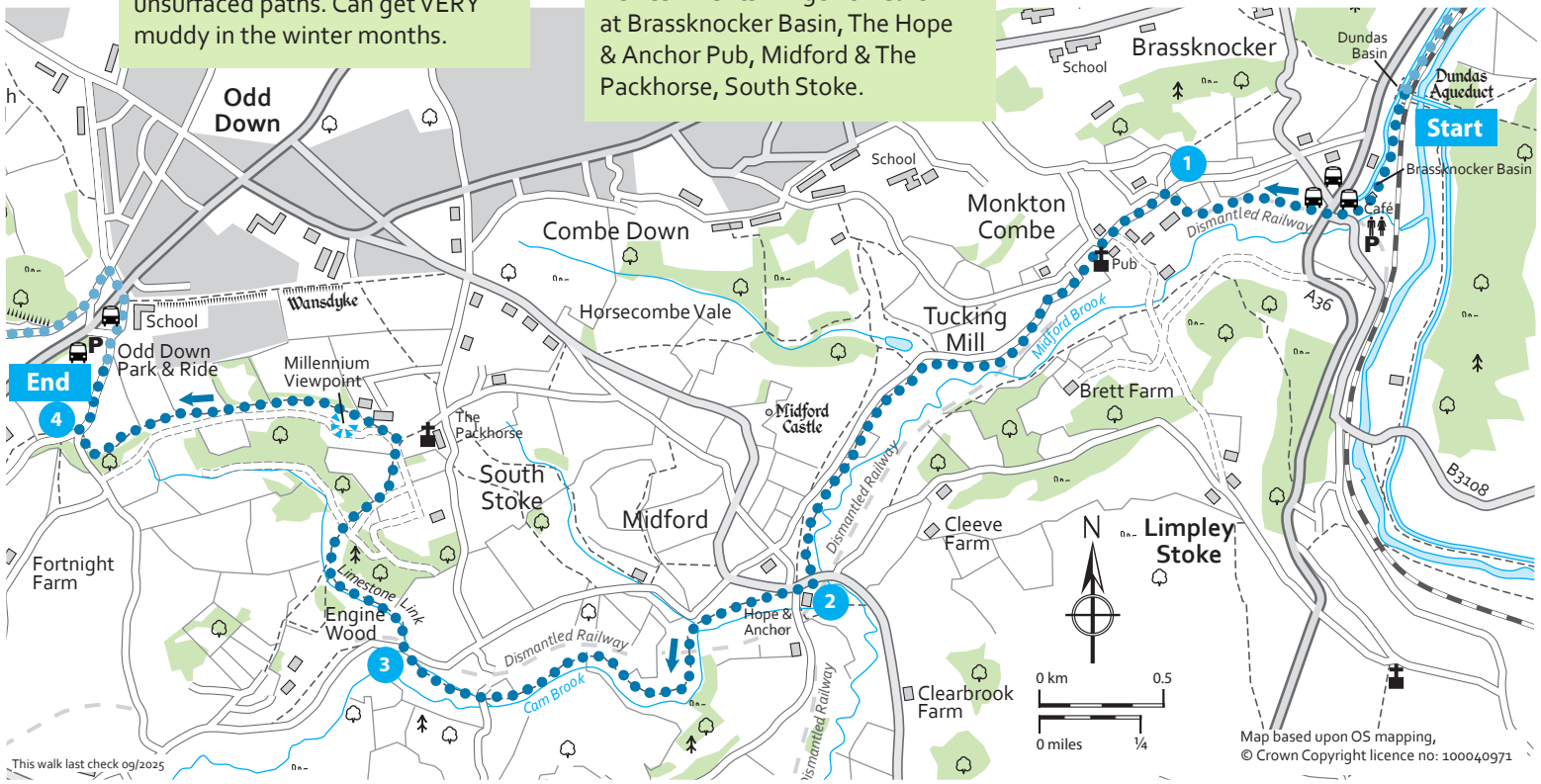
At the end turn R to cross the sunken lane and take the flight of steps opposite. Continue uphill along the path between the school buildings. Keep within the fencing through the school grounds. When you reach a road turn L (1) into Monkton Combe village. Continue until you reach St. Michael's Church. Follow the tarmac path through the churchyard, passing Harry Patch's grave. Exit the churchyard through a gate and turn L onto Tucking Mill Lane. This lane is used by cyclists and motor vehicles so take care as you follow it all the way down to Tucking Mill. At Tucking Mill the path separates from the road along a hedge on your L. Take the path and follow it through a wooded area. Continue on this path, crossing a small tarmac driveway half way along until the path begins to follow a wooden fence on the R, then it passes between two fences before emerging onto Midford Hill (2).

Caution: This road is likely to be very busy. Turn R uphill towards the Hope & Anchor pub and find a safe place to cross the busy road. Opposite the pub and before a bridge turn L down some steps onto a footpath. Follow this path, under the brick and steel bridges. Go through a gate and continue along the raised path beside the disused Somersetshire Coal Canal. Continue to follow the old canal bed through several gates and under a brick bridge. After the bridge bear R and follow a shady enclosed path to another wooden gate.

Continue through to a large field. Skirt the field on the grassy bank, keeping the electric fence on your R. Walk through a gate and continue along the bank. Head up some steps to reach a gate. Turn R then soon after L through a gate. Walk through the wooded area and along the shady fenced path. Head up a slight slope to reach a gate onto a road (3). Cross the road to a gate opposite.

Continue under the abandoned railway bridge and through another gate straight ahead. Follow the path through the wood until you reach a gate.

Continue on next page



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Go through the gate and follow the path, keeping the stream on your LHS. Continue uphill to reach a field, cross it uphill to a gate, to the left of a big house. Pass through the gate and continue up a steep path through a wood. Pass through a metal gate and continue with the fence on your RHS.

Bear slightly L, heading uphill and continue through another metal gate. Keep L and walk uphill across an open field to join a lane. Turn L and continue uphill to a fork. At the fork, bear L. At the top of the slope is the Millennium Viewpoint. Take a moment to enjoy the view before following the path L away from the farm buildings. At a junction where the lane ends, keep ahead through trees.

Bear slightly L and continue straight through a gate into a field. Follow the edge of the field through a gate onto a road 4. Turn R and walk to the end of the road. *Caution, there is no pavement here, please take care on the road.* For an alternative route avoiding the road: at a tall wooden gate into a field, bear R onto an enclosed path alongside a new housing development. Cross Harrison Down Road and continue on a wide tarmac footpath to reach Sulis Down Road immediately beyond the entrance to A.F.C. Odd Down car park. Turn L to find Odd Down Park & Ride on your L, or continue across the crossroads to continue onto Walk 4 of the Circuit of Bath.

At Odd Down Park & Ride you can catch a bus to the city centre or alternatively see travelinesw.com for bus services that go south along the A367.

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.

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.

BATHSCAPE LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

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Cotswolds National Landscape