

Walking trail

A pleasant circular walk of 3.4 km which should take 1.5 to 2 hours, starting and finishing in Laura Place.



Safety

Please wear appropriate shoes due to uneven surfaces. Take extra care when crossing busy roads and walking by the canal.



Bring a pencil!

There are three fun challenges for all ages in our trail – see if you can complete them all



Online Map (Google)

tinyurl.com/walktrail

Time

1.5 - 2 hours | 3.4 km

Excluding stops for points of interest and activities.

Going

Mostly flat with a couple of gentle slopes and three flights of steps:

- 1)** a flight of three steps down to the canal tow path in Sydney Gardens;
- 2)** down from the canal (no handrail);
- 3)** a fairly steep descent from the footbridge over the railway. The walking surfaces are mostly pavements and tarmac paths.

Let's Go!

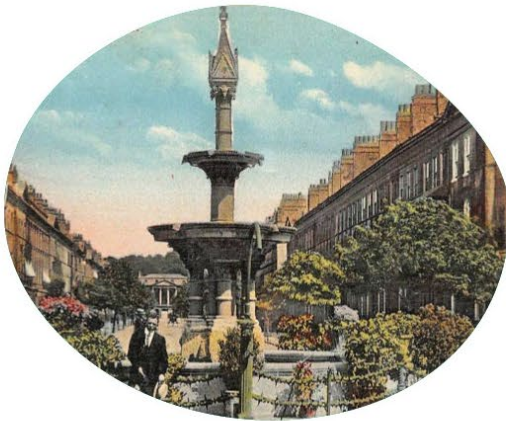
1 From Laura Place, proceed along the right-hand side of Great Pulteney Street.

It may be difficult to visualise now, but Great Pulteney Street was once lined with trees. And the little side-streets such as William Street were supposed to lead to a crescent, but the financial crash of the 1790s put an end to such grand plans.



© Bath & North East Somerset Council

1910



This was the original, much prettier fountain at Laura Place, but it was destroyed by students during Freshers' Week in 1969. Not good!



Challenge

Can you find four historical figures who lived on the right-hand side of Great Pulteney St.?

1.

2.

3.

4.

On reaching the end of Great Pulteney Street, the magnificent building you'll see is the Grade I listed Holburne Museum. When you explore Sydney Gardens, take a peek at the new extension, added in 2008 — a complete contrast, wouldn't you say, with its bold ceramic and glass design.



2 At the end of **Great Pulteney Street**, cross **Darlington Street** at the pelican crossing into **Sydney Place**.



From 1801 to 1804, No.4 Sydney Place was the home of the family of famous author Jane Austen.

3 Enter **Sydney Gardens** using the entrance from **Sydney Place**.

Before passing through the entrance to Sydney Gardens, take a moment to admire the magnificent 4-storey building on the opposite side of the road. This was added to Sydney Place by John Pinch the Elder in 1808. The magnificent façade arguably rivals those of the more renowned Great Pulteney St.

Can you see the family crest of William Henry Vane, the first Duke of Cleveland, on the central pediment? Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, lived at No.93 in 1817 and both William IV and the Duke of Grosvenor lived at No.103.

CHILDREN OF BATH,

Worry your Mothers to allow your Fathers to take you to SYDNEY GARDENS, Next Thursday, 11th September—Great Doings there—and all for A SHILLING. The Last Gala.

Promise them you won't be naughty for at least a week. Such beautiful Fire Works, you can't think—and such Illuminations, and Fire Balloons, and Funny Songs; and you'll see Naples, with the Burning Mountain of Vesuvius; and London by Moonlight—and the grand Railway, where they travel almost Fifty Miles an hour—and the great Fire of Bristol; then there's a Congreve Rocket, a 38-Pounder, to be let off—they use 'em in the wars, and kill all near.

All this is to be seen for only 1^S

Therefore, worry your Mothers, I say; and if they don't let you go, never be good again.

DOORS OPEN AT HALF-PAST SIX.
NEXT THURSDAY,
11th SEPTEMBER.

© Bath & North East Somerset Council

1839 1st Duke of Cleveland



4 Follow the **tarmac path**, bearing to the right all the while, and cross the **footbridge** over the railway line and then up to the **footbridge** over the canal.

On the right-hand side note the rather impressive Cleveland House, standing above the canal. It was built for the Duke of Cleveland's Bathwick estate and leased to the Kennet & Avon Canal Company as their headquarters until 1864. Look out for the carved face that adorns the entrance to the tunnel. Some people say this is Sabrina, Goddess of the Severn. Others say it is Hafren, a legendary British princess who was drowned in the River Severn by her stepmother Gwendolin.





5 Walk back off the bridge, turning to the right, and proceed to the wrought iron gate which leads to the **Canal Tow Path**. **Remember this location as you'll need to return here** after the challenge below.

Challenge

The answers to these questions can be found in the lower part of Sydney Gardens. Proceed down the path and cross the wide bridge over the railway to begin your search.

6 Return to the **wrought iron gate** mentioned in **N° 5** above.

Can you spot two ornate, white, cast-iron bridges and the plaques 'Erected Anno 1800'? One was for pedestrians only, while the larger bridge was for both pedestrians and carriages. This bridge to the left is known as a 'Skew Bridge' because it crosses the canal at an angle, and is thought to be the oldest remaining Skew Bridge in existence. Both bridges were made by the famous iron founders The Coalbrookdale Company of Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire.



7 Turn left and proceed along the **Canal Tow Path**.

Note the carved stone face as you enter the tunnel. This is **Father Thames** – he represents the most significant river at the eastern end of the Kennet & Avon Canal.

8 Emerging from the tunnel, you reach **Darlington Wharf**.

Just before you leave the tunnel, can you spot the iron ring and ring recess on either side of the canal? These were used to hang a chain across the canal on holy days, a reminder that there was to be 'No trading on a Sunday!' Take a moment to read the circular information board on the left-hand side after leaving the tunnel.

1. What is MLN1 106m 10ch?



2. What took place from 19 - 24 July 1909?

3. Where are five slots cut out of something?



4. What was planted in July 1919?

5. What was manufactured in 1920 by Walter MacFarlane of Glasgow?

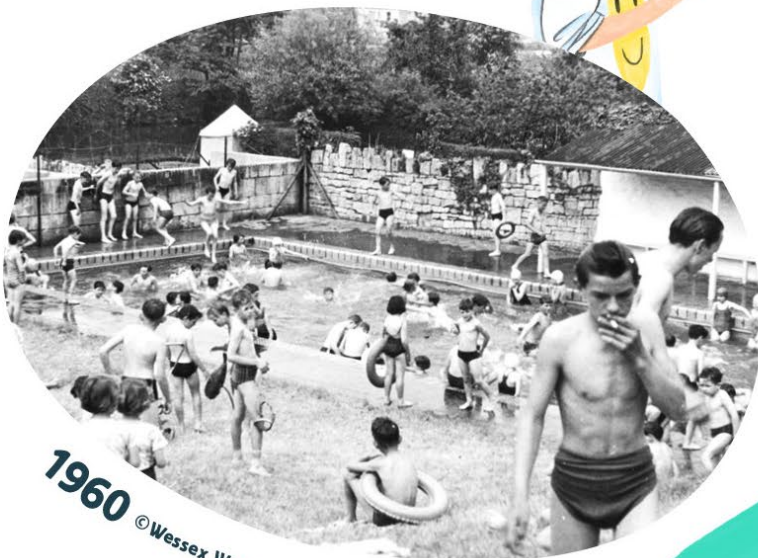
10 Continue along the **Canal Tow Path** until you reach another information board, headed 'Welcome to Cleveland Pools' (at the end of the stone wall), which is well worth a read!

Can you see the flat-topped hill just over to the right? This is Solsbury Hill, the site of an Iron Age fort from 300BC until 100BC. If you've ever heard Peter Gabriel's song of the same name, we defy you to not start singing 'climbing up on Solsbury Hill, I can see the city lights'. It's a steep climb, but worth it for the amazing views.

11 Descend down the short flight of **concrete steps** on the left just past the information board.

12 Turn left onto the **footbridge** over the railway tracks.

The impressive stone wall on the left was built to allow the canal to be re-routed to make way for the railway. There was even a proposal in 1965 for a tunnel from here all the way to the centre of Bath.



1960 © Wessex Water Historical Archive

9 Proceed along the **Canal Tow Path**.

Nestling in the trees, almost directly in front of you in the distance is the Grade II listed Bailbrook House – currently an upmarket hotel, but once used as a training centre for air traffic controllers!



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oldest lido!**

13 Enter **Hampton Row**.

14 After about 100m arrive at the **Cleveland Pools entrance** on the right.

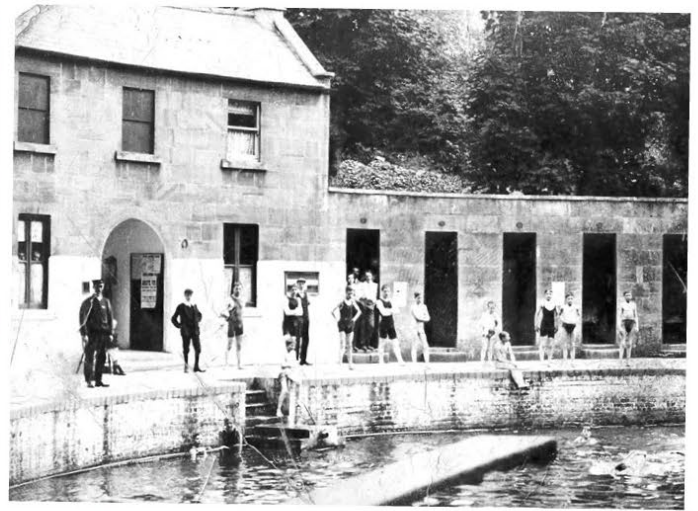
**Welcome to
CLEVELAND
POOLS**

Leaving CLEVELAND POOLS

15 Leaving **Cleveland Pools**, turn right.

16 Then turn right into **Rockliffe Avenue**.

© Bath Records Office



1910

© Bath & North East Somerset Council



1965

17 Pass the entrance to The Bathwick Boatman **Riverside Restaurant** (and the Victorian Bath Boating Station) on your right.

The boating station is where the Pulteney Cruiser boats live. These boats carry passengers from Pulteney weir in the centre of Bath, to Bathampton Weir and back. Before long, there should be a new drop-off point at the Cleveland Pools.



18 Proceed straight ahead into **Rockliffe Road**.

19 Proceed straight ahead into **Powlett Road**.

As you enter Powlett Road, look for Tabard House (Meltone Gallery) on the right. It was once a Temperance Hall, built for those who disagreed with the drinking of alcohol!



20 Follow the left-hand bend, then proceed through a **pedestrian walkway** on the right just after a block of flats.

21 Cross **Bathwick Street** at the Pelican Crossing.

22 Go left and then turn right into **Daniel Street**.



Henrietta Park



23 At the end of Daniel Street, cross the road into Henrietta Park.



Horse chesnut

Beech



Ash

Challenge

Henrietta Park has many species of trees. Which of these can you identify? (It will be harder in the winter months!)



Hawthorn



Scots Pine



Copper Beech



Yew



Rowan



Katsura (Tricky to spot!)



Oak

Henrietta Park, on the Bathwick Estate, opened in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and was given by Captain Francis Forester to the Corporation of Bath on the understanding that it would never be built on. If you're feeling a little bit tired, go and find the King George V Memorial Garden which is a lovely tranquil place to rest and relax.

24 Exit Henrietta Park at the **entrance** behind the toilet block.

Take a minute to look at the buildings facing you as you leave the park. This is the back of Great Pulteney Street. The backs are very different to the grand fronts you saw at the start of the walking trail, wouldn't you say?



© Bath & North East Somerset Council

25 Turn right into **Henrietta Mews.**

Immediately to the right as you exit the archway is one of the two original entrances to what was once Laura Chapel, demolished in 1900. The 18th century chapel had a grand interior with seating for 1,000 people and unusually for a chapel, fireplaces to keep the congregation warm. Jane Austen regularly attended chapel in Bath, and it was probably this one, as it is the nearest to her family home in Sydney Place.

26 Proceed under the **archway** and then turn left into **Henrietta Street.**

27 Back to **Laura Place** and the completion of the walking tour.

Before you go on your way, one last point of interest. Stand next to the hexagonal letter-box (one of only two of these Victorian versions left in Bath) and look for the Coat of Arms above the Chemist shop at No.8 Argyle Street. Can you see the lion and the unicorn? This is the Arms of George III (on the left) and his consort Queen Charlotte Sophia (on the right). It's quite a story how the Coat of Arms came to be here, but we'll leave that one for you to research.

We hope you've enjoyed our walking trail and learned some interesting facts about Bath!



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Charity No. 1109433 Co. No. 5354621

Answers

Historical Residents Writer Hannah More, Admiral Earl Howe, Bishop Thirlwall, and Napoleon III.

Sydney Gardens 1. Network Rail identification plate (bridge) 2. The Great Historical Pageant (plaque in the Temple of Minerva) 3. An enormous felled tree trunk 4. Concordia 'Golden Oak' tree commemorating the end of WW1 (signage) 5. A toilet made of cast iron (signage by toilet block).

