



TRAILS

VICTORIA ART GALLERY TO BATHWICK FIELDS

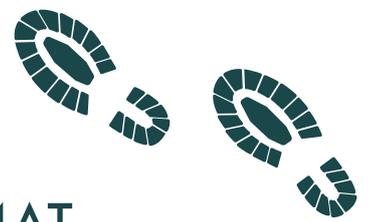
DISTANCE: 4km

TIME: 1.5 hours



START/FINISH

Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, BA2 4AT



WALK INFORMATION AND ACCESSIBILITY:

This walk was inspired by the Kurt Jackson exhibition at the Victoria Art Gallery in 2021 called 'Biodiversity'. The walk takes you from the Gallery up to the wildflower fields of National Trust's Bathwick Fields and then into Smallcombe Vale. Discover the rich biodiversity and the glorious views a short walk from the city centre.

The walk involves some steep uphill sections, steps and kissing gates. There are a couple of busy roads to cross, but they have crossings, and a section along the canal. The route has pavements, hard paths and grass paths, which can be muddy and slippery - it is suitable for children, but probably not for buggies.

There is sometimes livestock in the fields, please keep dogs under control and don't leave dog mess behind. There is a small charge for non residents for Parade Gardens.

EXPECT TO SEE

- Meadows with early summer wildflowers, bees and butterflies
- Outstanding views from the fields of the whole city
- Wildlife in Smallcombe Cemetery, nestling in a beautiful valley
- Peregrine falcons near St John's church

THINGS TO DO

- Admire the view of the landscape city from Bathwick Fields
- Be inspired to draw or photograph what you find
- Use the iNaturalist app to identify and record plants and animals
- Take a selfie in the landscape



ROUTE

1

From Victoria Art Gallery, walk over Pulteney Bridge and continue straight up Great Pulteney Street towards the Holburne Museum.

2

Turn right onto Edward Street, and follow the road round till you reach a roundabout with a church ahead. Cross at the pelican crossing and walk up Bathwick Hill/Raby Place.

3

At the shop (Tesco Express) take the steps down onto the canal tow path and continue with the canal on your left. Keep on the path till you reach Top Lock Cottage.

4

Just after the cottage and Lock 13, cross on the foot bridge and continue up the slope, crossing the road (Sydney Buildings) and go up the steps ahead. This is a short, steep flight of steps. There is a kissing gate on the right at the top of the steps onto Bathwick Fields. If you are short of time, you can enter the field and admire the view and the wildlife, before turning back to the canal and picking up from number 8. Otherwise carry on up the path.

5

At the next gate, enter Bathwick Fields and take the path diagonally uphill. You are already in the wildflower meadows, take time to enjoy the nature and the view from here. At the top of the first field, continue through the gate, there is a short stretch of woodland on your right. Ignore the first kissing gate on your right, and take the next wooden gate on your right, and follow the well worn path across the field ahead and then down hill to the left corner.

Leave the field and follow the path as it goes round to the right then left. There are a few steps. Keep going to reach a track.

6

When you reach the track, you can turn left if you want to visit Smallcombe Cemetery, which has been lovingly restored for wildlife. Once you've finished, take the same track downhill until you reach the road - Horseshoe Walk. Bear left down this residential road until the road crosses the canal.

7

Just over the bridge, turn right onto the tow path and continue ahead, with the canal on your right.

8

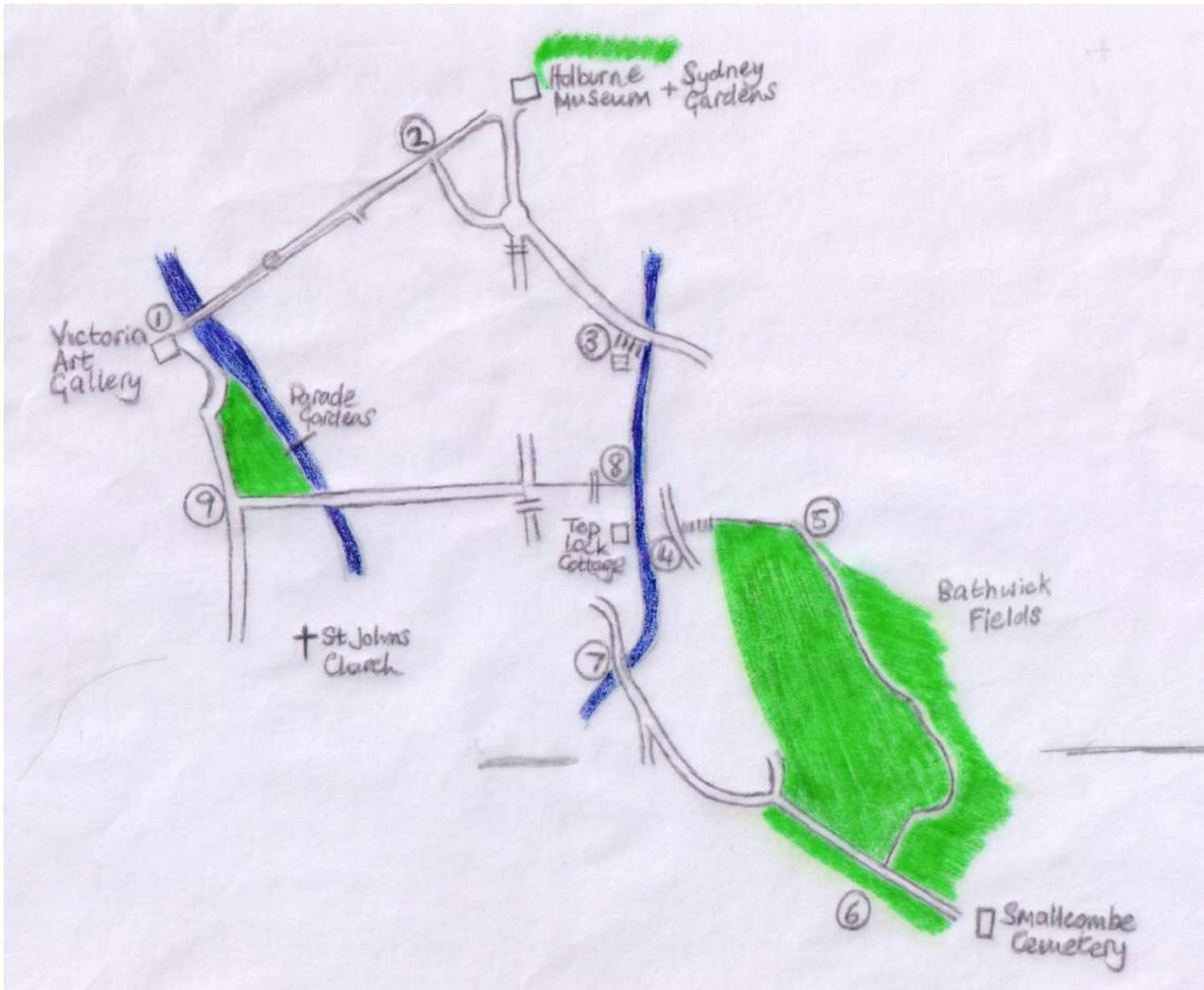
Just after Top Lock Cottage, take the steps down on the left. Continue on this path under the railway bridge, until you reach the road. There's a pelican crossing to cross the busy road. Take North Parade Road ahead. Near the end of the road, take a detour down Duke Street to St John's Church and see if you can spot peregrine falcons that nest each year at the top of the church tower.

9

At the end of North Parade Road, turn right and continue on this road until you get back to Victoria Art Gallery. You can stop in Parade Gardens on your right, there are deck chairs and a cafe here.

MAP

DISTANCE: 4km
TIME: 1.5 hours



Please take your litter home with you and follow the countryside code, particularly around livestock.