

A BOOT UP BATH

Rodney Legg

Roman Bath, like Rome itself, is surrounded by its Seven Hills. These are the obvious target for walks up and out of the city. Inevitably, however, they are somewhat demanding, so walks that are short but strenuous have been mixed with those that are easy but longer. The latter, with circuits up to nine miles, stretch out along the River Avon and its partner in the landscape, the Kennet and Avon Canal. The towpath heads towards creations of industrial archaeology of national renown, such as the Dundas Aqueduct, where canal long-boats cross three other transport systems - rail, river and road.

Scenic and exhilarating country walking is literally within sight and step as you reach out from the city. On one side the landscape becomes the Cotswold Hills, encapsulated at its most civilised in Dyrham Park, whereas on the other side the deep-cut valleys hide some of the most desirable homes in the land, around villages like Combe Hay.

The ten selected walks, ranging from 3 to 8 miles, suit the needs of families, groups of friends or individuals looking for a gentle stroll or a longer walk, and reflect the many varied facets of the area. Places are selected with problem-free parking and public houses and tea-rooms en route if possible. Instructions are as basic and clear as possible, but you will also have things to see pointed out to you. The emphasis throughout the ten walks is to notice what is odd and quirky - so you do not miss what makes the effort and exercise truly worthwhile.

Halsgrove's new-format guidebook, containing maps, photographs and useful information will ensure a great walking experience. Packed with colour, the book is an ideal reminder of a visit to Bath and its hinterland.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rodney Legg is a prolific author and historian who has published hundreds of country walks. Nationally he is active in the environmental movement having been chairman of the Open Spaces Society since 1989 and a member of the ruling council of the National Trust from 1990 until 2009.

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

The full Halsgrove catalogue is available free or visit www.halsgrove.com for regional and category listings of available titles.

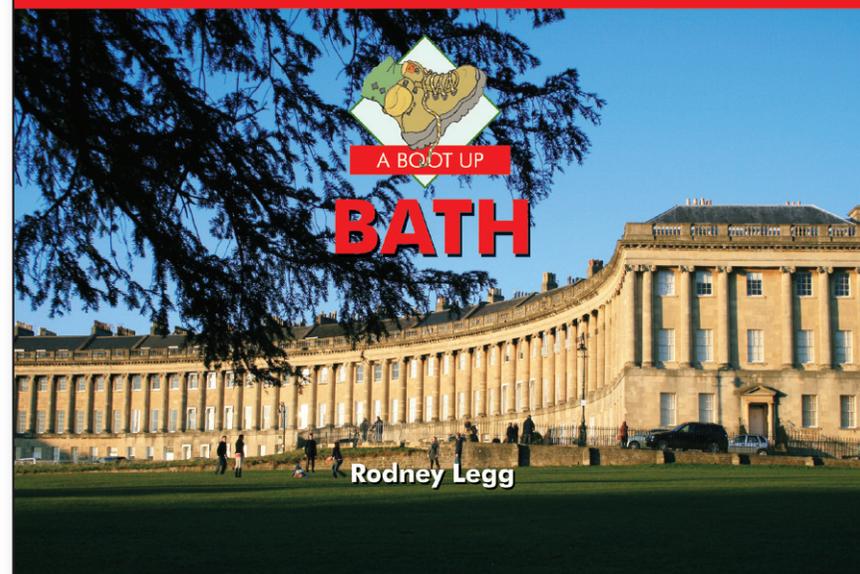
Trade sales:

Helen Deakin – DDI 01823 653772
helend@halsgrove.com

Halsgrove Publishing
Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Industrial Estate,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com
e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION

10 LEISURE WALKS OF DISCOVERY



Format: Hardback with full colour cover, 64pp, 110x155mm, including over 50 colour photographs.

Price: £4.99

ISBN: 978 1 906887 84 1

Imprint: PiXZ Books

Published: September 2010



Great Books from your Local Bookseller

A BOOT UP BATH



Freshford.



Claverton Down.



St Loe's Castle.

1 Roman City and Georgian Bath

12 Turn right (W) in 50 metres into **Pierrepont Place**. Bear left (SW) along **Old Orchard Street** in 75 metres. Pass the **Masonic Hall** - which was the original Theatre Royal in 1750 - with its plaque for actress **Sarah Siddons**. Turn right (W) in **Henery Street** in 150 metres. Former **Flora Gate** was to the right. Continue straight ahead along **New Orchard Street** to return to **Southgate Street** in 300 metres. Both the **Bus Station** and **Both Spa Station** are down to the left in 500 metres. Returning along **Dorchester Street** we cross **Burditch culvert** - the city's ancient sewer - which incorporates the almost 2,000-year-old subterranean drain from the Roman Baths. It empties between the bridges into the **River Avon**.

Baths and Abbey

Example of a double-page spread.

2 Bath Skyline and Prior Park

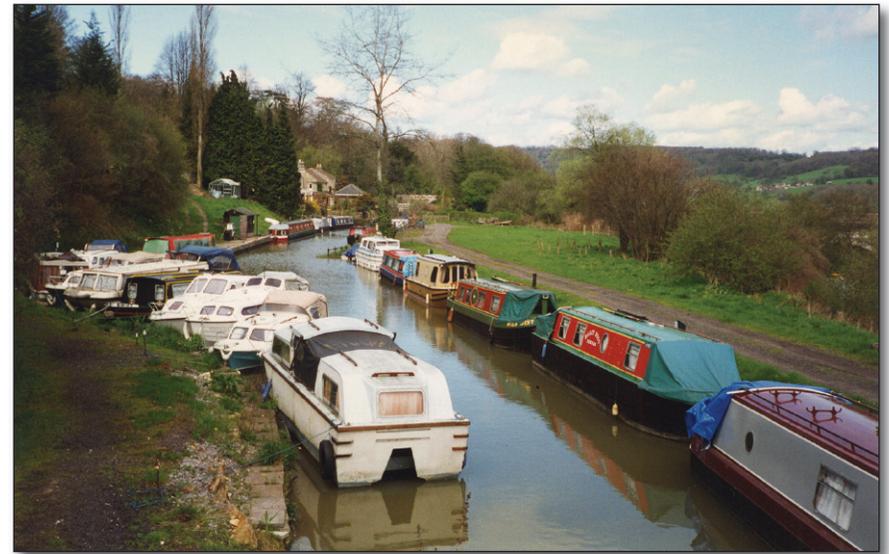
A 6-mile circuit that goes up and down the hills between stunning follies in the landscape

1 Lift up mine eyes unto the hills; from Bath, at one of the great European skylines. Count the hills, for they are said to have replicated in

2 Roman minds the Seven Hills of Rome. Those hills were heavily populated in pre-history, being entrenched with **Raid** systems, settlements and hill-forts, though as a backdrop to the neo-classical revival of Georgian Bath they became increasingly wooded. Today there are almost too many trees, such as around the **Skinn Castle** eye-catcher, which is of national significance as it was built by the most notable of folly designers - **Sanderson Miller** - in 1762. His commission was from **Ralph Allen** who introduced **John Wood** to Bath, and was to **Priestcliffe**. He proved that Bath's own cream limestone could do for the city what **Portland Stone** had done for London. Folly-styled **Prior Park** landscape, the **American Museum** in **Claverton Park**, and the fine-warp perfection of **Widcombe** are also en route.

Levels up to 400
Length 6 miles
Terrace Mostly clear well-used paths, but some areas including rough ground.
Park & events from the hills on the south side of **Claverton Down Road** across the **Norwood Avenue** turning into the University and the entrance to **Rainbow Wood Farm**.
Start ref. ST 774 638
Postcode BA2 7AR
Public transport www.somersetcountryside.org.uk
Website www.somersetcountryside.org.uk

2 Bath Skyline and Prior Park



Somerset Coal Canal.