

Routes in Central and South Bristol

Walk 2 - Sculpture Trail

Walking Bristol



Bristol Group Ramblers

As members of the Ramblers we promote walking, protect the rights of way, campaign for access to open country and the coastline and defend the beauty of the countryside.

We have regular walks of varying distance and difficulty on Saturday mornings, Sundays and Wednesdays. In the Spring and Summer we have shorter walks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Our walks on Wednesdays and Tuesday evenings are usually accessible by public transport.

Non-members are most welcome. After a few walks they will be invited to join the Bristol Ramblers Group. We have a membership of almost 1000 walkers in Bristol and over 2000 in the West of England area.

For details of membership and our walks programme visit **www.bristolramblers.org.uk**. Then just choose a walk to suit your ability and contact the walk leader to introduce yourself and obtain further details.

Even though these walks are within the city, suitable footwear and a waterproof are still advised. All of the walks are accessible by public transport. The times for buses and trains can be

checked at **www.travelinesw.com**. We have done our best to provide accurate and up to date information, but services are liable to alteration at short notice.

Whilst every effort has been made to check the routes in this book, mistakes do happen and the city is subject to changes, so neither Bristol City Council or the Ramblers can accept responsibility for any inconvenience this may cause. To advise of mistakes or recommend new walks for future editions contact Bristol City Council at **transport.plan@bristol.gov.uk** or **0117 9036701**.

Neither Bristol City Council or the Ramblers necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by the authors of the walks.

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Introduction

Walking is the simplest and cheapest form of travel and also one of the best forms of exercise. It helps you to feel good, reduces stress, increases your energy levels, reduces blood pressure and helps you to sleep better at night. It is a very good way to help you to lose weight.

Walking also helps you to appreciate the city that you live in. Other forms of transport race you past those lovely views or small points of historic interest. They make it more difficult to pop in to that small shop or stop off for a drink and a bite to eat. Walking lets you appreciate all of these at a leisurely pace.

In 2002 Bristol City Council and Bristol Group Ramblers collaborated to produce a delightful publication called 'Bristol Backs – Discovering Bristol on Foot'. This book contained 27 walks around the city, all over varying length and all taking in various features of this great city.

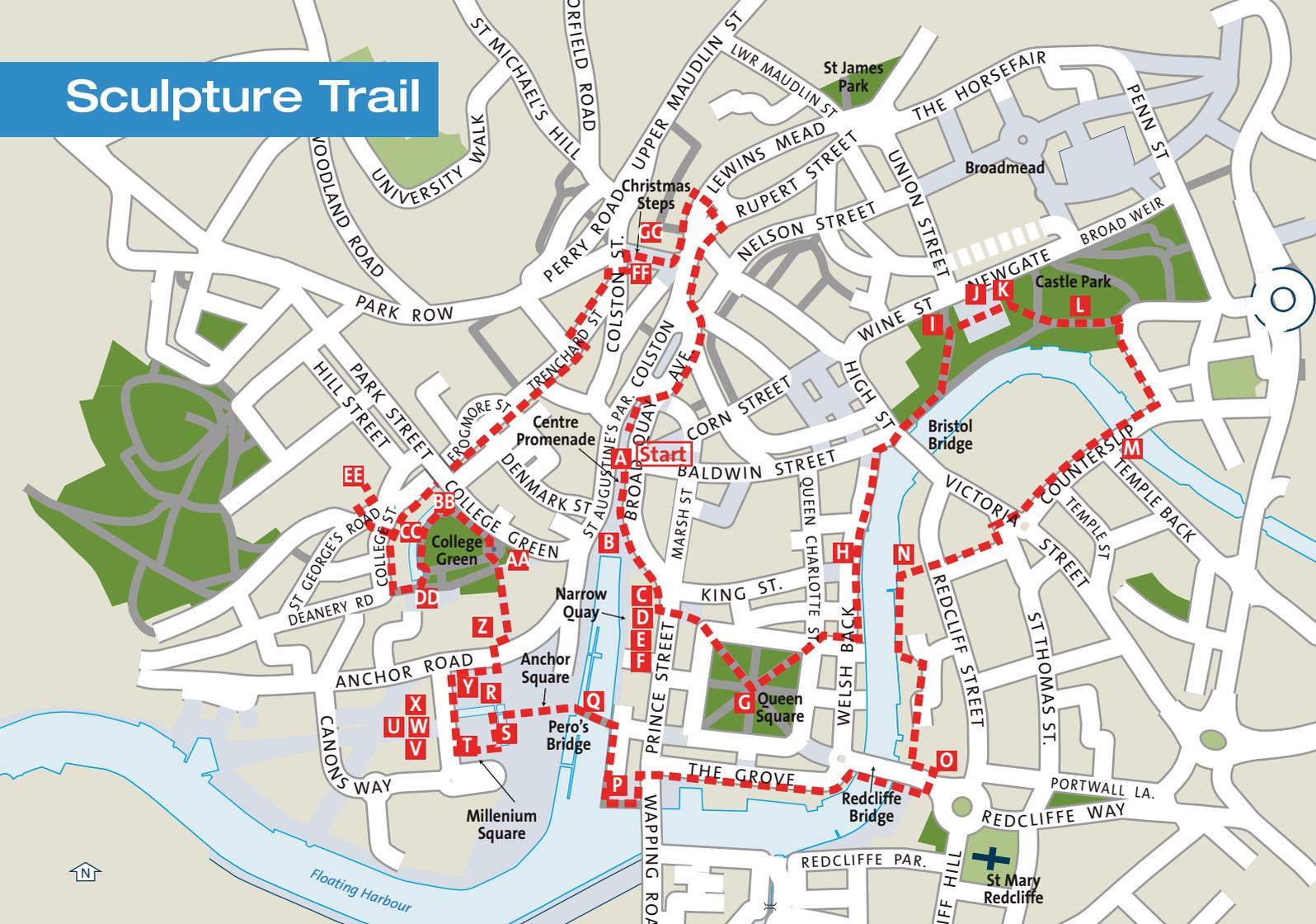
The book was intended to be sold, as it had been lovingly produced to a high quality. Unfortunately, this meant that when stocks began to run low, the cost of re-production proved to be prohibitive.

It seemed a real shame that access to these walks could be denied to so many people, so it was decided to re-produce a selection of these in a smaller format. The beauty of this new publication is that it will be free for all to enjoy.

Trying to decide which walks to exclude was very difficult and this led us to producing two booklets, one for the north and east of the city and the other for the south and central. You may wish to pick up the one that is local to you or both of them to explore other parts of the city. Although a number of walks are in or close to the city centre a conscious effort has been made to take these walks to the majority of the population out in the suburbs. There are some little gems in the most unexpected of places.

So please, go out and walk around your city and enjoy its little hidden pleasures and explore those alleys and lanes that you might not have known existed and if it means that you occasionally leave the car at home, it will have all been worth it.

Sculpture Trail



Sculpture Trail - *walk 2*

Description: This walk gives a fascinating tour of some 30 public statues and sculptures, many of them hidden from public gaze. The walk starts on the City Centre through Queen Square to Castle Park, along the harbour to Millennium Square and on to College Green returning to the City Centre.

Length: Approx. 2½ miles (2 to 2.5 hours).

Refreshments: Numerous cafés and pubs on route.

Transport: Buses to City Centre.

The walk starts at the Statue of Neptune **A** on the City Centre. This originally stood at the head of St Augustine's Reach on the Harbourside but was re sited in 1999. Cast in lead by the Bristol founder John Rendall in 1723. Originally conceived as an ornamental flourish to a new water supply in Temple Street, the figure, standing on the back of a dolphin, looks suitably hoary-bearded and patriarchal, although the plump sleekness of his potbelly suggests the laxity of a voluptuary rather than the moody energy of the sea king.

walk towards the harbour, noting the five bronze plaques adjoining the five seats on the right hand side of the City Centre walkway.

B (a) Replica of the plaque at Bristol Basin, New York, which commemorates the Bristol bomb rubble, used as ships' ballast to cross the Atlantic, finally used as landfill to form the basin.

B (b) Samuel Plimsoll, M.P. for Derby, originator of the load line known as the Plimsoll Line on ships, born at 9, Colston Avenue 1824, died 1898. Strangely, in his native city, the seaman's canvas shoe, also named after him, is called a 'dap' instead.

B (c) John Cabot and son Sebastian Cabot sailing from Bristol on the Matthew to discover America in 1497.

B (d) Centenary of 100 years of the Port of Bristol Authority 1848-1948.

B (e) Replica plaque of town trail named in honour of John Cabot who landed at Cape Cod, Nova Scotia, Canada on 24th June 1497.

Cross City Centre to Narrow Quay

G King George V Memorial (1981) Red brick Arch with lion mask water spout designed and cast in aluminium by Derek Carr. On other side Portland stone figures of a farmer and a coal miner (circa 1903) decoration from the CWS offices formerly on the site of the nearby Broad Quay house.

Continue to the courtyard on the waterfront side of Broad Quay House.

D The Apotheosis of Sabrina, bronze fountain by Gerald Laing (1980). The dramatic goddess of the River Severn and her youthful supporters are almost hidden from public view!

Sabrina was the Roman name for the River Severn. Water flows from the goddess head and the central boy supporter to overflow from the shell into the granite basin.

Walk around to the front of Broad Quay House.

Look through the glazed entrance to view The Pigeons **E**, wired sculpture by Thomas Hill (1998) hanging from the foyer ceiling. On the building at first floor level are 15 Ceramic Panels **F** (1980) by Phillippa Threlfall and Kennedy Collings which depict the industry and commerce of Bristol.



Continue to cross Prince Street and into the centre of Queen Square.

G The statue of William III, cast in brass by John Michael Rysbrack (1736), a splendid Grade 1 equestrian statue of the King in Roman heroic style uniform which originally cost the Bristol Whigs some £1,800, a small fortune in 1736! It is believed Rysbrack based his design on the statue of Marcus Aurelius in Rome.

Turn left to the corner of Queens Square, cross Queen Charlotte Street and follow Queen Square Avenue to Welsh Back. Turn left.

H The Merchant Seaman's Memorial (2001) granite and bronze by David Backhouse commemorates the many seamen's lives lost at sea in war and in peace.

At the end of the Back, turn right and cross the approach to Bristol Bridge into Castle Park.

Take diagonal path towards Wine Street and go under the footbridge, left.

L Line from Within (1993), sand cast and patinated bronze by Ann Christopher RA is an upright steel structure with a vertical slot. Suggesting a castle gate rising from the foundations of the forgotten city below.

Continue along left hand side of St Peter's Church

J Throne (1993) by Rachel Fenner, a Normandy limestone sculpture, which invites self-coronation. The park takes its name from the Norman occupation of the original castle.

K Beside the Still Waters (1993) by Peter Randell-Page, tranquil linear ponds with Kilkenny limestone, pineapple shaped water fountains at each end.

Turn right to a group of silver birch trees and plaques which commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy in 1944. On your left is Fish.

L Fish (1993) by Kate Malone a very attractive bronze cast drinking Fountain with brick and terracotta tiles. It echoes several themes in Bristol's past. A stylised chunk of Bristol Castle marks the history of its site. A boat records the link with the sea and the fish spouting water remind drinkers how the hunt for cod led to Bristolians discovering the new world.

Follow the harbourside walkway, over the footbridge to the road bridge. Up the steps, turn right across bridge along Counterslip. Cross road to Fire Station.

M Firefighter Memorial (2003) bronze statue on stone plinth by Stephen Joyce commissioned by Avon Fire Brigade as memorial to all fire fighters in Avon and the World who died saving others.

Cross Victoria Street, right, then first left into St Thomas Street. and first right into Thomas Lane. Cross Redcliffe Street to harbourside.

N Exploration (1991) obelisk in stone and ceramics mounted by a steel sphere by Phillippa Threlfall, Kennedy Collings and

James Blunt. In the sixteenth century, Martin Frobisher brought back from an exploratory voyage an Eskimo family which entertained the crowd by hunting duck in a kayak on the Back.

Turn left and continue along harbourside walkway past the 'blue helter-skelter' architectural feature which was originally a flour chute in the adjoining warehouse. When you can follow the waterfront no further, follow the same line along Redcliffe Backs to Redcliffe Way.

O Phoenix and the four elements (1985) bronze by John Doubleday. Earth is the pregnant figure emerging from the clay, Air is seen against the disc of the sun,

Fire is the figure emerging from the flames and Water is the swimming figure.

Cross road and turn right over bridge, turn left into The Grove, left at Prince Street. Right to Narrow Quay.

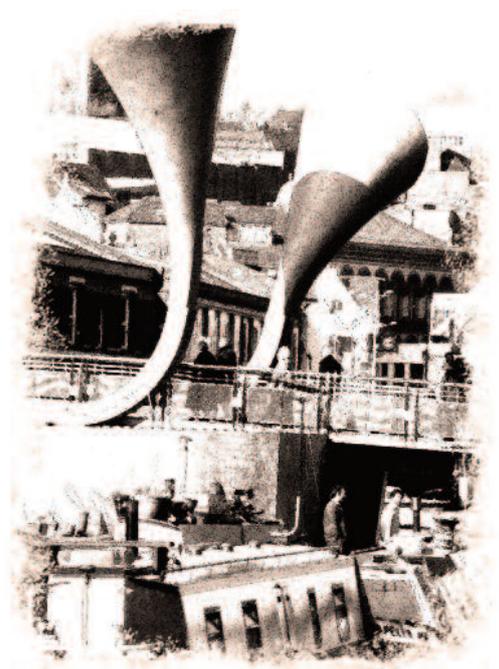
P John Cabot (1986) by Stephen Joyce. This bronze statue set in the cobbles commemorates when he came to Bristol from Venice in 1495 and left Bristol to discover Newfoundland.

Turn right and continue along Narrow Quay to cross...

Q Pero's Bridge (1998) stainless steel by Eillis O'Connell is named after an African slave servant who lived and died in eighteenth century Bristol.

Walk through to Anchor Square.

R Beetle sculpture (2000) bronze on limestone pedestal by Nicola Hicks. The large insect is based on a rhinoceros beetle, a scarabaeid, with one or more horns, which can support up to 850 times its own weight.



Continue into Millennium Square and go clockwise.

S Aquarena Water Sculpture (2000) by William Pye is a continuous flowing water feature with stainless steel columns and black marble pools of water cascading into each other.

T Bill and Bob dogs playing in pool (2000). Painted bronze by Cathie Pilkington

U William Tyndale (2000) bronze by Lawrence Holoscener. Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire, translated the New Testament from Greek into English and was burnt to death in Belgium in 1536.

V Thomas Chatterton (2000) bronze also by Lawrence Holoscener. Chatterton, the boy poet, died in 1770 aged 17 after taking arsenic.

W William Penn (2000) bronze also by Lawrence Holoscener. Penn (1644 to

1718), a Quaker, oversaw the founding of Pennsylvania, named to honour his father of the same name.

X Cary Grant (2001) bronze by Graham Ibbeson. The Hollywood film star was born in Bristol in 1904 as Archibald Leech in Hughenden Road, Horfield. He was expelled at the age of fourteen from Fairfield School, Montpelier. The statue was unveiled by his widow on the 7th December 2001, exactly 70 years from when he changed his name to Cary Grant.

Leave Square to the left hand side of Explore Bristol building to Anchor Road.

Y Small Worlds (2000) cement with glass fibre by Simon Thomas celebrates, the Bristol born, physicist Paul Dirac who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1933.

Cross Anchor Road and up Trinity Steps to the right.

Z The Refugee (1980) a smooth resin bronze statue by Norma Blake, viewed on left hand side, through gate into the Cathedral Garden. Norma, a Holocaust survivor, dedicated the statue to all victims of racial persecution.

Continue to College Green and go round anticlockwise.

AA Queen Victoria (1888) Carrara marble on a Portland stone pedestal with bronze plaques by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm to commemorate the fiftieth year of her reign.

BB Bristol Unicorns (1950) two cast bronze and gilded sculptures by David McFall on the roof of the Council House. Unicorns first appeared on the city's common seal in 1569.

CC Elizabethan Seaman (1956) Portland stone by Sir Charles Wheeler R A in the centre of the Council House. The City Council maintain that it does not represent John Cabot.

DD Raja Ram Mohun Roy (1997) bronze by Niranjan Pradhan. Roy, an Indian humanist and religious reformer, died in Bristol of meningitis in 1833.

Leave College Green by Deanery Road. Right into College Street (noting plaque to William Friese-Green on the back wall of the Council House) to cross St George's Road through gateway on right hand side of Brunel House to rear courtyard.

EE Horse and Man (1984) in resin and bronze by Stephen Joyce, which evokes the site of a nineteenth century Bristol horse market.

Continue behind the Council House along Frog Lane, under the bridge and up Frogmore Street and Trenchard Street. Cross Colston street.

FF Three Kings of Cologne (1967) by Ernest Pascoe in the early sixteenth century niches of the Chapel adjoining Fosters Almshouses.

Right down the steep Christmas Steps, left to Rupert Street.

GG Cloaked Horseman (1984) bronze by David Backhouse. The sculptor imagined the horseman ready to enter the City by St John's Arch on the opposite side of the road.

Continue along to Lewin's Mead. Take the crossing behind you to the Lewins Mead traffic island where there is a statue of Samuel Morley. Two other eminent men with Bristol connections, Edmund Burke and Edward Colston, have statues on the Centre.

Walk devised by Neil Burlton, Bristol Ramblers, with acknowledgement to the references from Douglas Merritt's book 'Sculpture in Bristol'

G William III



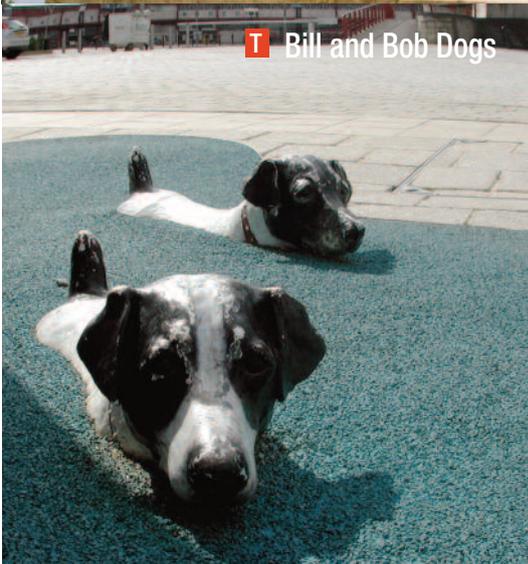
L Fish in Castle Park



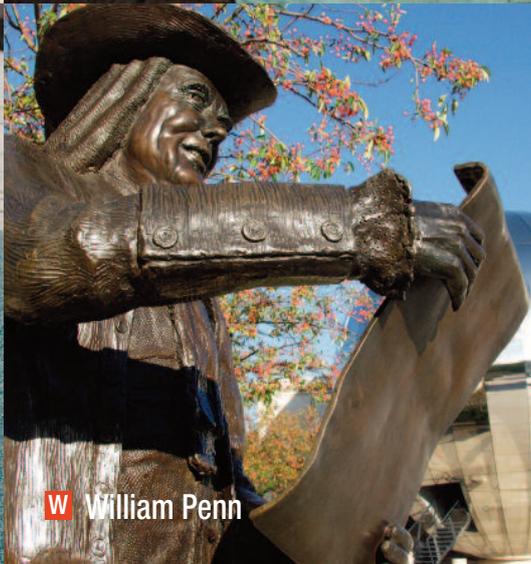
R Beetle



T Bill and Bob Dogs



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