

Bristol & Bath Railway Path

Distance: 4.5 or 8 miles

Walking Time: 2 or 3.5 hrs

GRADE: Easy 2

27

The Railway Path runs between the historic cities of Bristol and Bath. The path loops north from Bristol City Centre before heading south and east through open countryside to the edge of Bath. The path is 12.5 miles long and there are numerous access points along its length. There are two suggestions for walks of different length given. If you wish to walk the entire length of the Railway Path follow the public transport information given for walk 1.

Maps:

Explorer 155

Bristol & Bath
1:25 000 scale

Landranger 172

Bristol & Bath
1:50 000 scale

Grid Ref: (start of walk) ST 731 647



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Walk 1, Brassmill Lane to Bitton Railway Station (4.5 miles, 2 hours).

Take the 332/632 service from Bristol Bus Station get off the bus on the A4 Newbridge Road close to Brassmill Lane. The 332 service runs every hour Monday to Saturday and the 632 every two hours Sundays and Bank Holidays and both run past the Bitton Railway Station. If in doubt ask the bus driver to tell you where to get off.

The most frequent service back to Bristol is the First service 45. This leaves from the car park on Long Beach Road. Walk right along A431 towards Willsbridge Mill (worth a visit) and turn right into Long Beach Road. The service runs Mondays to Saturdays, every 20 minutes. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the 45 service operates hourly along the same route.

Walk 2, Bitton Station to Bristol City Centre (8 miles, 3 hours).

On Mondays to Saturdays the 332 Bristol to Bath service runs from Bristol Bus Station, with outward journeys at hourly intervals. On Sundays and Bank Holidays the 632 service operates along the same route at two hourly intervals. Leave the bus at the stop closest to Bitton Railway Station. Ask the driver if you are unsure of its location. From Bitton Railway Station follow the Path to its end point at Trinity Street. From here signed cycle routes link to the city centre.

Please check the above bus details by
Traveline on 0870 608 2608 or
log on to www.firstgroup.com



traveline
public transport info
0871 200 22 33

Designed by Visual Technology. Bristol City Council. 0207/448BR

PUBLIC HOUSES/CAFES EN ROUTE

Jolly Sailor Pub (01225) 873002

Bird in Hand (01225) 873335

Bitton Railway Station Cafe

Warmley Station Old Waiting Room Cafe – open most weekends

PUBLIC TOILETS

Saltford Shallows Picnic Site

Bitton Railway Station

Warmley Railway Station

Safeways, Fishponds

CREDITS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Bristol and Bath Railway Path leaflet describes the path, its facilities and access points. It also highlights which sections are suitable for disabled access. The leaflet is available from Tourist Information Centres and Local Authorities.

PLACES AND FEATURES OF INTEREST

Brassmill Lane to Bitton Railway Station

The Railway Path takes the walker along the Avon Valley, notable for its peaceful countryside, flood meadows and meandering river. There are particularly fine views of the Cotswold escarpment to the north. Continue along the Railway Path to Bitton Station.

The Dramway

Between Coxgrove Hill and Bitton the Railway Path closely parallels the route of the Avon and Gloucester Railway (known locally as the 'Dramway'). This was opened in 1832 and carried coal from Coalpit Heath collieries to the Avon near Keynsham for onward distribution via the Kennet and Avon Canal. Sections remained in use until the early 1900's and some lengths of the trackbed form an interesting alternative route for walkers.



View of the Aquaduct at Clay Bottom

Willsbridge Mill

If you have the time it is worth visiting Willsbridge Mill, a restored water mill in the Siston Brook Valley. This provides an opportunity to learn about the wildlife and industrial heritage of the area. From Bitton Railway Station walk down the main road, turn right and the entrance is along past the mini-roundabout.



Warmley Station, railway path

The Sculpture Trail

Thanks to the initiative of Sustrans, a series of sculptures have been created along the path as points of interest, many by local artists. Some act as seats or water fountains, others celebrate the character of the Railway Path and its surrounds.

From Fishponds the route descends gently into Bristol City Centre. Although the path runs through built-up areas it still possesses a 'green' character. A number of sections are in a cutting, which nature has reclaimed, and this gives an almost rural feeling within the city. There are views across open spaces and valleys, including a view of the impressive Clay Bottom Viaduct.

From the end of the Railway Path signed cycle routes link to the city centre, follow these if you are unsure of the way.



The River Avon

Bitton Station, Avon Valley Railway

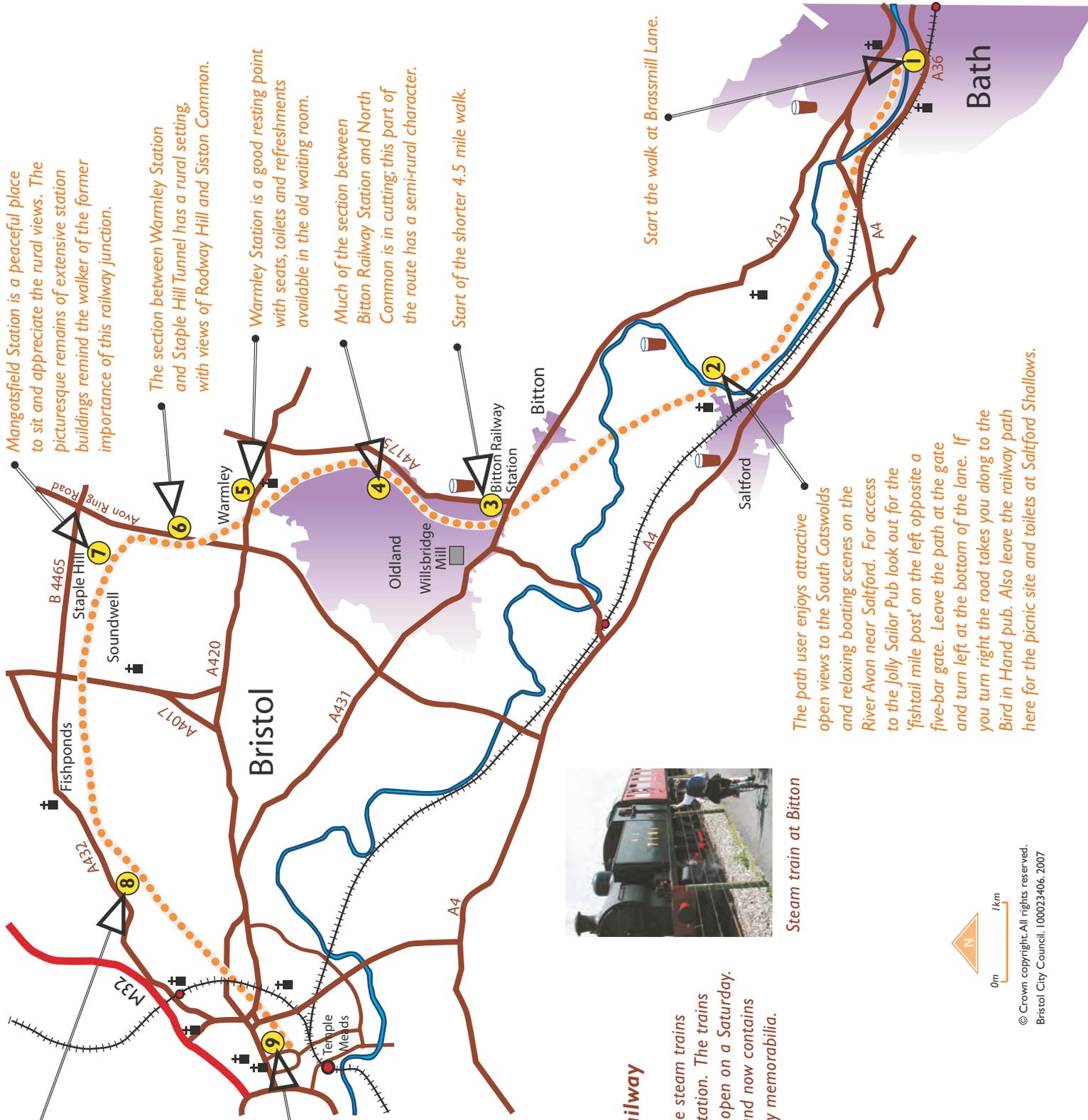
The Avon Valley Railway Company operate steam trains (accessible to wheelchairs) from Bitton Station. The trains run every Sunday and the station is also open on a Saturday. The station has been carefully restored and now contains toilets, a cafe and gift shop selling railway memorabilia.

Key

-  public house
-  walk route
-  urban area
-  motorway
-  road
-  river
-  railway line/station



Steam train at Bitton



Mangotsfield Station is a peaceful place to sit and appreciate the rural views. The picturesque remains of extensive station buildings remind the walker of the former importance of this railway junction.

The section between Warmley Station and Staple Hill Tunnel has a rural setting, with views of Rodway Hill and Siston Common.

Warmley Station is a good resting point with seats, toilets and refreshments available in the old waiting room.

Much of the section between Bitton Railway Station and North Common is in cutting; this part of the route has a semi-rural character.

Start of the shorter 4.5 mile walk.

Start the walk at Brassmill Lane.

The path user enjoys attractive open views to the South Cotswolds and relaxing boating scenes on the River Avon near Saltford. For access to the Jolly Sailor Pub look out for the 'fishtail mile post' on the left opposite a five-bar gate. Leave the path at the gate and turn left at the bottom of the lane. If you turn right the road takes you along to the Bird in Hand pub. Also leave the railway path here for the picnic site and toilets at Saltford Shallows.