Welcome to The Charlcombe Inn

A classic countryside free house, with a comfortable interior, large garden overlooking Bath Racecourse, ten fabulous en-suite letting rooms and ample parking.

The menu offers a good range of pub classics plus some more exciting dishes, cooked fresh and wherever possible, using locally sourced ingredients.

Open daily from 9am (12 Sundays), we now serve our main menu from 12.00 all day every day. We also offer morning coffee and afternoon tea. This is a popular spot for walkers and, naturally, well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Lansdown, Bath, Somerset BA1 9BT
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website **www.charlcombeinn.co.uk**
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- Coffee all day
- Local real ales
- Great food
- Free Wi-Fi
- Large car park
- Well-behaved dogs welcome
- Spacious beer garden
- Ten en-suite letting rooms

Sir Bevill Grenville's Monument

2½ miles: Easy

Allow 1–1½ hours. Level; field paths may be muddy after rain.

1 From the front door of the Charlcombe Inn, cross the road carefully and turn left past Chapel Farm on your right and then the entrance to the golf club on your left. **2** Turn right through a kissing gate and bear half-left across the field ahead to another kissing gate in the far left-hand corner. **3** Beyond this gate, turn left to a wooden kissing gate into a lane. **4** Cross over and go through a similar gate opposite. **5** Join a track and follow it along the fence and through a gate to pass a corrugated iron barn. **6** Keep on along the fence to a gateway by a metal trough. **7** Beyond the gateway, bear half-right to a field gate in the far corner. **8** Follow the path ahead along the wall around the head of a valley. **9** By a Battle of Lansdowne interpretation board, turn left over the steps and stone slab stile in the wall. **10** Follow the wall on your right and drop into woodland at the far side, bearing left along the woodland edge. **11** Cross a wall and leave the woodland to emerge by Sir Bevill Grenville's Monument. **12** Follow the path ahead out to the road by a lay-by. **13** Cross over into a metalled drive and turn immediately left into a field. **14** Cross the field diagonally to a small car park at the end of a wood. **15** At the back of the car park join a bridleway that leads along a wall, with woodland on your right. **16** At a junction of paths at the end of the wood, turn left, signposted "Public Bridleway". **17** Follow the wall on your left, with the golf course and racecourse away to your right. **18** Beyond the racecourse access road, the path continues in the same direction, following a line of trees, to reach the clubhouse. **19** Cross the car park in front of the clubhouse and then cross an area of rough grassland beyond, to a metal hooped gate in the corner. **20** Turn right along the road to return to the Charlcombe Inn.

Prospect Stile and the Racecourse

3¼ miles: Easy

Allow 2 hours. Paths across the racecourse may be unavailable during race meetings, and the exact line of the footpath across the course is not clearly defined.

1 From the front door of the Charlcombe Inn, turn left along the road. **2** When the fence on your left ends, take a footpath on the left through a hooped metal gate. **3** Bear right across an area of rough grassland and cross the car park in front of the golf clubhouse. **4** Beyond the clubhouse, follow the line of trees ahead of you. **5** Cross the racecourse access road and continue in the same direction, now with a wall on your right and the golf course and racecourse to your left. **6** At a signposted junction of paths at the end of a wood, turn left across the fairway, along a track followed by the Cotswold Way. **7** Follow the track past Pipley Barn on the left and then around the edge of the golf course past a sign for Pipley Wood. **8** Beyond a gate follow the track as it starts to descend, then shortly afterwards, at a Cotswold Way post, leave it on a path to the left that climbs slightly to another gate. **9** Follow the path ahead, below the trees. **10** At the next waymark post, turn sharp left, uphill. **11** Go through a kissing gate to the right of a field gate and follow the path ahead, across the field. **12** Cross the bank and ditch of the hill-fort then turn right with the earthwork on your right. **13** Follow the field edge round to the left to a gate into the racecourse. **14** Keep along the right-hand edge to the topograph at Prospect Stile. **15** Having admired the view, turn left and head straight towards the grandstand, swinging right as you approach the course itself until you rejoin the trees. **16** Duck under the rails and cross the course, aiming well to the right of the communications mast, then head along a line of metal railings and cross the course again. **17** Bear right along a wall at the far edge of the course with trees behind it. **18** Follow the wall past the rear of the Charlcombe Inn's garden then, when the wall ends, turn left to a kissing gate back into the pub car park.

Kelston and the Avon

8 miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 4–5 hours. One long climb from Swineford. Paths may be muddy in places, and cattle and sheep may be encountered en route.

1 From the front door of the Charlcombe Inn, turn right and then right again through the kissing gate in the corner of the car park onto the racecourse. **2** At the rear of the pub, turn right and follow the wall with the course on your left. **3** Well before you reach a telecommunications mast and the grandstands, duck under the rail on your left and cross both sides of the course (and the grassland between) to join a footpath along the wall on the far side. **4** Turn right and follow the path; when it diverges from the racetrack you can either stick to the wall or cut across a triangular area of grass and meet it beyond; either way, you will reach a topograph identifying features of the view (with Kelston Round Hill prominent ahead). **5** Go through the kissing gate next to the topograph and bear left; in the corner, turn right through another tall kissing gate and follow the path downhill. **6** Beyond another gate is a junction of paths. Turn left through a metal hand-gate then immediately right through another metal gate. *(To omit the climb to Kelston Round Hill, turn right, following the obvious track round a left-hand bend and rejoining the described route at step* 9.*)* **7** Follow the path along the field edge for quarter of a mile until you reach a gate on your right, from which a permitted path runs up the slope to the clump of trees on the summit of Kelston Round Hill. **8** To the right of the trees is a signpost, where you turn right and descend, still on a permitted path, to regain an official right of way beyond a wooden kissing gate. Turn left. **9** Follow the track downhill. After about quarter of a mile, pass to the left of a barn conversion and follow the metalled lane down to Kelston village. **10** Cross the main road carefully and turn left along the pavement. **11** By the telephone booth at the Old Forge, turn right down a lane (past a house with an ammonite fossil in the wall) that reduces to a path. **12** At a gate you meet a driveway; go through a kissing gate opposite (signposted "Saltford Cycle Path"). **13** After a further two kissing gates, the path continues to join a farm track that descends to a bridge under the old railway. **14** Just before the bridge, a kissing gate on the right gives access to steps up the embankment. **15** Turn right (beware cyclists) and follow the old railway, shortly crossing over the River Avon. After a further 150 yards the trail crosses a bridge over a road in Saltford. **16** Continue for just under a mile, to Avon Riverside Station on the Avon Valley Railway. **17** Cross the river again, then take the first path on the left, which curves down to the riverbank. **18** Turn left and pass under the bridge. A kissing gate gives access to waterside meadows, through which follow the river upstream for half a mile, passing a few more gates. **19** The path leaves the main river to follow a mill stream on the left, which leads you to the main road in Swineford. **20** Cross and follow a driveway to the right of the Swan pub, which leads between buildings and then along a driveway towards a car park. **21** Beyond a Georgian house on the right, turn right at a footpath sign to a kissing gate. **22** Cross the field beyond to a gate and then climb the hill to a kissing gate into a green lane, which develops into a sunken holloway. **23** At a bend, ignore a path on the right and continue on the wider left-hand path, which widens into a farm track then bends right between buildings to North Stoke village. **24** Turn left and walk up to the church. **25** Take the track to the left in front of the church, which curves to the right (ignoring a foot-path on the right) and climbs to the Cotswold Way path on the lip of the Lansdown plateau. **26** Turn left, with the golf course on your right and Pipley Wood on your left. **27** At Pipley Barn, bear right along a track across a fairway, still following the Cotswold Way. **28** At a crossroads of tracks and paths, turn right, signposted as a Public Bridleway.

Now follow steps 17–20 of the **Sir Bevill Grenville's Monument** walk *(left)* to guide you back to the Charlcombe Inn.

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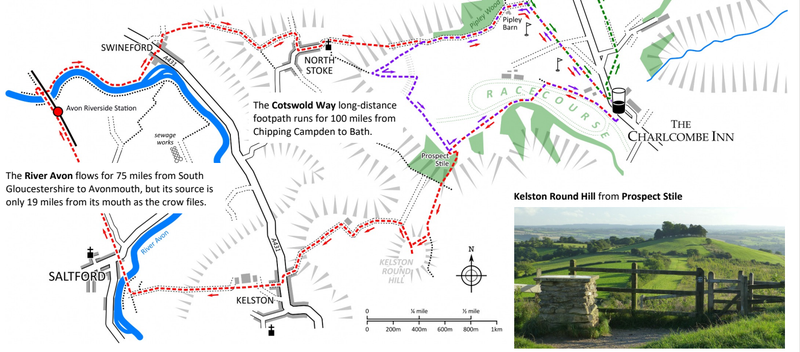
The **Avon Valley Railway** runs from Oldland Common to the Avon via Bitton, a distance of three miles. Both steam and diesel locomotives are run at weekends.



The **Cotswold Way** long-distance footpath runs for 100 miles from Chipping Campden to Bath.

The **River Avon** flows for 75 miles from South Gloucestershire to Avonmouth, but its source is only 19 miles from its mouth as the crow flies.

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St Martin's Church, North Stoke, has an idyllic position next to a trickling stream and waterfall. Its tower dates probably from the 12th century and Roman bricks have been reused in the fabric of the walls.

Sometimes described as the UK's first war memorial, **Sir Bevill Grenville's Monument**, erected in 1720, commemorates the death of the Royalist commander at the Battle of Lansdowne in 1643.

Bath Racecourse is Britain's highest flat-racing course. Racing was first recorded in Bath in 1728 but the first major meet was held in 1811. Notable races includes the Lansdown Fillies' Stake (April) and the Beckford Stakes (October).

Kelston Round Hill from **Prospect Stile**

six circular walks from

THE CHARLCOMBE INN

Lansdown, near Bath

Beckford's Tower (3¼ miles: Easy)

Allow 2 hours. Generally level, but with several stiles; field paths may be muddy after rain.

1 From the front door, turn right and right again through the kissing gate onto the racecourse. **2** Duck under the rails and cross the course, then bear half-left to the far corner, where a gap in the wall leads into a road. **3** Turn left, then take a footpath on the right through a wooden kissing gate. **4** Walk along the bottom of the playing fields, bearing right and left as the hedge bends. **5** Beyond the buildings, join a track that continues towards Beckford's Tower, looking out for a kissing gate on the right. **6** Take the signposted footpath, bearing left to a metal kissing gate, and follow the path across the hillside beyond, initially close to the wall then dropping below some trees. **7** Go through two further kissing gates in quick succession and pass below Beckford's Tower. *For the* **Bath and Solsbury Hill** walk*, skip to the appropriate section below.* **8** After the next kissing gate, turn left to a second gate into a track, which leads out to the road. **9** Take a few steps to the right then follow Granville Road opposite. **10** After a third of a mile, when the road bends sharp right, turn left onto a metalled driveway, following power lines. **11** Pass a house on the left then turn left before the gateway of Charlcombe Grove Farm and follow the drive round to the right. **12** At the next gateway, take a path on the left that skirts the property. *For the* **Woolley, Langridge and the Monument** *walk, skip to the next section.* **13** After a gate into a field, turn left and follow a path at an angle away from the wall on the left. **14** Cross three fields separated by slab stiles and a kissing gate, then follow a narrow path to a farm drive. **15** Take the path opposite, swinging right then left and along a wall to another slab stile, then skirt the next field. **16** Just after the far corner, another slab stile leads into the next field; cross diagonally to a farm drive, where you cross a cattle grid left to the road. **17** Turn right to return to the Charlcombe Inn.

Woolley, Langridge and the Monument
5½ miles: Moderate

Allow 3–4 hours. One steep descent, which may be muddy and slippery after rain, and a long but mostly gradual climb back up.

Follow steps 1–12 of the **Beckford's Tower** walk (above).

13 After a gate into a field, pass an old well to a gateway then turn right at a footpath sign down a flight of rough steps. **14** Continue steeply downhill on a path that winds between bramble clumps to a wooden kissing gate. **15** After more steps and a further kissing gate, the path enters a field and descends to another metal kissing gate into a driveway and out to a road. **16** Turn left and, unless you want to visit Woolley church, keep straight on at the top of Church Street. **17** When the road bends right, take the track straight ahead, which leads to a kissing gate into open fields. **18** Follow the path along the top of the first two fields and then across two more, with views over the Swainswick valley. **19** Bear left across the corner of a field and follow the path as it descends towards Langridge. **20** Cross a footbridge over a stream and bear right to emerge in a narrow lane. **21** To visit the church at Langridge turn left, otherwise turn right. **22** Beyond a house on the right, and before another on the left, turn left up a no-through road. **23** Follow the lane until you pass a stone barn on the right. **24** Just beyond the barn, turn left, before the entrance to Manor Farm. **25** Follow this hedged path for ¾ mile as it climbs steadily out of the valley, ignoring a footpath on the right towards the top. **26** Beyond a gate, walk up the right-hand side of a valley and climb to a stone stile by a Battle of Lansdowne interpretation board.

Cross the stile and follow steps 10–20 of the **Sir Bevill Grenville's Monument** walk *(overleaf)* to return to the Charlcombe Inn.

Bath and Solsbury Hill (11½ miles: Strenuous)

Allow 5–7 hours plus sightseeing time in Bath. The route down into the city is fairly easy, although it includes a steep descent which can be muddy and you may encounter sheep and cattle. The return route includes two long climbs, and the fields may again contain livestock; the Park & Ride bus service from Milsom Street in Bath city centre offers a much easier alternative!

Follow steps 1–7 of the **Beckford's Tower** walk as far as the Tower.

8 After the next kissing gate, ignore a second gate on the left and continue along the contour for a while, then turn right at a waymark post and follow the path steeply downhill. **9** Cross a farm drive and continue downhill to a kissing gate. After two more gates, you enter Primrose Hill Community Woodland. **10** Follow the ride ahead, which leads downhill through the wood. At the bottom of the wood, cross a path and go through another gate and follow the path via a couple more gates to an open area. **11** Cross to a diagonal, descending path which you follow to the left, to meet the Cotswold Way. Keep left to a gate into a tree-lined path. **12** Stay on the Cotswold Way, ignoring a kissing gate into a residential road on the right, and pass under power lines. **13** A short distance further on, turn right through a gate into Weston Park and follow a path downhill past a bench to cross a stream. **14** Bear right down the valley, then pass left of a football pitch to a gate in the bottom corner; turn left and right. **15** Follow Weston Park round to the left, passing the bottom of Linden Gardens and Cranwells Park on the left. **16** At a mini-roundabout, go half-right between the gateposts into Royal Victoria Park. Follow the park road to a junction, where you turn right. **17** Beyond the Botanical Garden entrance, you can either cut diagonally left across the park, or follow the road as it curves round the western and southern sides of the park. Either way, exit the park by the Prince of Wales Oak and the Victoria Column. **18** Beyond the formal gateway you meet Marlborough Lane. Cross the road and, ignoring Royal Avenue ahead of you, turn left for a short distance, then follow a tarmac path on the right that leads below the Royal Crescent. **19** At the end of the open space below the Crescent, turn left (signposted Assembly Rooms) and walk up to Brock Street. Turn right (away from the Crescent) to the Circus. **20** Follow the Circus anticlockwise (right) and then turn right down Gay Street. Beyond George Street and Old King Street on the left, continue ahead past Queen Square with its obelisk on the right. **21** Beyond the Square, turn left into Wood Street and then right into Queen Street, passing under the Trim Bridge arch at the bottom. Cross Trim Street and continue ahead to Upper Borough Walls, where a section of the medieval city wall is visible on your left. **22** Turn right to reach Saw Close and turn left past the Theatre Royal. Turn left into Westgate Street then, next to the Grapes pub, turn right into a narrow alleyway that leads to the Cross Bath. **23** Walk to the left of the single-storey Cross Bath building and turn left along Bath Street. **24** Turn left then right under a colonnade and continue to the east end of Bath Abbey. **25** Turn right in front of the Abbey and walk down to York Street. Continue down Abbey Street and turn left in Abbey Green (a square with a central tree). **26** The narrow North Parade Passage leads past Sally Lunn's Eating House; carry straight on to emerge onto North Parade. **27** Turn left past a fountain surmounted by an urn, then cross the main road at the lights to reach the balustraded pavement overlooking Parade Gardens. **28** Turn left and follow the main road past the Empire Hotel, with views of Pulteney Bridge on your right. **29** Turn right by the Art Gallery and cross Pulteney Bridge. **30** Continue past the fountain in Laura Place, along Great Pulteney Street to the Holburne Museum. **31** Follow Sydney Place (to the right of the museum) and turn left through a wrought-iron arch into Sydney Gardens. When you meet the central path behind the museum, turn right and cross the railway via Brunel's ornamental bridge next to Minerva's Temple. Beyond the bridge, a path crosses the grass on the right to a gate in the wall, giving access to the canal towpath. **32** Turn left under the bridge, then follow the towpath through a short tunnel. **33** Continue along the towpath, passing a footbridge after about half a mile and, after a similar distance, going under bridge 184. **34** After a terrace of stone-faced canal cottages, you reach bridge 183 in the centre of Bathampton. Leave the canal via a picnic area then turn left on Mill Lane, passing between the George pub on the left and the church on the right. **35** Cross the railway and the A4, then turn right onto a combined footpath and cycleway that leads down to Bathampton Toll Bridge on the River Avon. **36** Follow the path to the right, parallel to the river, until you reach a footbridge over the Avon leading to a car park in Batheaston. Exit the car park to the main road and cross at the lights. **37** Turn right then left at a mini-roundabout into Coalpit Lane. Pass the medical centre and then a football pitch on your left, then take a turning on the left opposite Avon Court. **38** Beyond some garages, join a path that leads past a playground; keep left at a fork then turn left over the stream at a bridge by the primary school. **39** Walk up the lane beyond to emerge in the village centre, and turn right to the parish church. **40** Take a footpath up shallow steps to the left of the junction with Church Lane, signposted to Bailbrook, which leads between garden fences then through a hand-gate into a field. **41** Follow the left-hand edge of the field to a footbridge, then follow the left-hand field boundary uphill to a kissing gate into a narrow lane. **42** Turn right and follow the sunken lane uphill for quarter of a mile (ignoring a footpath on the left) then turn right up a no-through road. **43** This narrow lane climbs steeply for a further quarter-mile. At the top by a farm entrance, where the track bends right through a gate, go through the wooden kissing gate ahead of you and climb to the National Trust sign on Solsbury Hill. **44** Turn left and follow the ramparts of the hillfort, passing a memorial stone commemorating the donation of the hill to the National Trust. Bear right by the trig point (with fine views over Bath) and continue along the ramparts above some small limestone outcrops. **45** Drop down left through a break in the earthwork and turn right to the circular turf maze. Just beyond the maze, turn left through a notch in a lower bank, and descend to a footpath sign. **46** Go through the wooden kissing gate ahead and bear left, downhill, with woodland on your right. A tree-lined section leads to another kissing gate, beyond which you follow the field edge then cross the field diagonally left to a third kissing gate into a lane. **47** Turn left and walk down to the road near the A46 junction. **48** Cross and turn left down the pavement. Follow the road round to the right and under the A46. Turn right and follow the road uphill, past a couple of houses. **49** Just before the road rejoins the A46, turn left (signposted to Langridge, Tadwick, Woolley and Swainswick) and walk down through Upper Swainswick village, ignoring a road off to the right. **50** Keep left at a green triangle by a trough in the wall, then turn left downhill past Glebe House to the church, keeping straight on at a road junction above the churchyard. **51** At a T-junction, take the footpath straight ahead through the garden of Woodbine Cottage and down steps into a field. **52** Bear right diagonally down the hill; ignore the footbridge directly below the cottage, instead aiming for the far right-hand corner of the field, where a double-gated footbridge crosses a small side-stream and runs alongside the main stream in the next field before bearing left to a second footbridge. **53** Once over the stream, climb the hill ahead towards Woolley village, following the right-hand hedge through a field gate to a kissing gate, beyond which a narrow path leads to a slab stile by the church. **54** Walk up the village street to a T-junction, where you turn left for a short distance, then right into a driveway. **55** Shortly, turn left through a kissing gate and walk up the right-hand side of the field towards the right-hand side of a hanging wood occupying the combe ahead of you. The path leads between trees to a kissing gate then bends right past a bench and up some steps to a second, wooden, kissing gate. **56** Climb the steep slope between clumps of bramble, past a waymark post and up the grassy slope to a footpath sign, where you bear left towards the farm. Go through a gate and bear left to a second gate. **57** Don't go through the gate, but turn sharp right and pick up a path across the field that heads gradually away from the wall on your left.

Now follow steps 14–17 of the **Beckford's Tower** walk (above left) to return to the Charlcombe Inn.

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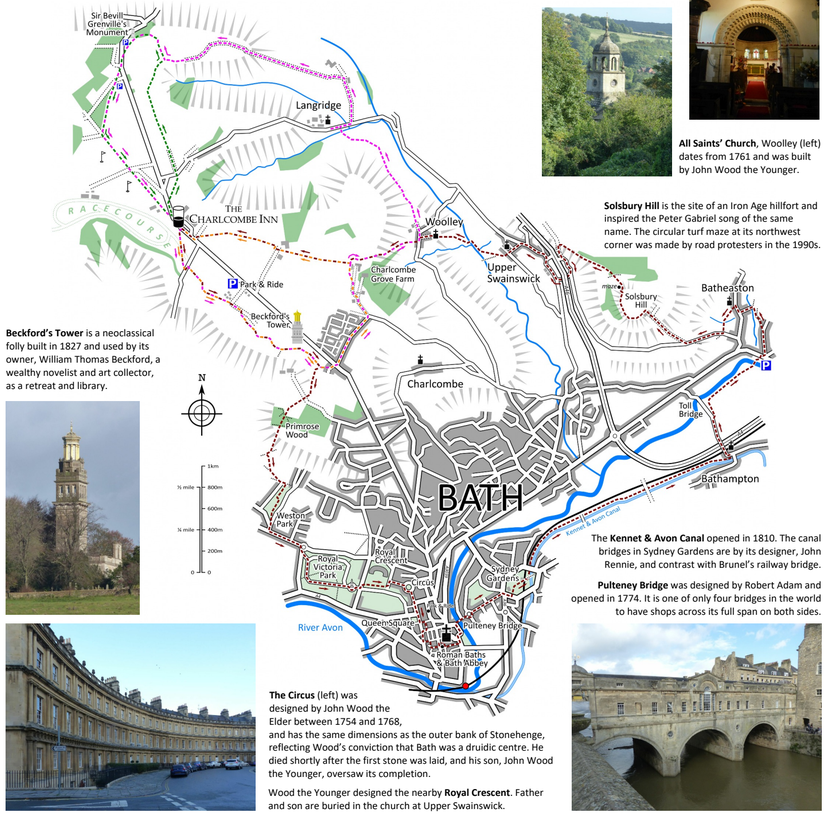

St Mary Magdalene's Church at Langridge (right) has a Norman chancel arch and above it a contemporary carving of the Virgin and Child. Also surviving from the Norman church are the tower and south doorway.

All Saints' Church, Woolley (left) dates from 1761 and was built by John Wood the Younger.

Solsbury Hill is the site of an Iron Age hillfort and inspired the Peter Gabriel song of the same name. The circular turf maze at its northwest corner was made by road protesters in the 1990s.

Beckford's Tower is a neoclassical folly built in 1827 and used by its owner, William Thomas Beckford, a wealthy novelist and art collector, as a retreat and library.

The Circus (left) was designed by John Wood the Elder between 1754 and 1768, and has the same dimensions as the outer bank of Stonehenge, reflecting Wood's conviction that Bath was a druidic centre. He died shortly after the first stone was laid, and his son, John Wood the Younger, oversaw its completion.

Wood the Younger designed the nearby **Royal Crescent**. Father and son are buried in the church at Upper Swainswick.

The **Kennet & Avon Canal** opened in 1810. The canal bridges in Sydney Gardens are by its designer, John Rennie, and contrast with Brunel's railway bridge.

Pulteney Bridge was designed by Robert Adam and opened in 1774. It is one of only four bridges in the world to have shops across its full span on both sides.