



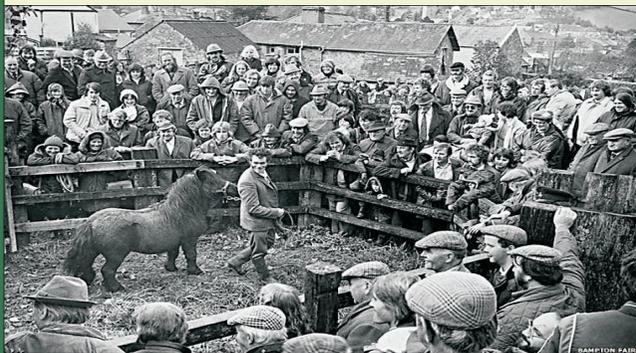
Beautiful, colourful floral displays have formed an important part of Bampton's history over the past four decades and the town has won national awards in the 'Britain in Bloom' competition for many years.

With committed residential and business communities, Bampton continues to flourish and is a sought after town with a proud population which whole heartedly welcomes visitors at all times of the year.

Town amenities include a variety of shops, post office and pharmacy. The pubs, restaurants and cafes all commit to stocking high quality local produce. There is also a library, two village halls, monthly cinema, car parking and over thirty active social clubs, associations and groups.

Bampton Open Day : August Bank Holiday Monday

Bampton Charter Fair : The 750 year old Charter Fair is held on the last Thursday in October and the festivities and folk music continue around the town throughout the weekend. Visitors from all over the UK and Europe come to enjoy the street fair, craft displays, workshops, folk music and funfair. For more details visit www.bampton.org.uk.

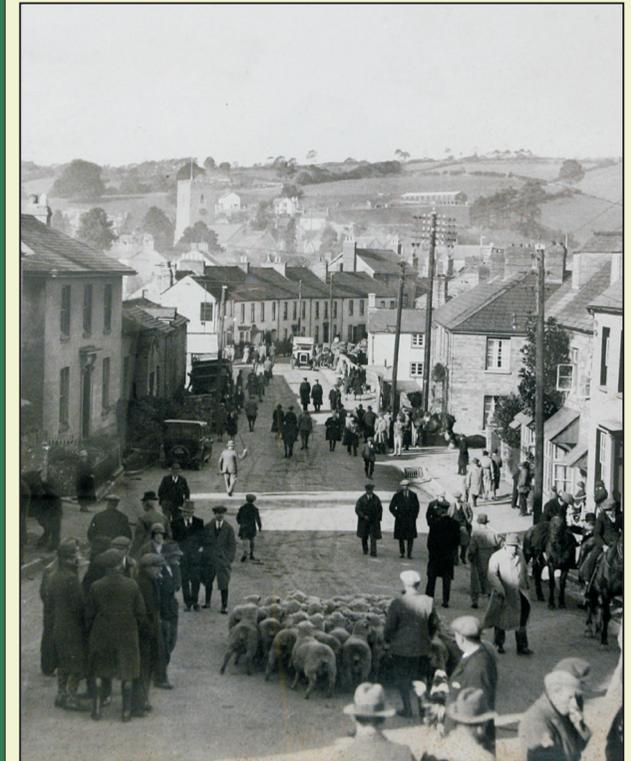


Bampton is easily accessible by road and located approximately 20 minutes from Junction 27 of the M5. Tiverton Parkway Station provides the nearest rail connection to the town. Cycle routes from Parkway Station to Bampton are incorporated into National Cycle Network Route 3. For more information refer to the Tiverton Cycling Leaflet available from the Devon County Council Website www.devon.gov.uk.

Exeter and Taunton are situated just 20 miles away.



BAMPTON GUIDE AND TOWN TRAIL



BAMPTON IN DEVON

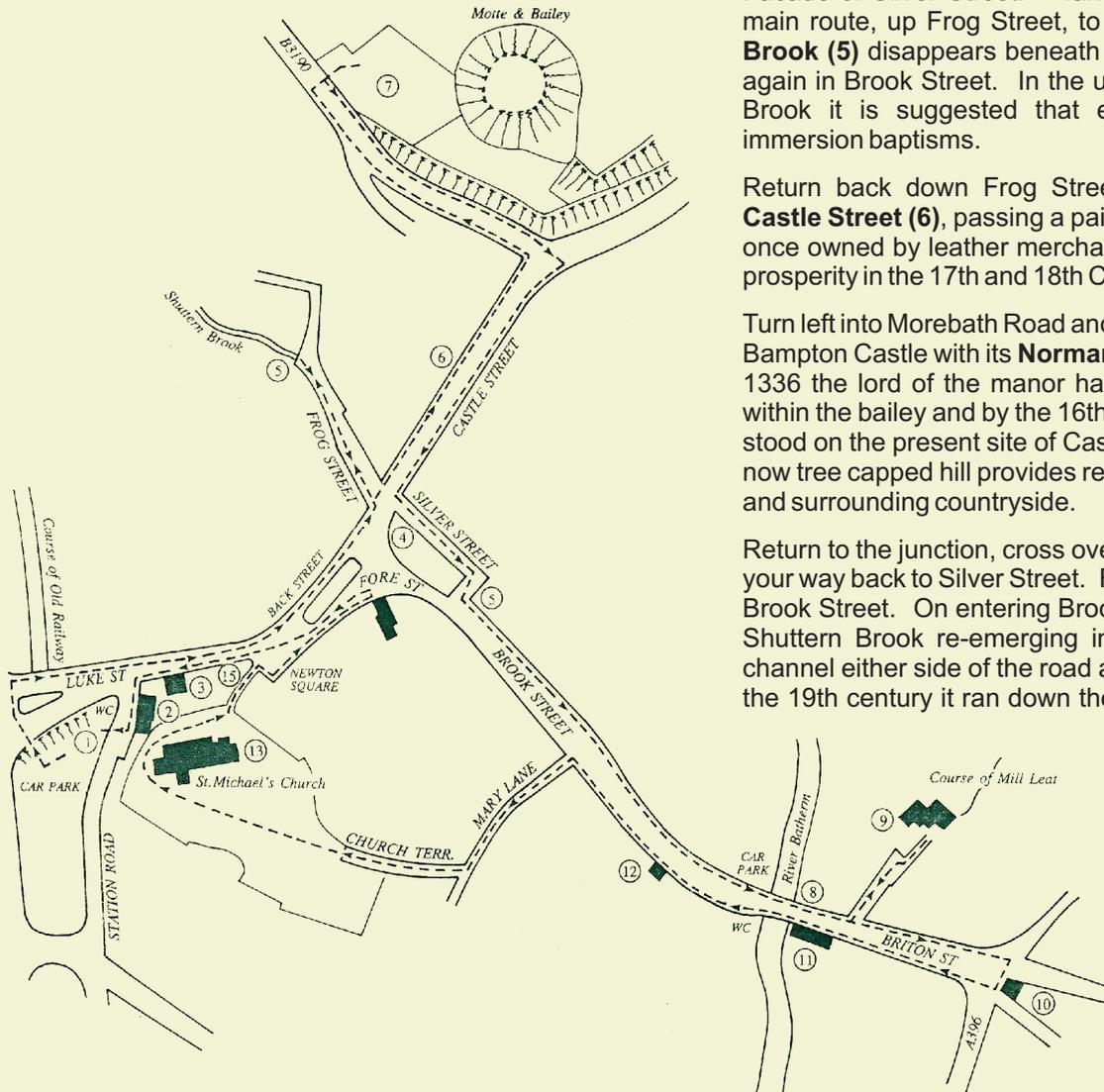
Bampton is a small, vibrant and historic town ideally located in Mid Devon, equidistant between Devon's north and south coasts. The town lies within beautiful unspoilt countryside. Nearby Exmoor National Park, Wimbleball Lake and the Grand Western Canal Country Park provide wonderful family friendly walks, cycle rides and activities.

The town boasts quality, varied accommodation and ample amenities making it the perfect destination a relaxing short break, active holiday base or day trip.

BAMPTON TOWN TRAIL

The Town Trail provides a simple and gentle walking route around the town of Bampton, with an introduction to its rich social, commercial and industrial heritage.

The trail starts from the Station Road car park just beyond St Michael's church. **Bampton Station (1)** was located immediately below and to the left of the car park. From here the trains passed beneath the road bridge heading for Morebath and Dulverton. Cross the road by the war



memorial and walk down Luke Street passing the Bridge House Hotel. Luke Street was named after St Luke's chapel which stood not far from the town.

The **Swan public house (2)** opposite dates from the 16th century and was sold in the 18th century by the lord of the manor to a loyal servant for a pound. Continue down Luke Street and you will see **Leburn House (3)**, a wool merchant's residence dating from 1766, with its elegant architectural facade.

Bearing left down Back Street, pause at the corner of Frog Street and immediately opposite is the imposing Georgian Facade of Silver Street. Take a short detour from the main route, up Frog Street, to see where the **Shuttern Brook (5)** disappears beneath the road soon to emerge again in Brook Street. In the upper reaches of Shuttern Brook it is suggested that early Baptists held total immersion baptisms.

Return back down Frog Street and continue left into **Castle Street (6)**, passing a pair of fine Georgian Houses once owned by leather merchants and indicative of local prosperity in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Turn left into Morebath Road and explore the site of the old Bampton Castle with its **Norman Motte and Bailey (7)**. In 1336 the lord of the manor had a 'castellated mansion' within the bailey and by the 16th century the manor house stood on the present site of Castle Grove. A climb up the now tree capped hill provides rewarding views of the town and surrounding countryside.

Return to the junction, cross over Castle Street and make your way back to Silver Street. Follow this back street into Brook Street. On entering Brook Street you will note the Shuttern Brook re-emerging in the guise of two small channel either side of the road adjacent to the footway. In the 19th century it ran down the centre of the street with

railed footways alongside. At this time it was aptly known as the 'duck paddle'.

The trail continues along Brook Street to the River Bathern. As you pass the post office and main store, it is worth noting that a century ago Brook Street boasted several bakers, drapers, boot and shoemakers, coffee tavern, a saddler, ropemaker, mason and Mrs Crudge 'ironmonger and beerhousekeeper'.

Rest at the **Bathern Bridge (8)**, there are some seats on the terrace to your left, or take in the views of the Motte behind and the woods ahead. Across the bridge you are in Briton Street; named after the early settlement. Turn left and walk the short distance to the **Town Mill (9)**. The slabs across the lane show the line of the mill leat and you can trace its course between the buildings down to the River Bathern.

Return to Briton Street and turn left, by the well maintained Hollett Garden, heading for the Quarryman's Rest public house. To the right of the Quarryman's Rest is the **Toll House (10)** and adjacent to the Toll House the original access to the Packhorse Way. This route was used to bring in building stone for the church and export wool and Bampton cloth to the south. Lime was also transported by pack-horse out of the quarries along this track for use in the fields.

Return along the opposite pavement, towards the church, and you will pass **The Old Malthouse (11)** which has seen service as a workhouse, brewery and youth hostel. The Shuttern Brook tumbles out through a low arch into the Bathern at this point.

On your way to Mary Lane you will pass the **Well House (12)** with the well alongside and an early Minehead Turnpike stone. Turn into Mary Lane, passing the Methodist Chapel of 1862 and turn right into Church Terrace.

Ahead lies **St Michael's Church (13)** - Bampton's finest and most significant building dating predominantly from the 15th Century. Continue to circuit the church and leave the churchyard by the narrow alley back into Newton Square, just above Fore Street. Turn left back up Luke Street and on the corner wall is a **stone fountain (15)** commemorating the gift of a local builder who 'presented the pipes to bring water from the spring to different parts of this town'. A short distance further brings you to Station Road to complete the trail.