Halfpenny Bridge gets its name from the halfpenny toll paid by pedestrians to cross the Avon on the footbridge. There was a terrible accident here in June 1877 when the original wooden bridge collapsed, tumbling dozens of people into the river. The bridge was rebuilt in metal and is still in use today – and there’s no toll!

Widcombe Lock – also known as Bottom Lock or Chapel Lock – is at the junction between the River Avon and the Kennet & Avon Canal. It is the first (or bottom) lock on the canal but confusingly it is called Lock 7 because there are 6 other locks along the River Avon between the River Avon and the Kennet & Avon Canal. It is the first (or bottom) lock on – also known as Bottom Lock or Chapel Lock – is at the junction

The Kennet & Avon Canal in Bath
A circular waymarked audio trail

Halfpenny Bridge

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Thimble Mill Pumping Station was vital to the working of the canal as a pumped water up from the river, replacing the water that was lost each time a boat went through the locks. A second pump at Lock 11 lifted the water up above Lock 13, a rise of around 85ft.

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Bath Deep Lock is a new lock created when Rossiter Road was built in 1976. Locks 8 and 9 were merged, creating the second deepest lock in the country. The huge chamber is 19ft 5ins (5.92m) deep – awesome for pedestrians and boaters.

Wash House Lock has an elegant iron footbridge crossing the canal. It seems the lock gets its name from the washing that local women did for wealthy visitors who came to Bath for the Season.

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