



9. Bunneford Cross: this is where you keep straight on, with the grass triangle and road sign on your right.

This walk is one of a series produced in collaboration by Bradninch Together and the Bradninch Town Council. Further details can be found on the 'Bradninch Walks' section of the Bradninch Together website, and on the Town Council's website under 'Walks and Public Footpaths'. The routes and guides were walked and written up by Sue Jackson and David Kennedy. We welcome any comments and suggestions: please send these to the Bradninch Together website via the 'Contact Us' link.

Always keep to and respect The Countryside Code:
www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/countryside-code

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Design and additional text by Ms L.Honeybee, 2021.



Bradninch Circular Walks

Guildhall/Highdown/Colebrook/Beacon Cross

Distance – 7 miles

Start/Finish Point – The Guildhall

Difficulty – 4/5

A long scenic anti-clockwise walk, heading north towards Knowle and back via Bunneford Cross and Forward Green. **Note:** after heavy rain the bridleway (directions 5-7) can be deep in mud and tricky to pass along.

1. From the Guildhall, go down Fore Street following the road around to the right at the foot of the hill and turn right into Parsonage Street.
2. Follow Parsonage Street, past Pendennis and the Manor House and go up the hill.
3. After a flat stretch on the ridge you will descend a little and pass a lane on the left. This is Strawberry Lane; it is believed locally that plague victims were buried in the corner of the field near the lane.
4. At the bottom of the hill is another lane on the left, opposite the turning on the right marked as Halthaies with the Duchy logo above it. Turn on to the lane on the left, called Cranishaies Lane, and head up the uneven track that leads to Highdown Farm. This is a working farm with livestock, so please be careful: if you have a dog then now is the time to put it on a lead. Pass through the farmyard and continue along; the track turns into a tarmac road and leads out to the top of the Bradninch to Cullompton road
5. Turn right here and walk on the main road for about thirty metres before turning left at a Public Bridleway sign: head down the

sunken track that leads across the brook and up into Colebrook.
(You might see a heron fishing by the brook.)

6. Turn right onto Colebrooke Lane; after a few metres there is a footpath sign pointing to the left between the buildings on the opposite side of the road.
7. This is Russel Lane, a bridleway. Follow the lane up two rises before dropping down to the road at Knowle.
8. Turn left here onto Knowle Lane. After about a quarter of a mile, look over the right hand hedge to the distance to see Hillersdon House, a Georgian-style manor house built in the mid-19th century, and the subject of a four year restoration by its current owner. At the close of the 1800s it was famous for its decadent parties, with one lady of the house running off with a guest and party-goers cooling in a bath of champagne.
9. Follow Knowle Lane until you come to a junction called Bunneford Cross. Here you take the first left and after 10 metres there is another crossroads where you take the right fork, ignoring the first road on your left (in effect you go straight on ahead, soon passing a house on the right). Follow this road, heading southwest, on a long gentle climb.
10. The road drops down to the crossroads at Forward Green. Here you turn left and follow the road up and towards Bradninch.
11. At the top of the rise, just before the road drops down towards Beacon Cross, you will see a public footpath sign on the right going down the side of a copse of trees. Stop and have a good look at the views here. On a good clear day you can see Exmouth, Killerton, Haldon Belvedere and Dartmoor. Keep an eye out for the dragon that lives in under the Iron Age hill fort at Killerton and flies between there and Cadbury Castle near Fursdon House.
12. Walk down this track - called Singleton's Lane - until it reaches Back Lane.
13. Here turn right and follow the road downhill for a few hundred metres until you see a public footpath sign on the left, opposite a fence. Go through the gate and follow the path around the field and down the side of Passmore estate and onto West End Road.
14. Turn left onto West End Road and follow the road back to the Guildhall.

