



Above: The view from Strawberry Hill.  
Right: detail from John Owen's Map, 1573: see route guide 12.



## Bradninch Circular Walks

### Guildhall / Cholwill Lane / Strawberry Lane / Colebrook Lane / Beacon

Distance – 6.7 miles

Start/Finish Point – Guildhall

Difficulty - 4/5

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.

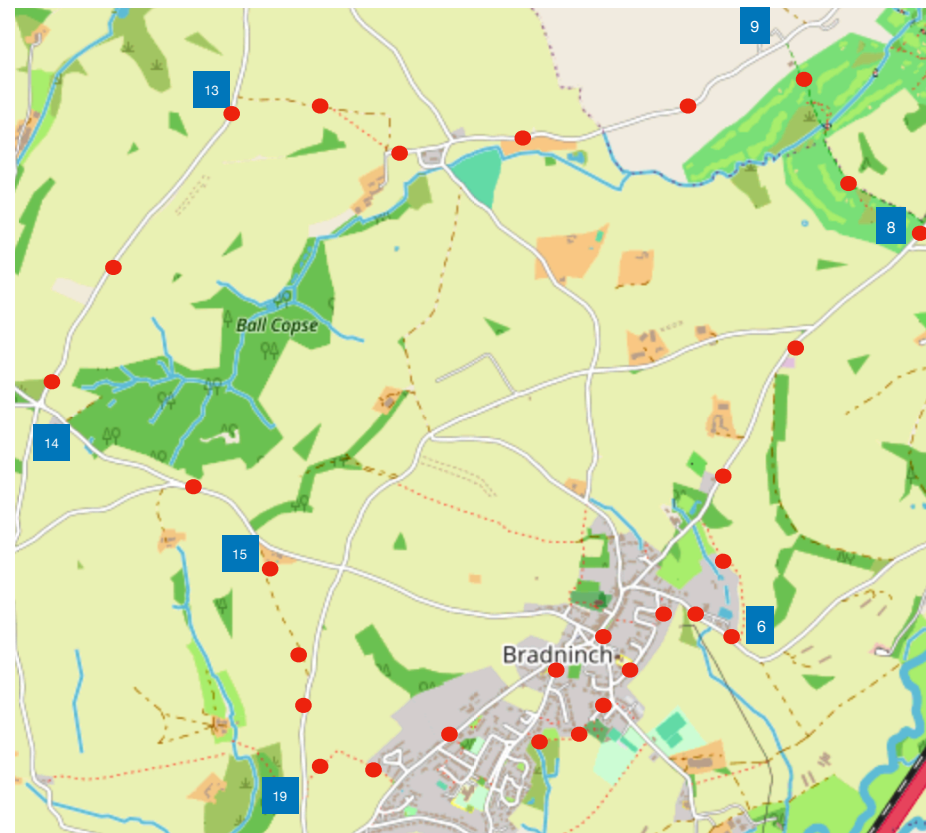
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Design and additional text by Ms L.Honeybee, 2021.

1. From the Guildhall head left down the High Street toward the White Lion pub.
2. Opposite the White Lion take the turning on the left onto Hele Road. On your left behind the tall wall is Dukes House, a 17<sup>th</sup> building that was, in its time, a fruit farm with an orchard that started in the current house's garden and spread into where the Dukes Orchard houses are now. Dukes House was largely rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
3. Keep walking along Hele Road and, just before the bus stop opposite Townlands, turn left following the public footpath sign down Cholwill Lane. This leads to Cemetery Lane, going past the edge of the Charwell Wetlands and the field.
4. At the top of Cemetery Lane turn left onto Millway then almost immediately turn right onto Culver Close. Follow the road down and onto the footpath that continues down the hill.

5. At the bottom of the footpath turn right onto Parsonage Street. Walk along Parsonage Street and on the right, you will see a house called 'Pendennis', dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
6. Walk past the Manor House on your left, up the hill and continue downhill, after a level stretch, to the first bridleway (public way) on the left: this is Strawberry Lane. Turn left and walk up Strawberry Lane. Local rumour has it that the towns plague victims were buried nearby. Enjoy the great view of the town from the lane.
7. At the end of Strawberry Lane you come out onto the Bradninch to Cullompton road. Turn right onto the road towards Cullompton, taking great care with traffic. Past Trinity Cross and then, just after the turning for Highdown Farm, you will see a footpath sign on the left.
8. Turn left here onto the bridleway called Russel Lane.
9. Follow Russel Lane to the bottom where it comes out onto Colebrooke Lane.
10. Here, turn left onto Colebrooke Lane towards Trinity going past Colebrooke Court and Gingerlands Farm. As you enter Trinity, walk past the turning up the hill to the right; just as the road bends to the left, bear straight ahead and continue towards Wishay's Farm.
11. This is a good area to see how place names subtly change over time. On Dunn's map of 1765 'Colebrook' was 'Coldbrook' and, as can be seen by the house names, its transition over the last few centuries has been Coldbrook-Colebrooke-Colebrook. Even 'Gingerland', which is a strange enough name in its own right, was listed on Dunn's map as 'Gingalen'. On a map from 1753, 'Bradninch' is described as 'Bradinch' or 'Bradinuch' and 'Cullompton' is 'Colehampton'.
12. At the farm sign, turn right onto the bridleway. There is a diagonal footpath across the field which meets the bridleway again further up (after a stile) or you can continue on the bridleway up to the road.
13. At the road, turn left and follow the narrow road to Forward Green. There are some great views along the way.
14. At Forward Green turn left and follow the road onto the main Beacon Road. Rode Moors is the area to your left.
15. At the top of the hill you will see a footpath to the right. Turn down the footpath, known as Singleton's Lane
16. At the end of this lane, turn right onto Back Lane. There are some great views here of Bradninch with Hembury Fort in the distance to the left and Killerton off to the right.



18. Walking down the hill you will come to a gate and a footpath sign to your left.
19. Turn left off Back Lane onto the footpath and go around the edge of the field and come out onto West End Road.
20. Turn left onto West End Road and follow the road back to the Guildhall.