

9. When you see the bus stop on the opposite side of the road, cross over and you will see a footpath sign into the old apple orchards. Follow the path diagonally across to a gateway into a second orchard and continue on the obvious path to the stile. Turn left after the stile to join Station Road near the motorway bridge.



10. The start of the field side footpath in Hele

10. You can return to Bradninch along Hele Road after the Paper Mill or cross over to use the field side footpath at Hele Payne Farm to reach Exeter Hill which can be a quieter route home. Turn right at the end of the path and go on up Exeter Hill to West End Road.

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.

A Three Beech Trees production



Guildhall / Hele / Poundapit Copse / Whitedown Copse / B3181

Distance - 5.5 - 6 miles

Start/Finish Point - The Guildhall

Difficulty - 4/5

This figure of 8 route can be wet and muddy depending on the weather so stout footwear is recommended for walking in the woodland, especially following lots of rain. If you find uphill walking difficult you can do this walk in reverse, which would be less steep.

1. Walk down the hill from the Guildhall towards the White Lion inn and fork left onto Hele Road. Stay on Hele Road until you reach the B3181 at Hele Cross.
2. Cross over to the Sidmouth Road diagonally opposite and continue to the entrance to Poundapit Copse which will be on your right with a house just beyond.
3. You will walk along a track past a small pool after which you fork right up a lovely path which winds through the trees. In Spring the pathway goes through a carpet of wood anemones followed by bluebells. Listen for the birdsong which is usually plentiful and varied.



4. Stay on the track and as it climbs higher keep following this route, ignoring any left turns. As the path levels out you will reach a bridleway on your right. Take this bridleway (indicated by a horseshoe symbol) and follow it along the edge of Whitedown Copse.

4. The bridleway along Whitedown Copse



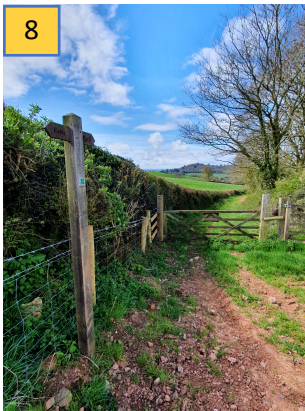
5. You will come to a gateway with a map explaining that you are now continuing along a permissive footpath. (Permissive footpaths are agreed with a landowner for use by the public and are usually closed for one day in a calendar year to prevent it from becoming a statutory right of way.)



6. Continue straight ahead close to the right hand edge of the field. There are fabulous views across the Culm Valley to Bradninch, Silverton, the beech trees on Christcross Lane and Raddon Top from here.

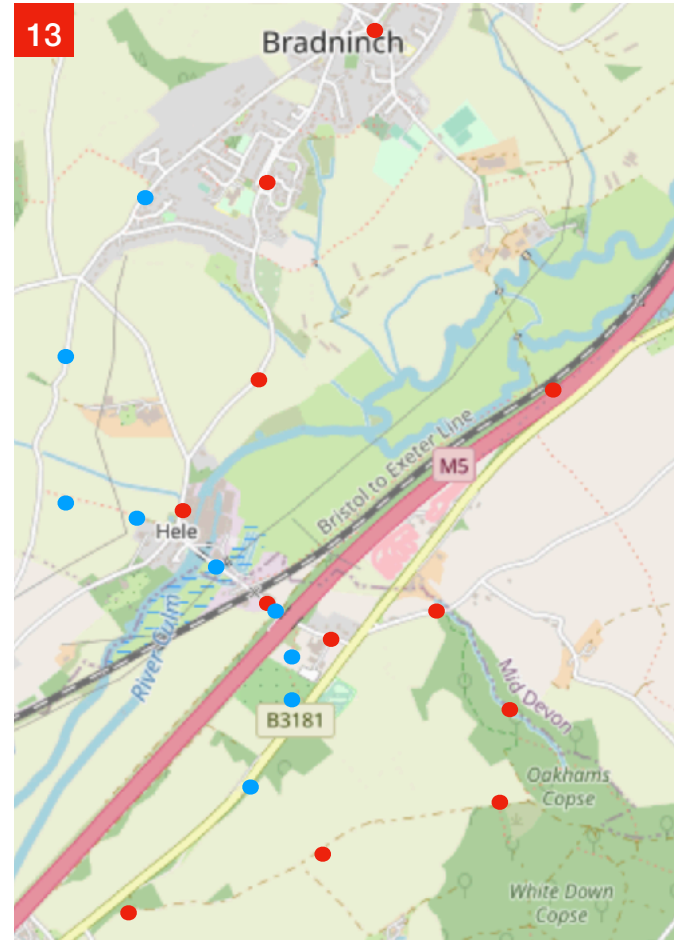


7. At the end of the wooded area go through the gate on the right, turn left and head straight on into a field following signs along the hedge line. This takes you down to a gate and onto a track. There may be livestock in the field at times in which case



dogs must be kept under close control.

8. At the bottom of the track go through the gate and turn right down to join the B3181. Turn right to walk through the lay-by towards Cullompton and then onto the pavement past Woodhayes Copse.



- Heading out, into Poundapit Copse, along the bridleway and down to the B3181
- Back to Bradninch via the B3181, Hele and the footpath along Hele Payne Farm

