



The old railway station at Hele (photo Bradninch TC)

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.



## Bradninch Circular Walks

### Guildhall/Beare Straight/Silverton Mill/ Penstone/West End Road

Distance – 5 miles

Start/Finish Point – Guildhall

Difficulty – 3/5

A walk full of variety, crossing the Culm twice, taking in quiet back roads after a scenic path alongside the B3181, passing two paper mills (one still working), with a chance to stroll around the National Trust grounds at Killerton.

As always, take care crossing roads, particularly the busy B3181.



Looking down to Hele  
from Walk Point 6,  
circa 1910.

1. From the Guildhall head down the High Street towards the White Lion pub.
2. Keep going on West End Road past the turnings for Townlands, Barns Close and Westfield. Go past the terrace of thatched cottages on your left up to the crossroads called Higher Hill Cross.
3. Turn left at Higher Hill Cross and walk down the hill past Hele Payne farm. You will get a good view of the Culm Valley and of the Devon Valley paper mill.
4. At the bottom of the hill turn right and cross the road to get to the footpath on Hele Road, running along the back of the mill.
5. Follow the road around the left hand bend of the road and walk past the front of the paper mill. Keep going over the bridge where the River Culm was diverted to power the mill. Carry on over the level crossing, under the motorway, and up to the junction with the B3181.
6. Turn right and follow the footpath to a bus stop on the other side of the road. Cross over here carefully, onto the Exeter-bound side.
7. Walk along the footpath, through the large lay-by, and past 'Willows' and Beare Farm. The footpath comes to an end opposite Beare Gate Cottage.
8. Cross back over the B3181; the footpath continues past Beare Gate Cottage. You come to a large open junction on your right.
9. Turn right here, off the B3181, onto Beare Lane. After crossing the bridge over the M5 there is a road, Bridge Lane, off to the right.
10. Turn right and go down Bridge Lane toward the old Silverton paper mill. The road bears sharply around to the left and comes out at a junction with the Silverton to Killerton road.
11. Turn right here; be careful as this is a busy road. North Lodge is on your left. Its two windows, vent and pipe made it look like a smiley face until an alarm box was added. The Killerton National Park Estate is on your left. Go over Ellerhayes Bridge, crossing the river Culm again. Once over the bridge take the road immediately on your right, with an off-road parking space on your left.
12. This road heads back toward Bradninch. Go past Lease Cottages, up the hill and past Penstone on your right as you drop down again.
13. The road goes over the railway line, past the turnings for Worth and Strathculm and, after a steep climb, arrives at Higher Hill Cross. You are now on West End Road and heading back to the Guildhall.

