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RUBY



COUNTRY

Ruby Trails

The Bradworthy Trail

Village History

Bradworthy is a large, attractive Saxon village built in the high north of Ruby Country. The village square is the largest in the Westcountry and surrounded by white rendered houses from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The trail leads you across the rich Culm grassland of Bradworthy Common, which is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest on account of the fen meadow and mire communities. The trail also crosses the River Waldon. The name Bradworthy comes from the Saxon 'wēorthig' or

'worpign' meaning 'enclosure', with its prefix 'Brad' indicating a broad enclosure.

The trail offers good views of typical Ruby Country landscape. Look out for the red Ruby Country waymarks.

Front cover photo: Snipe, D. Smith.
Lesser Butterfly Orchid, A. Preston. Back page photo: Rub Red Cattle, Kit Hill Farm.

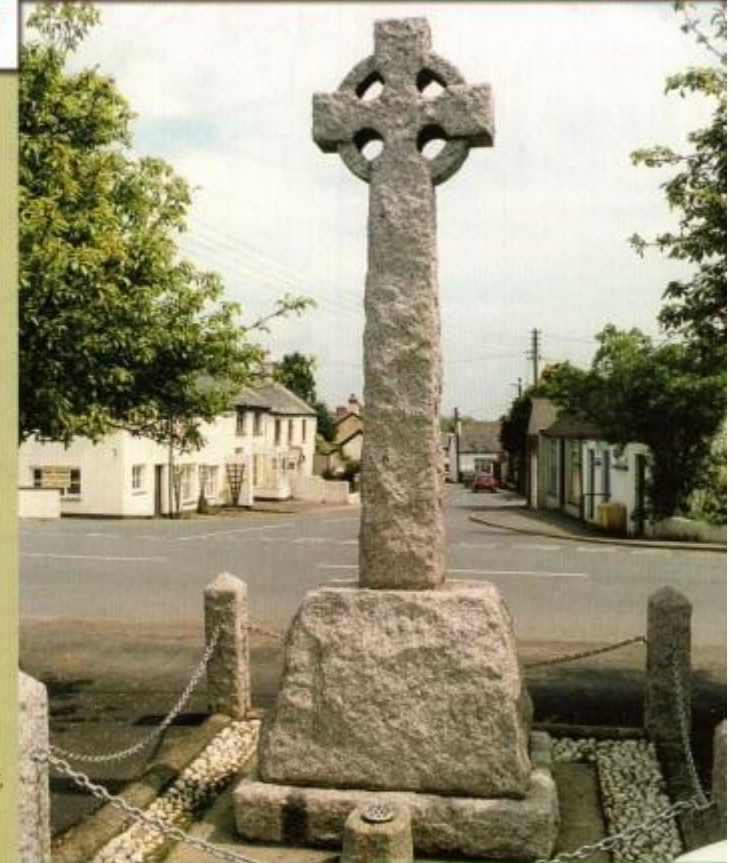
FACT FILE

Traveline have timetable details
0870 6082608.

Grid Reference
SS 325 145

Walk Length
13 km/8 miles.
This can be broken down into 6 km/4 miles (north loop) and 6 km/4 miles (south loop). There are six stiles and the walk is largely level with a couple of gentle climbs.

Facilities
Bradworthy has a pub, Post Office, general store, butcher, doctor's surgery, vet, tearooms and public toilets. Bradworthy has a car park in the centre of the Village Square.



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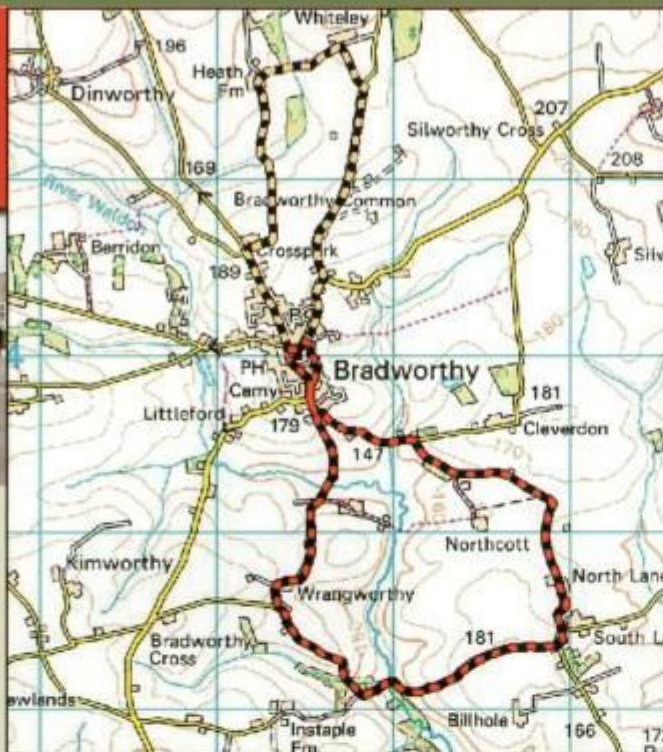
The Walk



1 From the village centre, follow the road heading east past the Post Office and the industrial park on the left. Take care as there is no pavement on this stretch of road. Take the first lane on the left and follow this lane as it takes you through Bradworthy Common.

The sheltered green lane is a great nesting place for birds such as the chiffchaff, chaffinch and blue tit. The lane has the effect of a woodland ride and is of value for butterflies such as the speckled wood and mammals such as dormice.

2 Take the footpath on the left to reach an old wall stile on the right. Climbing over the stile, head towards the metal gate into Whitely Farm in a 2 o'clock direction. Turn immediately left down the track towards the bottom of the field and the bridge which



crosses the River Waldon.

Culm grassland forms a riverside buffer for the River Waldon. This type of site is useful for birds such as the snipe and woodcock.

3 Once over the bridge, take the hedge steps and turn left up the lane. On reaching Heath Farm turn left through the farmyard and progress through the two metal gates leading onto a farm track. Take care to leave farm gates as you find them.

4 Continue along the track until it meets a field, go through the metal gate and along the left-hand field boundary, heading down the left-hand side of the old farm quarry. At the bottom of the slope you will reach a stile and a bridge taking you onto Bradworthy Common.

After heavy rainfall this area of Culm grassland can get very wet so be careful.

On the outlying moors are a number of Bronze Age burial mounds.

OS maps for this walk:

Landranger: No. 190 Bude and Clovelly (1:50,000 scale)

Explorer: No. 126 Clovelly and Hartland (1:25,000 scale)

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Culm grassland indicator species include purple moor-grass, sharp-flowered rush, lousewort, meadow thistle and devils-bit scabious. Devils-bit scabious is the main foodplant of the rare marsh fritillary butterfly. Bradworthy Common is known to support a colony, so keep your eyes peeled from May to August. The area was once renowned for its "honiwinks", which was the local name for peewits or lapwing, but sadly, they are no longer present.

5 From the bridge, head in a 2 o'clock direction up the common to reach a metal gate in the corner. Take the farm track through the farmyard, returning to the road. Turn left again, back into the centre of Bradworthy.

Bradworthy village houses were built grouped around the original water supply with the church, St John Baptist to one side. This is typical of the nucleated settlement founded in the early Saxon occupation (c.700).

6 For the Southern loop head down the left-hand lane out of Bradworthy directing you towards Wrangworthy.



Follow the lane until reaching Wrangworthy Farm where you head left along the farm lane, passing a number of farm barns. Walk down the lane passing through a metal gate leading directly into a field. Walk along the left-hand side of the field watching out for the Ruby waymarker, as it is at this point you will need to turn right across the field down toward the brook. Crossing over the brook, walk up to the stile on the left-hand side of the field. You emerge onto a green lane.

7 Turn left along the lane, reaching the road; take another left now following this road back up to Bradworthy. As you pass the farm on your right, you will more than likely be able to buy some home-made sausages!

The Tamar Lakes

lie in pleasant rural surroundings on the south-west side of the parish. Lower Tamar Lake was created early last century as a reservoir to supply the old Bude Canal, and subsequently to also provide Bude with drinking water. It covers about 70 acres and became a bird sanctuary in 1949. Anglers can also find good fishing here.

The Tamar flows south-eastward beneath Kesmeldon Bridge where according to legend, the first tobacco pipe was smoked by a mariner from Raleigh's first expedition to Virginia.

The River Tamar is also the county boundary between Devon and Cornwall. The official source of the river is half a mile east of Wooley Cross on the main road from North Devon to Cornwall.