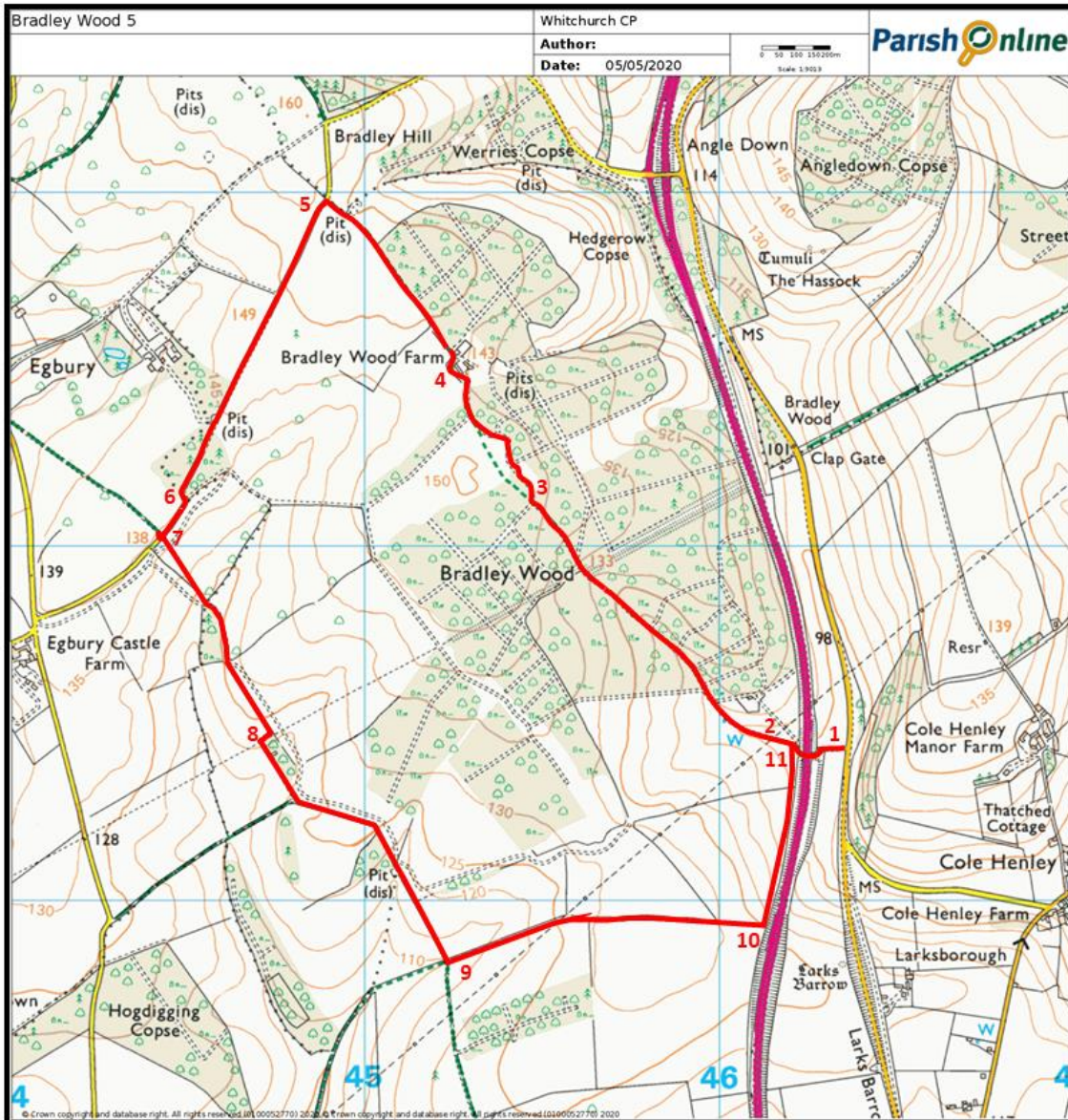




Bradley Wood

(4 miles, about 1hr 35 mins)



A circular walk through woodland to Bradley Wood Farm, along a quiet country lane, then back across sweeping farmland via Coopers in the Wood.

This is a particularly lovely walk in the Spring when the woods are blanketed by bluebells.

To get to the start of the walk (1), drive to a finger post on the left side of the Newbury road, 2 miles north from the centre of Whitchurch, and just past the road from Cole Henley, which comes in from the right, and where a metalled track turns off to the left. You can park on the grass verge, but there is also a space to park where the track goes under the A34.

Follow the track under the A34, round to the right and then immediately leave the track to take the path to the left (2), which runs between fences.

Continue past a small orchard on the right, and up into Bradley Wood. Keep following the track ahead, until you emerge from the wood (3). Continue with the wood on your right hand side until you reach Bradley Wood Farm (4).



Pass to the left of the farm buildings before joining a driveway which meets a country lane (5); turn left here and walk along the lane, being careful to listen out for approaching vehicles.

After approximately 10-15 minutes, the lane bends to the left, then immediately right (6); just after this, a footpath strikes off to the right through a gap in a hedge, but carry on along the lane just a few more yards to find a gap in the hedge on the left (7). Turn onto this path and carry on straight ahead away, from the lane, walking slightly downhill with the hedgerow on your left.



At the bottom, carry on with a small wood to your right, through a gap and then on with a hedgerow to the left and a large field sloping away to the right.

The path reaches some more trees and bends right, then left into the woodland (8). On your left is Coopers in the Wood, so-called because families of barrel makers (coopers) used to live and work there.

Follow the path, continuing straight ahead as a broad track joins from the right.

The undulating path eventually goes through a gap (9); immediately turn left (there is a post with footpath markers on the left) to follow the path which climbs with a hedgerow on the left and a field to the right.

At the top, go through the gap in the hedge into the next field and carry on with the field on the right and a hedgerow on your left until you reach the corner of the field, just short of the A34 embankment (10).

Go through a gap on the left in the bottom corner and continue down along the right side of a field, with the A34 embankment beside you on the right. At the bottom (11), pass to the right of a barred gate, go back under the A34 and you are back at your start point.