

Walk the Pack Horse Trail



Bratton Clovelly Village Trail Leaflet

The trail is about three miles and should take you around an hour to walk.

Walking boots or wellingtons are recommended, especially when the weather has been wet. The trail is hilly in places. All the trail is not suitable for wheelchairs. **DOGS TO BE KEPT ON LEADS.** We suggest that you might like to start your visit to the village by looking at the Church. This is on the site of a Saxon church, but the present building was started in the Norman period. Inside the walls are covered in very rare wall paintings of the 17th century.

English Heritage helped us to uncover and preserve them. The alabaster retables too is noteworthy.

The trail starts from the Church gate in the village square.

Look at the old National School building on your left, built in 1837. It has two chimneys as the boys' and girls' classes were taught in separate groups at each end of the room.



Children were last taught here in 1900. It is now the Church Room used for many of the smaller meetings in the village.

Beyond the school on your left is the entrance to Court Barton. This used to be a working farm with its own round threshing house.

The winnowing was done in the great barn behind.

The front room of 1 Church Cottages adjacent to the entrance to Court Barton was used by the dentist when he visited the village once a month.

The Post Office is a principal meeting place within any village and Bratton Clovelly is no exception. It has been run by the same family since 1863.

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The village green was formerly a saw pit in which timber was cut by two men using a double-handed saw, one man stood above the pit and the other below (who naturally was



always covered in sawdust). When the railings were first put up they fully enclosed the 'green', entry being by the top gate which bears the letters VR (Victoria Regina). It was sometimes

used as a pound for stray animals. The War Memorial was erected after the First World War and a section of railings was removed for ease of access. The bench was donated by the Women's Institute.

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The long house south of the 'green' (now Brenmoor) was originally a pub. The Ring of Bells. and after that, until the

1970's, the village shop which sold everything from groceries to poultry-food even hardware and paraffin. The upper end of the building (Brenmoor Lodge) was an agricultural storehouse. The stone plinth outside was the right height for unloading a cart straight into the storeroom.



The trail now takes the road down the hill towards Boasley. This is a typical Devon road with high banks on either side and no verge or pavement. Half-way down the hill on the left is a house which was a working farm with land separated from it.

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From here you get a good view of Eversfield Manor on the opposite hill. The front and terrace were built between 1790 and 1802 by William Wimpy an incomer to Devon, who bought several farms and land in the parish. (Possibly the Squire Impy referred to by Baring-Gould) The fine house was built, incorporating part of an old farm named Culmpit, and then called Culham Court. This is believed to be a childhood home of Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, the hymnwriter, prolific author and 'Squireson' of the neighbouring parish of Lewtrenchard. It was later bought by Mr and Mrs Thomas Manning and renamed 'Eversfield', with 'Manor' added later; Mrs Elizabeth Manning was a great benefactor to the church and village. The Eversfield estate owned most of the farms and cottages within the village for many years.



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