

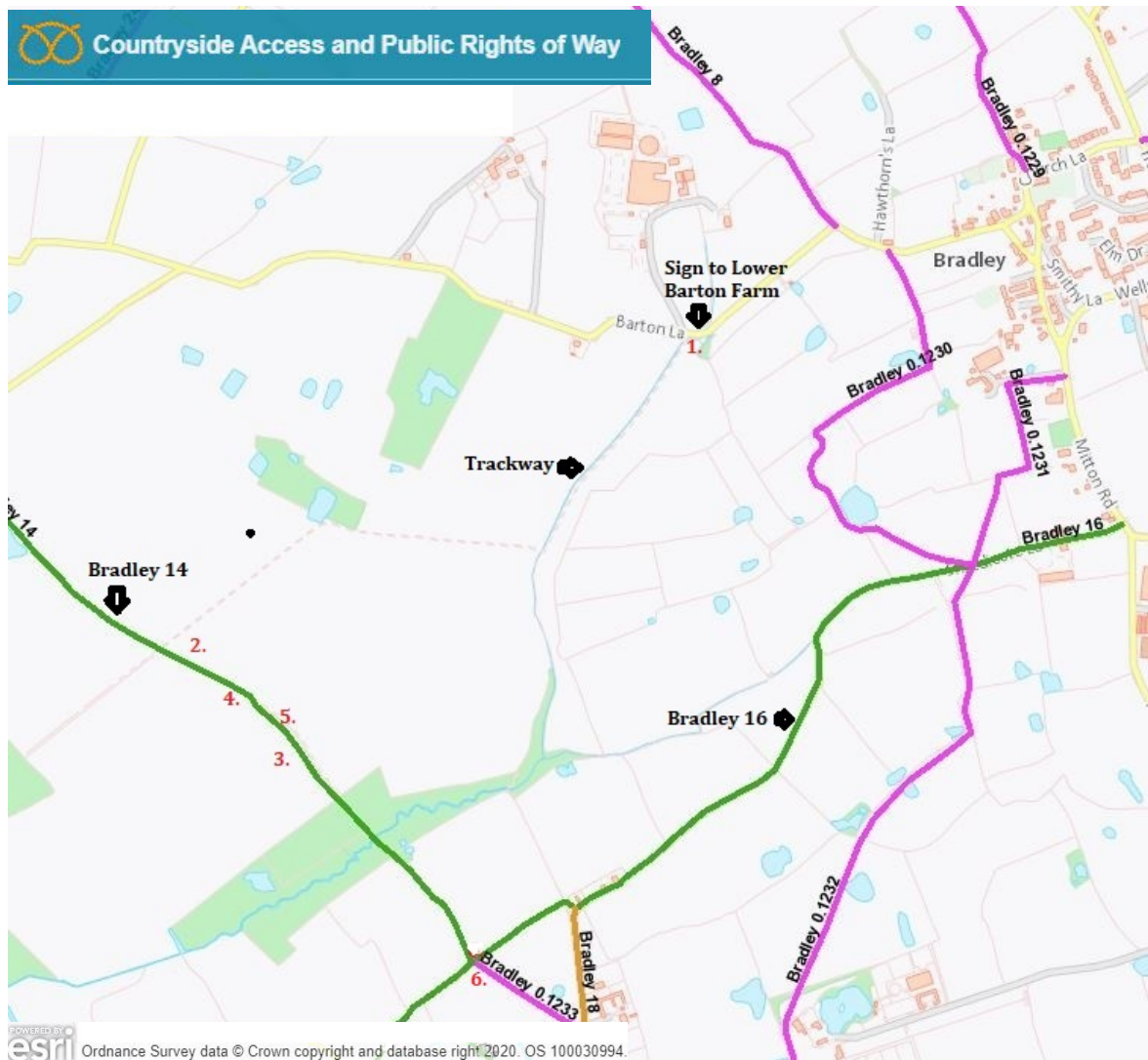
## Walk 1 (Also known as the Red Lion Walk)

This walk has already been described on the Internet, reference:

<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/england/staffordshire/the-red-lion-bradley-walk>

Although the above website provides comprehensive accounts of the walk, the below account is designed, by the use of maps and additional comments, to supplement that information.

1. the Staffs County Council map of the area relating to this walk.



2. The relevant Google Earth image on which is superimposed the outline of this walk.



This walk has the advantage of the absence of stiles. Also, it is fairly flat, a substantial portion of it lying along roadways. However, in certain parts the unevenness of the ground demands that care should be taken. The approximate distance is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Walking time between 1 hour 15 minutes and 1 hour 30 minutes.

Note: Walkers should be aware of traffic down Barton Lane, which can be quite busy at times with cars and farm vehicles. It is also lies on a bus route.

The walk begins at the entrance to Barton Lane which lies opposite to the Red Lion pub. It continues down Barton Lane until comes to what might loosely be termed as a 'crossroads' – see photograph no.1 below. Here, on the right, there is a sign pointing towards the road leading to Lower Barton Farm. On the left there is the entrance to a trackway, which is denoted by a brown broken line on the Staffs County Council map.

1.



Turn left on to the trackway as indicated in the above photograph.

The walk continues along this trackway until it meets up with Bradley 14. This junction, especially after rain, can be rather difficult to navigate owing to its uneven and muddy surface, as shown below in photograph no.2. Though taken on or about 10/04/20, this photograph gives a good indication of the condition of this junction at any time of the year after rain:



2.

At this junction turn left on to Bradley 14 and continue to on this path towards Shredicote Wood.

About halfway along this path conditions underfoot deteriorate. In April it was found that in wet weather both sides of the hedge tended to flood due to ploughing, which extended right up to dense undergrowth which lies each side of the hedge. Photograph no.3 (below, taken on or about 10/04/20), looks towards Shredicote Wood:



3.

Photograph no.4 (below, taken 9/08/20), again looking towards Shredicote Wood, illustrates more difficulties encountered later on in the year:

4.



Looking at photograph no.4, the crop of maize, which reaches more than 4 foot in height in places, might deter walkers from following the path along the right-hand side of the hedge. Nevertheless, this is the side recommended. Although the left side of the hedge looks easier to navigate due to the lower height of the crop, it is potentially more hazardous to the walker. This is because the unevenness of the ground which is masked by dense undergrowth which fills the space between the crops and the hedge. See photograph no.5 (below, taken 9/08/20).

5.



On reaching Shredicote Wood a sign marks the direction of the path. This path winds through the wood until a gate is reached which opens out on to a field. Although there is footpath sign on this gate, the actual line of the path is unclear as the field has been ploughed over. However, rough line of the path may be ascertained by keeping to the right of a line of three trees which cross the field.

Below is photograph no.6, which was taken looking back towards Shredicote Wood after crossing the field. This photograph is dated 10/04/20. By August, the field was covered with grass.

6.



The field exits on to a trackway. Turn left and follow the track until it merges with Shredicote Lane (also marked as Bradley 16). At this junction with Shredicote Lane keep left and follow the road back towards the village. At the junction of Shredicote Lane and Mitton Road turn left and the road will lead back to the Red Lion pub.