

D **Bradley House** is home to the Duke of Somerset's Bradley Estate. The present house, constructed in 1820, replaced the original large mansion of eight times its size which was started by the father of Sir Edward Seymour in the 1680s and completed in 1820.

C The name of **Maiden Bradley** is taken from the leper hospital for maidens which was founded in the 12th century on the site where the Priory ruins stand at Priory Farm, to the north of the village. 'Bradley' means a wide clearing, or wood. A Saxon Land Charter of 878AD contains the earliest known reference to the village but there are numerous tumuli which include a Bronze-Age barrow which was opened by the archaeologist, Richard Colt Hoare who was resident at nearby Stourhead, in 1807. (source of information www.maidenbradleyvillage.org.uk).



B The hamlet of **Gare Hill** lies in the north-western corner of the parish of Maiden Bradley, although most of the dwellings are within the Somerset parish of Trudoxhill. St. Michael's is a former Church of England built 185-58 and has been a Grade II* listed building since 1981.

A The deserted medieval village of **Yarnfield**, at the south-western corner of this walk, lies 1.5 miles / 2.4km. away from the village of Maiden Bradley.

Points of Interest on this route
(see map overleaf for locations)

A lovely circular walk through fields and forests from the pretty village of Maiden Bradley, passing the site of a medieval village at Yarnfield, the hamlet of Gare Hill on the borders of Wiltshire and Somerset, and the ruins at Priory Farm.

Start Point: OS Explorer 142 and 143 | ST801390 | W3W: attending.strength.feelers

Parking: The Memorial Hall committee has kindly given permission for walkers to leave their cars in the Memorial Hall car park. Vehicles are parked entirely at their owner's risk.

Terrain: Footpaths in undulating countryside with some steep climbs. Stiles and gates. The footpaths within Great Bradley Wood can be very muddy in parts.

Length: Approximately 6.5 miles / 10.5km.

Approximate time: 3 hours.

Dogs: Please keep dogs on a lead wherever livestock are present.

Good to know: Stout walking boots (or Wellington boots when the ground is particularly wet) are recommended for this walk.

Refreshments: The Bradley Hare public house in Maiden Bradley. Also Milk Station at The Bradley Hare.

The information is only intended as a general guide. Please check local arrangements.



Respect everyone
Protect the environment
Enjoy the outdoors
Follow advice and local signs

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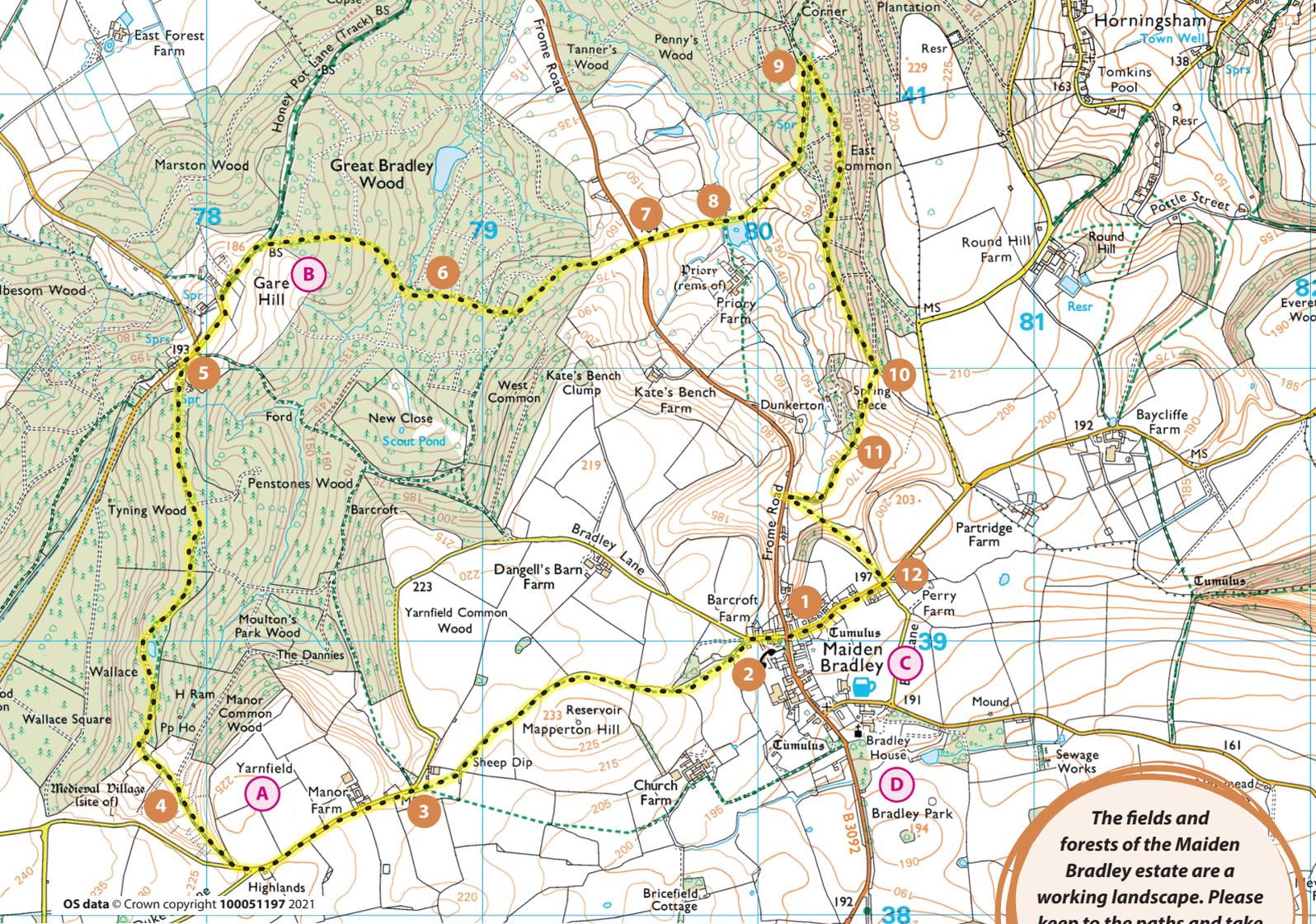


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**Maiden Bradley,
Yarnfield and Gare Hill**
The Duke of Somerset's Bradley Estate

**WALK #
W43**





The fields and forests of the Maiden Bradley estate are a working landscape. Please keep to the paths and take notice of any advisory signs provided by the landowner.

Directions

- 1 Turn right from the village hall and go straight across the crossroads with the B3092 into The Rank. Keep straight ahead then as the road leaves the village, fork left along a signposted footpath to a gate and stile into a field.
- 2 Follow the path through four fields, keeping the hedge on your right. In the fifth field, pass the house on the right and down to a gate and stile onto the road.
- 3 Turn left along the road, to pass Manor Farm on the right and a house named 'Highlands' on the left at the top of the hill. Go past Dukes Lane, signposted to Kilmington and then turn right through a gate along a signposted public footpath on the right along a green lane between hedges. In the field on the left the site of the medieval village of Yarnfield is distinguishable by the ridges of low banks.
- 4 Go through the gate at the end of the hedged lane and continue straight ahead then uphill to the right to a gate and stile into the forest. Keep to the forest track and pass two ponds. Continue straight ahead along the track to a gate at the end of the forest. Go through the gate across a small field then through another gate onto the road at Gare Hill.
- 5 Turn right then as the road turns downhill to the left, bear to the right along a tarmac lane. Through gaps in the hedge on the left the church of St. Michael, now a private residence, can be seen. When the road splits, fork right to pass four houses then continue as the road becomes a stone track into Great Bradley Wood, where it divides into two. Take the fork to the right along 'Yellow Way Road' (although there are no signs bearing this name) and heads downhill along a steep stone track, across which is a vehicle barrier, through the wood.

- 6 The track crosses a stream at the bottom of the hill and then climbs back up through the forest. At the top of the hill, it forks either side of a large tree. Take the left fork onto another stone track to a vehicle barrier at the B3092 road.
- 7 Go directly across the road and downhill along the tarmac lane to Priory Farm. Take great care crossing this busy road.
- 8 At the bottom of the hill, keep straight ahead along a track beside the pond as the road to the farm turns sharply to the right. Leave the road and keep straight ahead, with a large pond to the right, along a track into a field. Bear left, steeply uphill across the field, to go through a gate into the forest.
- 9 Follow the forest track uphill to the left until it meets another stone surfaced forest track. Turn sharply to the right along this track, until it starts to climb steeply uphill where another path forks along a track to the right. Take the right fork to and along the edge of the wood overlooking Priory Farm, and climbing gradually to a stile on the right into a grass field.
- 10 Bear slightly downhill to the left across the field, following a narrow and worn path across the grass. Keep to the right of the corner of a post-and-wire fence and over a stile. Continue beside the edge of the wood and downhill, to a narrow footbridge onto a stone track. Turn left along the track to pass a house on the right.
- 11 Turn left at a gate onto a signposted footpath that leads uphill through the fields to the left. In the second field the path bends to uphill the right along the foot of the bank and into a tree-planted paddock before the road at Maiden Bradley.
- 12 Turn right along the road, back to the village hall.