

## THE ROYAL HUNTING FOREST OF BERNWOOD



### DISCOVER THE ANCIENT ROYAL FOREST OF BERNWOOD ON THE JUBILEE WAY:

This walk is part of a series of short guided trails around the 61-mile circular Bernwood Jubilee Way, a celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. A detailed guidebook is available which allows walkers to explore and savour the beautiful landscape, wildlife and forgotten heritage of Buckinghamshire's ancient royal forest. Contact 01296 395000 or visit [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk) for further information on the Bernwood Jubilee Way.

Why not discover more about the Ancient Hunting Forest of Bernwood - a fascinating landscape in north west Buckinghamshire created from a legacy of royal forest law back in medieval times. Bernwood hosts a rich mosaic of woodland, pasture, meadow, heathland and picturesque villages.

### BRILL

Brill is a charming village whose history dates back beyond the royal hunting forest of Bernwood and was once the most important settlement in the forest. King Edward the Confessor is known to have chosen Brill for the location of his royal hunting lodge. The presence of royalty helped establish a thriving pottery industry and brick industry that supplied bricks for houses and buildings in Brill, Oxford, Thame and the manor house at Waddesdon. Brill windmill, a 17th century post mill, can be found on Brill common, the most prominent landmark and feature of the village. The grade II\* listed building is open to the public on Sundays.



Brill pottery

Places to eat and drink in Brill:

The Pheasant 39 Windmill Street Tel: 01844 237104	The Red Lion (closed Monday lunch) 27 Church Street Tel: 01844 238339
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Follow the countryside code:  
[www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/countryside\\_code](http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/countryside_code)

### Leaflet available in large print

Red Kite illustration by Madeleine Smith  
Front cover walkers photograph by Chilterns Conservation Board

### BOARSTALL

The historic village of Boarstall is most known for its 14th century gatehouse, *Boarstall Tower*, which still stands today. It marks the site of a manor house where Nigel the forester lived and was the administrative centre for the royal forest. Nigel was granted keeper of the forest for slaying a wild boar that was disturbing the king's hunt. It was a much bigger community than today as much of the medieval village was destroyed in the English civil war.



The near by duck decoy is a rare example of a 17th Century decoy in full working order. Why not stop to visit the nature trail and exhibition hall. For information about the National Trust Properties in this walk and others along the Bernwood Jubilee Way, please call 01280 822850 or visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

### HOW TO GET THERE:

There are public transport links from Aylesbury, Bicester, Thame and Oxford.

For transport enquiries please call Buckinghamshire County Council passenger transport department on 01296 383835 or alternatively go to [www.buckscc.gov.uk/travelinfo/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/travelinfo/)

For other travel information please call 0870 608 2 608 or visit [www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk)

Other things to do in Buckinghamshire and places to stay visit [www.visitbuckinghamshire.org](http://www.visitbuckinghamshire.org)



### INTRODUCING THE BERNWOOD JUBILEE WAY



### BRILL TO BOARSTALL CIRCULAR WALK

Bernwood — discover a lost history, Buckinghamshire's ancient royal hunting forest

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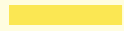




# BRILL TO BOARSTALL CIRCULAR WALK

Total distance: 5.5miles (9km)

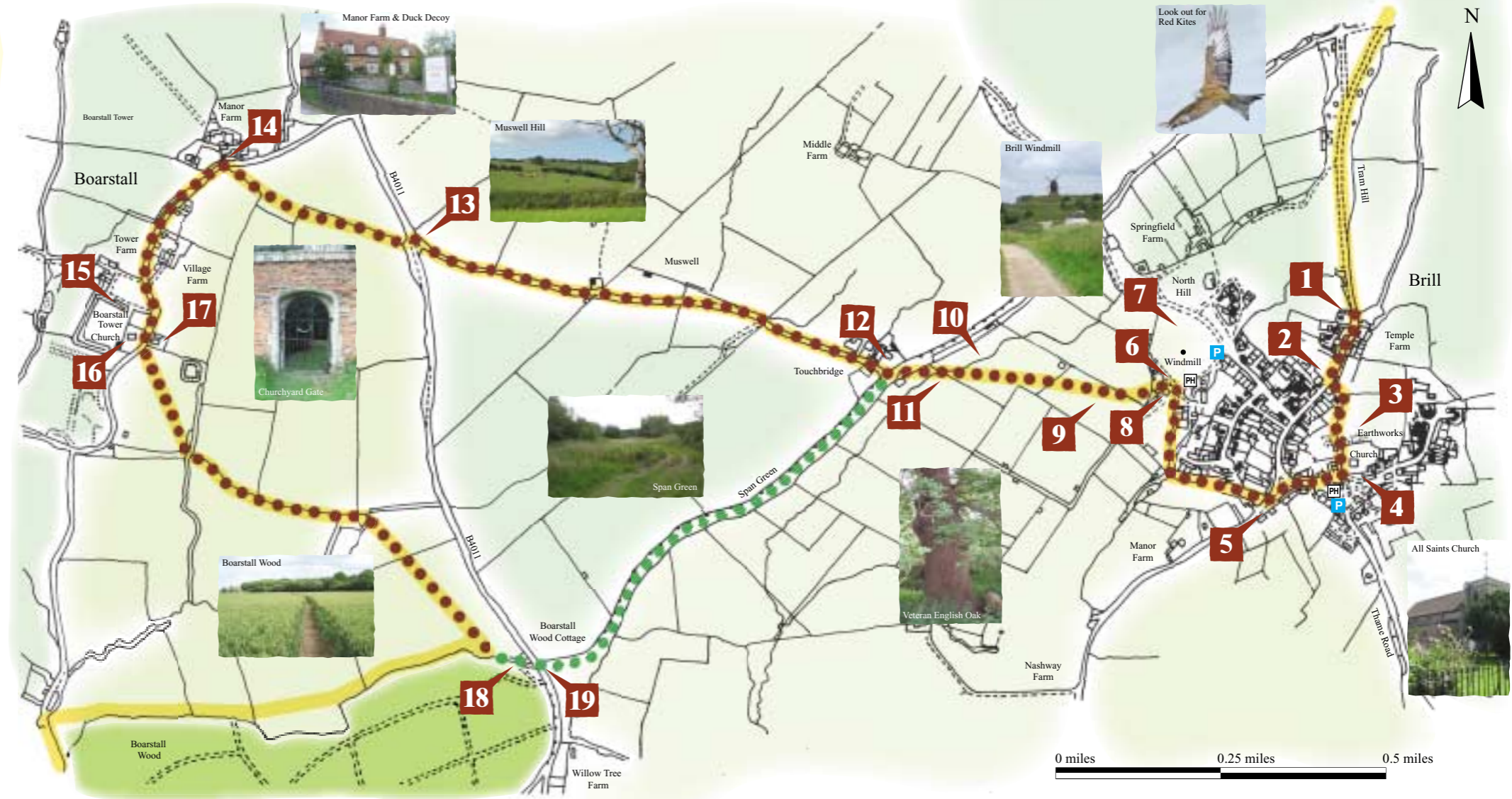
OS – Landranger Map 165

Grid reference for starting point SP656144

-  Bernwood Jubilee Way
-  Brill to Boarstall Walk
-  Loop Back Route

Begin at Brill; parking is available by the windmill or the Red Lion pub, then making your way to Tram Hill adjacent to Temple farm **1**. Going up the hill, the Jubilee Way turns left into a small passageway **2** opposite the Fire Station, next to the Magistrates' Court. At the cricket pitch, turn right towards a linear earthwork **3** possibly the ruins of Brill's former royal hunting lodge.

Follow the Jubilee Way from the Church **4** down Church Street to the village green. Bear left here along Brill Road and then take the narrow footpath **5** on the right of the road that runs between a group of houses. Continue over a stile into a narrow paddock. Cross another stile at the furthest end and bear right along the track towards South Hills **6** where you will see views of the 16<sup>th</sup> century post mill and possibly red kites, on the edge of Brill Common **7** – an area shaped by clay workings for brick making and the Brill pottery industry. Skirt around a small cottage with the windmill behind you; the path descends through three open fields by crossing stiles **8** & **9**.



Pass through a narrow strip of woodland and scrub **10** & **11** to emerge onto a country lane beside Span Green and Touchbridge **12**. Here at the parish boundary you can see excellent views eastwards towards the village of Boarstall, and to Muswell Hill to the north. Turn left here and follow the road down hill passing Muswell Hill until it meets the junction with the B4011 **13**.

Crossing the road, the path runs through an overgrown area of scrub and westwards through two fields towards Manor Farm and the entrance to the National Trust Boarstall Duck Decoy **14**. Follow the road south through the village and down past Boarstall Tower, Buckinghamshire's only surviving medieval fortified building **15** and the rebuilt 19<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St James **16**.

Crossing the road opposite the church, return to Brill heading south across fields passing the ancient replanted Boarstall Wood and via Boarstall Wood Cottage **18**. The walk returns to Brill across the B4011, off the Jubilee Way and along Span Green, arriving at Touchbridge, where you can retrace your steps back to Brill from **12** to **1**. Why not end your walk at The Pheasant or The Red Lion for a refreshing drink or visit the village shop?