

To continue on the Bembridge Trail turn left along the road and in 200 metres turn right off the road just before a building called 'Grigshole Barn' to footpath NC7. Walk along the edge of the field with hedge to the left, over the stile and across the next field diagonally right, continuing to the stile in the bottom corner of the field. Cross the stile and walk along the edge of the field, hedge to left, and bear round to the left to Mersley Cottage on the roadside.

Turn left along the road towards Newchurch then turn right in about 100 metres along Bridleway NC6 to Arreton. Walk along the track through farmed fields and on reaching Shepherds Lane turn right for a few metres, then turn left along Bridleway A9 signposted Arreton.

A left turn at Shepherds Lane leads to Haseley Manor, once the Grange of the Quarr monks, and currently the setting for several traditional country craftsmen and women.



Continue on the bridleway to Arreton school and join the road. Turn right along the road, past the 'White Lion Inn' on the right. A footpath up to the right leads to Arreton Church and Arreton Manor.



Walk past the Inn and up to the crossroad. Go across to Byway A28 signposted to St George's Down and Newport. In a few hundred metres a path leaves the bridleway to the right which leads to Great East Standen Manor, once a famous house in William the Conqueror's day and now a private farm.



Continue ahead on the Trail, leaving the enclosed section through a gate, walking along the path with the fence to the right, and follow the track through the gravel works. Continue, past Newport Golf Club clubhouse on the right, and descend towards Shide along the minor road, St George's Lane, finally reaching the main road where the Trail concludes opposite the Bengal Palace Restaurant, Shide Road.

Bembridge Trail

Bembridge Point to Newport (Shide corner)

DISTANCE

11 MILES OR 18 KM

APPROX 3 HOURS

The trail starts at The Point, Bembridge by the 'Pilot Boat Inn'. Follow Station Road to a path through the woods (BB19). In about a quarter of a mile turn left up the hill to reach the High Street (BB3). Turn right along the High Street to where the road turns sharply to the left. Continue on the track ahead signposted Bembridge Windmill. To the left there are views of Bembridge Down and the monument to the Earl of Yarborough. Just before the Windmill turn right (BB21) and pass through gate on the left and go into the field. Bembridge Windmill is the last remaining windmill in working order on the Island. It was built in 1700 and has been restored, still having much of the original wooden machinery.



Keep close to the hedge on the right: after next stile bear to the left and walk to another stile at a gap in the hedge. Go diagonally downward across the next field. At the bottom corner of the field follow fenced footpath through new wooded area then walk along the built-up causeway passing to the left of Brading Marshes. The marshes are the home of many nesting birds, including redshanks, shelducks, mallards and reed buntings. Reed warblers and sedge warblers can also be seen and heard during the summer months. Sea shells can also be found in the marshes, relics of a time when the sea covered the area as far as Brading, which was a busy sea port.

At the end of the causeway, go over a stile and cross the field which is the northern perimeter of Bembridge airfield. Beware of low-flying aircraft! Continue following BB20 across the Nature Reserve until Centurion's Copse, bearing to the left. Bear right at the footpath junction, following BB23 for Brading and continue over Centurions Hill. On the south west side of Centurion's Copse there was once a small oratory named after St Urian, a Breton prelate of the eighth century. This probably explains how the copse acquired its name as 'Centurion', sounds like 'St Urian' and has perhaps replaced the original name over the years. Another clue may lie in the discovery of Roman pottery in the copse in 1840.

Continue, with the hedge to the right, to the first of two sluice-bridges. Proceed along the causeway to the second bridge then ahead, along the path, to a metal field gate and swing gate at the disused railway crossing. Walk straight ahead along the lane to enter the historical town of Brading with the stocks and St Mary's Church to the right.



Turn left into the High Street and immediately right into Cross Lane. At the junction with West Street turn right and continue to Coach Lane. Turn left and just past Nunwell Manor East Lodge turn left into a path (B23) to stile. Climb to stile with New Barn Farm on right, cross field keeping well to right of trees in field. Over fence and to bridge and leaning oak then to next stile.

Turn left along the lane signed B23 Bembridge trail, past the entrance to Nunwell Farm then turn right at the track just past the farm buildings, signposted B26 Brading Down. Continue up towards the Downs, past the farm buildings to the right, up to a gate, then ahead on defined footpath with hedge to the right. Follow the path past a group of trees to the gate. Go through the gate and follow the field hedge round to the right and up to join the road at the top (bridleway B26). Turn right along the roadside path and in a quarter of a mile turn left off the road along Bridleway B33 to Newchurch and Alverstone.

Walk down the hill with the hedge to the right towards Kern Farm. Keep straight on through gate passing to the left of the farm and turn right at the road (signposted Byway B35 Knighton). At the farmyard turn sharp left signposted Knighton and walk down the well-defined track ending at a metal gate. Go through the gate and follow the path, signed Bembridge Trail, around to the right and past the sand workings. Where the track bends to the left take the right fork sign posted NC45 to Knighton. Turn left at the path junction by the garage with rookery in the trees ahead and walk through Knighton Waterworks buildings and up the hill to join the road at Knighton Shute.

A short detour to the right at this point leads to the gateposts at Knighton Gorges, the remains of a fine old mansion and a reputedly haunted spot!



