



# Bream Village Walk

**SUMMARY** An easy walk around Bream village.

**START** From the B4231 drive into Bream and follow the sign for Bream Village. Continue over the hill and park next to the cenotaph.

## WALK INFO

**DISTANCE** 1½ MILES

**No. OF GATES** 0

**No. OF STILES** 0

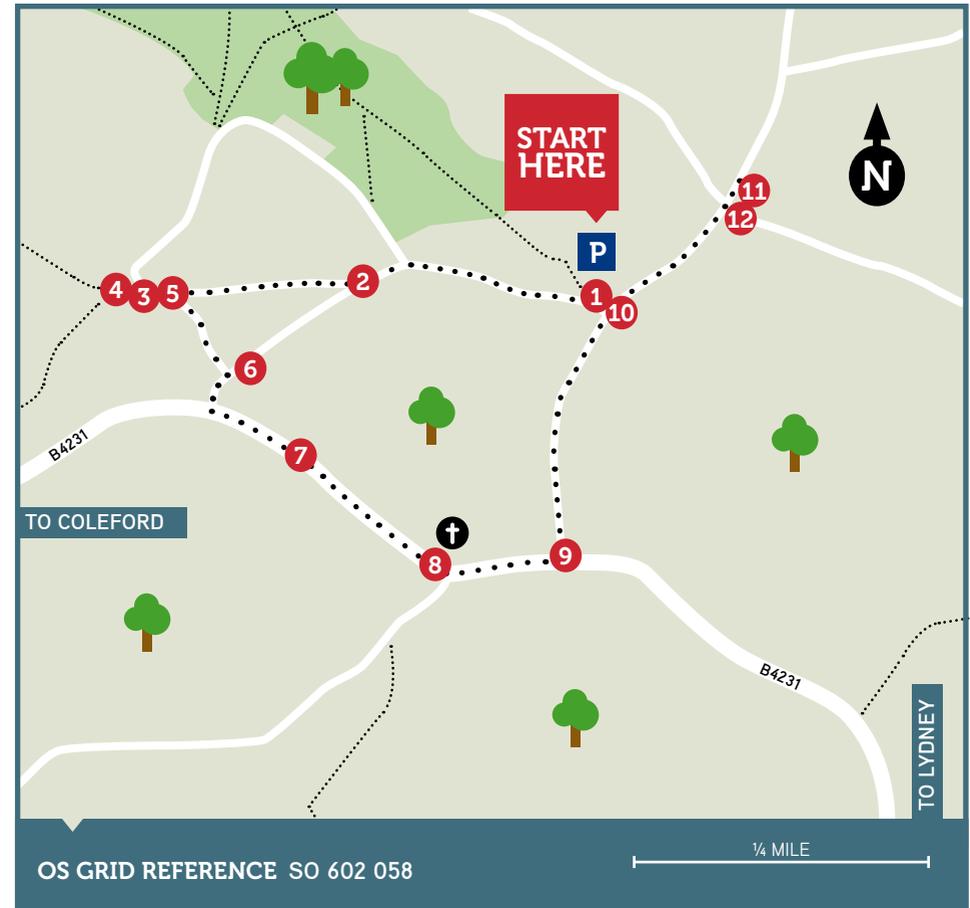
- Bream cenotaph [1] is based on the design of the national cenotaph in Whitehall and the people of Bream turned out in huge numbers for its re-dedication following restoration in 2002. Stand at the seat next to the cenotaph. Both village and international cricketers have played on the pitch below you including W. G. Grace, and 'Jack' Russell M.B.E. Beyond the sports fields is a magnificent view across the Forest of Dean.

- Walk along New Road. Ignore the roads at the grass 'triangle', fork right just after the small yellow H marker [2] and continue straight ahead. When the road bends sharp right, take the track ahead [3] to just before the bungalow. Ahead of you is the woodland of Noxon Park [4] which contains many 'scowles' (surface depressions) and underground cavities and passages. These were mined for iron ore from Roman times until the early 20th century and provided early 'Breamers' with employment. Until the 1960's, the coalmines at the other end of Bream village also employed many men.

- Return to the road and begin retracing your tracks - taking the first track on the right [5] and stop when you reach the road (New Road). Cross the road. Uphill to the left, the stones cover an old well [6]; such wells were very important before the arrival of mains water in the earl 20th century. Walk downhill to the Coleford Road.

- At the junction, notice the Forest boundary stones DF 49 on the left and DF 50 across the road and the new posts marking the edge of the Dean Forest. Turn left passing the old farmhouse [7] (Bream Court Farm) and St. Jame's church [8]. St. Jame's was formerly a 'chapel of ease' of All Saint's, Newland, but became a parish church in its own right in 1854. Most of what you see is a result of re-building and expansion in 1862.

- Walk past the vicarage to the sign to Bream Village [9] where a maypole stood (until it was deemed a traffic hazard in the 1920's and removed) and turn left. The first building on



the right is a former coaching inn and contains a fireplace dated 1637. At the top of the hill pass Bream Auto Store (built as a Post Office), Bream RFC (former Miners Welfare Hall) and the unusually shaped butcher's shop and walk in front of the Rising Sun Inn [10] with the date 1729 high on the wall.

- Continue downhill to the West Dean Centre [11], just past the crossroads. This community centre, a former Victorian school, has been a meeting place in Bream since it was built in 1862. Across the road are some buildings of the current school, the left hand part was built in 1907 with the rest added a few years later. Note the large windows that admit daylight into the

classrooms.

- Return to the circular seat at the crossroads. This is the site of the 'Hard Up Tree' [12]. During the 1930's, village coal miners would gather here when they had no work. The small replacement tree is named the Nelson Oak (see below). Walk up the hill past Bream Sports Club back to the cenotaph.

- The magnificent oaks that you see were planted in the early 1800's when our greatest seaman, Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson, prompted extensive plantings of new oaks in the Forest of Dean.