

BACKGROUND TO BRADING 'Ye Kynge's Towne'

In Brading's interesting past, some events stand out as particularly important in shaping its development. Here is a taster of some of these, many of which you will find out more about during your route through the trail.

Brading Town was founded in 1180 during the reign of Henry II; its ancient name of Brerdyng is thought to be Anglo-Saxon dating from 683 AD and means 'town under the hill' or 'the people living by the ridge of the Downs'.

However, archaeological discoveries from Stone, Bronze and Iron Age sites show that people have lived in this area from as far back as 6000 BC - probably around 1000 years after the land mass that became the Isle of Wight was separated from the mainland by rising sea levels after the last Ice Age!

Being directly accessed from the sea in former times, Brading was particularly vulnerable to attack from would-be colonisers over many centuries. After Britain's invasion by the Roman Emperor Claudius in 43 AD, Titus Flavius Vespasian - later one of the good Roman Emperors - sailed from a mainland fortification, probably at Porchester, and established a base here around 50 AD. The Romans left us a preserved reminder of their presence and workmanship in the Villa they built in Morton Old Road. Brading Harbour was used by Roman vessels until their army withdrew in 410 AD.

Roman conquerors were replaced in succession over the next 300 years first by the Jutes and then the Anglo-Saxons. In 686 AD, King Caedwalla of Wessex demanded a brutal submission of the islanders; to be followed by Bishop Wilfred and missionaries from Selsey who, by 704 AD, had 'converted' to Christianity the last remaining 'pagans' in southern England here in Brading. From 787 AD - over two centuries before King Canute eventually ruled England - the Isle of Wight was used as a 'place of retreat' by plundering Danish pirates - it is said that ships of King Alfred's new Navy thwarted a Danish invasion fleet off Brading Haven.

Brading's growth as a maritime trading centre was enhanced in 1285 when Edward I granted 'Ye Kynge's Towne' a Royal Charter to hold a weekly market and annual fair. A new Charter was granted by Edward VI in 1548, which enabled the town to hold a second fair each year.

This trail has been designed to allow you to start at either Brading Station (location 1) or at the Town Trust Car Park (location 9)

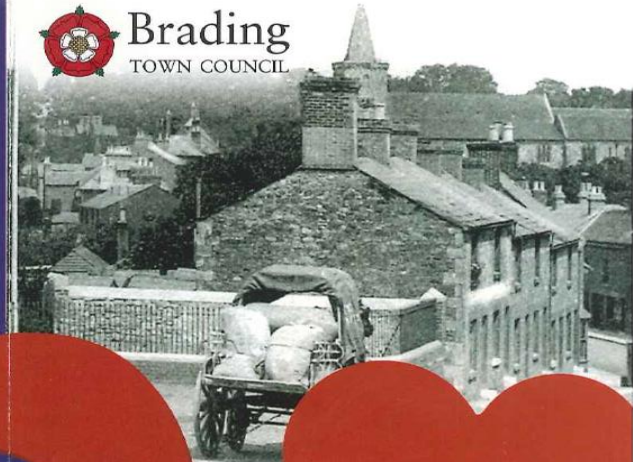
Whether you choose to start or finish the trail at Brading Station, do not miss the opportunity to take a look inside the building and view the Railway Heritage Exhibition and Visitor Centre. This will provide an excellent opportunity for you to gain more information about the various attractions in and around Brading and enable you to purchase books about the Isle of Wight and the history of the railway.

The Station also acts as a gateway to the RSPB Reserve on Brading Marshes and therefore trail guides and leaflets can be collected from the building during opening hours.

www.marriottdesign.co.uk



Brading
TOWN COUNCIL



Brading Town Council

The Brading Centre
West Street
Brading
Isle of Wight
PO36 ODR



Heritage
Lottery Fund

Brading Heritage Trail

Welcome to the Ancient Town of Brading

This Trail is designed to give you glimpses into Brading's rich history and present day attractions as you stroll through the town. The route is short over both flat and sloping ground, with all the interpretation panels being wheelchair accessible. We hope our fascinating town arouses your curiosity and that you can find time, even on a future occasion, to explore the historic buildings and venues mentioned – some of which are located outside the town centre. Do enjoy Brading's facilities and hospitality!

Key

- 1 Brading Station
- 2 Lower Furlongs
- 3 Tudor Garden
- 4 Brading Town Hall
- 5 Bugle Inn Garden
- 6 Brading High Street
- 7 Quay Lane
- 8 St Mary's Church
- 9 Town Trust Car Park



Top

Looking north up Brading High Street in the 1880s.

Middle

Engine 22 'Brading' leaving Brading Station in 1966.

Bottom

The five-hole stocks, pictured in the 1960s in the Old Town Hall.

