

Bradfield Walks & Trails

Bradfield Past and Present

Although Bradfield is not listed in the Domesday Book, there is evidence of settlement here from earliest times.

Low Bradfield grew up as a farming community around the corn mill where Agden Beck and Dale Dyke meet to form the River Loxley. High Bradfield's origins are probably in the early 12th century when the motte-and-bailey castle and the church were built.

As the land was relatively poor, sheep farming predominated in the area, with some fodder crops also being grown. Other industries including quarrying, lead and ganister mining, corn milling and brewing also developed. Little now remains of these industries, although beer is still brewed in the area at Bradfield Brewery in High Bradfield. The construction of the reservoirs in the mid 19th century brought employment to the area and during this period the moors above the village were privately owned by large landowners and used for grouse shooting.

During the 1930s mass trespasses took place on Kinder Scout and also in this area as part of the campaign for freedom to walk on the moors.

Bradfield remains a mainly agricultural area, although many local farm buildings have been converted to housing. Only seven miles from the centre of Sheffield, and in the Peak District National Park, Bradfield is popular with walkers and cyclists. Although the moors are still used for grouse shooting, there is now public access to most moorland areas. Others enjoy watching cricket, bowls or tennis on the Ibbotson Memorial field in summer.



Haymaking at Smallfield



Bradfield Game Association, 1890

By the car park there is a children's playground and the nearby village hall is the centre for community activities. The Ibbotson Memorial Field was given to the village by

the Ibbotson family who lived at Burnside House and owned the old corn mill which operated until 1940. Trespassers' Bridge, the wooden bridge leading from the bus shelter to the field, was constructed in 2010 to replace one washed away in 2007. Timber from an oak tree growing at Hayfield was used in the construction of the bridge to commemorate a Mass Trespas which started from Hayfield.

Bradfield today is a thriving community offering a range of amenities including the Post Office, with shop and cafe, the village hall, the Plough Inn and the Smithy Garage. Bradfield Parish Council offices and the Bradfield Parish Archives are also located in the village.

Local Places of Interest

High Bradfield, at the top of Woodfall Lane, is well worth a visit. St Nicholas' Church is Grade 1 listed and thought to date from the 12th century. Bailey Hill is believed to have been the site of a Norman motte-and-bailey castle. Castle Hill, just east of the village, is marked on old maps as a 'Saxon encampment', although its actual origins are uncertain. There are excellent views from the churchyard and the Old Horns Inn up Bradfield Dale towards Derwent Edge.

Ughill is an ancient settlement, some 2 miles from Low Bradfield. Ughill Manor is a listed building dating from the 18th century. Small coal and ganister drift mines operated in Ughill until the 1970s, although no trace remains today.

Dale Dyke Dam. The newly-constructed Dale Dyke dam a few miles up the valley collapsed on 11th March 1864 causing the Great Sheffield Flood. Around 250 were killed as the flood water swept down the Loxley and Don valleys. Fortunately there was only one fatality in Low Bradfield.

Map of Low Bradfield in 1891



Sets of walks leaflets are available from local outlets. For more information visit www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk

Please follow the Countryside Code when visiting the area.

- ✓ Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs.
- ✓ Leave gates and property as you find them.
- ✓ Protect plants and animals and take your litter home.
- ✓ Keep dogs under close control.
- ✓ Consider other people.

Acknowledgements:

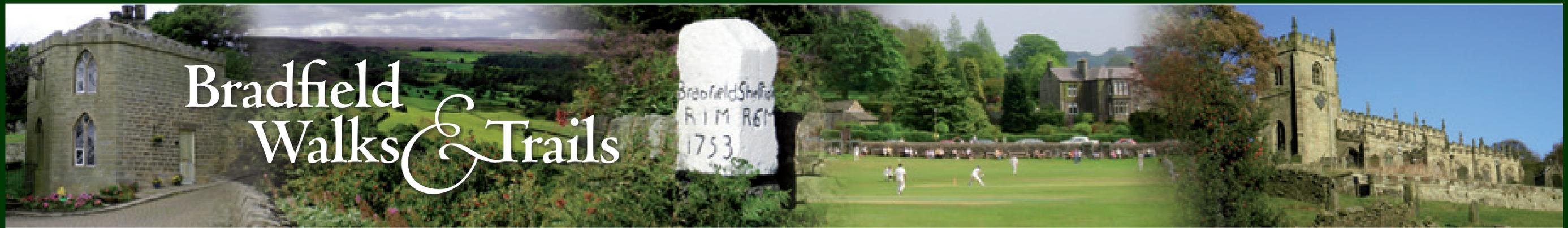
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Bradfield Parish Council works in partnership with other local authorities, organisations and community groups across Bradfield, Stannington, Worrall, Loxley, Oughtibridge and Wharcliffe Side to improve the quality of life of everyone in the area.



The Sands Cottages