

Bradfield Walks & Trails

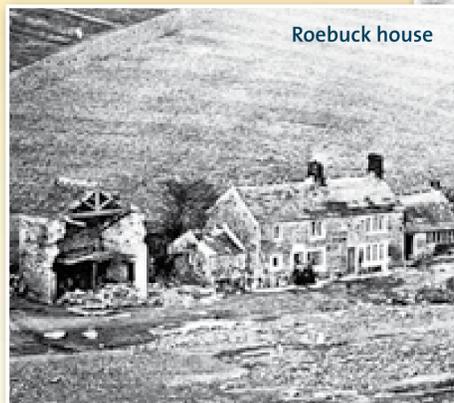
Damflask – A Lost Village

Damflask village stood near here. A corn mill, paper mill, wire mill, a public house called the Barrel Inn and a cluster of houses existed in 1850.

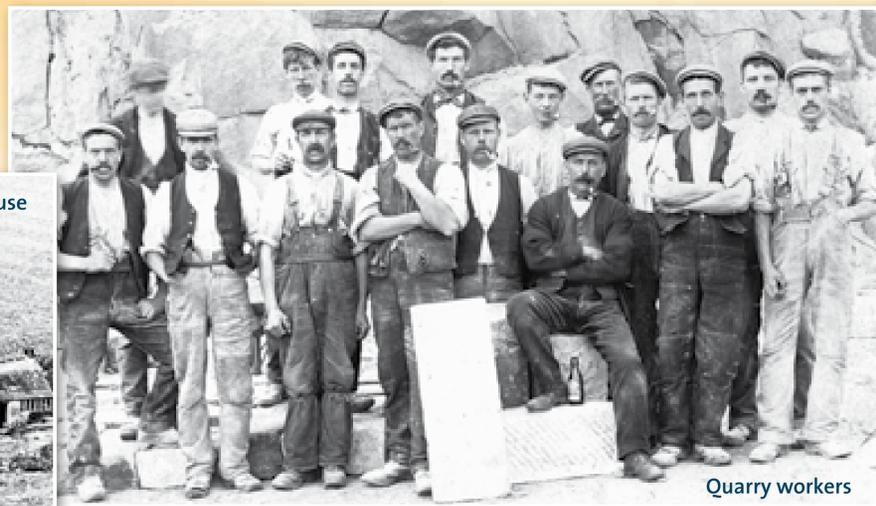
But when the Dale Dyke dam burst at midnight on 11th March 1864, the village was almost entirely destroyed.

Many people living here at the time owed their lives to a young man called Stephenson Fountain. He had been sent to Sheffield to fetch the waterworks engineer when the crack in the dam had been discovered. However, his saddle girth had snapped and he stopped in Damflask village to get it repaired. Whilst waiting, he said a crack had been found in the dam wall and many villagers took heed of the warning and moved their families and belongings to higher ground.

One man did not heed the warning, however. Henry Burkinshaw, better known as 'Sheffield Harry', laughed when he was told that the reservoir was going to burst. He said he did not care, he would not get up out of bed for anything. A few minutes later, the flood waters came pouring down the valley. Amid the shouting and screaming as others rushed to save themselves, Sheffield Harry began to get out of bed. But he had only put one sock



Roebuck house



Quarry workers

on when the flood came and the house was swept away. His body was found half a mile away the next morning.

The village was not rebuilt after the flood as plans were already in place to build a reservoir. Damflask reservoir today has a capacity of 1,123 million gallons, with a maximum depth of 88 feet. Nowadays it is used by rowing and sailing clubs and also for fishing.

(Adapted from Samuel Harrison 'A Complete History of the Great Flood at Sheffield 1864')

Local Places of Interest

The Loxley valley runs down from Damflask to Hillsborough. It was an important centre of water-powered industry in the 18th and early 19th centuries but the Dale Dyke disaster of 1864 destroyed many mills and they were never rebuilt.

The Robin Hood Inn at Little Matlock takes its name from the legend that Loxley was the birth place of Robin Hood and that he spent his boyhood in this area. In the 12th century Loxley Chase was an extensive hunting forest.

Holdworth is a hamlet about halfway between Loxley and Low Bradfield. It is one of the few local places to be mentioned in the Domesday Book. At Low Holdworth on Loxley Road there is a public house, The Nags Head, and the Rhinegold Garden Centre and cafe.

Dungworth village, above the Loxley valley, is thought to date from the 13th century, but the meaning of the name remains obscure. There is a school, church and village hall. The inn, The Royal Hotel, dates from the 1860's and is the venue for local, traditional carol singing at Christmas. Dungworth is also the home of Our Cow Molly ice-cream.

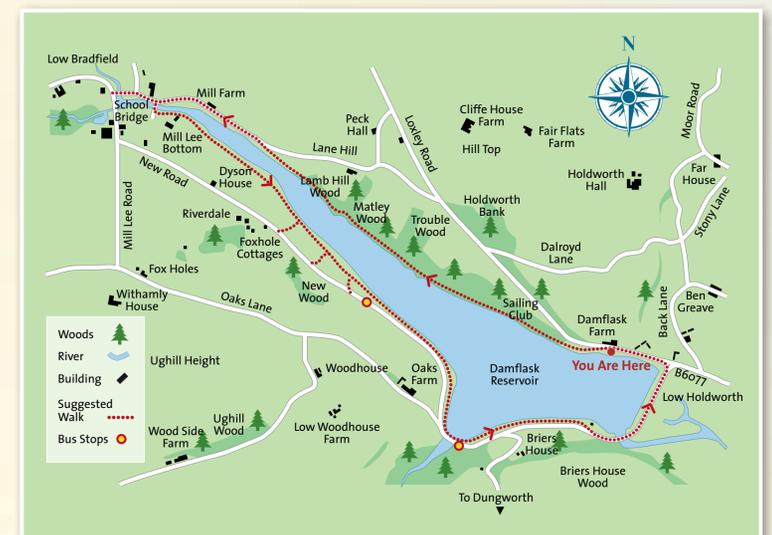
Ughill is an ancient settlement, 2 miles from Low Bradfield. Although the Bradfield area was, and remains, primarily agricultural, other recorded industries include quarrying, stone masonry and fireclay (ganister) mining. Small coal and ganister drift mines operated in Ughill until the 1970's, although few traces remain today.

Low Bradfield is clustered around the village green. During the summer cricket matches are a popular attraction. Refreshments are available at the Plough Inn and Postcard Cafe

Suggested walk in the area

Circular walk around Damflask reservoir.

This is a well-marked path, created by Yorkshire Water. 3.5 miles, allow 2 hours.



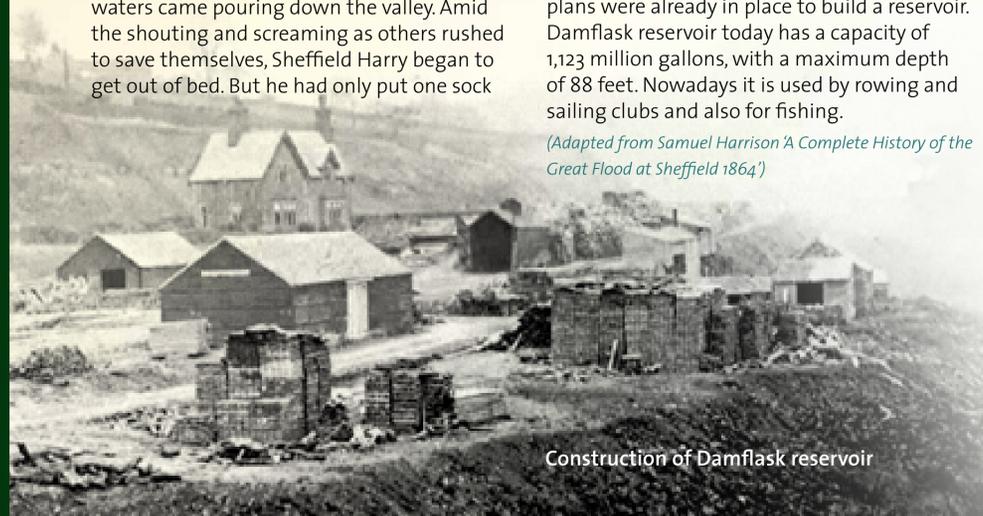
For more information about Bradfield Walks & Trails please visit: www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk

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.



Construction of Damflask reservoir