

Bradfield Walks & Trails

Historic High Bradfield

High Bradfield village originally grew up around the church and the motte-and-bailey castle.

The Parish Church of St. Nicholas is Grade 1 listed and dates from the 12th century, although the building contains features from across the centuries. In the late 19th century a Saxon cross, now in the church, was found in Low Bradfield at the foot of Woodfall Lane. Several victims of the Dale Dyke disaster of 1864 are buried in the churchyard and there is also a memorial inside the church. St. Nicholas' church continues to be an active centre for Christian worship in the area and the church building is normally open every day.

The Watch House, at the bottom of Jane Lane, was built in 1832 to allow a guard to watch over the graveyard and apprehend grave robbers. Very few other buildings of this type now exist in Britain. In the 18th century,

newly buried bodies risked being disinterred to be sold to medical schools for the study of anatomy. As stealing a corpse was only punishable by a fine or imprisonment, rather than transportation or execution, bodysnatchers found it sufficiently profitable to run the risk. The Anatomy Act ended the trade by allowing bodies to be donated to medical schools.

The Old Post Office was formerly an inn built in 1835, known as Heaven House or Heaven's Gate, and later as The Cross Daggers. It was also used as a registry office, vestry and school as well as a post office.



Grave of Flood Victims

Bradfield Parish Workhouse.

The three storey houses on Towngate were built in the 1760s and once housed the poor and homeless of the parish. They were converted to private houses in the 1870s. Thousands of documents relating to the workhouse were found in a hidden cupboard in one of the houses in the

1950s. The documents are now housed in the Bradfield Parish Archives.

Bailey Hill lies behind the church, hidden by trees. It is a man-made, conical mound and is classified as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Historians have described it as, 'One of the best preserved and most dramatic motte-and-baileys in Yorkshire' (Hey 1979). The motte is 60 feet high and is protected by a steep ditch. The bailey is enclosed by a rampart 310 feet long and 30 feet high in places.

The Old Horns Inn was built around 1830 and was previously used as a farm.

Bradfield Brewery is based at Watt House Farm, High Bradfield. Their cask-conditioned real ales are available from the brewery shop.

Castle Hill, just outside the village, is marked on old maps as a 'supposed Saxon encampment'. However, there is no evidence that a castle ever stood here although it has been suggested that the site may be a defensive structure known as a 'ringwork' (Hey 1979).

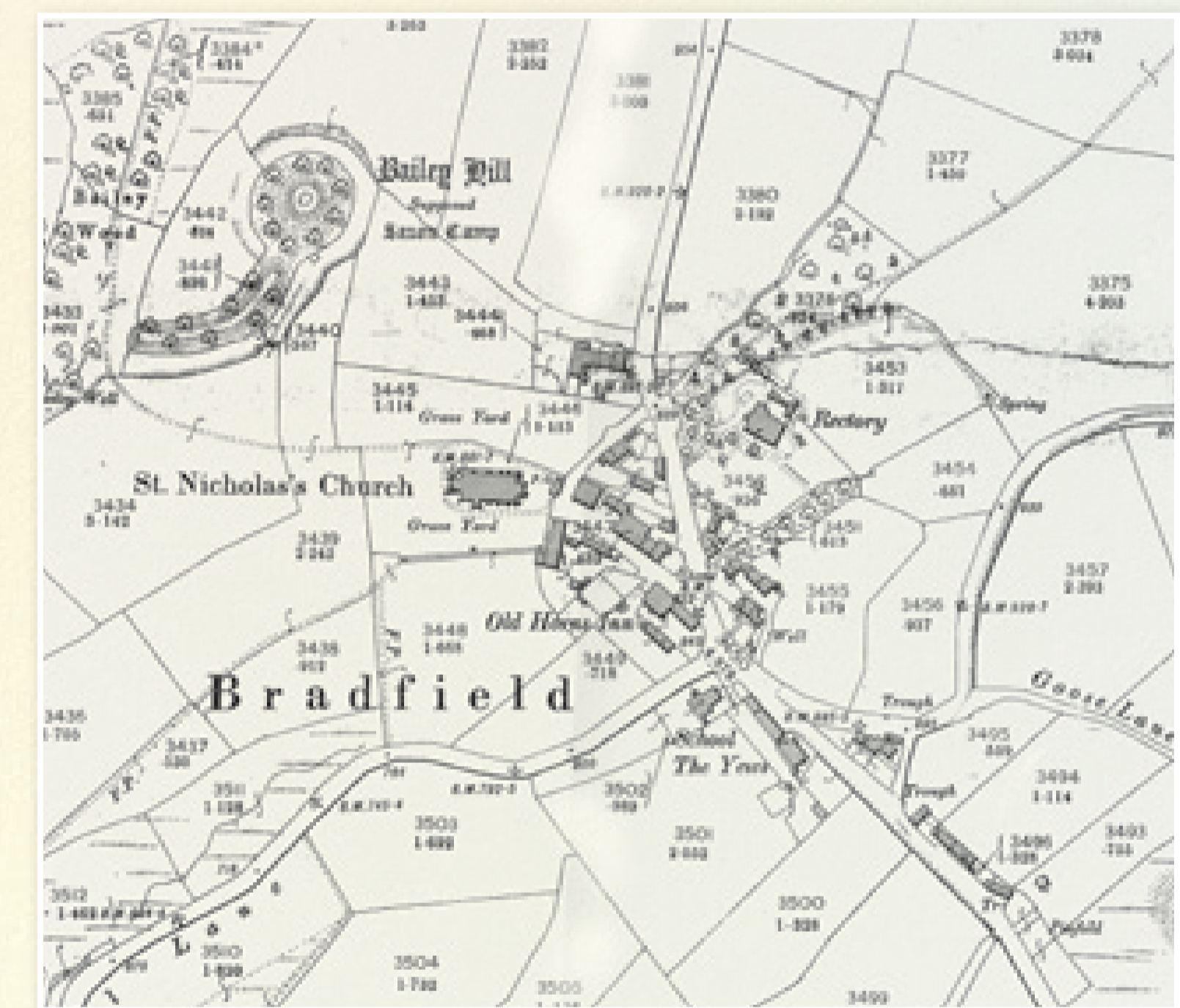
Further Afield

Mortimer Road was built in 1777 as a turnpike road from Derbyshire to Penistone. There are a number of 18th century milestones to be seen on the road. The historic Strines Inn offers spectacular views over the dams towards Bradfield.

Bar Dyke, situated above High Bradfield near the junction of Mortimer Road and Penistone Road, is thought to be a defensive structure or territorial boundary dating from the Bronze or Iron Ages. The ditch and embankment stretch some 400 metres across the moor.

The Duke's Road. This rough track across the moors from the Bar Dyke on Mortimer Road to the Derwent Valley was constructed by the Duke of Norfolk for grouse shooting.

Map of High 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.

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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.

Former Bradfield Parish Workhouse

For more information on the history of High Bradfield see David Hey (1979) 'The Making of South Yorkshire' and Malcolm Nunn (1996, reprinted in 2005) 'Around Bradfield, Loxley and Hillsborough'.

