

## Points of Interest

### 1 Smithy Garage

This building was a blacksmith's shop until the late 1930s. If you look over the wall after passing the garage, you will see the remains of Low Bradfield Corn Mill.

### 2 School Lane

Although no trace remains today, the original Low Bradfield School, built around 1706, stood near here. The building was completely destroyed in the flood in 1864 but Mr. Nicholls the headmaster and his family managed to escape to higher ground by running up the steps opposite the end of the bridge.

### 3 Castle Hill

David Hey (1979) suggests the earthwork may have been an early defensive structure known as a ring work.

### 4 The Old Horns Inn

The present building was built around 1830 on the site of an earlier inn. It was also previously used as a farm. The private houses across the road from the Old Horns Inn were used as the Bradfield Parish workhouse between 1759 and 1847.

### 5 The Watch House

This unusual building at the bottom of Jane Lane was built in 1832 to allow a guard to watch over the graveyard and apprehend bodysnatchers.

### 6 St Nicholas' Church

The parish church is grade one listed and included in Simon Jenkins' 'England's Thousand Best Churches'. It is in the Gothic Perpendicular style and dates from the 1480s, with parts of an earlier church that may have been built in the 12th century. It is worth looking inside. A number of events are held here, including a Festival of Music in June each year. There are excellent views from the churchyard up Bradfield Dale to Derwent Ridge.

### 7 Bailey Hill

Behind the church, covered by trees, is Bailey Hill, a man-made conical mound that is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. David Hey (1979) says that it is "One of the best preserved and most dramatic motte-and-baileys in Yorkshire."

### 8 Agden reservoir

The reservoir was completed in 1869 and holds 560 million gallons of water. The word 'agden' means 'valley of the oak trees' (Smith 1961).

### 9 Fairhouse Lane

Until the 1960s there was a general grocer's shop, selling everything from sweets to pins and paraffin at the top of Fairhouse Lane. Fairhouse Farm stands below the turning circle and is one of the oldest houses in the area, dating from the 1630s.



### References:

David Hey (1979) 'The Making of South Yorkshire' Moorland Publishing, Ashbourne.  
Simon Jenkins (1999) 'England's Thousand Best Churches', Allen Lane, London.  
A.H.Smith (1961) 'The Place-names of the West Riding of Yorkshire' Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. Bradfield Local History Group, Bygones of Bradfield, Vols 1 – 3, Hilltop Press, Sheffield. Malcolm Nunn 'Around Bradfield, Loxley and Hillsborough' First published 1996, reprinted 2003, Tempus Publishing, Stroud.

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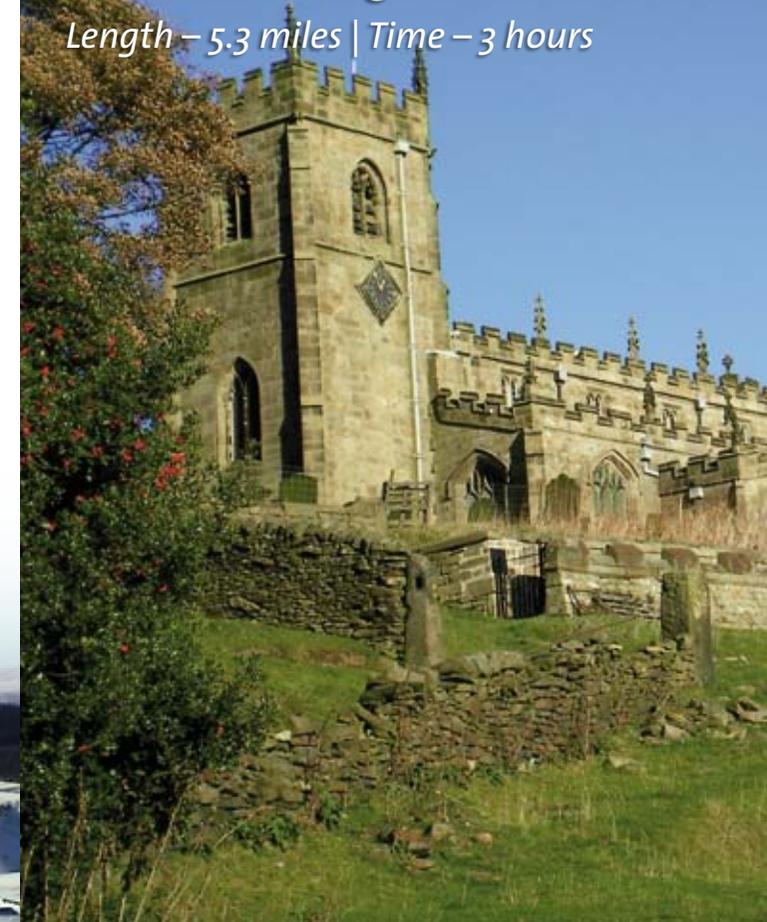
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# Bradfield Loop

## A walk from Low Bradfield to High Bradfield and Agden Reservoir

Length – 5.3 miles | Time – 3 hours



Bradfield Parish Council  
Walks and Trails

# Bradfield Loop

*A walk from Low Bradfield to High Bradfield and Agden*

From Low Bradfield the route climbs through fields to High Bradfield, then passes St. Nicholas' Church and Bailey Hill and continues through woodland before crossing more open land. The final section is by Agden Reservoir.

## Route Instructions

From the car park, turn left and then left again over Smithy Bridge. Follow the road (Smithy Bridge Road) and then at the corner by the garage (See Points of interest 1), continue along the road (Lamb Hill) 2.

After about 250m there is a lane which forks off and upwards on the left. Take this path.

About 100m before you reach Mill Farm, there is a footpath on your left by a bush. There is a square green footpath marker. Go over the stile and follow the path behind the farm.

Go across the field keeping the wall on your right. Head for the stone stile at the gap in the trees at the bottom of the

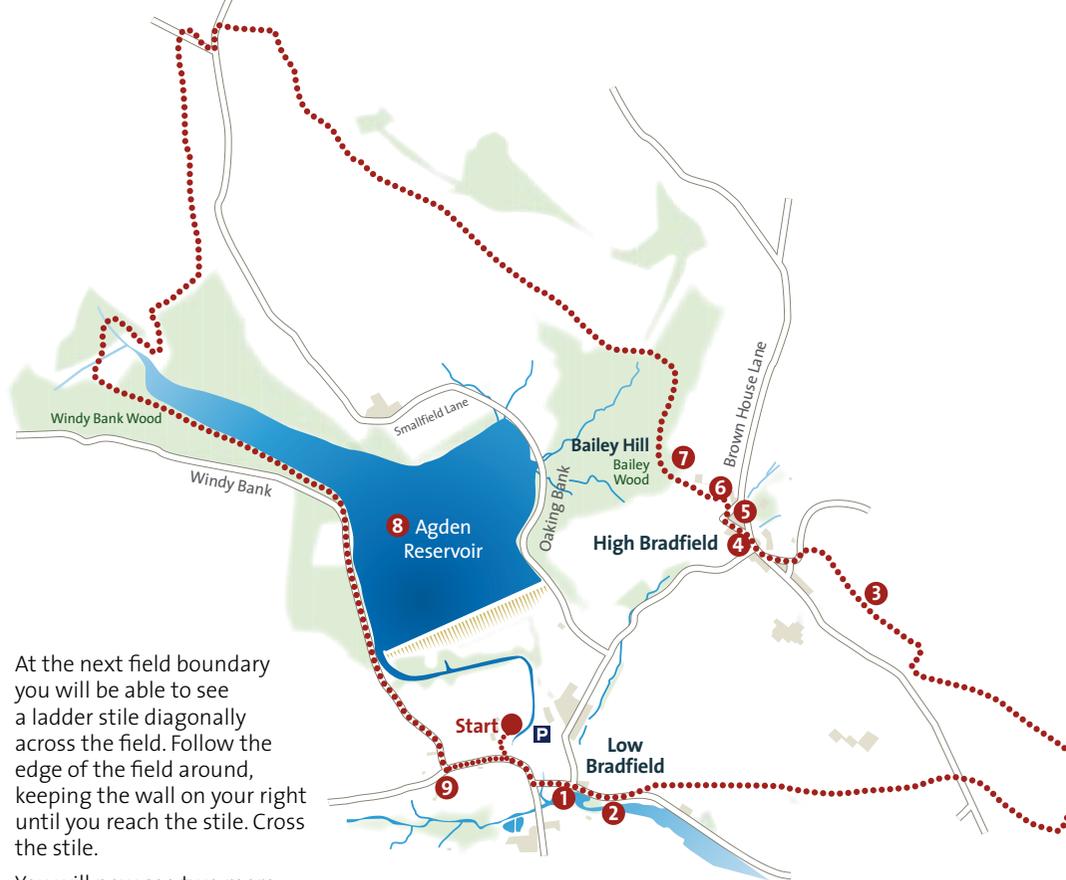
field. Take care as many of the stiles on this path are in poor condition.

Go over the stile and immediately pass through a narrow stone stile into the upper field.

Cross this field and the next aiming for the ladder stile near the trees on the far field boundary. From the ladder stile head up the banking to the wall and wooden stile.

There isn't much of a stone stile remaining but there is a wooden stile immediately over the wall.

Having entered the field continue east keeping close to the wall on your right.



At the next field boundary you will be able to see a ladder stile diagonally across the field. Follow the edge of the field around, keeping the wall on your right until you reach the stile. Cross the stile.

You will now see two more ladder stiles across the next two fields and up to the road.

Beware of traffic.

Cross the fields and stiles onto Loxley Road.

Cross the road and take the lane which is more or less opposite the stile.

Follow the lane up the hill, past the cattle shed. Swing left with the lane and continue up hill.

Swing left again as you pass what remains of a holiday chalet. Continue along the lane in the direction of High Bradfield.

100m before joining the main road there is a ladder stile over the wall on the right. The path goes up the hill to another ladder stile. At the top of the hill follow the ridge towards High Bradfield.

Pass over the earth works of Castle Hill 3 and drop down to the stiles at the bottom right corner of the field.

Cross the small fields in the direction of the white house. When you reach the road, turn left and go into High Bradfield.

Beware of traffic.

In High Bradfield take the cobbled road in front of the Old Horns Inn 4 and continue straight ahead.

Just before the gates to the church turn right and then take the path behind the Watch House 5 through the church yard.

At the end of the church yard 6 enter the woods. Take the path to the right, down into the woods. Do not take the extreme right path that leads up to

Bailey Hill 7 but follow the path as it makes a sharp left in the woods.

Drop down to the gate and the stream. Cross over the bridge over the stream and take the track that swings round to the left. After 200m the path reaches some gateways. Take the gate in front of you and go up into the field above.

Head across and uphill to reach the main path. At the end of the field the path reaches a stone stile. Cross the stile into the next field.

Across the field there is a ladder stile next to a broken down wall. Cross this wall into the upper field. Continue heading the same north westerly direction across the field.

The path leads to the derelict farm buildings at Rocher Head farm. Follow the lane past the buildings and the barn. Continue along the lane, swinging left up to Smallfield Lane.

Beware of traffic.

Cross the road and take the footpath over the stile into the field opposite.

Head down the field and then turn left to the stile out of the field and onto Agden Side Road. Take the path opposite through the heather.

The path turns left and passes through a wall before tracking along the edge of the valley, back towards Agden Reservoir. There are good views from here, and there is a well-placed bench to sit and admire the scenery.

When the path reaches the wall it turns right and drops steeply to enter the former woods and continues down until it turns left and goes down to Agden Reservoir 8.

Turn right along the lane. After a short distance you will see the bridge across the stream. Cross the bridge and go through the wooden gate.

The right of way goes up from the gate to the lane (Windy Bank) and then left along the lane towards Low Bradfield.

(There is now also a concessionary path by the reservoir. If you prefer, follow the path through the woods, taking the lower route when options arise. You will eventually end up on the lane whichever route you take.)

Beware of traffic.

Follow Windy Bank past the reservoir and down to the T junction. Turn left down Fair House Lane 9. The car park is on the left.

## Details

**Grade** - Gentle ascents, one steep descent, can be muddy in places. Most paths well defined.

**Start** - Car park, The Sands, Low Bradfield.

**Parking** - as above.

**Public transport** - Buses 61 / 62 stop at Fair House Lane

/ Smithy Bridge Road, Low Bradfield.

**Refreshments** - The Post Card Café, The Plough Inn, Low Bradfield; Old Horns Inn, High Bradfield.

**Public toilets** - Low Bradfield.

**Grid Reference** - SK 2626 9204