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Points of Interest

1 Low Bradfield

The village probably grew up as a farming community where Agden Beck and Dale Dyke meet to form the River Loxley. Indeed, the name Bradfield first appeared as 'Bradesfeld' in 1188 and means a 'broad stretch of open countryside' (Smith 1961). Today the name is used to refer generally to the two settlements of High and Low Bradfield, and the civil parish of Bradfield is the largest in England, covering over 50 square miles.

2 Bradfield Parish Council Offices

The Parish Council Offices are housed in the former Wesleyan Chapel, built in 1817, and used as a temporary school between 1864 and 1867, until a new school was built to replace that washed away in the Great Sheffield Flood. The former Methodist Chapel, on the opposite side of the road, was built in 1899 and closed in 1993. It is now a private house.

3 Water Works Filter Station

On the right is the derelict filter station, built in 1913 and extended in 1954, to purify water from the Strines, Dale Dyke and Agden reservoirs. In 1930 it had the first telephone installed in Bradfield. The premises closed in 1994 following the completion of the new Water Treatment Works in the Loxley Valley.

4 The Plough Inn

This was originally a farmhouse before being converted to an inn in the 19th century. The archway was used to take cattle into the auction yard at the rear of the building, but was blocked in during the 1960s.

5 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.

6 St Nicholas' Church

The parish church of St Nicholas is in the Gothic Perpendicular style and dates from the 1480s. It incorporates elements of an earlier church that may have been built in the 12th century. It contains many interesting memorials, including a green man roof boss, brasses and an Anglo-Saxon cross found in Low Bradfield in 1886. The church hosts a number of events, including a Festival of Music in June each year. Simon Jenkins includes the church in his book 'England's Thousand Best Churches', and mentions the glorious views from the churchyard.

7 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.

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.

8 Bailey Hill

Although we do not pass it on this walk, on the northwest edge of the village, close to the church is Bailey Hill, a man-made conical mound covered by trees, that is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The date and purpose of its construction are unknown, David Hey, however, says there is no doubt that Bailey Hill is a motte-and-bailey castle calling it, "One of the best preserved and most dramatic motte-and-baileys in Yorkshire."

9 Kirkgate Steps

Kirkgate Steps are also known as the 'Fairy Steps'. They are thought to be part of an old burial road to High Bradfield.

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.

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For more information on walks in Bradfield visit www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk

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Two Villages

A circular walk from Low to High Bradfield

Length - 1.8 miles | Time - 1 hour



Bradfield Parish Council
Walks and Trails

Two Villages

A circular walk from
Low to High Bradfield



Details

Grade - Steady ascent and descent across fields. A short section on roads. The paths are well defined. There are stiles, steps and gates.

Start - Car park, The Sands, Low Bradfield.

Public transport - Buses 61 and 62 from Hillsborough stop

at Fair House Lane / Smithy Bridge Road, Low Bradfield.

Refreshments - Old Horns Inn, High Bradfield; The Postcard Café and The Plough Inn, Low Bradfield.

Public toilets - Low Bradfield.

Grid Reference - SK 2626 9204



Starting in Low Bradfield the route goes around the lower parts of the village before it climbs steadily across fields to the village of High Bradfield. After a short exploration of the churchyard the route returns down to Low Bradfield by a path on the opposite side of the road to the ascent. The route affords excellent views across the countryside of the northern Peak District.

Route Instructions

At the entrance to the car park go left out to the main road, Fair House Lane. Turn left again and go down past the bus stop towards Smithy Bridge Road. (See Points of Interest **1**)

Do not go over the bridge, instead continue up Mill Lee Road, towards Dungworth.

Pass the Bradfield Parish Council Offices **2** on your left and the derelict water works **3** on the right.

At the Plough Inn **4**, turn left and go along New Road.

At the last house on the left turn left down the footpath along the drive of the house and continue on an old, paved path.

Notice the old paving slabs which have been worn down by many years of use. Take care as the slabs are uneven and may be slippery.

Continue across the bridge over the stream and at the junction with the road turn right **5**.

On the opposite side of the road are steep stone steps going between bushes into the field. Take this path.

Keep to the left of the oak tree.

Go up the hill over the stile. The path aims towards the church and runs parallel to the electricity supply poles.

As the path nears the road keep the wall close on your right. The path turns at the corner of the field and crosses a stone stile onto Woodfall Lane.

Take care on the road. This road is steep, with tight bends limiting visibility and can be busy.

Go up the hill for a short distance and then cross the stile on the left, taking the

footpath into the field below the church.

Go straight up the field, aiming for the left hand end of the retaining wall in front of the church **6**.

Go through the black metal gate and cross in front of the church on the top of the retaining wall. Follow the path up through the large metal gate onto the road.

In front of you is the Watch House **7**. There is a footpath to the left just beyond the Watch House, which leads through the churchyard and to the woods. Just above the church are the earthworks of a motte-and-bailey castle. **8**

Having explored St Nicholas' Church and churchyard, the route returns to Low Bradfield.

Go back through the large black metal gate and take the path

back across the retaining wall to the small black metal gate.

Instead of going down the hill and back the way you came, go through the gateway ahead and follow the wall down the hill.

Go through the next gateway and head down towards the bottom corner of the field, keeping the wall on your right.

Drop down through the trees to the metal gate.

Go through the gate, watching out for traffic, cross the road (Smallfield Lane), and go down the footpath opposite.

Continue down the path, down the stone steps **9** and over the narrow wooden bridge across the stream.

Turn left and follow the path back to the car park. Take care as the path is uneven and can be slippery.

