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## Bradfield Ancient Ways Walk

### Short Walk

- Length – 3.6 miles.
- Grade – Easy to follow paths across fields, with a mix of easy stiles and gates
- Start – Junction of Kirk Edge Road and Long Lane, Worrall
- Grid Reference – SK 305 920
- Parking Maps – OL1 Dark Peak
- Public transport – 61 and 62 service from Hillsborough Interchange
- Refreshments – The Schoolrooms Café, Post office Cafe, The Plough Inn in Low Bradfield; Old Horns in High Bradfield



Dutch barn at Holdworth Hall

## Description

The walk is to celebrate the improvement of thirty five (35) stiles on ancient paths between Worrall and Low and High Bradfield as part of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership Project.

Bradfield Parish is an ancient parish considered to be the largest parish in England. It was originally part of a much larger parish, Ecclesfield Parish, with Bradfield being one of its chapels in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The origin of Ecclesfield Church and Parish are linked to the pre Anglo Saxon period. It is therefore not surprising that there would have been several paths or ways between Church, Chapel and hamlets and townships. This walk links several of these.

## Route Instructions:

1. Standing at the junction of Kirk Edge Road and Long Lane go up Kirk Edge Road away from the centre of Worrall. Go past Kirk Edge Drive and then take the footpath on the left by the side of the last house.
2. Pass through the gate into the field. Going uphill cross the field aiming for the stile and telegraph pole up the field.
3. Continue across a number of small fields, passing through gates until you reach a stone stile onto the track by Low Ash Farm. Turn right and proceed through the larger gate and up the track to Darwent Lane.



*Starting from Worrall the walk follows field paths over Enclosure Award fields of the late 18<sup>th</sup> early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The fields tend to be regular in shape with straight walls. Prior to this the land would probably have been uncultivated moorland. The remnants of ancient paved footways can be found at Low Ash Farm*

4. Turn left onto Derwent Lane and head down to the junction between the lane and farm tracks. Up on the left at the base of the wall are the remains of the ancient paved path.

*Progressing along Low Ash Common, on the right is a large enigmatic conical mound in the field. On older maps it is named "Cop Low", the "Low" element means "hill" while the "Cop" can mean a "conical hill" or "look out". Local dialect uses the words "cop this" meaning "look at this". In the following two fields stretches of an ancient paved footpath can be found along the wall side. It is often over grown by brambles and other vegetation. This paved way certainly would have been a "church way", perhaps even used as a burial or coffin way at times to Bradfield Church. In latter times this area has seen much quarrying and mining.*

5. At the junction take the farm track on the right. It is signed as footpath 46. Passing over a cattle grid continue up the track for 300m. Take the signed footpath off to the left across a narrow field, then over the stone stile and turn immediately right following the path by the wall. There are further traces of the old paved route at the base of this wall.
6. Cross three further stone stiles before reaching some woodland. Take the gate and follow the path with the high wooden fence on your left.
7. Pass through the slit stile and cross the field aiming for the stile 50m beyond the gate onto Holdworth Lane.



*Approaching Holdworth, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, "Hold" is a personal name while "worth" means "settlement". The nature of the field shapes are much more irregular around Holdworth showing that they are ancient fields of some age. They would have been enclosed piece meal by encroachment of the moorlands probably over a long period of time. At Holdworth Hall can be seen, unusual for these parts, a Dutch Barn with a roof that can be raised or lowered.*



8. Go up Holdworth Lane past Stony Lane and up to the junction with Moor Lane. Turn left down Moor Lane. After 100m take the farm track off to the right by the side of a solitary house. After 200m the remains of a Dutch barn can be seen to the left.
9. Continue across the fields crossing stone stiles. About 200m before Cliffe House Farm ascend the stone steps onto the upper side of the wall. Continue into the farmyard with the large barns alongside on the right.



*Near New Lathes are a set of stone steps up to the next field with possibly another remnant of the paved church way*

10. Pass through the farmyard and take the farm track going down to the right. Pass a dilapidated wooden building and take the track that cuts back sharp left through a metal gate.
11. Follow the track down through the farm buildings and down to the main road.



*Below Cliffe House Farm our route descends down towards Peck Hall fields where again these are the more irregular ancient fields but with later straight walls added.*

12. Cross Loxley Road, go through the gate opposite and take the footpath into the fields. Follow the waymarking roundels to cross the fields in the same general direction aiming for the gates and stiles and the copse in the general direction of Low Bradfield.
13. Drop down into the field and continue across through the gates and down to the far corner. Continue through the newly installed gates to the road at Lamb Hill.



14. A short walk along the road towards Low Bradfield brings us to a set of steep stone steps on the right which ascends up steep steps into the field.

*This leads up towards Bradfield Church and would have again been used as a Church way or simply a path up to High Bradfield from the Mill and houses that were washed away in the 1864 flood when the Dale Dyke Dam burst its banks.*



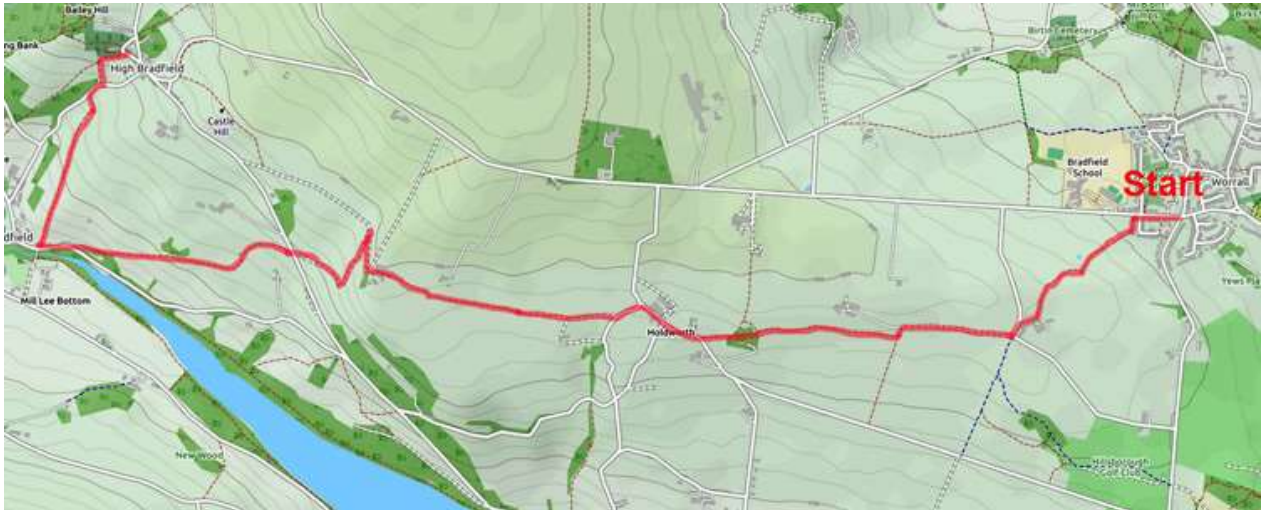
15. Go straight up the field keeping the wall to the left. Follow the path through two pedestrian gates and then head towards the stone steps that take you onto Wood Fall Lane.
16. Go 50m up the road towards High Bradfield taking the stile on the left which brings us to a set of steep stone steps below the church.
17. Pass through the gate and pass in front of the church and out onto Jane Street.

*Arriving at Bradfield Church the "journey" is not ended. The inquiring walker will want to explore the Norman Motte and Bailey behind the church or visit "Castle Hill" which still remains a mystery. There is a "holy well" near the church and the church itself contains several pre-Christian symbols.*

*The routes to Bradfield Church and its environs from whatever direction remains to inspire those who want to rediscover the heritage of this fascinating area.*



## Map of the route



Please utilise the 'contact' link on the Bradfield Walkers are Welcome website if you wish to suggest any amendments to these instructions

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