

WHEELY EASY WALKS IN BRADFIELD

A guide to routes for mobility impaired walkers



Route 1. Damflask Circular

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Bradfield Walkers are Welcome group were awarded a grant in August 2011 from the Sheffield City Council 50+ Small Sparks for Older People fund to investigate routes in the Bradfield area suitable for mobility-impaired walkers, especially users of wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

As a result of feedback from users and visits to the area to assess routes, this leaflet has been produced to allow those wishing to enjoy Bradfield's countryside to judge the suitability of routes for themselves taking into account their particular circumstances and local conditions. We would appreciate any comments from users about other accessible routes or problems encountered.

Downloadable maps of the routes can be found on the Yorkshire Water website, <http://www.yorkshirewater.com/walks-and-leisure.aspx>.

The Bradfield Area

Although the Bradfield area is not ideal for mobility impaired walkers as many walking routes are off main roads, often using rough paths across the moors where gradients can be quite steep, there are some routes, mainly

around the reservoirs in the valley bottom, which may be suitable for mobility-impaired walkers. These routes are generally well-surfaced, with mostly gentle gradients, and offer opportunities for accessible and pleasant outings.

Facilities Available in Low Bradfield

Car Parking. Car park available on The Sands in Low Bradfield but the surface is rough. Parking is usually possible on the roads around the cricket field and on Mill Lee Road but the village can be very busy on summer weekends.

Buses. The area is well-served by the 61 / 62 bus route. Bus stops in Low Bradfield and along Loxley Road.

Telephones. Signals to and from mobile phones are poor or non-existent in the Bradfield area. There is a public phone box outside the Postcard Cafe in Low Bradfield and another near the Old Horns Inn at High Bradfield.

The Postcard Cafe. Small kerb up to tables and seats in garden to side of café. Steps make access to seats inside difficult.

The Schoolrooms Cafe and Deli. Cafe has a car park. Access to tables and seats outside cafe may be possible. Cafe inside is upstairs.

The Plough Inn. Pub car park at back. Access to tables outside and to restaurant and bar through back entrance may be possible. Steps to door at front.

Disabled Toilets. Located by Bradfield Parish Council Offices, Mill Lee Road, Low Bradfield. RADAR key needed. Other toilets in the village on The Sands behind the Village Hall are up a steep flight of steps.

Route 1. Damflask Circular. (Distance approx. 3.8 miles.)

This is a pleasant, circular route around the reservoir with good views. It uses well-surfaced paths, but there are a couple of short sections which are quite steep and in some places there is a steep, unfenced drop down to the water. There are numerous benches along the route. Car parking is possible on the road at either end of the route.

This is a heavily used path often used by runners and dog walkers. There are no toilets or other facilities on the route - the nearest are in Low Bradfield.

From Low Bradfield, go along Lamb Hill behind the Smithy Garage away from the village. This tarmaced road is level but there is no pavement. Turn right after approx. 500 yards at the signposted footpath down to the reservoir. There is a post here in the middle of the path with a 36" gap on each side. The path has a firm surface and slopes gently downhill.

The path continues along the side of the reservoir. There is a short, steep downhill section before a wooden bridge which is not fenced and there is a steep drop here down to the water. There are several benches on this stretch offering good views. Pass in front of sailing clubhouse. After the clubhouse there is a 4" step down where a ridge runs across the path after the clubhouse. (You could exit the path before this by turning up the paved road to the left after the clubhouse. There is a 34" gap to go round the side of the locked gate at the top. Go down the road to rejoin the route at the gap in the wall opposite

Hawthorne Barn.) After the 4" step the path climbs a short but steep slope to a gap in the wall onto Loxley Road. There is a 36" gap at the side of the wooden fence then a similar sized gap through the wall. It is usually possible to park on the road here.

Turn right as you exit the wall and continue along the pavement, turning right at the junction to follow the reservoir wall round. The pavement here is level and quite wide but beware of slippery fallen leaves.

Rejoin the path round the reservoir through a 36" gap in the fence after the fisheries house. The path is level and well-surfaced here but beware of the steep, unfenced slope down to the water. There is a ramp with wheelchair platforms for anglers with disabilities, and numerous benches. After this the path becomes more undulating, but there are good views up the valley and over the water. Continue to exit on to School Lane, where there is a 34" gap in the wall. Exits before this on to New Road are through gaps in the fence only 24" wide. Turn right across the bridge and then left on Lamb Hill to return to Smithy Garage.

Route 2. Damflask Short Route.
(Distance approx. 2.0 miles.)

It would be possible to treat the route described above as a linear walk, either on the north (past the sailing clubhouse) or south (past the fisheries house) side of the reservoir.

For the shorter **north route**, from Low Bradfield follow the directions above, exiting on to Loxley Road at Hawthorne Barn. Parking is usually possible at either end of the route.

For the slightly longer route on the **south** (fisheries house) side, from Low Bradfield go along Lamb Hill and take the first turning to the right (School Lane) to cross the stone bridge. Turn left onto the path at side of reservoir. This is the route described above in reverse. Exit by the fisheries house or through the narrow (24") gaps through the fence on to New Road. It is usually possible to park at either end of the route.

It would be also possible to return to Low Bradfield by turning right on New Road and going along to reach The Plough Inn in Low

Bradfield. However, although the road is flat, it is quite busy, with a narrow pavement on one side only. There are branches overhanging the pavement in places.

Route 3. Agden Circular. (Distance approx. 2.5 miles.)

This route is signposted by Yorkshire Water as an Easy Going Trail. It offers good views across the reservoir.

However, the exit onto Windy Bank Road is very narrow and there is a steep uphill section after the bridge over Agden Dike. There are no toilets or other facilities on the route - the nearest are in Low Bradfield.

N.B. The footpaths around the reservoir which run along the bank from Smallfield Lane and by Reservoir House on Windy Bank Rd. through the trees should be avoided as they are very narrow, rough and slope down to water with no fencing.

The route starts with a fairly steep uphill section from Low Bradfield, up Windfall Lane past the Postcard Cafe and turns first left on to Smallfield Lane. There are no pavements on these roads. Follow the level

road round to Smallfield Farm which is on the right. (To avoid the uphill section you may prefer to park in the layby on the left just after Smallfield farm.)

Continue along Smallfield Lane with the reservoir on your left to a signposted path at a gate on the left. The gap by the side of the gate is 36" wide. The path has a good, firm surface but there is a quite steep downhill gradient and a bad camber to the left. After a sharp right hand bend the path levels out as far as the stone bridge over Agden Dike, although there are some bumpy patches. There are numerous seats along this stretch with good views across the reservoir.

Continue on the path to cross the stone bridge. The path then runs steeply uphill for about 100 yards and becomes very bumpy before levelling out to reach a seat at the top by a gate, looking across to the former site of Agden House.

Go through the gate. The path turns to the left and runs between stone walls. It is now well-surfaced and level although it may be muddy in places. Good views through the trees to the reservoir. Continue to the gate

and stone stile with 3 steps at the end of the path. The gap by the side of the gate to exit onto Windy Bank Road is very narrow – only 20” - and the gate was locked when the route was assessed. Parking here to attempt the route from this direction would be difficult. Return to Low Bradfield by turning left and going down the road. There is a good tarmac surface but it is a downhill slope and there is no pavement on this narrow road. The road levels out to pass alongside the reservoir. Turn left at the junction with Fairhouse Lane to return down the hill to Low Bradfield.

Route 4. Loxley Valley. Black Lane to Rowell Bridge (Distance approx. 2 miles.)

This is a pleasant linear walk through trees beside the River Loxley, using mostly level, well-surfaced paths. It is signposted as an easy-going trail by Sheffield City Council and is the only route in this area with a tapping rail along part of the path. There are no toilets or other facilities on the route - the nearest are in Low Bradfield.

From Loxley Road go down Black Lane – a tarmaced, private road (no parking). The surface is good but there is a steady downhill gradient. At the bottom of the lane turn right and continue on the lane to pass in front of the row of cottages. This section is signposted as an Easy Going Trail. The surface here is level but uneven in places.

Just before you reach the next group of buildings, go through a gate on the left with a footpath sign. The gap at the side of the gate is 36” wide. There is an uneven cobbled surface on the short downhill slope. Beware of a 6” high ridge and a hole by a grating. The path continues steadily downhill to turn right by the building at the bottom. A wooden tapping rail starts here.

The path continues alongside the river. There is a bad camber to the left with an unfenced slope down to the water. Gradually the path improves and levels out by a seat. At the bridge follow the path round to the right up a slight gradient. The asphalted path levels out to pass a bench with a view down over the river.

The path joins Rowel Lane through an A frame stile, which is 36” wide at the bottom, tapering to approx 30” at shoulder height (standing). The tapping rail ends here. It is usually possible to park here in the layby.

Extension of the route to Storrs Bridge Lane.

It is possible to continue the route through the trees across the road from Rowel Bridge to Storrs Bridge Lane and make a circular route back to Loxley Road but the exit is difficult and you may prefer to retrace your steps at Rowel Bridge.

If you wish to extend the route, cross the road. The signposted easy going trail continues through a 36” wide gap in the fence a little to the left on the opposite side of the road. The path starts by going slightly uphill but it has a good, concrete surface. It then levels out and continues through a wooded, marshy area past a seat.

The path ends by a stile and gate before exiting onto the road into the works yard at Storrs Bridge Lane. The stone stile has 3 steps. Access through the gate is very difficult. The 6’ wide gate can be opened if the large stone holding it in place can be moved, but there is

a short rough, uphill slope to reach it and the stone will need to be replaced somehow when you are through the gate. It would be possible to park on the road here. Turn right to go up Storrs Bridge Lane where there is a steady uphill gradient before reaching Loxley Road. Turn right at the top to follow the pavement down Loxley Road back to its junction with Black Lane.

The Langsett area

There are a number of pleasant routes from Langsett Barn car park through woodland alongside Langsett reservoir. These paths are well-used and you should watch out for dog walkers and runners. On the bridle path you may need to watch out for cyclists and horse riders.

Facilities Available in Langsett

Car Parking. Car park available at Langsett Barn although it can be very busy on summer weekends. Designated disabled spaces.

Telephones. There is a public telephone box near Bank View Cafe. Signals to mobile phones are unpredictable in this area.

Buses. The area is served by the infrequent 257 Sheffield to Holmfirth bus route. Bus stops at Wagon and Horses Public House, Langsett village.

The Bank View Cafe. Cafe has a car park. Access to tables and seats in garden behind the cafe may be possible. Access to seats inside may be difficult due to a narrow doorway and low wall.

The Waggon and Horses Public House. Access to tables and seats outside pub may be possible. Pub car park at back.

Disabled Toilets. Located in Langsett Barn. RADAR key not needed.

Route 5. Langsett Short Route. (Distance approx. 0.5 miles.)

This is a popular and well-used, mainly level path which runs through trees alongside the reservoir and offers excellent views across the water and up on to the moors. There are no toilets or other facilities on the route – nearest are at Langsett.

Park in Langsett Barn car park. With your back to the barn, cross the car park to the far left hand corner. There are 3 paths here. Take the one in the bottom left corner. There is a short, steep downhill section through the trees at the start, but the path soon levels out to run alongside the reservoir. It is level, with a good surface and there are numerous seats to enjoy the views. Retrace your steps to return to the car park before reaching the uphill section towards the bridge at the top of the reservoir.

Route 6. Langsett Longer Route. (Distance approx. 2.5 miles.)

This is an extension of the Langsett short route with a longer section through the woodland. Continue along the path described above. Towards the end of the reservoir the path turns uphill, levels out, then joins a broad track which runs down to the bridge. Turn right onto the broad track, which runs up a steady uphill gradient for a short way before levelling out.

After about 50 yards turn right to go along the path signposted as a bridle way, and follow this well-surfaced, mostly level path

through the trees and back to Langsett Barn car park. This path is well-used and you should watch out for dog walkers and runners. As it is a bridle path you may need to watch out for cyclists and horse riders.



Easy Going Trail in the Loxley Valley.

Useful Websites

www.ramblers.org.uk A very useful site produced by the Ramblers Association with a detailed advice page on walking for people with disabilities.

www.naturalengland.org.uk. A website produced by Natural England covering the whole of Britain which allows you to search for easy access walks by region.

www.yorkshirewater.com/walks-and-leisure.aspx. A useful website produced by Yorkshire Water which features walks around reservoirs and has downloadable maps.

www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk The website of Bradfield Walkers are Welcome with details of walks in the area and guided walks programme. This leaflet is downloadable from the site.

This leaflet was produced in August 2011 by Bradfield Walkers are Welcome group with grateful thanks to Sheffield City Council 50+ Small Sparks for Older People fund.

Please note that the information provided is intended only as a guide - routes may have deteriorated or improved since they were assessed in August 2011. Bradfield Walkers are Welcome take no responsibility for any injuries, accidents or other incidents arising as a result of using this guide.

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