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Bradfield Walkers are Welcome <https://bradfield-walkers.org.uk/>

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Inclusive Route: Damflask Reservoir: South Side

- Length - 1.5 miles
- Time – 30/40 minutes one way
- Start – Damflask Lodge, B6076 or use the entrance to the route on the B6076 between the Dungworth and Ughill turn-offs.
- Grid Reference - SK 284 905
- Parking – Either: park at Damflask Lodge on the B6076. A few metres to your left is the start of the route along the side of the reservoir. There is a dropped kerb at the lodge and for 20 m along the road the kerb is low enough for wheelchair access.
Or: park just past the bus stop on the road along the south side of the reservoir between the turn-off to Dungworth and the turn-off to Ughill, where there is space for two or three cars, and no kerb. Cross the road to reach the entrance to the route along the side of the reservoir.
- Public transport – 62 bus from Hillsborough to the stop on B6076 between the Dungworth and Ughill turn-offs. Cross the road to reach the entrance to the route along the side of the reservoir.
- Refreshments – The Schoolrooms Café is wheelchair accessible. (Mill Lee Road, Low Bradfield, S6 6LB, phone 0114 285 1920).
- Accessible public toilets – Low Bradfield, next to parish council offices, radar key access. The Schoolrooms café also has an accessible toilet.
- Seating – there are benches approximately every 200 m.

Description

A woodland route with great views across Damflask Reservoir towards the surrounding hills. The route follows the south shore of the reservoir, through woods and then along the edge of fields, crossing the river just outside Low Bradfield. The path is generally flat and 1.5 m wide, with some short gentle gradients and narrower sections.

A road goes between our inclusive route on the north side of the reservoir and our inclusive route on the south side. It is fairly narrow, has traffic going in both directions, and the edges on either side are soft. Using this stretch of road is not recommended.



Damflask Reservoir

Access Information

At the entrance to the route by the bus stop, there is a map and information panel with raised letters and braille.

Road/off road: The route is completely off road. From the bus stop to access the route you have to cross New Road (1). It has one lane in each direction and is moderately busy, linking Bradfield with Dungworth and Stannington. Visibility from the bus stop side is quite good, but from the reservoir side is poor, because of the curve of the road. The route runs close to the road for about a third of its length and there are several gaps in the fence/hedge where a dog could get onto the road if they are off the lead.



Surface: Firm compacted sand/stone with occasional shallow muddy patches (2). Tactile paving at the entrance by the bus stop and at the end of the route where it joins the path across the stream.

Width of path: On average 1.5 m wide, with occasional variation between 1 and 2 m.

Camber: Generally flat for just over 1 km from Damflask Lodge. Beyond, there is an occasional slight camber, but generally flat.

Gradients: Generally flat for just over 1 km from Damflask Lodge. Beyond, it is mostly flat but there are some slopes roughly ten metres long with gradients between 1:12 and 1:15.



Rails / edges: From the entrance by the bus stop, turning left, there are rails along the right-hand side of the path for approximately 200 m (3). Turning right from the entrance there are wooden rails along the right-hand side of the path for approximately 20 m.



There is foliage on each side of the path. The distance between the path and the water is variable and in some places the water is approximately 20 cm from the path, with grass between the path and the water. The height of the path varies. There are no painted edges. The image (4) shows the narrowest and highest stretch of the path.

Obstacles: In two places, the path goes around trees (5). There are no stiles, gates, or narrow plank bridges. At the time of writing there were no obvious overhanging branches.



Route Instructions

1. If you start from Damflask Lodge, enter the route to the left of the building, as you look towards the reservoir, and follow the path, with the reservoir on your right. After 330m you will reach the second entrance to the route and the map and information panel with raised letters and braille. Continue along the path in the same direction.

If you start from the entrance opposite the bus stop (1), the route stretches in either direction: the right-hand path will take you after approximately 330 m back to the road at Damflask Lodge. The left-hand path takes you along the route towards Low Bradfield.

2. The route stretches in either direction: the right-hand path continues for approximately 330 m along the side of the reservoir and then joins the road at the entrance near Damflask Lodge. The path to the left continues for approximately 1.25 miles (2 km) along the side of the reservoir.
3. After approximately 1.25 miles (2 km) you will reach a T junction (3). Take the right turn, crossing the stream.
4. You will then meet a minor road (Lamb Hill) which leads to Low Bradfield (4).
5. To reach Low Bradfield, turn left and follow the road for approximately 100 m.



Historical Notes and Points of Interest

The reservoir was constructed in 1867 as one of a group of reservoirs in the area built to supply both fresh drinking water and a guaranteed supply of running water to the population and industries of Sheffield. It has a capacity of 1,123 million gallons and a maximum depth of 88 feet. Today it is also used by rowing and sailing clubs and for fishing. It takes its name from Damflask village which stood just about where the reservoir embankment is today. Early maps show that a corn mill, paper mill, wire mill, public house and a cluster of houses existed in 1850.

The village was washed away in the 1864 Sheffield flood when the dam at Dale Dike Reservoir broke. Nothing was rebuilt as plans were already in place to construct Damflask Reservoir. An estimated 3 million cubic metres (700 million imperial gallons) of water swept down the Loxley Valley, and on to Malin Bridge and Hillsborough. The flood continued south into Sheffield centre, around the eastward bend of the River Don at Lady's Bridge, then to Attercliffe and on to Rotherham. There were over 240 deaths.

Reference: Dungworth, Storrs and District Local History Group (1985) 'A Walk into History – a collection of memories, facts and photographs' Hudson Print Ltd., Warrington.



<https://bradfield-walkers.org.uk/>

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