

Bradfield Ancient Ways Walks and Launch - Wednesday, 26th February, 2020

The Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvements project was designed to improve six popular ancient paths in the Parish of Bradfield to be easily accessible to the general public. Some of the paths have been used for hundreds of years and they are a part of our heritage.

Unfortunately over time the many stiles had fallen into disrepair, steps had become worn, and the paths had become more like obstacle courses than public footpaths.

With funding and help from Sheffield City Council Public Rights of Way, the Ramblers, the Sheffield Lakeland Countryside Partnership, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Bradfield Parish Council, Bradfield Walkers are Welcome, Ramblers Walking Holidays and the Peak District National Park, the project repaired and replaced about 35 stiles, gates and sets of steps, to ensure these ancient routes can once again be easily enjoyed by the general public.

The paths are in the beautiful Loxley valley and run between High Bradfield, Low Bradfield and Worrall. With splendid views over Damflask Reservoir these ancient ways are ideally placed for South Yorkshire residents to enjoy.

As well as the views, traditional barns and farms and a fascinating variety of stone stiles, the paths include what was a buried section of a traditional stone walkway that is believed to be a paved "Church way". This dates back to the 12th century, and the time of the Manor of Hallamshire, when Ecclesfield Priory provided the chaplains for the chapel of ease at Bradfield and the route was used by monks to travel between the priory and Bradfield.

The aim of the morning walks is to get back to Low Bradfield village hall for about 12:30, where there will be teas and coffees - bring your own lunch. At about 1pm there will be a short address by the Chair of Bradfield Parish Council. We are inviting the various organisations that have funded and supported the Bradfield Ancient Ways Improvements.

Walk A – Linear walk – 10:30am start - 4 miles

This easy walk starts from Kirk Edge Road, Worrall. The walk will reach the Low Bradfield village hall by 12.30.

Meet on Kirk Edge Road, Worrall - Grid ref: SK 308 920

10.02 bus no. 57 from Sheffield bus Interchange to Kirk Edge Road, Worrall. (Cars can be parked in Worrall but occupants would have to make own way back in the afternoon).

Walk B - Morning loop – 10:00am start – 4.5 miles

The route takes us up the fields to High Bradfield, east on the Sheffield Country Walk to Cliffe House farm, NE to Kirk Edge Road, east until turn south to Spitewinter Farm and Holdworth, west via Nether House farm back to Low Bradfield.

Meet at Smithy Garage, Low Bradfield, S6 6LB (junction of Smithy Bridge Rd and Lamb Hill - SE corner of the village green). Grid ref: SK 264 919

Walk C - Afternoon loop – 1:30pm – 1:45pm start – 6 miles

This is a moderate walk, with 1000 ft of ascent, starting from Low Bradfield at 13.30/13.45, after the launch, and will take about 2.5 - 3 hours.

The Dale Dike and Agden Loop goes south to The Plough, west to Dale Dike, south west along the south side of Dale Dike, north east along the north side of Dale Dike, up the hill to the concessionary path heading north east to Mortimer Road, down through the woods to Agden House, back along the south side of Agden reservoir to Low Bradfield Hall.

Meet at Low Bradfield Village Hall, S6 6LB. Grid ref: SK 263 918