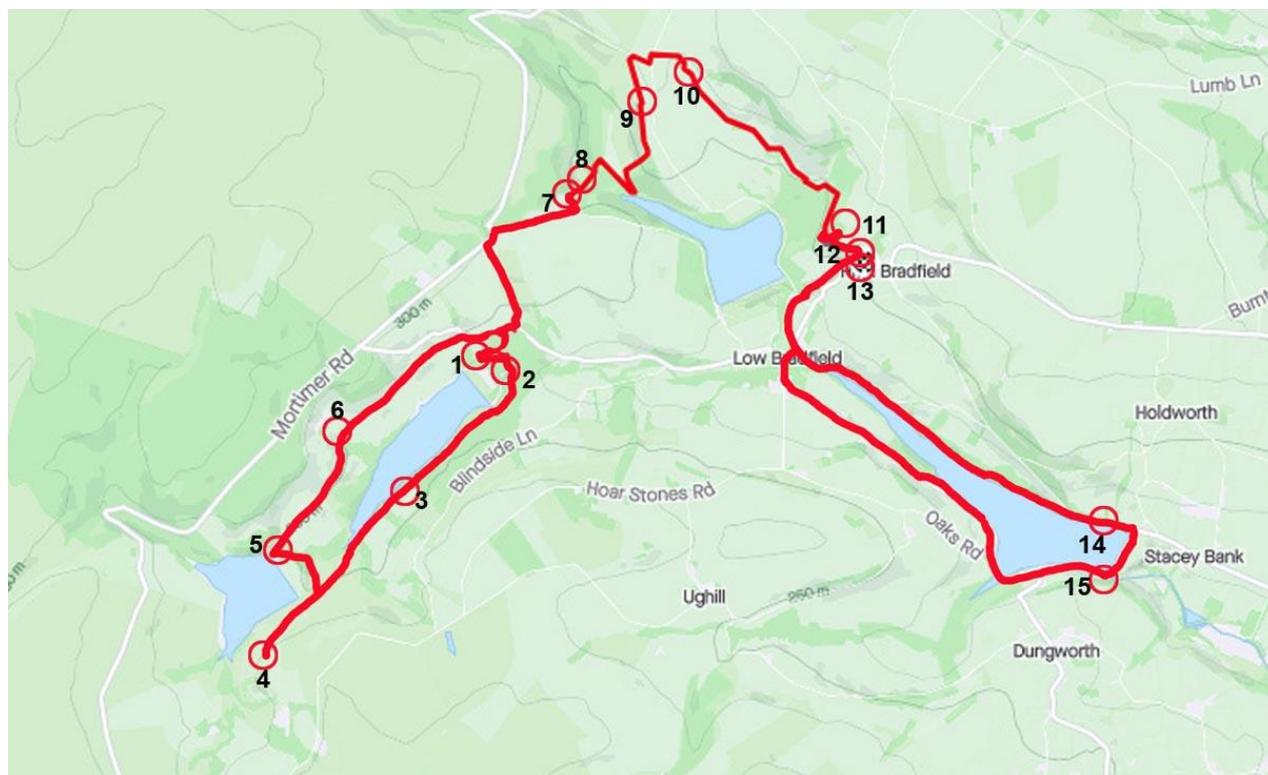


Sheffield Lakeland Geocross V76

Each of the locations can be found on the route below. The locations are listed in order and sufficient background is included to help you triangulate your position to identify the location



Start from Low Bradfield

INTRODUCTION TO SHEFFIELD LAKELAND

This concept was dreamt up as a catchy name for the spectacular man-made landscapes surrounding Sheffield's Reservoirs.



This trail visits the 4 Bradfield Reservoirs.



The full list of 12 reservoirs within 'Sheffield Lakeland' were all built between 1833 – 1907

Redmires Reservoirs, Upper, Middle and Lower 1833 – 1854

Rivelin Upper and Lower 1845 -1845

Bradfield Reservoirs Dale Dyke, Strines, Agden & Damflask 1849 – 1875

Stocksbridge three reservoirs Langsett, Underbank and Midhope 1889 - 1907

Of course none of these are 'Lakes' in the Lake District sense. A lake is a naturally occurring, relatively large body of still water surrounded by dry land. It usually has an inflowing and outflowing stream.

The Sheffield Lakeland Reservoirs are controlled bodies of water where the water level fluctuates throughout the year, controlled by the Water Management company, Yorkshire Water, visually changing the landscape setting in a dramatic manner.

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust created the concept of Sheffield Lakeland in order to make a bid for funding to run a project from January 2019 to March 2023. The big idea was to link together a number of existing successful landscape and wildlife projects to make 'a more natural and resilient landscape for people and wildlife.'

The project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of its national landscape partnerships programme. The Partnership received a grant of £2.6 million from the NLHF with matching funding from its core partners to deliver a £3.4 million package of partnership projects.

Location 1 OS ref SK 24288 91795

Dale Dyke Dam Disaster Memorial Sign

Contains “umbrella”



Sheffield Waterworks Company had government permission to raise money to go ahead with 'The Bradfield Scheme' of four new reservoirs. Dale Dyke commenced construction in 1859 and was to be completed in 1864, Damflask would follow in 1867 and Strines and Agden in 1869.

It was known that Damflask Reservoir would drown the village of Damflask. This would be the first planned 'drowned' village in Britain.

Damflask Village was just below Low Bradfield and fed by streams in Dale Dyke and Agden Dyke which met in the Loxley Valley. The village contained Bradfield's ancient corn mill, a paper mill, wire mill and the Barrel Inn and a cluster of houses and farms.

The people knew their village was soon to be drowned as the Damflask Reservoir filled, but in March 1864 they thought they still had three years to look forward to before having to move out.

On the fateful night of 11 March 1864, a Dale Dyke Reservoir worker, Stephenson Fowler was sent urgently by horse into Sheffield to get the Waterworks Engineer to come to inspect a crack which was threatening to burst the almost completed Dale Dyke Dam. Within the first mile of his 9 mile journey his saddle girth snapped and he stopped in Damflask Village to get it repaired. He warned the villagers that the dam above them may burst at any moment, and urged them to leave their homes and head for higher ground.

Only Harry Burkinshaw, known as 'Sheffield Harry' said he wouldn't leave his bed, and he was the first person to be swept away along with his house a few hours later. Dale Dyke Reservoir contained 7,000,000 gallons of water, about 26,500 metric tonnes. When the dam burst that weight of moving water fell 40 metres down the steep valley of the Dale Dyke and turned east into the Loxley Valley before demolishing the entire village, mills, houses, farms and pub of Damflask. 'Lost' sums up the extent of the devastation.

Damflask Reservoir was completed three years later but no village remained to be drowned. The Dale Dyke Dam disaster had swept way all the buildings at Damflask, and only Sheffield Harry lost his life. Damflask was truly a Lost Village.

Besides the Memorial Sign there is a small 'gravestone' reading CLOB. It appears to have been CLOD but then the D was recarved as B. It means Centre Line of Old Bank (or Dam) and it is about 250 metres downstream from the present day dam. It is believed that the original position selected for the dam was on unstable ground, leading to the disastrous collapse in 1864.

Location 2 OS ref SK 21995 90485

Bridge over Dale Dyke

Contains "flaunting"



Until fairly recently the perimeter walk around Dale Dyke Reservoir crossed the top of the dam by the stone wall and over the spillway by a bridge. This bridge is now locked by gates at each side, and the footpath has to descend to cross the Dale Dyke.

Location 3 OS ref SK 23756 90786

Sheffield Country Walk Sign on left gate post

Contains “memory”



Sheffield Country Walk passes through a series of fields on the south side of Dale Dyke Reservoir. This is part of a long distance circular footpath covering 85km (53 miles)

The symbol on the footpath marker is a sheaf of corn, although the historically correct symbol for Sheffield is a Sheaf of Arrows.

With views over reservoirs and moors, this is one of the most scenic parts of the walk.

Location 4 OS ref SK 23042 89905

Boots Folly - door

Contains "define"



Boots Folly stand in an imposing position as a sentinel at the head of the Bradfield valley.

It was once fully furnished and timber panelled with an internal spiral staircase reaching the roof.

However, it was costly to maintain at 300 metres above sea level on the side of a moor, and became abandoned and open to the weather.

In the 1970s a curious cow wandered in and climbed the spiral staircase to the roof, then became stuck. It is hard to turn a cow around on a staircase. Subsequently the lower staircase was removed.

Near Boots Folly is a pile of stone column pieces, at OS ref SK 23146 90081. Civil Engineer and Demolition Contractor Charles Boot must have salvaged these stone columns from a grand house, and set them aside for a future project. They have probably lain here for the best part of 100 years. There appear to be enough parts to form two columns, each comprising a circular plinth three fluted column sections and a rectangular cap.

Location 5 OS ref SK 23059 9064

Broggin House

Contains "volume"



The many streams on the moors to the west collect into the Strines and Foulstone Dykes. Strines means a meeting of streams and Foulstone Moor and Brogging Moss have more than their fair share.

Broggin House is a Grade 2 Listed Building and has a date stone of 1718 on the door lintel. It pre-dates the construction of the Strines Reservoir by 150 years.

Strines Reservoir is one of the four Bradfield reservoirs planned and built to supply Sheffield's growing population and industry. Between 1850 and 1900 Sheffield's population grew from 135,000 to almost 400,000 people.

Dale Dyke would have been the first of these reservoirs to be completed had the dam not failed on 11th March 1864 and 700,000,000 gallons of water swept down into the Loxley Valley, destroying everything in its path including many mills and workers cottages. More than 240 people died and many bodies were never found. The devastation continued as the water joined the River Don and swept through the Don Valley out to Rotherham and Doncaster.

Damflask Reservoir was completed in 1867, Agden and Strines in 1869 and finally the rebuilt Dale Dyke in 1875

Location 6 OS ref SK 23441 91488

Hallfield House

Contains “tanks”



The original house dates from Elizabethan times, before 1560, and has been extended many times. The public footpath passes through the gardens and the front door. The house faces south east and overlooks Dale Dyke Reservoir.

Location 7 OS ref SK 24855 92814

Emlin Dyke weir

Contains “launched”



Emlin Dyke is one of two streams emptying into Agden Reservoir.

This man-made canal had a mill and possibly provided a water supply to Agden Head Farm.

The stone stile and nearby wood is a popular bird feeding area.

Location 8 OS ref SK 25056 92986

Agden House gate posts

Contains "silver"



Agden Head Farm was a former hunting lodge, later divided into two properties, and eventually being demolished in 1972. The Sheffield Water Board were buying up all properties within the catchment of the four reservoirs and demolishing them. Frost House was bought in the 1950s, Rocher Head Farm in the 1960s,

Interestingly there was no concern about pollution of the reservoir catchment when they were planned and built in the 1860s. Only when the Derwent Valley Water Board began to construct Howden, Derwent and later Ladybower Reservoirs did they take immediate action to empty the habitable properties, and Sheffield Waterworks did the same.

Location 9 OS ref SK 25394 93324

Scenic memorial bench

Contains "movies"



This memorial bench has a magnificent view over Agden Reservoir down the Loxley Valley. To enjoy it requires a strenuous climb up from Agden Reservoir.

It was erected in memory of a local runner who once asked:-

'if you owned this, what better could you do with it than you are doing now?'

Location 10 OS ref SK 25742 93538

Rocher Head Farm

Contains "slimy"

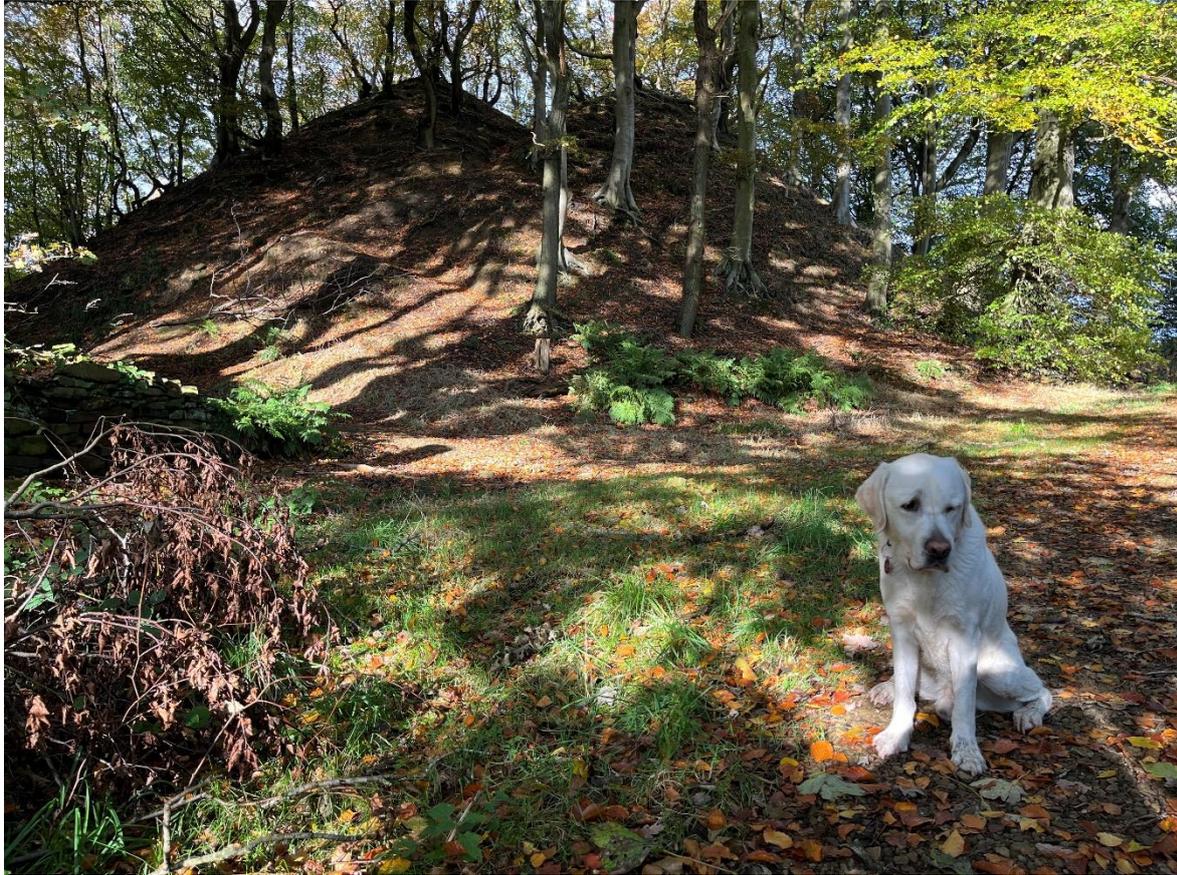


Rocher Head Farm was demolished in 1972, just before I helped check the climbs for an updated rock climbing guide to Agden Rocher. The fine stone may have come from Agden Rocher, which is of particular interest because it is a 'landslip' crag. That is, it is in an active state of falling down just like the shivering face of Mam Tor. It had 87 recorded climbing routes, mostly loose and some dangerous. Not a popular place.

Location 11 OS ref SK 26619 92644

Bailey Mound east foot

Contains "name"

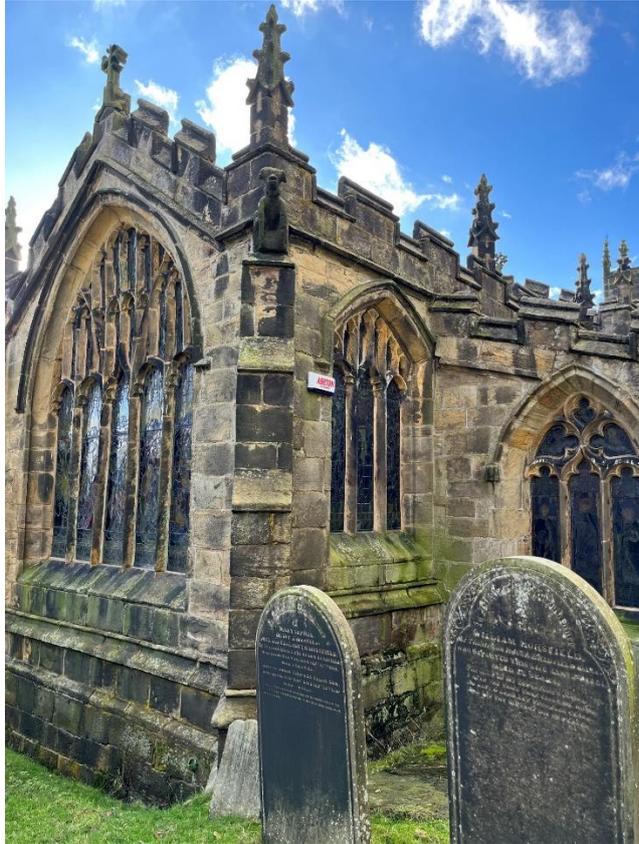


High Bradfield has a magnificent Motte and Bailey, now sadly hidden by trees but once highly visible, and well defended on the west by very steep slopes. It is a scheduled Ancient Monument. The motte is about 18 metres high and is surrounded by a deep ditch. It is thought to have been a castle built in the 1200s by the de Furnivals.

Location 12 OS ref SK 26740 92554

Bradfield Parish Church – dog gargoyle

Contains “fallen”



The Norman Church of St Nicholas is one of five Grade 1 Listed Buildings in Sheffield. It has been extended and remodelled many times in its 1000 year history. Parts of the original small two cell Norman church remain.

The gargoyes at the east end are a Dragon and a Dog.

Location 13 OS ref SK 26752 92536

The Watch House

Contains "mouth"



The irregular shaped Watch House has many windows. It stands close by the church gates and was built in 1745 to guard against grave robbers looking for fresh corpses for medical study. Sheffield hospital doctors needed a regular supply of these,. After an interment, friends and relatives of the deceased would stand guard over the grave armed with guns.

Location 14 OS ref SK 28248 90854

Damflask Village sign

Contains "lived"

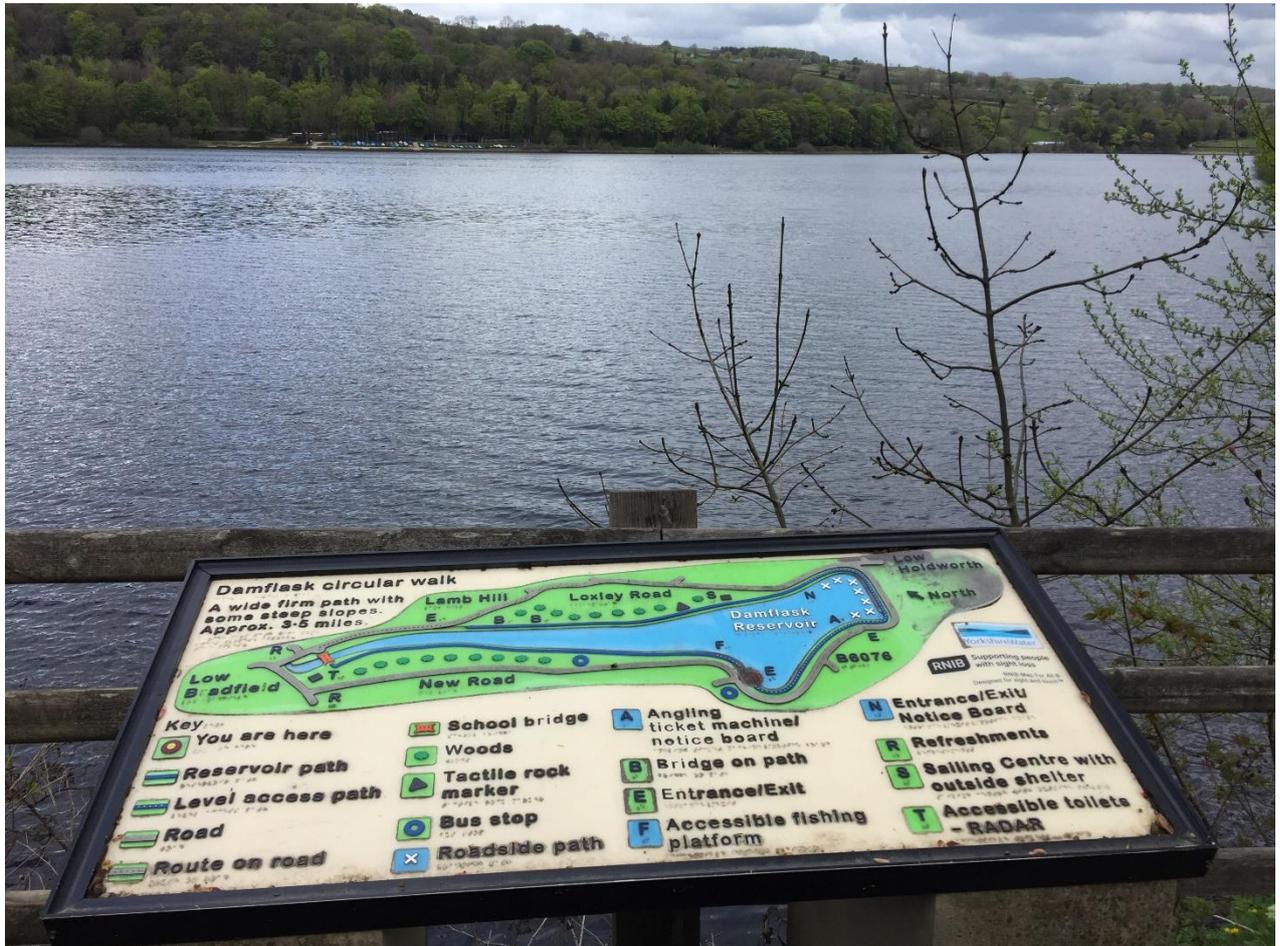


The village of Damflask would have been drowned below the waters of Damflask Reservoir very close to this entrance to the sailing club, had it now been swept away in 1864 by the waters released by the failure of the almost complete Dale Dyke dam.

Location 15 OS ref SK 27622 90523

Damflask Reservoir map

Contains "cave"



Sheffield Corporation Waterworks built Damflask reservoir to provide compensation water in summer months to keep the river topped up. It doesn't provide drinking water, so people are encouraged to use Damflask for recreation. It has a flat perimeter path and the reservoir has a very popular sailing and rowing club. Fishing permits can be purchased by the day or for two months.

The Lost Village of Damflask once stood on the far side of the reservoir, below the present day water level. Had it not been 'Lost' in the Dale Dyke Dam Disaster of 1864 it would have become Britain's first 'Drowned' village, 75 years before Derwent Village just 7 miles away to the west.