

Ladybower Inn Circular (via Derwent Edge and Strines)		
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Ladybower Inn Circular (via Derwent Edge and Strines)

Start & Finish: Ashopton, Ladybower Inn Bus Stop

Ashopton, Ladybower Inn Bus Stop, map reference SK 204 864, is 16 km west of Sheffield, 233 km north west of Charing Cross, 221m above sea level, and in **Derbyshire**.

Length: 25.8 km (16.0 mi). **Cumulative ascent/descent:** 850m.
For a shorter walk, see *below* **Walk Options**.

Toughness: 8 out of 10

Time: 6 ¾ hours walking time.
For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 13 hours.

Transport: Ashopton, Ladybower Inn Bus Stop is served by bus lines 257 and 273 from Sheffield Interchange to Castleton/Bakewell (journey time 25-29 mins from Sheffield (09/19: £3.50 one way, £5.50 return), and the SNAKE X57 from Sheffield to Manchester (30 mins). Sheffield is the terminus of the Midland Main Line from London St. Pancras, with up to two trains per hour (journey time from 118 mins Mon-Sat, longer on Sundays).

Saturday Walkers' Club: This walk can be done as a day walk from London, despite the infrequent bus service, but – on the current schedule – only Monday to Saturday. Take a train no later than 8.00 hours.

OS Landranger Map: 110 (Sheffield & Huddersfield)
OS Explorer Map: OL1 (The Peak District – Dark Peak Area)

Walk Notes:

A walk of contrasts on the Derbyshire/South Yorkshire boundary in the north east corner of the Dark Peak area of The Peak District. From the Ladybower Inn you rise in stages up to Derwent Edge, towering above the Upper Derwent Valley – with ever-improving views over the surrounding hills of the Central Dark Peak area and along Ladybower Reservoir. You then follow a clear and well-engineered path along the edge past some famous gritstone rock formations to the highest point of the walk at Back Tor and out to a magnificent viewpoint on Lost Lad hill. Derwent Head, Bleaklow and Kinder Scout dominate the views from here.

An easy gradual descent through the moors on a good track leads into Bradfield Dale to lunch in Strines, overlooking the Strines Reservoir.

Through woods and pastures you then reach the elongated Dale Dike Reservoir and loop around it through some pretty woods with views up and down dale. Rise to Boot's Folly, a tower on a grassy ledge above Strines Reservoir, and further up Lodge Moor, and follow ancient turnpike roads (with far views) past remote farms and pastures back to a viewpoint above Ladybower Reservoir, where the morning ascent route is met. Turn left along Lead Hill and Ladybower Tor for final views to Win Hill and the Hope Valley and descend back to the Ladybower Inn.

Options to shorten the route are described, as are Alternative Endings (or Starts) in High and Low Bradfield.

Walk Options:

You can cut the out-and-back to Back Tor and Lost Lad viewpoint (cuts 1.7 km/1.0 mi, but is certainly not recommended in good weather, however tired you are!).

Picnickers can cut the out-and-back up the road to The Strines Inn (cuts 900m and 35m ascent).

Shorter Endings lead to **High or Low Bradfield** and a circular bus route to/from Hillsborough Interchange (lines 61 [anti-clockwise]/62 [clockwise], both hourly Mon-Sat, every 2 hours Sun) for frequent bus and tram connections to Sheffield Station:

- **either before lunch** from Back Tor across the moors to High Bradfield and The Old Horns Inn (cut 7.4 km/4.6 mi and 370m ascent),
- **or after lunch** from Wragghouse Plantation by Dale Dike Reservoir along the Sheffield Country Walk to Low Bradfield and The Plough Inn (cut 7.9 km/4.9 mi and 313m ascent).

High and Low Bradfield are also alternative start points, with a more frequent bus service.

A Shortcut in the Afternoon cuts the loop around Dale Dike Reservoir (cut 3.8 km/2.4 mi and 70m ascent).

An obvious Shortcut in the afternoon follows Sugworth Road, where the route turns left up Lodge Moor to Moscar Cross and then loops back to the road along the old turnpike road (cut 1.0 km and 48m ascent).

At Moscar Cross you can cut down to the Moscar Lodge bus stop on the A57, for services to Sheffield or Ladybower and Bamford (cut 5.9 km/3.7 mi and 146m ascent).

A more direct finish from Cutthroat Bridge to the Ladybower Inn cuts 2.4 km/1.5 mi and 126m ascent.

Lunch (details last updated 05/11/19)

The Strines Inn Bradfield Dale, Mortimer Road, *Sheffield, S6 6JE* (01142 851 247, <https://www.thestrinesinn.co.uk/>). The Strines Inn is located 10.7 km/6.7 mi into the walk. It is a traditional pub in a 13th century farmhouse. Open 10.30-23.00. Food served 12.00-14.30 and 17.30-20.30 Mon-Fri, 12.00-21.00 Sat and 12.00-20.00 Sun.

Tea (details last updated 05/11/19)

The Ladybower Inn Bamford, *Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 0AX* (01433 651 241, <http://www.ladybower-inn.co.uk/>). The Ladybower Inn is a quaint stone pub with rooms (some offering views of the picturesque Ladybower Reservoir). Open 08.00-23.00 daily. Food served 08.00-21.00 daily.

Tea (Bradfield Endings) (details last updated 05/11/19)

The Old Horns Inn Towngate, High Bradfield, *Bradfield Dale, Sheffield, S6 6LG* (0114 285 1207, <https://theoldhorns.co.uk/>). The Old Horns is located at the end of the High Bradfield Ending off Back Tor. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day.

Bradfield Brewery Watt House Farm, High Bradfield, *Bradfield Dale, Sheffield, S6 6LG* (0114 285 1118, <http://bradfieldbrewery.com/>). Bradfield Brewery is located at the end of the High Bradfield Ending off Back Tor. Open 08.00-16.00 Mon-Fri and 10.00-16.00 Sat.

The Plough Inn New Road, Low Bradfield, *Bradfield Dale, Sheffield, S6 6HW* (0114 285 1280, <http://theploughinnlowbradfield.co.uk/>). The Plough is located at the end of the Low Bradfield Ending from Dale Dike Reservoir. Open all day every day. Food served all day every day.

The Schoolrooms Mill Lee Road, Low Bradfield, *Bradfield Dale, Sheffield, S6 6LB* (0114 285 1920, <http://www.theschoolrooms.co.uk/>). The Schoolrooms are located at the end of the Low Bradfield Ending from Dale Dike Reservoir. Open 10.00-16.30 Wed-Fri and 09.00-16.30 Sat-Sun.

Notes:

Ashopton

Ashopton was a small village in the valley of the River Ashop with a population of fewer than 100. In the early 1940s, the village (along with neighbouring Derwent) was demolished to make way for the filling of Ladybower Reservoir. The village was located near where the Derwent Valley joins the Woodlands Valley and the route of the current A57 Snake Road to Glossop. The reminders of the village include the name of the Ashopton Viaduct which carries the A57 (the main part of the village was located immediately to the south of the viaduct) and Ashopton Sawmill and Ashopton Cottage. Unlike the remains of Derwent Village which have become visible when water levels have dropped, Ashopton will not re-emerge from the waters of Ladybower as silt has already covered the remains of its buildings.

The Peak District (National Park)

The Peak District is an upland area at the southernmost end of the Pennines.

The Peak District National Park is one of the UK's most popular and is located within the boundaries of five counties (Derbys., Ches., Staffs., Yorks. and Greater Manchester). Founded in 1951, it was the first national Park in England. The Park spans an area of around 1,440 km² (550 mi²) and – despite its name – its terrain consists mainly of rolling hills, farmland, moorland and some gritstone escarpments (the "edges"). It is however significantly higher than much of the terrain in the surrounding area.

The Peak District is formed almost exclusively from sedimentary rocks dating from the Carboniferous period. They comprise the Carboniferous Limestone, the overlying Gritstone and finally the Coal Measures, though the latter occur only on the extreme margins of the area. In addition there are infrequent outcrops of igneous rocks including lavas, tuffs and volcanic vent agglomerates.

The northern Dark Peak (whose geology is gritstone) is one of the most famous landmarks in the Peak District National Park, known for its exposed and isolated tracts of moorland, as well as its expansive rolling plateau which is covered by cotton grass bogs and heather moorlands. The soil of the area is composed of moorland peat which provides the perfect environment for the plant life in the area. The areas to the flanks of the high moorland host numerous copses which are composed of Oak and Birch.

The southern White Peak (whose geology is mainly limestone) is another distinctive area within the park due to its gently sloping Limestone plateau, crisscrossed by the Limestone Dales. The Dales provide the areas' drainage and vary in steepness throughout the area.

White to Dark

The White to Dark Way is a 43 km (27 mi) waymarked multi-day path from the White Peak to the Dark Peak developed in 2012 by TrailZilla and Country Walking Magazine. It claims to be the first major walking trail dedicated to linking the Peak District's two 'halves', across terrain ranging from meadows, woods and farmland to wild moorland and gritstone edges, going from Bakewell to Hope. The route includes Monsal Head, Cressbrook Dale, Litton, Eyam, Stanage Edge and Win Hill. <https://www.livefortheoutdoors.com/whitetodark>

Derwent Reservoirs

In 1899, the Derwent Valley Water Board was set up to supply water to Derby, Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield, and the two Gothic-style dams were built across the River Derwent to create Howden Reservoir (1912) and Derwent Reservoir (1916). West of the Derwent a large village known as Birchinlee, locally known as 'Tin Town', was created for the 'navvies' – the workers who built the dams – and their families, many of whom came from the Elan Valley Reservoirs in Wales.

Over the decades, demand for water increased. Piped intakes were constructed from the rivers Ashop and Alport to the west to feed directly into the Derwent reservoir, but soon demand increased further to the point where another reservoir was required. The larger Ladybower Reservoir, built largely during World War II, necessitated the flooding of the villages of Derwent and Ashopton, with the occupants being relocated to the Yorkshire Bridge estate, just downstream of Ladybower dam. A packhorse bridge with a preservation order on it also had to be moved, and was rebuilt at Slippery Stones, north of Howden Reservoir.

The boundary between Derbyshire and Sheffield/South Yorkshire follows the River Derwent in its upper reaches and therefore runs through Howden Reservoir.

The topographical similarity between the Upper Derwent Valley and the Ruhr Valley of Germany led to the dams being used as a practice environment for the Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron (Dam Busters) before their attack on some of the Ruhr dams on 16-17 May 1943. The Möhne and Edersee dams were breached, but the Sorpe Dam sustained only minor damage. Two hydroelectric power stations were destroyed and several more damaged. Factories and mines were also damaged and destroyed. An estimated 1,600 civilians – about 600 Germans and 1,000 mainly Soviet forced labourers – died. Due to rapid repairs, production did return to normal after only 4 months. *The Dam Busters* film was subsequently filmed at the Derwent Dams.

Ladybower Reservoir

Ladybower Reservoir is a large Y-shaped reservoir, the lowest of three in the Upper Derwent Valley. The River Ashop flows into the reservoir from the west; the River Derwent flows south, initially through Howden Reservoir, then Derwent Reservoir, and finally through Ladybower Reservoir. The area is now a tourist attraction, with the Fairholmes visitors' centre located at the northern tip of Ladybower. The east arm of the reservoir, fed by the Ladybower Brook, is overlooked by Hordron Edge stone circle.

Ladybower was built between 1935 and 1943 by the Derwent Valley Water Board to supplement the other two reservoirs in supplying the water needs of the East Midlands. It took a further two years to fill (1945). The dam differs from the Howden Reservoir and Derwent Reservoir in that it is a clay-cored earth embankment, and not a solid masonry dam. Below the dam is a cut-off trench 55m deep and 1.8m wide filled with concrete, stretching 150m into the hills each side, to stop water leaking around the dam. During the 1990s the wall was raised and strengthened to reduce the risk of over-topping in a major flood.

Drinking water must be pumped to treatment works rather than using gravity flow as in the other two reservoirs, increasing costs. It is treated at Bamford water treatment works and then flows south down the 45 km long Derwent Valley Aqueduct to supply clean water to the cities of Nottingham, Derby and Leicester. The aqueduct passes through the park of Chatsworth House. A tunnel carries some of the water from the Derwent Valley eastwards through the hill and into the lower of the two Rivelin Dams to supply Sheffield.

The building of the reservoir resulted in the submergence of the villages of Ashopton and Derwent, including Derwent Woodlands church and Derwent Hall. Ashopton stood roughly where the road to the Snake Pass met the Woodlands valley. The narrow stone Packhorse Bridge over the Derwent was removed and rebuilt at the head of the Howden reservoir. In 1976, 1995 and 2018, dry conditions caused the water level to drop and the village of Derwent to once again be exposed.

Bradfield Dale/Strines Reservoir/Dale Dike Reservoir/The Great Sheffield Flood

Bradfield Dale is a rural valley 12 km west-northwest of Sheffield City Centre and approximately 5 km long from its foot at Low Bradfield to its head on Strines Moor. The valley stands within the north eastern boundary of the Peak District National Park just to the west of Low Bradfield. It is drained by the Strines Dike which becomes the Dale Dike lower down the valley, these being the headwaters of the River Loxley. The dale contains Strines and Dale Dike Reservoirs, planned in the 1850s as two of several reservoirs supplying Sheffield. The name Strines dates from as early as the 13th century, when it was mentioned as the Water of the Strynd or Strynds (a rivulet or a stream), referring to the stream that rose on the moors at the top end of Bradfield Dale and flowed down the valley to join the River Loxley.

The Great Sheffield Flood devastated parts of Sheffield on 11 March 1864, when the Dale Dyke Dam broke as its reservoir was being filled for the first time. Around 250 people died and more than 600 houses were damaged or destroyed by the flood. An estimated 3 million m³ of water swept down the Loxley Valley, through Loxley Village and on to Hillsborough, where the Loxley joins the Don. The flood continued south down the Don into Sheffield centre, which escaped damage, being situated on the hill to the south.

The immediate cause was a crack in the embankment, the ultimate cause of which was never determined. The dam's failure led to reforms in engineering practice, setting standards on specifics that needed to be met when constructing such large-scale structures. It was rebuilt in 1875, on a smaller scale and 600m up the valley.

Mortimer Road

The road was constructed in 1777 as a turnpike road by Hans Winthrop Mortimer of Caldwell Hall, Lord of the Manor of Bamford. It broadly followed an ancient packhorse route, known as Halifax Gate, which ran between North Derbyshire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, linking Grindleford with the market town of Penistone to increase trade in wool and agricultural produce. However, the road was not profitable, as it passed through no major centres of population to provide passengers for stagecoaches and failed to attract freight traffic as heavy wagons preferred less hilly routes. Hans Winthrop Mortimer died bankrupt in 1807.

Later, some parts of Mortimer Road were bypassed by new roads, such as the stretch near Ladybower reservoir, bypassed by the Sheffield – Glossop road constructed in 1822. Stretches of the old road can still be seen though between Moscar Head Farm and Ladybower Inn, where it is now a bridleway.

Sheffield Country Walk

A 86 km (53 mi) waymarked circular Long Distance Path through parts of Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. The varied route around the outskirts of the city passes many sites and buildings of archaeological, historical and industrial interest. It follows woodland and riverside paths, crossing undulating farmland and the open gritstone moorlands to the west of the city. The waymark is yellow arrows and sheaf symbols.

WALK DIRECTIONS

For starts from High or Low Bradfield, pick up the directions at the end of the main walk text under **High Bradfield Start** or **Low Bradfield Start**.

Alight from the bus in **Ashopton** at **The Ladybower Inn** in the **Peak District National Park**, and follow the road's left-hand pavement past the Inn – away from the Ladybower Reservoir – in an easterly direction (i.e.: with the Inn in the back, *turn left*; if arriving from Sheffield, cross the road first). In 20m *fork up to the left* along a car wide gravel path, a signposted public footpath and bridleway ('Cutthroat Bridge & Ashopton'), with an **Access Land** marker. In 80m **[!]** *turn hard left* back on yourself on the level by a three-way wooden signpost, along a signposted public footpath and bridleway signed 'Ashopton', with a **White to Dark** marker on it. You have a drystone wall and **Ladybower Wood** on your right and in 60m you can spot the Ladybower Inn on the left below, and the Ladybower Viaduct over the **Ladybower Reservoir** as well as the **Reservoir Dam** ahead to the left.

In 100m by a drystone wall corner on the left, you have **Ladybower House** on the left below. In 40m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate and keep the drystone wall on your left, now gently ascending. In 130m the gradient eases a little and you have fine views of the Reservoir on the left with the wooded lower slopes of Win Hill behind (SWC Walk 302 Bamford to Edale via Win Hill and Great Ridge) and Offerton Moor/Shatton Edge in the distance on the left (SWC Walk 343 Hope to Hathersage or Bamford via Castleton). In 80m – at an unmarked fork by an electricity pole – you *fork left* along the drystone wall on the level, ignoring the fork uphill to the right of the pole (the steeper of two return routes). In 130m you get good views of the westerly arm of the Reservoir, up the **Woodlands Valley**, which rises up to the Pennine Watershed.

The path starts a gentle descent and in 90m you can see one of the twin tops of **Crook Hill** (on 280°). In 100m the less steep of the return routes joins down from the right, and in another 40m you go through a wooden field gate by a signpost (**leaving the Access Land**) and continue along a car wide gravel track, gently downhill. In 20m **[!]** *turn up to the right* through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate along a signposted public footpath ('Whinstone Lee Tor'), ignoring the continuation downhill (the route of SWC 349 Ladybower Inn Circular via Alport Castles and Derwent Reservoirs or Win Hill), and continue uphill through **Dingbank Wood**. In 90m ignore a right forking grassy track and *veer left* uphill towards a drystone wall and in 80m the path mostly levels out. In 75m you pass remnants of a perpendicular drystone wall on the right and in 110m you have a part-collapsed wall on the right.

In 60m the wall turns away to the right and in 50m you descend gently through the wood and in 80m leave it through a wooden field gate, now with the open hillside of **Lead Hill** on the right (the return route leads along its top), and continue in the same direction along the plantation boundary on the left. In 230m, at the end of the plantation, you have fine views along the reservoir up the **Upper Derwent Valley** and across to **Crook Hill**, and in 20m ignore a left forking path through a gap in the wall and continue uphill. In 250m *bear right* with the path, away from the wall, to cut the walled slope's corner, and in 130m *bear right* steeply uphill by a drystone wall corner on the left. In 100m at the top of the relentlessly steep rise emerge at **a six-way junction of paths by a four-way signpost**. [For a fine viewpoint, *turn hard right* for 30m: you can see **Crook Hill**, **Win Hill**, **Mam Tor**, the easterly face of **Kinder Scout** and **Grindleford Knoll**, towering above Edale.]

The bridleway coming up through the moor opposite will be the return route at the end of the walk, turning right from your current point of view along the top of Lead Hill. Ignore a hard-left turning bridleway (to Whinstone Lee Tor and Fairholmes) and **[!]** *turn left* uphill

along a permitted footpath to 'Derwent Edge' ('Walkers Only', Dogs on Lead'), along a sandy path through the heathery ground (35° initially). Higher up – in 120m – the sandy path continues through some scattered boulders (the top of Whinstone Lee Tor) and from here you can also see **Rushup Edge** and **Brown Knoll** at the end of Edale on the left. Where the gradient gets easier, in another 75m, you can see ahead **along Derwent Edge to several prominent gritstone rock formations** along the ridge. The path substantially levels out for about 200m and then rises in 180m to the **Hurkling Stones**, about 30m off path to the right, 170m before the top of this rise at spot height 454m.

Far away on the left across the **Upper Derwent Valley** you have the 'other' upland peat bog ridge of the Dark Peak: **Bleaklow** (SWC Walk 350 Fairholmes Circular via Bleaklow and Derwent Head) and on the right the A57 cuts past Moscar towards Sheffield's centre, this side of **Stanage Edge**. In 110m cross a signposted public footpath at **Sheffield Gate Head** (left: 'Derwent', right: 'Moscar') and pass a line of **Grouse Butts** on the right, leading down through **Derwent Moors**. You rise gently for 200m and in about another 300m pass **The Wheel Stones** on your right (at 481m above sea, also known as **Coach and Horses**). Continue on to **White Tor** (487m above sea) in 420m, with a short stretch of an engineered path, and then to the **Salt Cellar** in another 530m, just after a couple of small ponds away on the right (away to the left at a lower level, one of several large wind and water-shaped boulders). The route to Back Tor with its trig point is visible ahead.

In 150m the end of a drystone wall is joining from the left below out of the Derwent Valley and in 130m you pass an array of boulders. Ascend to **Dovestone Tor** in another 320m, negotiating some stony ground and passing a National Trust High Peak Estate – Derwent Edge sign en route. The flagged path now runs along the **Derbyshire/South Yorkshire boundary all the way to Lost Lad** viewpoint. You continue to the **Cakes of Bread** in 300m, some distance away to the right of the flagged path, at 507m above sea. **Derwent Reservoir** lies down below on the left in the valley, but the heathery slopes prevent any views of it, and on the right, **Blackhole Moor** stretches down into **Bradfield Dale** with **Strines Moor** rising beyond it. In 600m you reach an unmarked four-way footpath/bridleway junction at **Bradfield Gate Head**, with one large standing stone on the right (a boundary stone marking the Derbyshire/South Yorkshire boundary and on the OS map) and with **Back Tor 300m ahead**: the route will continue to the right, but not before an out-and-back to the highest point of the walk and to the fine viewpoint of **Lost Lad**.

Continue in the same direction and in 230m at a fork just by Back Tor, *fork right* to climb up to the trig point in 60m (at 538m above sea) and appreciate that due to the curvature of the land, **Lost Lad** (visible on the left with a large cairn) will give you better views, despite lying lower. So, go back to the fork and *turn right* (i.e. *fork left* from the previous direction (330° initially) and follow the flagged path through the moorland. In 370m you go through a wooden barrier (with a 'Moorland Regeneration – Please keep to footpath' sign) and in 150m reach **Lost Lad viewpoint** by a large cairn and a toposcope, with grand views of the Upper Derwent Valley to Derwent Head, Bleaklow, Kinder Scout, The Great Ridge and Win Hill. ['Lost Lad' for a shepherd who got lost here in very bad weather.] Retrace your steps for 520m to the path fork by Back Tor, with views on the left into the Yorkshire Plain, towards Barnsley and Wakefield.

Here you have a choice:

For the High Bradfield Ending, *turn hard left* past Back Tor and by the trig point pick up the directions at the end of this text under **High Bradfield Ending**.

For the Main Walk, continue for 230m to the unmarked four-way junction passed earlier.

*) At the four-way junction *turn left* (100°) along the sandy path (a bridleway) towards Strines, **entering Sheffield** in the process, and follow this ancient track (**Foulstone Road**) gently downhill into the valley, with **Foulstone Moss** on the right and **Brogging Moss** ('brogging' = 'marshy') on the left. Ahead across the valley on a grassy shelf below **Sugworth Edge** and **Ughill Moor**, you can see a distinct tower (**Boot's Folly**) and **Sugworth Hall** to the right behind it, both are passed after lunch. Half-way downhill you have a line of **Grouse Butts** away on the left along a separate path ('luxury' versions, equipped with wooden doors and benches!) and – near the bottom of the drop – ignore a right fork up to a house (**Foulstone Cottage**). The **Foulstone Dike** is bubbling away on the left below and in 250m the tarmac drive from the house joins from the right.

Leave the Access Land over a cattle grid or through a wooden field gate to the left of it and continue downhill along the drive with **Brogging Moss Plantation** (mostly recently felled) on the left and **Fox Hole Carr** on the right. In 350m the drive turns right and you have **Strines Edge** away on the right and ahead get a good view of **Boot's Folly**. In 380m walk through a wooden gate right of a double wooden field gate and reach **Mortimer Road** at a T-junction. The route will continue to the left along the road, but the lunch pub is away to the right. *Turn right* along the road and in 40m cross the **Strines Dike** on the road (draining the area east of Dovestone Tor and the Cakes of Bread) and *turn left* uphill with the road, in 400m reaching **The Strines Inn**, with **Strines Reservoir** below on the left.

From the pub retrace your steps by turning left along the road. [At the third electricity pole on the right, notice a marker stone: this is a **Grade II-listed Take Off-marker**. An extra horse could be added on a turnpike at the bottom of a steep ascent, this is where it was unhitched again.] Descend the road to cross the **Strines Dike**. Continue along the road, in 75m crossing **Strines Bridge** over the **Brogging Moss Dike**. The road bears right and ascends gently through the wood, and in about 400m you *turn left* with the road, still ascending. In 80m the wood ends on the right and you can see **Strines Reservoir** below. In 150m *turn right* along a car wide bridleway with a footpath marker. In 350m the track turns to the left through trees and in 120m, by **Broggin House** on the right, you *turn right* towards the reservoir dam. In 25m *turn left* along a paved path with a footpath marker on an electricity pole, in 15m going down some steps while passing a public footpath sign and then enter a pasture through a wooden gate. Follow a clear path (100°) towards a wood and in 100m enter it through a wooden gate. In 75m you pass a drystone wall corner on the left and in 90m cross a two-railed wooden footbridge over the reservoir outflow.

On the other side of the bridge, in a meadow, you have a choice:

For the Shortcut, *turn right* with a public footpath and in 60m *fork right* with a marker post. In 20m go up some steps and over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall into a pasture. Walk along a clear grass path to a higher level and in 60m at a path T-junction the Main Walk joins from the left. *Turn right* and pick up the directions below at the asterisk *).

For the Main Walk, *turn left* with a (Yorkshire Water) Permissive Footpath over another two-railed wooden footbridge in 25m and *bear right* along a meandering earthen path through the lovely wood (a riot of bluebells in season). In 80m you have the stream briefly on your right again and in 150m the **Dale Dike Reservoir**. The path now follows the reservoir closely with occasional views down **Bradfield Dale** through the thinning trees, and eventually you are in the open. After about 1.2 km along the reservoir, you reach the dam wall where you *turn left* through a wooden kissing gate with the permissive path and in 30m go through another one. [Away on the right, you find a **Memorial Stone for the Dale Dike Disaster** of 11/03/1864, when the first Dale Dyke Dam breached and caused **The Great Sheffield Flood**, with around 250 fatalities one of the biggest man-made disasters in British history.]

Continue in the previous direction along a car wide gravel track and in 130m *turn hard right* back on yourself, downhill along a gravel track (a signposted public footpath). In 60m *turn hard left* with the track and in 250m cross a bridge over **Dale Dike** and *turn right* along a car wide track. In 110m at the bottom of the reservoir's spillway, *turn left* to go up two flights of steps and follow the path. In 130m pass the reservoir dam and follow a (Yorkshire Water) Permissive Footpath (and public footpath) along the reservoir through the wood. In 80m you pass a utility building on the right and in 50m *bear left* with the path along the wood. In 150m you have a stone wall on the left and in 80m **[!]** *turn left* with the public footpath over a stone slab stile into **Wragghouse Plantation (Access Land)**, uphill between crumbling drystone walls, leaving the permissive footpath which continues along the water. In 160m at a T-junction with a forest track (Roger Lane), a signposted public footpath and the **Sheffield Country Walk** (SCW) join from the left.

Here you have a choice:

For the Low Bradfield Ending, *turn left* along the track and pick up the directions at the end of this text under **Low Bradfield Ending**.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along the track.

****)** In 350m you leave the wood and the **Access Land** over a stone stile to the right of a metal field gate and continue in the same direction along a grassy ledge, with fine views up the dale. In 50m *fork right*, gently downhill towards a gap in a drystone wall and in 75m go through it (a missing gate). You follow a clear path through a pasture and in 100m go through a metal kissing gate to the right of a wooden field gate and cross a stream to continue in the same direction along a car wide track through **Andrew's Wood**. In 30m go through a gap in a drystone wall (a missing field gate) and in 25m enter a pasture through another metal kissing gate and continue in the same direction and in 80m continue to the right of a tree line and remnants of a drystone wall with a SCW marker on the reverse of a stone gate post. In 120m in the far-left field corner go through a standing stone squeeze stile (20m to the left of a metal field gate) and in 25m cross the stream coming down **Holes Clough** over a plank bridge. In 70m go over a stile to the right of a wooden field gate and continue along a clear path through a grassy slope with a drystone wall away to the right, and some bracken higher up on the left. Strines Reservoir's spillway is audible below on the right. In 200m The Shortcut joins from the right below over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall. Continue in the same direction.

*****)** In 30m go through a gap (a missing gate) with a yellow marker on a gate post and in 50m ford a stream. Strines Reservoir's dam lies ahead and in 20m you *turn up to the left* towards a high standing stone with a yellow marker and in 20m *turn right* to pass the standing stone in another 10m. The path now bears up to the left to rise above the level of the top of the reservoir dam and in 100m you *turn left* along a drystone wall. In 30m *turn right* at a corner of the drystone wall on the right, and follow the wall, with views to the right across the reservoir to **The Strines Inn** and to **Strines Moor and Edge**. In 50m **Boot's Folly** comes back into view and in 60m you *bear up to the left* with the path. In 100m *turn right* with the path, on the level, and in 120m cross a plank bridge in a particularly boggy section. In 50m – as you almost reach the grassy plateau upon which the Folly is standing – you pass a marker post and *bear left*, staying this side of a bog.

Up on the left: a rocky ledge (**Sugworth Edge**). In 60m *bear right* along a flagged section through the bog and across stream. On the other side *turn left* immediately, in 40m passing another marker post, and continue along the left-hand edge of the grassy plateau with the folly away on the right and a little to the right of the tussocky bog. [The 1927 folly was built by Charles Boot to provide work for his employees during the depression, but it is

also said it was to enable him to see his wife's grave in the churchyard at High Bradfield.] In 150m the terrain levels out, with fine views on the right towards **Strines Edge**, **Derwent Edge** and the gritstone formations walked along earlier clearly visible on the ridge (in good weather).

Head for a walled wooded area (the grounds of **Sugworth Hall**) and in 150m go through a rusty metal kissing gate in the wall and continue in the same direction through a tunnel cut into rhododendrons, hiding the house from view ('Sugworth' derives from Anglo-Saxon 'sugga', meaning 'soggy' and 'worth', meaning 'settlement'). In 60m – by a green metal gate – *turn left* with the path and a footpath signpost, curving around the gardens. In 25m you emerge from the growth with a pasture on the left and in 80m continue in the same direction, by the Hall's tarmac drive below on the right. In 60m *turn left* uphill along the drive, by a footpath signpost pointing backwards. In 150m at the top of the rise, go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of the elaborate car gate and up some steps onto **Sugworth Road** and *turn right* along it. In 75m you get open views on the right across Bradfield Dale and to Strines and Derwent Edges.

In 130m *turn left* with a public footpath sign over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall into the **Access Land of Lodge Moor** and walk up along a clear grass path along the right-hand boundaries of three fields, always close to the wall on the right: in 250m ignore a metal gate on the right and in 50m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate; in 50m you can see the ruins of **Bamford Lodge** away on the left and in 150m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate; in 290m go over a stone slab stile in a drystone wall to the right of a wooden field gate to leave the third field. Some way ahead is the A57 running down the **Rivelin Valley** to the left towards Sheffield City Centre. *Turn right* along a car wide gravel track at a T-junction. In 230m and in another 30m you go through metal field gates while passing **Moscar Cross Farm** and now have **Win Hill** in view dead ahead. In 110m at **Moscar Cross**, a three-way junction of car wide tracks (grass to the left, gravel to the right), a guide stoop opposite marks this as an ancient packhorse route junction (to Sheffield, Bradfield or Hathersage). [Originally whitewashed, this is thought to be the inspiration for the 'Whitcross' in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*.]

Here you have a choice:

For an early finish at Moscar Lodge Bus Stop, *turn left* along the car wide grass track and in 400m *turn left* along the A57 to the bus stop 40m away.

For the Main Walk, *turn right* uphill along the car wide gravel farm track (which forms the Sheffield/South Yorkshire boundary with Derbyshire). In 250m, at the top of the rise, you *turn left* over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and walk downhill along a track (**Moscar Cross Road** on the OS map) following the wall on your left. **Derwent Edge** and its gritstone formations dominate the view ahead. In 250m walk through a metal field gate and in another 250m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate by a Byway signpost. In 25m *turn left* along **Sugworth Road**, opposite the National Grid **Moscar Cross** gas facility, **re-entering Derbyshire**. In 100m cross **Strines Road** and continue in the same direction in 20m over a stile to the left of a metal field gate into **Access Land** (with a footpath marker on a stile bar). Follow a clear car wide grassy track through moorland scattered with rocks, along a barbed wire fence on your left.

This is another part of **Mortimer Road**, soon bending left and then (with **Stanage Edge** ahead) leading to **Moscar House Farm** in about 500m (after going over a **rock slab stile in a drystone wall** – or the metal field gate to the left of it – halfway along). Walk through metal field gates either side of the farm buildings and continue in the same direction along a car wide gravel track between drystone walls through a dip. In 100m after

crossing a stream in the dip (draining the area east of White Tor and Salt Cellar), you go over another rock slab stile and continue in the same direction to the left of a drystone wall. In 250m you pass a **guide stoop** on your right ('Sheffield Road, 7 m'), just before going over a ladder stile over a drystone wall. Continue in the same direction towards and then along lines of pylons and in 800m descend into **Highshaw Clough** to cross a stream at the bottom (draining the area east of Wheel Stones) and re-ascend through a few boulders. Halfway up you reach a path leading on the left to the modern **Cutthroat Bridge** on the A57, part of the **Snake Turnpike Road**, whose predecessor did span the Highshaw Clough as part of Mortimer Road and was named after a deadly 17th century incident.

Here you have a choice:

For a more direct finish, downhill most of the way, continue in the same direction further uphill and in 40m ignore a path joining from the right and continue along a clear path with the lines of pylons to your right and the road below on your left. In 600m you walk through a metal gate (as part of a metal field gate) into **Ladybower Wood Nature Reserve**, then ford a stream and continue between trees. In 700m *fork down to the left*, ignoring a right turning bridleway signposted 'Ashopton', and reach **The Ladybower Inn** in 100m (and a **bus stop for services to Sheffield** 30m further along).

For the Main Walk, *turn right* along a clear rocky path (an engineered public bridleway) with a bracken-filled bank on your left and the stream below. In 50m ignore a path turning hard left back on yourself and in 60m *curve to the left* along a barbed wire fenced enclosure. In 90m *curve right* with the path and the fence on the right along the clear sand-and-gravel path. In 130m the path *bears to the left* along the fence, gently uphill through **Derwent Moors**. In 1.3 km you reach the **four-way signpost at the six-way junction** passed much earlier within the first half hour of the walk, with **the viewpoint over Ladybower Reservoir** 30m away half left. The outbound route turned right uphill. *Turn hard left* (200°) along a sandy path atop **Lead Hill**, with Win Hill dead ahead across the reservoir and **Shatton Edge/Offerton Moor** a little to the left, far away across the Hope Valley, and **Bamford and Stanage Edges** on the left.

In 170m you have the drop on your right and the wood walked along earlier below, and **Crook Hill** opposite. In 90m, just before a left turn in the path, all **three arms of the Y-shaped reservoir** and **Ladybower Dam and Ashopton Viaduct** are in view, as is **Yorkshire Bridge**, the settlement just beyond the reservoir dam to which the residents of Derwent and Ashopton were moved before the filling of the reservoir. You *turn left* with the path, with **Hurkling Stones** up on the left. In about 550m, at the start of a steep descent, the westerly arm of the reservoir is fully visible on the right, with **Snake Road** winding its way up the Woodlands Valley to the Pennine Watershed. In 30m you reach a clear right turning path between earth banks, while another path continues ahead downhill.

You can take either path...

- the one straight ahead gets **very steep** and potentially very slippery: aim for some electricity poles visible below, going through a right/left-turn en route;
- turning right between the banks (240°), in 90m you *turn left* with the path and in 70m *turn right* at a three-way junction. In 210m you reach the path along the wall at the bottom of the hillside (the outbound route) and *turn left* along it. In 310m the very steep descent route joins from the left by some electricity poles.

In 180m you enter **Ladybower Wood** through a wooden gate and in 200m *turn right* downhill by a signposted three-way junction and reach **The Ladybower Inn** in 100m (and a **bus stop for services to Sheffield** 30m further along).

High Bradfield Start (add 4.5 km/2.8 mi and cut 30m ascent)

After alighting from the bus in **High Bradfield** by **The Old Horns Inn** at the main road junction, ignore all the roads and walk in a north westerly direction towards the pub along a cobbled lane (Towngate) to the right of it. Continue past the pub towards **St. Nicholas' Church** (in Gothic Perpendicular style, dating from the 1480s, and one of only five Grade I listed buildings in Sheffield) and in 70m by the church yard gate, *turn right* up **Jane Street** and in 15m *turn left* over a stone slab stile along a signposted public footpath to '**Bailey Hill**', initially along a walled path (the building on the left is the only surviving **Watch House** in Yorkshire, built to house watchmen to prevent body snatchers stealing fresh corpses for medical research).

Go through several gates, as you follow a gravel path through three parts of the church yard (containing some graves of victims of **The Great Sheffield Flood**). You enjoy very fine views down the steep valley wall on the left along **Bradfield Dale** and into the **Upper Loxley Valley** and to **Agden Reservoir** below. The moors leading up to **Derwent Edge** are visible as well. In 220m at the far end of the churchyard you go through a wall gap and ignore a left turning footpath with a **Friends of the Peak District Boundary Walk** marker, as well as a hard right path up onto Bailey Hill (a Norman motte-and-bailey fortified keep on a man-made mound, which is suspected to have been a Saxon fort previously) and *bear right* with a yellow marker (20°) – initially on the level – through the steeply falling **Bailey Wood**. In 320m *turn left* with the path and in 90m go through a wooden gate and continue in the same direction across **Rocher End Brook**.

Ignore the obvious path up a grassy bank into a pasture and *turn left* along a fence. In 30m ignore a left turning footpath over a ladder stile across a drystone wall and in 120m ignore a permissive footpath turning left into **Rocher End Plantation** through a wooden kissing gate. Go through a narrow wall gap (a missing gate) and *turn right* along the wall steeply up through a pasture. In 20m – at a higher level by a yellow marker on the wall on the right – *turn left* along a clear grassy track through the sloping pasture (315°). In 250m in the narrow far end of the field, you *turn left* over a stone slab stile with a yellow marker (ignore a wooden gate 25m ahead into a mossy area) and *turn right* in the next pasture, with **Rocher Wood** and its (cliff) Edge on your right. In 160m *turn right* by a redundant ladder stile through a ruined wall and then *turn left* through the next pasture with a public footpath signpost ('Bar Dyke'). Another footpath joins from the right over a ladder stile.

In 170m you pass another footpath signpost and in 180m reach **Rocher Head Farm**, now ruined. Follow yellow markers through the farmstead and continue in the previous direction once past the buildings, along the farm's drive. In 30m ignore a wooden kissing gate on the right leading into a steep pasture and follow the walled grassy drive. In 40m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and in 30m cross **Sick Brook** on an earth bridge. In 120m *turn up to the left* with the car wide drive and in 30m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate. Continue uphill with the walled drive and in 160m go over a stone slab stile to the left of a metal field gate onto a tarmac lane and go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate opposite into a large pasture (**Cowell Flat**). This is **Access Land**.

Continue in the same direction through the pasture, parallel to a road away to the left running along and above the wooded **Agden Valley**. On a bearing of 210° you can see **Boot's Folly** (a tower) on a grassy ledge above **Strines Reservoir**, walked along later. In 90m a footpath joins from the left over a ladder stile and in 30m you go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and cross a stream on an earth bridge. Continue in the same direction along a rough track and cross another stream on a concrete slab. In 60m *turn right* along a car wide grassy track, just [!] before a metal field gate in a drystone wall.

Follow the wall on your left for 330m (it curves gently uphill to the left) and at the wall corner continue in the same direction by a low marker post. A clear earthen path leads through bracken and heather and in 120m you get fine views on the left **across Broomhead and Bradfield Moors up to the Cartledge Stone Ridge** and (on 240°) to **Back Tor**, i.e.: your upcoming route.

The path – almost imperceptibly – curves to the right and in 180m you pass another marker post. In 40m you are on a clear grass path leading through a small stand of birch trees for about 100m and in 150m you leave the fenced area through a wooden gate. With **Bar Dike** in front of you (a probably post-Roman Cross Dyke: a 400m long linear ditch-and-bank earthwork, now bracken-covered), *turn left* along the fence. In 20m pass a Restricted Byway signpost and cross **Mortimer Road** (at a slight bend with a blind summit on the right) and *turn right* along the opposite grassy verge. In 15m *turn left* with a bridleway marker post along a car wide grassy track and in 50m go through a wooden gate to the left of a wooden field gate onto **Broomhead Moor** (heather, rushes and bilberries).

You now follow **Duke's Road** (a car wide gravel track named after the Duke of Norfolk, whose closing of this public track for his grouse shooting interest in 1932 led to a smaller **Mass Trespass** just a few months after the more famous one on Kinder Scout) gently uphill for 3.0 km/1.9 mi to **Flint Hill**. **In more detail:** in about 450m – where the terrain almost levels out at 398m spot height – ignore a faint fork on the left towards the **Hurkling Stones**, some prominent gritstone boulders, which you pass in 50m; in 230m you have a drystone wall on the left, in 210m you pass a boundary stone on the right ('RHRW'), and in another 230m pass the far end of the wall; in 165m there is a cairn away on the right (the Nancy Tent cairn built from the ruins of a hut called just that, on the OS map) and a standing stone on the left; in 300m you ford **Rushy Dike** and rise up to **Flint Hill**, which you reach in 1.1 km by a large pile of stones on the right, at spot height 470m (the insignificant top is off to the right).

Turn left with the track, now in a south westerly direction along **Brusten Croft Ridge**, with **Hobson Moss** falling away on the left and draining into the **Agden Dike** and thence **Agden Reservoir**. On the right there is some higher ground, moors eventually rising to **Howden Edge/Margery Hill** (SWC Walk 349 Ladybower Circular via Alport Castles and Derwent Reservoirs) and in the distance, across the Upper Derwent Valley, you have **Bleaklow**, the 'other' upland peak bog plateau of the Dark Peak area, its highest point just a few metres lower than Kinder Scout (SWC Walk 350 Fairholmes Circular via Bleaklow and Derwent head). You now walk in broadly the same direction for **4.4 km to Back Tor** (210°) which – in good weather – will be visible most of the times, as are the **Wheel Stones** to the left of it (190°).

In more detail: In 320m pass a cairn on the right, in 280m you have a fenced area of Hobson Moss on the left; ford several streams and streamlets and in 230m pass the far corner of the fence; in 30m pass another boundary stone 10m away on the left ('RRW' for R. Rimington Wilson, a late 19th century owner of Broomhead Moor) and ford a stream; in 220m ford a large stream, running off **Round Hill** and in 160m ford another large stream; you now cross a watershed: all the water on the right-hand side off Round Hill's southerly flank runs into **Cartledge Brook**, then **Abbey Brook** and thence **Upper Derwent Reservoir**; in 300m a faint path joins on the right **from Howden Edge** via Featherbed Moss; in 60m you pass a manmade cairn on a heathery island and in 150m a faint path forks off to the right into the Abbey Brook Valley just before your path continues along flagstones for about 400m to the bottom of the final ascent onto the top of **Cartledge Flat** (498m above sea) – along a boggy but firm path.

At the top *turn right* at a four-way junction of paths (on the OS map) with a 'Back Tor'-sign and immediately fork either way (the paths re-join in 80m); now follow the (almost entirely) flagged path along **Cartledge Stones Ridge** in a pretty much straight line for 2.0 km/1.2 mi to Back Tor, fording many streams (on mostly flood-proof flagstones) en route. The water here drains off to the left into **Brogging Moss Dike** and **Foulstone Dike** and thence **Strines Reservoir**. On the left beyond Bradfield Dale you can again see **Boot's Folly** on its grassy ledge above the reservoir, and **Ughill Moor** above and beyond it. The last push up to Back Tor is along a part-engineered stepped path and you find the trig point (at 538m above sea) on top of one the large gritstone boulders.

Continue past the tor and in 60m *turn hard right* (330° initially) at a three-way junction and follow the flagged path through the moorland. In 370m you go through a wooden barrier (with a 'Moorland Regeneration – Please keep to footpath' sign) and in 150m you reach **Lost Lad viewpoint** by a large cairn and a toposcope, with grand views of the **Upper Derwent Valley to Derwent Head, Bleaklow, Kinder Scout, The Great Ridge and Win Hill**. ['Lost Lad' for a shepherd who got lost here in very bad weather.] Retrace your steps (along the Derby-shire-South Yorkshire boundary) for 520m to the three-way junction by Back Tor and continue past it for 230m to an unmarked four-way footpath/bridleway junction at **Bradfield Gate Head**, with one large standing stone on the left (a boundary stone marking the Derbyshire/South Yorkshire boundary and on the OS map).

Pick up the directions in the Main Walk text at the asterisk *).

Low Bradfield Start (cut 13.3 km/8.3 mi and 378m ascent)

After alighting from the bus in **Low Bradfield** by **The Plough Inn** at a road junction, *turn left* along **Mill Lee Road** in a southerly direction with the **Sheffield Country Walk** (SCW) and immediately *turn right* along **Plumpton Lane**. In 250m you pass **Plumpton Cottage** on the right and in 100m continue in the same direction along a public footpath with a wooded strip on the right. In 400m you emerge from the trees in a pasture and *bear right* across it to leave it in 80m over a stone slab stile onto a tarmac lane with **Annet Bridge** over the **Dale Dike** stream away on the right. *Turn left* along the lane and in 450m *turn up to the left* with the lane. In 550m ignore a left turning public footpath and in 200m *bear right* into a wood with the SCW along a signposted public footpath. In 170m at a three-way junction, the main walk joins up from the right. Continue in the same direction and pick up the directions in the main text at the double asterisk **).

High Bradfield Ending (cut 7.4 km/4.6 mi and 370m ascent)

With the **trig point on Back Tor** on top of one of the large gritstone boulders on your left, continue along the earthen path to the right of the gritstone boulders in a north easterly direction. In 100m descend from Back Tor along a part-engineered stepped path and at the bottom continue along a now (almost entirely) flagged path along **Cartledge Stones Ridge** in a pretty much straight line for 2.0 km/1.2 mi, fording many streams (on mostly flood-proof flagstones) en route. The water here drains off to the right into **Brogging Moss Dike** and **Foulstone Dike** and thence **Strines Reservoir**. On the right beyond Bradfield Dale you can see **Boot's Folly** on its grassy ledge above the reservoir, and **Ughill Moor** above and beyond it. As you approach the top of **Cartledge Flat** (498m above sea), fork either way (the paths re-join in 80m) and immediately *turn left* at a four-way junction of paths (on the OS map) with a 'Back Tor'-sign pointing backwards.

You descend along a boggy but firm path and at the bottom continue along flagstones for about 400m, where a faint path joins on the left from behind out of the Abbey Brook Valley; all the water on the left-hand side off **Round Hill's** southerly flank runs into **Cartledge Brook**, then **Abbey Brook** and thence **Upper Derwent Reservoir**; the now sandy path widens slowly to a track, eventually commencing as a clear car wide gravel track; in 150m you pass a manmade cairn on a heather island, in 60m by a smaller cairn a faint path joins on the left **from Howden Edge** via Featherbed Moss; over the next 300m you cross a watershed: on the left there is some higher ground beyond Round Hill, moors eventually rising to **Howden Edge/Margery Hill** (SWC Walk 349 Ladybower Circular via Alport Castles and Derwent Reservoirs) and in the distance, across the Upper Derwent Valley, you have **Bleaklow**, the 'other' upland peak bog plateau of the Dark Peak area, its highest point just a few metres lower than Kinder Scout (SWC Walk 350 Fairholmes Circular via Bleaklow and Derwent Head).

You continue in a north easterly direction along **Brusten Croft Ridge**, with **Hobson Moss** falling away on the right and draining into the **Agden Dike** and thence **Agden Reservoir**. Ford a large stream, running off **Round Hill** and in 160m ford another large stream; in 220m ford another stream just before a boundary stone 10m away on the right ('RRW' for R. Rimington Wilson, a late 19th century owner of Broomhead Moor); in 30m you have a fenced area of Hobson Moss on the right, then ford several more streams and streamlets and in 230m pass the far corner of the fence. In 280m pass a cairn on the left and in 320m *turn right* with the track by a large pile of stones on the left on **Flint Hill**, at spot height 470m (the insignificant top is a bit ahead). You now follow **Duke's Road** (named after the Duke of Norfolk, whose closing of this public track for his grouse shooting interest in 1932 led to a smaller **Mass Trespass** just a few months after the more famous one on Kinder Scout) gently downhill through **Broomhead Moor** (heather, rushes and bilberries) for 3.0 km/1.9 mi to **Mortimer Road**.

In more detail: in 1.1 km you ford **Rushy Dike** and in 300m there is a cairn away on the left (the Nancy Tent cairn built from the ruins of a hut called just that, on the OS map) and a standing stone on the right; in 165m you have a drystone wall on the right; in 230m you pass a boundary stone on the left ('RHRW'), and in another 210m pass the far end of the wall; [on a 190° bearing you can see **Stanage Edge** in the distance, and on 210° and closer by, the **Wheel Stones** on Derwent Edge]; in 230m ignore a faint fork on the right towards the **Hurkling Stones**, some prominent gritstone boulders; in about 550m go through a wooden gate to the right of a wooden field gate and continue in the same direction along a car wide grassy track. In 50m by a bridleway marker post you reach **Mortimer Road** at a T-junction at a slight bend with a blind summit on the left.

You have **Bar Dike** opposite (a probably post-Roman Cross Dyke: a 400m long linear ditch-and-bank earthwork, now bracken-covered), and *turn right* along the grassy verge and in 20m *turn left* to carefully cross the road and go along a grassy path along a fence past a Restricted Byway signpost. In 20m *turn right* through a wooden gate in the fence with a footpath marker into a large bracken-and-heather grown pasture (**Cowell Flat**) and follow a clear grass path. In 160m follow the path through a small stand of birch trees for about 100m and in 60m you pass a low marker post. The path – almost imperceptibly – curves to the left and commences as an earthen path. You get fine views on the right behind **across Broomhead and Bradfield Moors up to the Cartledge Stone Ridge** and (on 240°) to **Back Tor**, i.e.: your route just walked.

In 300m by a low marker post at a drystone wall corner continue in the same direction along the wall (it curves gently downhill to the right) and in about 330m by a metal field gate in the drystone wall *turn hard left* along a clear grassy track, ignoring the continuation of the track half left to a metal field gate. In 50m cross a stream on a concrete slab, continue in the same direction along a rough track and cross another stream on an earth bridge. You go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and in 30m ignore a footpath turning right over a ladder stile and continue in the same direction through the pasture, parallel to a road away to the right running along and above the wooded **Agden Valley**. On a bearing of 210° you can again see **Boot's Folly** (a tower) on a grassy ledge above **Strines Reservoir**.

In 90m you leave the field and the **Access Land** over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and cross a tarmac lane to go over a stone slab stile to the right of a metal field gate opposite and continue along a car wide track between drystone walls (a public footpath). In 160m go over a stile to the right of a metal field gate and *curve to the right* with the grassy track. In 20m you have a stream on your left and in 130m cross **Sick Brook** on an earth bridge. In 30m go over a stile to the left of a metal field gate and in 40m ignore a wooden kissing gate on the left leading into a steep pasture and follow the grassy drive. In 30m you reach **Rocher Head Farm**, now ruined. Follow yellow markers through the farmstead in 60m, *bearing left* past the last buildings to continue through the upper of two pastures, left of a line of trees.

In 170m you pass a footpath signpost (on to 'High Bradfield', back 'Bar Dyke') and in 160m another one just before a redundant ladder stile in a ruined wall on the right. *Turn right* past the stile, ignoring a left forking footpath across the pasture to another ladder stile. *Turn left* in the neighbouring pasture to continue in the previous direction with **Rocher Wood** and its (cliff) Edge on your left and in 160m in the far-left field corner *turn left* over a stone slab stile in a short stretch of wall with a yellow marker and *turn right* through another pasture. In 250m by a wide gap in a drystone wall ahead, with a yellow marker on the wall, **[!]** *turn steeply down to the right* this side of the wall and in 20m *turn left* through a narrow wall gap (a missing gate).

Ignore a permissive footpath turning into **Rocher End Plantation** through a wooden kissing gate and *turn left* along the top of the plantation between drystone walls. In 120m ignore a right turning footpath over a ladder stile across the drystone wall and in 40m cross **Rocher End Brook** and walk up to a wooden gate and enter **Bailey Wood** in 20m, ignoring a marked left turning footpath. In 90m *turn right* with the path, initially on the level, and in about 320m you reach a multi-path junction by a wall gap into a churchyard. Ignore a right turning footpath down through the wood, as well as a path up left onto **Bailey Hill** (a Norman motte-and-bailey fortified keep on a man-made mound, which is suspected to have been a Saxon fort previously)

Bear left through the wall gap into the churchyard and go through several gates, as you follow a gravel path through three parts of it (containing some graves of victims of **The Great Sheffield Flood**). You enjoy very fine views down the steep valley wall on the right along **Bradfield Dale** and into the **Upper Loxley Valley** and to **Agden Reservoir** below. The moors leading up to **Derwent Edge** are visible as well in the back. In 220m at the far end of the churchyard you go through a metal gate and continue along a walled path (the building on the right is the only surviving **Watch House** in Yorkshire, built to house watchmen to prevent body snatchers stealing fresh corpses for medical research).

Go over a stone slab stile and *turn right* down **Jane Street** and in 15m by the church yard gate of **St. Nicholas' Church** (in Gothic Perpendicular style, dating from the 1480s, and one of only five Grade I listed buildings in Sheffield) *turn left* along a cobbled lane (Towngate) into **High Bradfield**. In 70m you pass **The Old Horns Inn** and continue past it towards the **bus stop for services to Hillsborough** (and bus and tram connections to the City Centre) at a main road junction. The signed bus stop for departures in an anti-clockwise direction (line 61) is 30m across the junction on the right-hand side. The clockwise bus (line 62) stops at any reasonable place opposite.

Bradfield Brewery can be found a little further along Loxley Road.

Low Bradfield Ending (cut 7.9 km/4.9 mi and 313m ascent)

In 170m *bear left* along **Blindside Lane**, a tarmac road. In 200m ignore a right turning public footpath and in 550m *turn right* with the lane. In 450m, with **Annet Bridge** over the **Dale Dike** river ahead, *turn right* over a stone slab stile with a public footpath and the SCW into a pasture and in 80m enter a wooded strip to follow the footpath for 400m and continue along a gravel lane. In 100m you pass **Plumpton Cottage** on the left and continue along the lane. In 250m at a T-junction with **Mill Lee Road**, you *turn left* and immediately *turn right* into **New Road** by **The Plough Inn** and **bus stops for services to Hillsborough** (and bus and tram connections to the City Centre). The bus stop for departures in an anti-clockwise direction (line 61) is on the left-hand side. The clockwise buses (line 62) stop on the right-hand side.

The Schoolrooms café can be found a little further along Mill Lee Road.