

Step Out at SWFC

The Wednesday Walk on Thursdays



85 – Bradfield Church – 2.8 miles, 475 feet climb!

A longer version of walk 23, (although there are shortcuts). Starting at The Sands car park, Bradfield, there is a steep climb up to High Bradfield Church and a steep drop back down (with 85 steps). If anybody wants to challenge themselves, there is an optional mile on the flat before you start the climb!

Please note there is no mobile phone coverage in this area, especially in the valley.

Anticlockwise

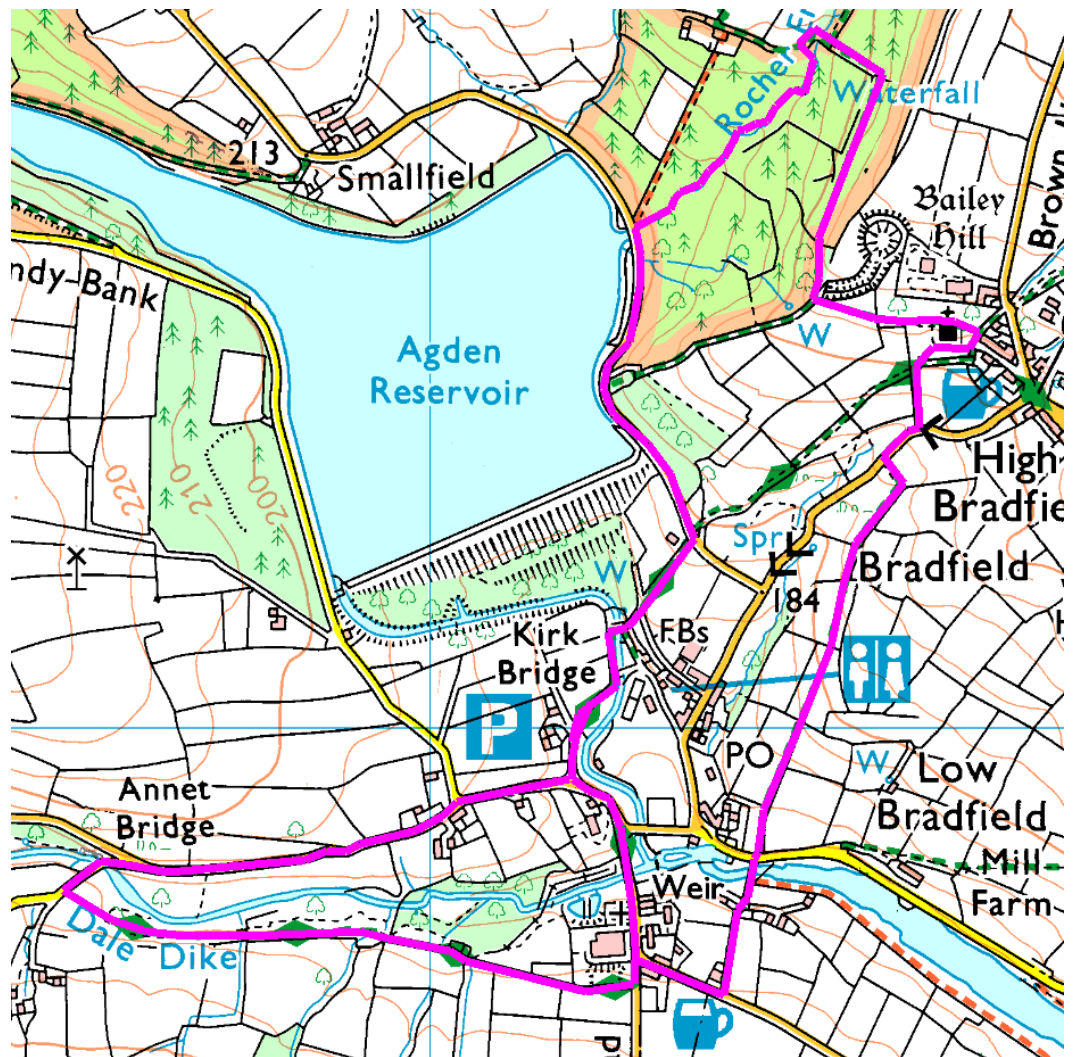
From the car park, head towards the road.

For the longer option, turn right. At Annet Bridge, bear left and cross the bridge then take the footpath on the left (try the gate, it's usually unlocked). Just follow this footpath past the community orchard, back to the road, then left and right past the Plough.

For the shorter walk, turn left and follow the road round before turning left past the Plough.

Take the footpath down to the bridge over the end of the reservoir, then cross the road and up the (steep) steps, and start climbing! Follow the path through 6 fields and back onto the road (over another stile), turn right and just on the bend cross the road (carefully) and the stile and head for the church. Go into the churchyard and sit on the benches while you enjoy the view.

If anybody is very tired, you can head straight back down, but the rest go along past the church, turn right up the path then left at the top and straight ahead into the wood. Bear right and down (don't take the path going up!) the hillside, through the gates and over the bridge and then over a step stile on your left. (Alternatively, carry on up the track (it gets a bit muddy) and through a kissing gate, then follow the track down the hill) Follow the path beside the stream till



it comes out on the road, turn left and follow the road past the dam, then turn right down the footpath (just past the house, a very narrow gap) and down the 85 steps, over the bridge and back to the carpark.

Risks:

- Quiet country roads to cross / walk along, but be very careful crossing on the bend, near the church
- Footpaths – dogs, tree roots, etc.
- Mud, wet leaves, slippery if wet.
- Steep drop beside path past the church – take care.

Places to pause and ponder

- Annet Bridge – was washed away when the dam burst in 1864
- The church – great views and an interesting building (and you'll need a rest!).
- The old Motte and Bailey castle, hidden in the trees

If running 2 walks, the fast walkers should do the longer walk while the slow walkers skip the bit at the start; the faster walkers should catch up by the time you get to the church.