

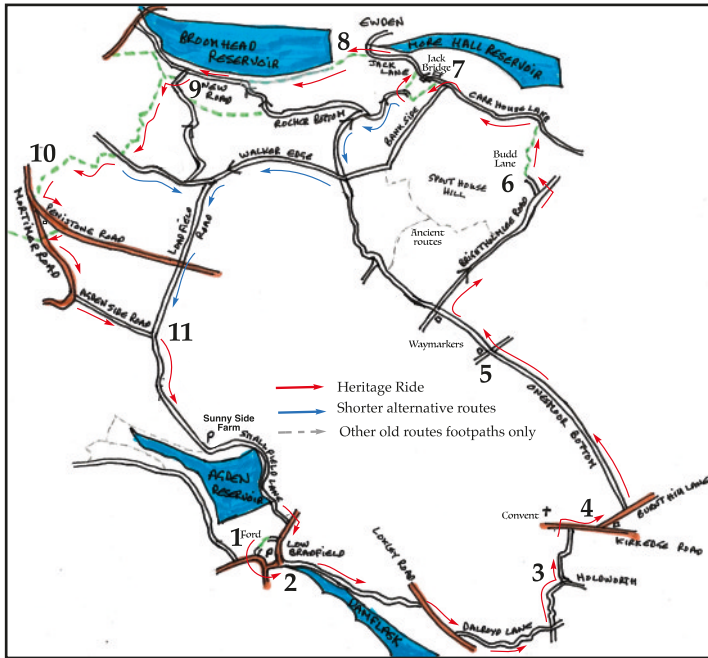
Heritage Ride 3 - The Four Reservoirs Ride

Mileage and time: Full route 11.4 miles 1-2 hrs cyclists, 3-4 hrs horse riders.

This is a very scenic ride that uses some ancient pack horse ways and takes in Damflask, More Hall, Broomhead and Agden reservoirs. There is a lot of hill work, some of it steep. Suitable for mountain/gravel/hybrid bikes. Shorter alternative routes can be used.

Parking: The Sands car park, Low Bradfield, S6 6LB overlooking the cricket ground. Additional roadside parking can be found alongside Agden Reservoir on Smallfield Lane. Horse boxes and trailers can park at Sunnyside Farm, Smallfield Lane S6 6LJ by prior arrangement. Tel: 0114 2851240

Refreshments: Low Bradfield. The Schoolrooms - food options can be booked (0114 2851920) also a post office shop and ice cream van.



Ride Directions:

If starting from Smallfield Lane alongside Agden Reservoir begin the ride at Fig: 11.

1. From the car park turn left and left again onto Fair House Lane. Then left over the bridge onto Smithy Bridge Road. Just past this bridge stood a corn mill; records show a corn mill at Bradfield from around 1218. Grain would be brought to the mill, by pack horses, to be ground into flour. A three storey corn mill replaced the one destroyed in the Dale Dike flood of 1864 but was destroyed by a fire in 1940.
2. At Smithy Garage (a blacksmiths shop until 1930's) turn right, towards Loxley. Follow

this road (Lamb Hill) alongside Damflask Reservoir, then up hill where it becomes Trouble Wood Lane. At the T junction turn right onto the Loxley Road, sign posted to Loxley. After a short distance take the first left to Holdworth onto Dalroyd Lane. At the cross roads, turn left onto Moor Road, which continues steadily uphill. There is a good view of Damflask Reservoir behind you.

3. Go left at the next T junction to High Bradfield and Ewden, then right at the T-junction at the top of the hill, sign posted Worral and Oughtibridge. *The unusually high wall belongs*

to Kirk Edge Convent, a Carmelite monastery for nuns built in 1871.

4. Turn left, downhill, on Burnt Hill Lane. Notice the old milestone on the corner. There are several milestones on this ride, this one has had the directions ground out in 1940/41 in fear of enemy invasion. The directions have been replaced. Take the next left, onto Onesmoor Bottom, sign posted Ewden Village and Bolsterstone. This road follows the line of an old pack horse route - notice how the lane is lower than the bottom of the walls in places (called a hollow way). In the past, there would not have been any walls, just moorland crossed with pack

horse tracks. The milestones that you will see were very important for way finding before the Enclosures, when the walls were built.

5. The top of the hill is the highest point of the ride. Bradfield weather station (where high winds are recorded) is on the left. Carry straight on at the cross roads, notice another milestone on your left. At the second cross roads with yet another milestone, turn right onto Bright-holmlee Road to Wharncliffe and Stocks-bridge. Follow this road for over a mile before turning left onto a farm drive at Eaton House Farm.

6. Turn right onto a bridleway, steep downhill to Carr House Lane, turn left. *This lane is another really old pack horse route crossing New Mill Bridge, now under More Hall Reservoir, to Bolsterstone and beyond. The fine stone pack horse bridge was moved to Glen Howe Park when the Reservoir was built.* Ride along this lane until you come to a fork.

7. Take the right fork going steep downhill, Fairhurst Lane. Almost immediately turn left onto a bridleway. *Just downhill from the bridleway, on the road, is an old water trough for pack horse use.* Ride along this track over a deep culvert and uphill towards an old farm. Take the bridleway on the right steep downhill to Jack Lane. Here cyclists need to take care as it is rough and very steep. **For a shorter route ride straight on up the lane, which becomes a steep hollow way. This is another branch of the various pack horse routes down to New Mill Bridge, this one from Bradfield.** At the T junction turn left and then first right at the cross roads onto Walker Edge. Take the first left (Load Field Road) and at the cross roads go straight across into Smallfield Lane. **Continue from fig 11 to the end of the ride.** Turn left onto Jack Lane following the pack horse route, which would have gone straight on to the now flooded site of the bridge. The road now bends left alongside Moorhall Reservoir.

8. Take the bridleway, on the left into Horse Wood which goes alongside Broomhead Reservoir. *Horse Wood may well take its name from the numerous pack horses which will have passed*

through this area to the various bridges and fords across the river. At the end bear right onto New Road and then take the first left onto Mill Lane, sign posted to Low Bradfield. This is part of the old road to Broomhead Mill, now under the reservoir.

9. Take the next right onto a restricted byeway, called Rushy Lane and after a couple of hundred yards bear left onto the bridleway and up the hill. At the top ride across the road onto another bridleway at Canyards. **For a shorter route turn left instead and the next right onto Load Field Road. At the cross roads go straight over into Smallfield Lane. Continue from Fig 11.** Follow this up the hill through the farm passing through a gate at the top of the hill onto the Mortimer Road. *This road was built as a turnpike road to replace an important pack horse route which used to be called Halifax Gate.*

10. Turn left onto Penistone Road sign posted Bradfield and Dungworth. *On your right is an old way marker which is dated 1740. This is before it became a turnpike road and shows the importance of this old pack horse route.* Take the next right onto a short restricted byeway. *(After a period of rain the middle section can be boggy and can be avoided by keeping to Mortimer Road).* At the end turn left onto Mortimer Road. Ride downhill and take the next left onto Agdenside Road. At the T junction turn right onto Smallfield Lane.

11. *Smallfield Lane is another ancient route and in places a deep hollow way.* Follow this road downhill and alongside Agden Reservoir to the next T junction in Low Bradfield. Turn right through the village and first right onto The Sands, by the cricket pitch. This becomes a track that goes through a shallow ford and ends at the car park. If parked on Smallfield Lane proceed from Fig 1. passing the car park on your left.

(If the water is high then you can go straight on through the village and over Smithy Road Bridge turning right and right to reach the car park.

If starting from Smallfield Lane, to avoid the ford, ride through the village taking the first left at Smithy Garage see Fig 2).