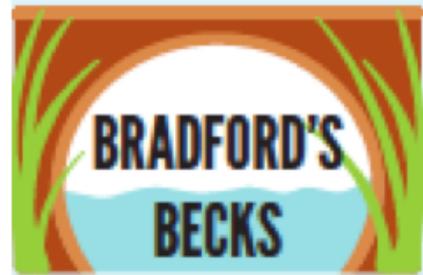


Help us to get our directions right!

Below are the instructions for one of the walks which we plan to include in our booklet of walks around Bradford's Becks. You can help us by following the instructions and letting us know of any errors or any improvements that can be made. We haven't yet done any mapping, but the walk can be found on OS Explorer 288 (Bradford & Huddersfield). However, we hope that the directions are good enough not to need to check the map.



Please send any comments to rose@walkout.demon.co.uk Thank you.

A short walk around Pitty Beck

This stretch of Pitty Beck is a green oasis situated between busy Thornton Road to the south and the extensive residential to the north.

Length: 2km

Terrain: easy going with 1 short climb

Starting point: Entrance to Pitty Beck wetlands on Bell Dean Road (opposite the entrance to Charteris Road), approx 100m from Thornton Road

Parking: Park carefully in Bell Dean Road or in Charteris Road

Bus: Buses from Bradford along Thornton Road (e.g. 505, 607, 696, 697, 698). Get off at Bell Dean Road stop, cross the road and walk up Bell Dean Road. Or bus 615 to Bell Dean Road (Advocet Close stop)

1. From the information board go left, heading towards a wooden fence. At the gate in the fence, turn right and follow the path down and through concrete posts into the woodland. You can see the domed top of the tunnel which carries Pitty Beck under Thornton Road. Follow the path through the woodland and leave it through a gap in the fence. Follow the path as it curves round left and then right to cross a broken down wall, go across the next field and then through a hedge. Down on the right you can see the Pitty Beck wetland area, which you will pass later on. The path drops down to join the Beck by some stepping stones.

2. Don't cross the Beck, but turn left and walk along the right edge of the field with the Beck on your right. Ignore a footbridge on the right. Follow the path as it rises slightly and then follow it round to continue along the tree line. Where the path forks, take the right hand path, cross the footbridge and continue forward with the Beck on your left.

3. Ignore any paths going off to the right until you see a wooden stile in the fence on the right. Go over this stile and take the path up through woodland to cross another stile. Turn right and follow the path alongside the fence. At the end of the fence turn right and keep following the path along the edge of the field until it curves round and goes through a gap in the wall by a large tree. Follow the path across the middle of the next field. Views start to open up of Bradford city ahead and Clayton village perched above Clayton Beck valley on the right.

4. Go through a gap in the next hedge and cross the next field. Go through the gap in the next hedge, and head for the far corner of the field, where you will find steps going downhill to cross a footbridge over the beck.

5. Turn left and walk back to cross the stepping stones (if the water is too high to cross, return by the route you came). Follow the path, with the beck on your right. The path goes past a series of ponds and reedbeds which make up the wetlands system and eventually climbs gradually to return to the starting point.

Local residents, schools and community groups worked together to create the Pitty Beck wetland system. The system consists of a series of ponds and reed beds and works by the cleansing power of three main elements – bacteria, the base material (soil, sand or gravel), and the reeds – which work together to remove sediment and impurities from the water.