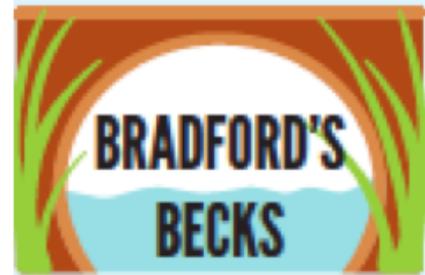


Help us to get our directions right!

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.

Pinch Beck, High Birks Beck and Hole Bottom Beck

A switchback walk between two valleys, with some steep climbs. Although you don't spend much time walking by the becks, this walk gives a fine sense of the network of tributaries that flow down from the Queensbury ridge into Bradford Beck. Bradford's industrial heritage is also on show here.

Warning! This walk involves one very muddy section near Pinch Beck, so make sure you are wearing suitable footwear.

Length: 5.5km

Terrain Strenuous in places, with 2-3 steep climbs. Some road walking.

Starting point Path to Great Northern Trail by Thornton Primary School in Thornton Road. GR095327.

Parking There is some parking on Thornton Road, or park courteously in side streets.

Bus Buses from Bradford along Thornton Road towards Denholme and Keighley (696, 697, 698). Get off at Vine Terrace (opposite Terminus Fisheries) Walk towards the pedestrian crossing, where the walk starts.

1. Take the Great Northern Trail and follow it round to the back of the school. At the path junction turn left along the path signposted to Queensbury. You are now walking on the viaduct which crosses Pinch Beck Valley 108 feet below. **Thornton Viaduct is a Grade II listed building and is regarded as one of the greatest viaducts in England. It opened in 1878 as part of the Queensbury to Keighley line, which finally closed in 1965.** At the end of the viaduct continue along the path
2. When you reach Headley Road, walk up the hill for about 20 metres and take the footpath on the left signposted West Scholes. Go through the squeeze stile and walk down the field with the wall on your left. At the bottom corner of the field go over the stile, follow the path down to take a stile opposite which has a small metal gate in front. Follow the faint path down the valley side, heading for a gap in the wall in the valley bottom. This is a delightful place, with High Birks Beck winding along the valley and views towards the village of Mountain on the horizon. Go through the gap in the wall and keep in the same direction to cross the Beck by a small wooden bridge. Go through the metal gate in the wall ahead.
3. Take the path straight ahead which climbs steeply uphill, go over the stile at the top of the field and continue to climb on a clear path through rough ground. Pass by the side of a wooden gate and keep forward

to emerge onto a track in the hamlet of West Scholes. Turn left along the track – there are good views here across the valley to Thornton and beyond. Take the footpath on the right signposted Marley Lane. At the end of this path, cross the road with care onto the pavement and turn left. Follow the road round to the right, and where the road curves left keep forward along Brow Lane for about 200m until you reach a former railway bridge.

4. *If you want to do the shorter route, take the footpath on the right just before the bridge. This takes you up to the Great Northern Trail, where you turn left and follow the path back to the starting point.* If you are continuing on the main route, when you are underneath the bridge, take the road on the left which leads through a metal gate to Hole Bottom Farm. Just before a set of large wooden gates, go through a small wooden gate on the left and follow a grassy footpath behind the buildings. **At a gap in the trees you can see an elaborate chimney on the other side of the valley, which is all that remains of the Clayton Fireclay Brickworks.** Hole Bottom Beck is running along the valley bottom. Follow the path through a squeeze stile, then through another one to continue forward with the wall on your right. When you reach the buildings, go over a stile next to a wooden gate into the yard. Ignore the gate straight ahead, and go to the right of a yellow building to emerge onto a track. Walk down the track to Cockin Lane.

5. At Cockin Lane turn right and walk with great care down the road to Corn Mill Lane on the left. Turn left here (sp Bronte Way). Go by the side of a metal gate and where the path bends to the right look for a metal gate and stile on the left. Take the stile into a rough field, go half left and after a short climb look for a wall ahead with two trees in front. Head towards the right end of the wall. Pinch Beck is down on your right, At the end of the wall, go through the metal footpath gate and follow the fence and wall on your right to go through another gate. Where the fence bends right, keep forward to another gate in the wall ahead. Warning – the area round this gate can be very muddy at any time of year. Head slightly right to the bottom end of the wall ahead. Walk up the field with this wall on your left – there is no obvious path. In the far corner go through the stile, then over the stile on the left, and then turn right and follow the path to the road (Headley Lane). Turn left here and follow the road steeply upwards for about 200m to the junction with the Great Northern Trail.

6. *If you do not want to do another climb, turn right here and follow the Great Northern Trail back to the starting point.* However, if you don't mind another short climb and would like one last sight of Pinch Beck, take the footpath on the right signposted Thornton. Go through a squeeze stile, across a track and through another stile, and then turn right to follow a grassy walled footpath. At the end, go through a metal gate and down the stone steps to a golf course, where you go straight ahead to reach a footbridge at the far end of the green. There are grand views of Thornton Viaduct on the left. Cross the footbridge and follow the flagged path uphill. When you come to the road, turn right and take the first left along John Street. Pass Chapel Street and at the next road turn right and go up the snicket to Thornton Road. Turn left to reach the beginning of the walk.