

Bradford to Shipley along Bradford Beck

Because Bradford Beck is underground in Bradford city centre, you have to walk for a while before getting the chance to see it. This linear walk takes you on an interesting route out of the city centre before joining the Canal Road Greenway beside the beck.

Length: 6km.

Terrain: A climb at the beginning and one in the middle, otherwise easy going.

Starting point: The beginning of Bolton Road by the flight of stone steps near the entrance to Bradford Cathedral. BD1 4DA. GR167332.

Parking: There are numerous car parks in Bradford City Centre.

Bus and train: Bradford Interchange is a ten-minute walk away, Forster Square is five minutes.

1. Go up the flight of stone steps (signposted Dalesway Link Path). Continue uphill and emerge onto a road. Turn left, and take the second turning on the right into a cobbled road (Captain Street). Follow this road, crossing two streets, and at the end cross the road and turn right into Bolton Road to walk up to the traffic lights. Turn left for a short distance to the pedestrian crossing, and cross the main road to rejoin Bolton Road on the opposite side.

2. Continue up the road for approximately 275 metres and take the first left down cobbled Lawson Street. At the bottom turn right and enter the Boar's Well nature reserve at the end. Follow the level path straight ahead through the reserve. Look out for two wells on the right; the first is

Spinkwell, which fed a spa in the 18th century, and the second is Boar's Well, associated with the famous Bradford Boar which is reputed to have terrorised local inhabitants in the 14th century. Eventually you come out onto busy King's Road.

3. Turn right up King's Road to the traffic lights. Carefully cross the road so that you continue walking up Kings Road on the left hand side. Take the first left down Bolton Lane, then the second right along Hollin Close Lane. Follow this unmade road as it eventually bears right up a slight incline. When you reach the last house on the right, take the narrow footpath on the right of the house. Go through the metal bollards and continue straight ahead, climbing uphill. At the end, turn left and continue straight ahead to emerge onto a road.

4. Turn left and walk along the road to a metal barrier. Go past the barrier and walk down the road, past the metal gates, to the end. Turn left, and where the road bends left, take the clearly marked path on the right – this is the Canal Road Greenway. Walk down the path to meet Bradford Beck, constrained in a brick-lined culvert.

5. Turn right and follow the Greenway, with the beck on your left, for approximately 2.5km, until you reach a temporary footpath signposted on the left. At the time of writing, this crosses the beck by a footbridge and crosses meadowland to arrive at the entrance to Shipley Station. Alternatively, you can carry on along the Greenway until it emerges onto Leeds Road. Turn left here for the station.



Above right: Spinkwell.
 Below: Bradford Beck
 alongside Canal Road.
 Below right: Bradford Beck
 near Shipley.

