

Northcliffe Dike and Red Beck

An easy walk along the becks that run through Northcliffe Woods and Heaton Woods. These two wooded valleys, which today are so peaceful, were once the scene of extensive industry, including mining and brick manufacturing.

Length: 4km.

Terrain: Easy paths with some road walking where care is needed. One short climb.

Starting point: Car park in Cliff Wood Avenue, off Bradford Road. BD18 3DD. GR146366.

Parking: In the car park.

Bus: Buses from Bradford along Bradford Road (623, 626, 653, 662). Get off at Norwood Terrace and walk forward to Cliff Wood Avenue.

1. From the car park take the main path through the metal barrier. Follow the path past the miniature railway and the picnic area. Just past the picnic area Northcliffe Dike appears on your left. Continue along the path beside the beck all the way to the end to where there are steps on the left and right.

2. Turn left and cross the beck. The beck itself continues forward for a few hundred metres and then disappears underground. Climb the steps and at the top take the path ahead to cross the golf course.

3. When the path emerges onto the road (Shay Lane), turn left and walk down the road. Cars go quite fast along this road, so take care. Pass the footpath signposted Heaton Royds Lane and continue on. Even-



tually you will see Heaton Woods unfolding on the left and right. Walk down the hill and on the bend at the bottom go through the gap in the wall on the left and take the steps down to Red Beck.

4. Cross the footbridge and continue with the beck on your left. After about 100 metres you come to a small tributary which is an orange/red colour. This is caused by the presence of iron ochre from old mineworkings and is presumably what originally gave Red Beck its name. Continue following the path beside the beck all the way to the exit from the woods, ignoring all paths going up on the right and footbridges on the left. Go through the metal gate and turn right to reach the road. It is still possible to see the beck running in a culvert behind the garages on the right. It eventually meets up with Northcliffe Dike and the two then flow down into Bradford Beck.

5. When you reach the road, turn left into Wilmer Drive and at the end turn right into Redburn Drive. At the end turn left into the main road and return to the beginning.



Opposite page and left:
Red Beck.
Below: Northcliffe Dike.

