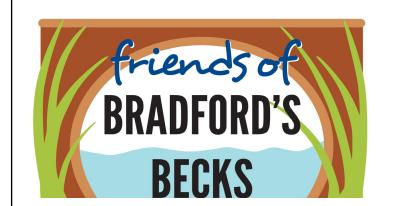


# CHELLOW DENE BECK AND RESERVOIRS



This walk starts at Chellow Dene wetlands, which were first constructed in 2005. In 2024 improvements were made to create a new natural style floodplain to capture flood water, improve water quality and allow wetland species to grow. The walk then circles the Chellow Dene reservoirs, which were built in the mid-19th century to provide a stable water supply for the people of Bradford.

**LENGTH:** 5.7km (3.5 miles).

**TERRAIN:** Easy, with two short climbs. Overall ascent 101m. OS map 288.

**START:** Entrance to Chellow Dene Wetlands at the bend in Ings Way (opposite the church), BD8 0LU. w3w //wages.outfit.rounds

**PARKING:** Park courteously in Ings Way.

**BUS:** Buses 607, 615 & 67 from Bradford to Olive Grove. Walk up Olive Grove and at the top cross over into Ings Way.

**1.** After entering the wetlands follow the path with Chellow Dene Beck on your right. In 2024 the Aire Rivers Trust recreated a natural flood plain on the other side of the Beck using a technique called natural flood management. An old weir was removed, allowing fish to move freely throughout the beck. A leaky dam was installed to slow the flow of the beck's water in high-flow conditions by diverting water from the river channel onto the wetland.



Ignore the first footbridge on the right, and keep forward across the grassed area for about 200m to cross the beck at a stone footbridge. Turn left and follow the path with the Beck on your left (can be muddy). Eventually, cross the Beck by stepping stones and follow the path as it goes left



and rises uphill to emerge onto a road. Turn right and walk up to Allerton Road. Go right and carefully cross the road using the pedestrian central refuge island.

**2.** Look for the footpath sign and enter the field. Follow the path which runs along the right side of the field beside the Beck – this can sometimes be very muddy. When you reach the reservoir, go right through the stile and turn left to walk along the left side of the reservoir. At the end of the lower reservoir follow the main path left as it makes a short steep ascent to the upper reservoir. Keep following the path along the side of the reservoir.

These reservoirs were built by Bradford Corporation in response to water shortages in the city. The upper reservoir was built in 1849, and the lower one four years later. It was a significant engineering feat in its time, but the reservoirs ceased providing drinking water in 1975 after failing safety standards. Bradford Council has maintained the reservoirs and the surrounding wooded valley as a popular recreational area.



3. When you reach the end of the second reservoir keep forward, ignoring steps on the left and right. Shortly before the car park take a broad path going back on the right and gently rising. From here you follow this path, up and down, above the upper reservoir, keeping as close as possible to the golf course on the left. Sometimes the path divides but it always meets up again.
4. At the end of the upper reservoir you reach steps descending on the right. Take these and turn left at the bottom to walk along the side of the lower reservoir. At the end turn right to cross the bottom of the reservoir. Go through the stile, turn left, and retrace your steps back to the beginning.

