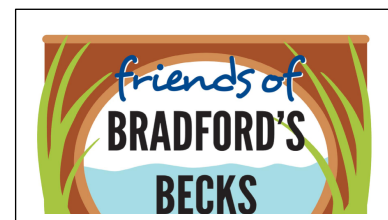


NORTHCLIFFE DIKE AND RED BECK



This is 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. There is plenty to spot in terms of wildlife and plants. There are many birds and wildflowers, and trees that put on a good show in spring and autumn. Bluebells cover the ground under the trees before they come into leaf. If you visit late in the day, bats and hedgehogs can be seen.

LENGTH: 4km (2.4 miles).

TERRAIN: Easy paths with some road walking. One short climb. Overall ascent 75m. OS map 288.

START: Car park in Cliff Wood Avenue, off Bradford Road, BD18 3DD.

what3words.com/market.sting.mining

PARKING: In the car park or local streets.

BUS: Buses from Bradford along Bradford Road (662, 622, 626). 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.

Northcliffe Dike runs through what is now Northcliffe Park, which was donated to Shipley Council for the people of Shipley by Sir Norman Rae in 1920. The 1861 census shows 41 individuals listed as coal miners, one-third of whom were ten to fifteen years old. The miners generally worked small open cast and 'bell pit' mines and it is possible to still identify some of these coal pits today. Some of the tracks and paths in the park follow old routes used by miners, brickmakers and farmers.

Continue along the path beside the Beck all the way to the end to where there are steps on the left and the 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. Keep going straight forward.

3. When the path emerges onto the road (Shay Lane), turn left and walk down the road. There's no pavement, so take care. Go past the footpath signposted Heaton Royds Lane.



Heaton Royds Lane is also known as Six Days Only. Until the 1950s a cottage dweller in this lane sold nettle beer and produce from a local market garden. However, he refused to trade on Sundays and eventually the name stuck.

Continue along Shay Lane, which is shortly closed to traffic, and eventually you will see Heaton Woods unfolding on the left and the 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 100m you come to a small tributary which is an orange/red colour. This is caused by deposits of iron rich clay and is presumably what originally gave Red Beck its name.

Iron-rich clay was used for brickmaking and there were several brickworks in the area. The local millstone grit and coal measure sandstone proved to be useful as for local buildings. Red Beck Mill was a small textile mill near the Shipley to Bradford railway line. The name survives in the nearby Red Beck allotments on the other side of Bradford Road.



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. The Beck eventually meets up with Northcliffe Dike and then flows 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.

