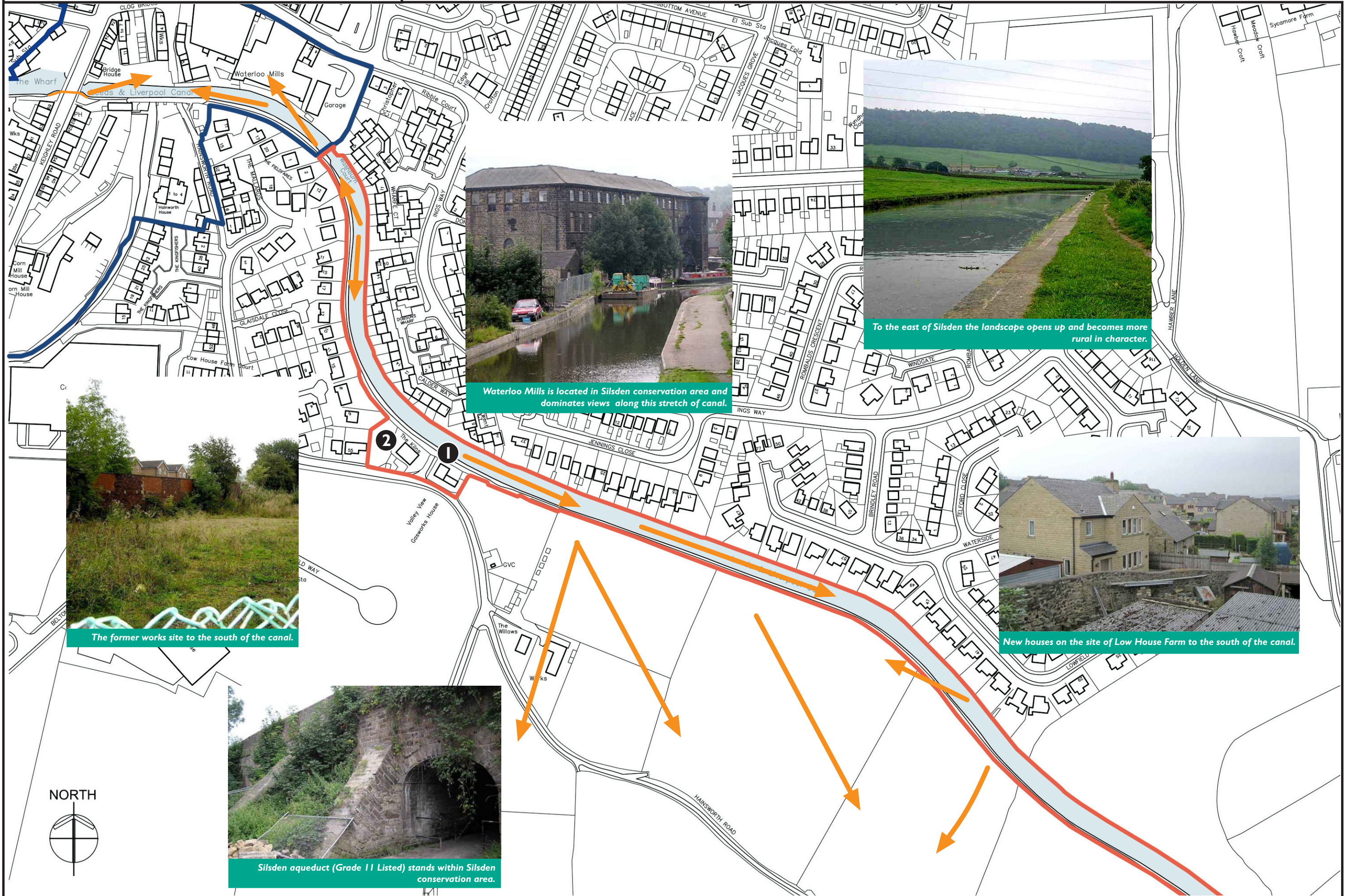


Map 03: Silsden - East of Clog Bridge



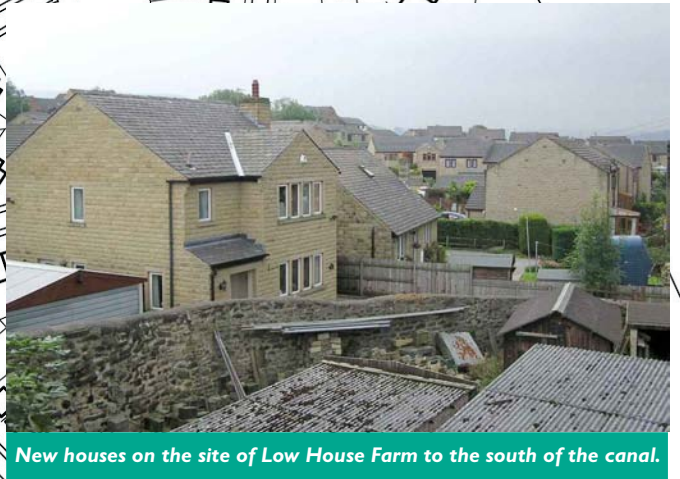
To the east of Silsden the landscape opens up and becomes more rural in character.



Waterloo Mills is located in Silsden conservation area and dominates views along this stretch of canal.



The former works site to the south of the canal.



New houses on the site of Low House Farm to the south of the canal.



Silsden aqueduct (Grade II Listed) stands within Silsden conservation area.



Map 03: Silsden - East of Clog Bridge



The canal is carried over Hainsworth Road by Silsden aqueduct (Grade 1 Listed). Expensive pieces of engineering such as this are typical 'Brindley features' of canals where John Brindley was employed as engineer. The aqueduct is in need of better maintenance.

Character of the Area

To the east of Clog Bridge in Silsden the canal progresses through the Silsden conservation area before re-entering the Leeds Liverpool Canal conservation area to the southeast of Waterloo Mills. At this point the course of the canal orientates southwards as it follows the contours of the land. The north side of the canal is closely lined with a relatively modern housing development incorporating houses on Ings Way, Jennings Close, Calder Way and Waterside. These range from three storey townhouses through to brick and render dormer bungalows.

These houses are set close to the edge of the canal with gardens running right down to the water. The almost continuous building line along the canal side blocks views northwards from the canal and the variety of garden styles and boundary treatments along the waterside gives the setting of the conservation area a suburban feel.

On the south side of the canal is another area of recent residential development, with many of the houses still under construction. The development, which is located around Hainsworth Road, is set down below the level of canal which filters some views southwards across the roofscape towards Steeton and along the Aire valley.

To the east of these houses the setting of the conservation area begins to open out and is more rural, with pleasant open pastoral countryside to the south of the canal facilitating long distance views. To the east of Valley View is the site of the former gasworks. Only small sections of the north elevation of the former red-brick building remain standing and the site is currently subject to an outline residential application.

The towpath continues along the south side of the canal, becoming wider and more level as it progresses away from Silsden. A coped drystone wall provides the boundary to the towpath and further enhances the rural character and feel of this part of the conservation area.

Features of the Area

1. Valley View & Gasworks House, Hainsworth Road:

Standing on the south side of the towpath are two stone built properties, Valley View and Gasworks House, the latter so named because of the proximity of the site of the former gasworks a short distance to the east. Valley View is a substantial two storey, three-bay dwelling that stands at right angles to the canal, facing west. Built of deeply coursed hammer-dressed stone with a blue slate roof, this house was most probably built around the end of the 19th century. The property displays some traditional features, such as stone copings to the gables, corniced chimneystacks and stone heads and sills to the window openings. Sadly some of the original details, such as the sash window and panelled door, have been lost.

Gasworks House stands at right angles to Valley View, facing southwards onto the road. Set down below the level of the canal bank and hidden from the towpath by a line of trees, the house has few visual linkages to the canal. Visible from Hainsworth Road, the house is set in a single storey structure that was probably once part of Valley View and indeed may have since been reincorporated into the main house. Stone built with a blue slate roof, the building is traditionally constructed but has a large uPVC conservatory to the front elevation.

2. The Kilns and Land to west, Hainsworth Road:

The Kilns (no. 61 Hainsworth Road) is a modern house built on sloping land to the south of the canal. Though not of historical or architectural interest, the house and the land immediately to the west are shown on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map as standing on the site of lime kilns. There is no evidence of where these lime kilns once stood but the name of the house suggests that the site was indeed once used for the burning of limestone to produce lime, which was used for building and farming.

SILSDEN CONSERVATION AREA

Clog Bridge (Bridge no. 191) forms the crossing for Keighley Road over the canal on its approach to Silsden from the south. The bridge probably dates to the late 19th/early 20th century and is substantially built with dressed stone abutments to either side of the waterway rising to tall, coped piers. The carriageway and central section to the bridge is of metal construction and is comprised of several sections bolted together and painted green. Beneath the arch of the bridge the towpath is stone setted.

To the east of the bridge is Silsden aqueduct; a Grade II listed structure that was built contemporarily with the canal (c.1773). Stone built, the aqueduct has a semi-circular arch over the stream and a large basket-arched opening with

dressed voussoirs over Hainsworth Road. On the south side of the canal are three substantial buttresses. To the top of the aqueduct is a simple parapet with stone copings and band.

On the north side of the canal is a group of interesting small-scale industrial buildings located at the top end of Hainsworth Road. These buildings are identified as key unlisted buildings in the Silsden conservation area assessment and are a tangible reminder of the industries that shaped the village's development through the 18th and 19th centuries. A plaque on the wall of one of these buildings testifies to a forge being on the site since 1487. To the east of this group is Waterloo Mills, a large late 19th century mill built of hammer-dressed stone that has darkened to an almost black hue. The mill occupies a prominent site on the northern side of the canal and adds much to the industrial feel of this section of the waterway.

The towpath along this section of the canal is in fairly poor condition, being alternately concrete surfaced/coped and grassed. On the north side of the canal the immediate setting is again fairly scruffy, with old boats tied alongside concrete moorings.

Issues

- ▶ The poor surface of the towpath in some sections, particularly those closest to Silsden
- ▶ Large areas of modern residential development, particularly on the north side of the canal restrict views and vistas along the waterway and create a suburban feel.

