

Map 10: Sandbeds and Swine Lane Bridge



Swine Lane Bridge (Grade II Listed) was built at the same time as the canal.



Vista west from Swine Lane Bridge with the suburban housing at Thurlestone Court.



Despite the proximity of the built up area of Sandbeds, the canal retains a leafy, rural character in places.



Map 10: Sandbeds and Swine Lane Bridge



Top: Although recently built, this footbridge adjoining Swine Lane has quickly fallen into a neglected state.

Above: One of the few canal-related historic buildings in the Sandbeds area, the cottages at Aireview are an important, if much altered, feature.

Far Right: Swine Lane Bridge (Grade II Listed) was built contemporarily with the canal.

Character of the Area

This part of the conservation area is characterised by its mostly suburban setting, with houses lining much of this section of the canal. These vary from mid-20th century semi-detached houses through to the newly built Barratt development alongside Swine Lane Bridge. This development has impacted greatly upon what was previously a green and open setting on the north side of the canal. The development itself is fairly standard, comprising of mostly large detached houses. These are stone built with blue slate roofs. The retention of some of the mature shrubbery and trees along the edge of the canal is a positive aspect of the development.

The parkland on the north side of the canal, between Daleside Road and the new housing development and the cemetery on the south side of the canal both provide a green and leafy setting to the canal. These two areas make an important contribution to the character of this part of the canal conservation area. To the west of Swine Lane Bridge views are mainly contained to short and medium distance vistas along the waterway and its immediate setting, however beyond the bridge the line of trees on the northern side of the canal thins, allowing some good views across the open landscape.

The condition of the towpath varies along this section of the canal. Up to the bridge it is mostly wide and gravelled, providing a level surface for walking and cycling on. To the east of Swine Lane Bridge the towpath narrows substantially and has a mostly grassed/earth surface.

This latter section of the canal is particularly picturesque and appears well used by anglers, walkers and cyclists.

Features of the Area

1. Swine Lane Bridge, Sandbeds (198): The original Swine Lane Bridge is a stone bridge of traditional construction that provides a vehicular crossing over the canal. The bridge, which is a Grade II listed structure is constructed of dressed, coursed local stone and has a high, wide arch to allow passage of boats beneath. The arch has a vaguely horseshoe shape with dressed voussoirs painted white as is traditional on this part of the waterway. The abutments are constructed of dressed stone and the parapet sits atop a projecting stringcourse and is mounted by flat copingstones. Originally stone bridges were much narrower with a steep camber to the arched crossing, however this bridge

may well have been rebuilt and made wider to allow cars to cross.

2. Footbridge, Swine Lane, Sandbeds: The arched footbridge immediately to the northwest was added recently to allow pedestrians safe crossing over the canal. Built of metal with decorative black-painted handrails and a slightly arched footway, the bridge has been constructed to a modern design and is complimentary to the stone structure it sits alongside. Access from the towpath to both bridges is taken from a sloping footway that is wide enough to allow passage by prams, wheelchairs etc. The pathway is currently quite overgrown and more frequent maintenance is required in order to preserve access.

3. Nos. 1-5 (odd) Aire View, Sandbeds: Nos. 1-5 Aire View consist of a terrace of three dwellings located in a converted stone building that may have once been a farmhouse and/or barn. The group faces southwards across the valley bottom with their rear elevations, which are just a single storey in height due to the slope of the land, onto the canal. The building itself

displays typical vernacular detailing, being constructed of rubble stonework with a long stone slate roof, corniced chimneystacks and door and window openings set in flat-faced stone surrounds. Though the building has been much altered over the years, its traditional form and building materials make an interesting and historic contribution to the setting of the canal and conservation area.

Issues

- ▶ Loss of original details to the vernacular buildings at Aire View
- ▶ Overgrown access ramp to the footbridge
- ▶ Uneven surface of towpath to the east of Swine Lane Bridge
- ▶ Overhanging and overgrown vegetation along the edge of the towpath
- ▶ Encroachment of water plants, reeds etc into the waterway alongside Swine Lane Bridge

