

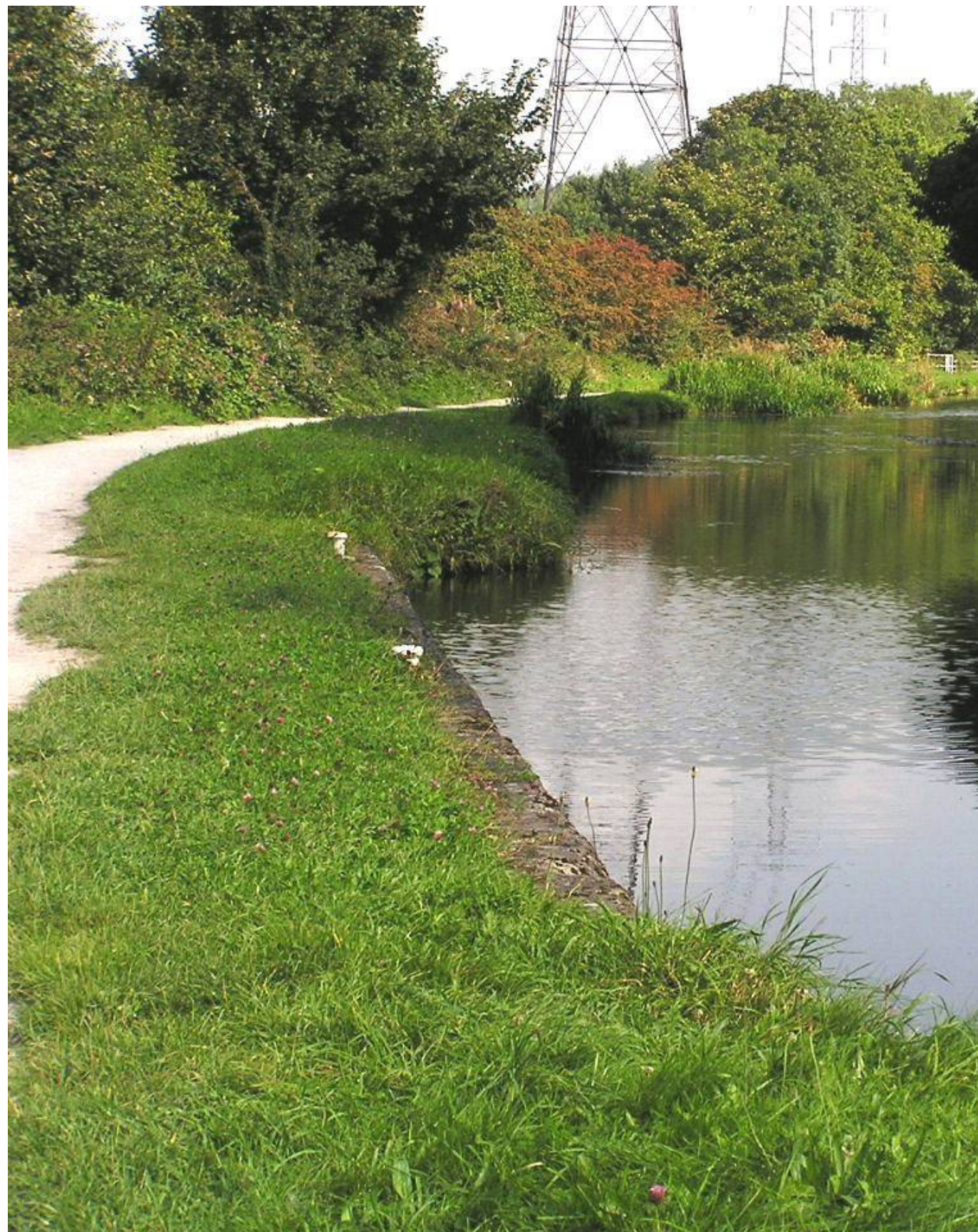
Map 23: North of Thackley



To Shipley & Airedale

Electricity pylons are particularly prominent along this stretch of the canal.

Map 23: North of Thackley



Character of the Area

The urban feel of the canal begins to fade as the built up area of Shipley becomes increasingly distant and screened by trees to the north of the conservation area. Further along, distant views to the village of Baildon, with its church on the horizon come into view.

To the south of the canal, the high slope of the fields adjoining the canal and the railway embankment at the top of the slope conceals nearby Windhill and Thackley, reinforcing the feeling of moving from urban to rural.

Both banks of the canal have a natural, irregular grassy edge, with the western bank possibly held by piling. The towpath is flanked by rugged grass verges and is surfaced with compacted white gravel.

This is a very quiet stretch of canal with few passers by and no nearby buildings or structures such as bridges.

Features of the Area

1. Horse wash by Thackley West Wood: At one point the canal widens slightly to form a rectangular recess with stone copings and iron mooring posts. It is believed that this is a horse wash (known in Yorkshire as a dog wash), where the depth of the canal is shallower and ramped, allowing a horse that has fallen or been dragged into the canal to climb out. Presumably the mooring posts would be used to tie up either the horse or boat until the horse could be tied to the boat again.



2. Overflow weir by Brackendale Mills: The stream, which once watered the pond of Brackendale Mills at Thackley, emerges north of the railway cutting and passes under the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, which is carried over the beck by a single semi-circular arch. The stream is partially diverted to supply the canal with water. To the west of the aqueduct over the beck is an overflow weir which allows excess water to spill from the canal into the stream for the short distance before it joins the River Aire. The weir itself is made of timber planks and could presumably be removed if needs be, while the overflow channel is concrete. To the north of the towpath, the overflow cascades down a concrete 'staircase' before joining the stream. The appearance of the overflow channel and the modern steel railings is somewhat functional.

Issue

- ▶ Materials, appearance and lack of maintenance to the overflow channel and its railings.

Far Left: Possible horse wash by Thackley West Wood.

Left: Stark, modernised overflow weir by Brackendale Mills.