

Map 24: Thackley - Buck Wood

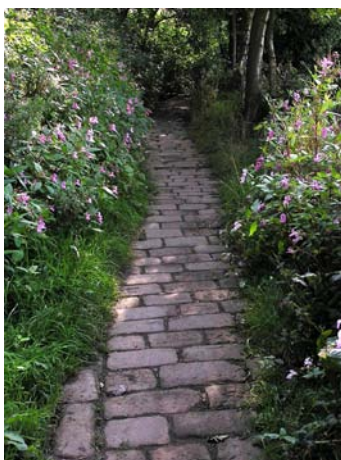


Metal piling along the canal bank near Buck Mill Lane.



Vista of the canal as it passes through Buck Wood.

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Top: The setted pathway leading up from Buck Mill Lane Bridge is particularly attractive.

Bottom: Pleasurecraft passing through the manually operated Buck Mill Swing Bridge on the edge of the leafy Buck Woods.

Character of the Area

To the east of Buck Mill Lane, the character of the conservation area changes as the open grazed fields and allotments on the eastern bank of the canal give way to the dense woodland of Buck Wood, which, with the trees along the western side of the conservation area, effectively forms a tunnel through which the canal passes for some distance. Any hint of the nearby settlements of Thackley, Baildon and Shipley disappears as the foliage forms a continuous backdrop to the conservation area.

Apart from the canal itself, the only other nearby man made features are Buck Mill Swing Bridge and Buckwood Cottage. Buck Mill stood on the northern side of the bridge and was a corn and later woollen mill powered by a waterwheel in the River Aire. By 1890 the mill was disused and no trace of the mill remains.

In the opposite direction, Buck Mill Lane becomes an attractive and well kept setted footway through the woodland up toward Thackley and into Buck Wood.

Along this section, the towpath is fairly broad and is surfaced with packed white gravel, with rugged, clean grass verges to either side. While the eastern bank of the canal has a natural edge to both field and woodland, the western bank is lined with metallic piling.

Features of the Area

1. Buck Mill Swing Bridge (211): This manually opened swing bridge has a tarmac surface edged with timber to which modern style painted steel railings are attached. At the east end is the balance beam, but the surface underneath is bare earth. The space over which the bridge swings when open is covered with rushes. The banks at the bridge are stone with stone copings. At the northern side there are painted traditional timber railings with square posts with iron feet and diamond handrails and guardrails. This bridge is on a track between Thackley and Baildon.

2. Buckwood Cottage: The cottage is located up a setted footpath and has become almost hidden from view from the canal by trees. The 2 bay cottage was once two dwellings which shared the central corniced chimneystack. The house retains a

stone roof, indicating its construction in the first half of the 19th century, although traditional window details are absent.

Issues

- ▶ The modern appearance and neglected state of Buck Mill Swing Bridge.
- ▶ The lack of traditional window details to the unlisted buildings.

