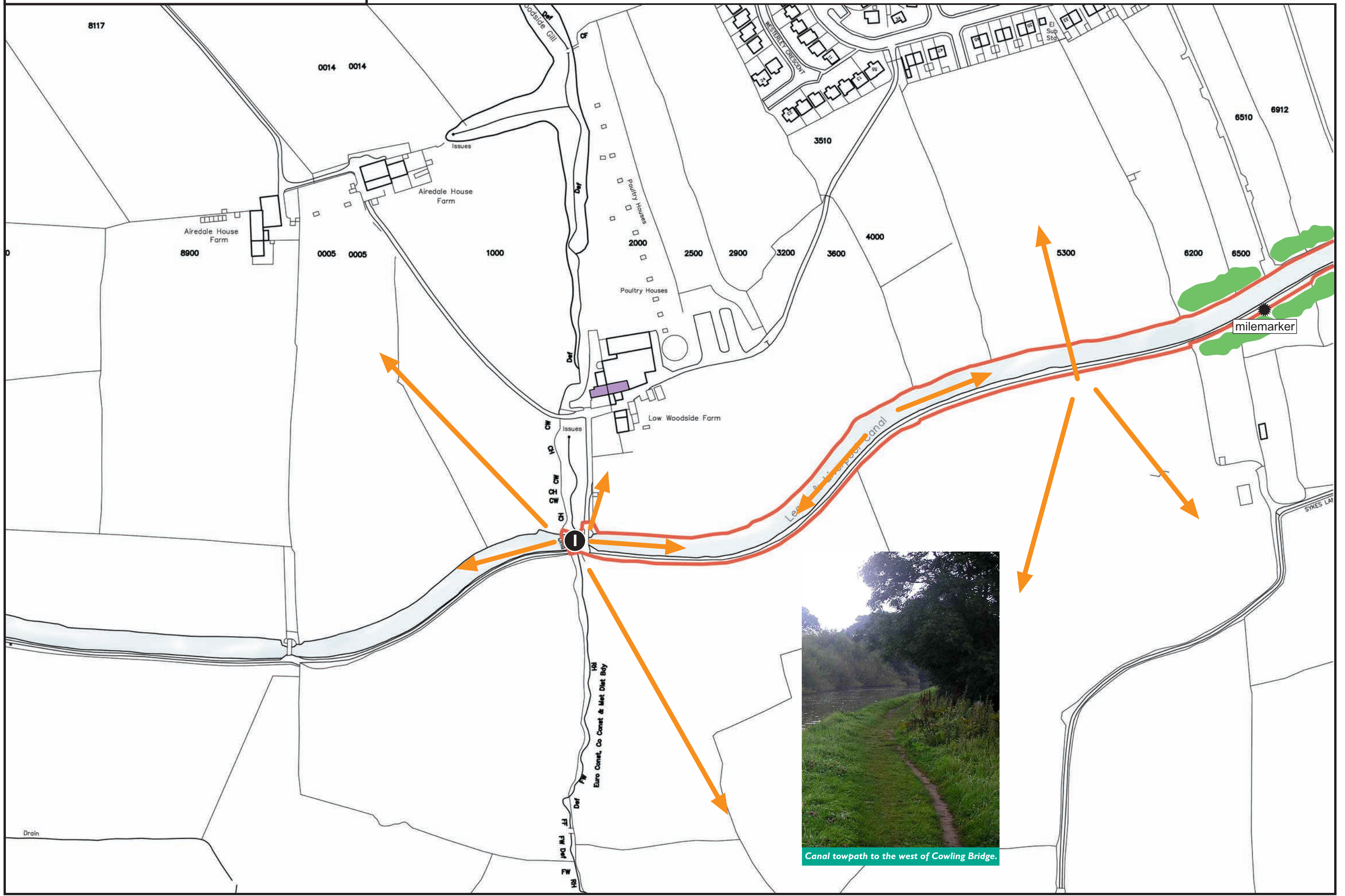


Map 01: Silsden - West of Silsden



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Character of the Area

The canal enters the district to the south of Low Woodside Farm and progresses eastwards towards the former mill village of Silsden. The setting alongside this stretch of canal is picturesque and very rural with an open and pastoral landscape to either side of the waterway. The canal visibly winds around the contours of the land; the fields to the north rising quite steeply and those to the south dropping away to the valley bottom, facilitating good long distance views across Airedale and the surrounding countryside.

To the north of the canal is Low Woodside Farm, which comprises of a group of stone farm buildings around a working yard. The farmhouse faces southwards towards the canal and displays a number of traditional vernacular building features such as a stone slate roof and stone door and window sur-

rounds. The buildings are set some distance from the canal and are outside of the conservation area but have a strong visual link with the waterway and provide an important aspect of its setting.

The towpath runs along the southern side of the waterway and has a principally grassed surface. There is little to differentiate the towpath from the banks of the canal. The path is in relatively poor condition, though its rough and somewhat wild appearance does at least suit the rural setting of this part of the canal conservation area. Stones imbedded in the grass and a rutted surface make walking and cycling difficult. On the opposite side of the canal the banks are in fairly poor condition and it is evident that some slippage into the waterway has occurred. The canal banks are lined to the north intermittently by open fields and shrubby trees that create a more enclosed feel.

Features of the Area

1. Cowling Bridge (191): This bridge is located on the very western edge of the district and forms the first definable feature on the edge of the conservation area. The bridge itself is of modern construction, having a metal base and handrails with timber decking. Operated manually on a swing mechanism pivoting on an eccentric axis on the north side of the canal, the bridge is only intended for light traffic and primarily serves Low Woodside Farm, allowing access between the farm and fields on the south side of the waterway.

Issues

- ▶ The poor surface of the towpath - rutted and rocky grassed surface makes walking and cycling difficult.
- ▶ Northern banks of the canal slipping into the water near Low Woodside Farm.



Top: The open fields and the topography of Airedale means that there are long distance views across the valley.

Middle: Cowling Bridge with Low Woodside Farm in the background.

Bottom: Cowling Bridge and the canal's rural immediate setting.

