

# Map 07: Booth's Bridge and Keighley Golf Club



Booth's Bridge



A wharf at the foot of a domestic garden at Elam Wood Road. The trees are an important feature of this area.



The concrete canal bank at the edge of Riddlesden is out of place in a rural scene such as this.

0 20 30 40 50 metres 100

## Map 07: Booth's Bridge and Keighley Golf Club



### Character of the Area

The section of the canal to the north of Booth's Bridge has a very enclosed and almost tunnel like feel created by the dense screen of trees standing on both sides of the waterway. As a result views are mostly contained to the canal, allowing only snatched glimpses of the landscape through the leafy canopies.

Around Booth's Bridge the land on the north side of the canal rises upwards steeply. To the east of the bridge is Riddlesden Golf Club, which comprises of a group of mostly modern buildings on the edge of the golf course (outside of the conservation area).

Progressing further southwards, the canal passes over Clough Beck. An overflow is located at this point allowing run off into the beck when the canal has reached capacity. The beck joins with the River Aire a short distance to the southwest.



Set on the steeply rising land on the northern side of the canal and to the southeast of the beck are a scattered group of detached and semi-detached houses that occupy an enviable position overlooking the canal and Aire valley. These are mostly mid-20th century render and stone dwellings that have long gardens running down to timber jetties and moorings alongside the canal. Trees standing in these gardens and along this side of the canal generally make an important contribution to the setting of the conservation area.

On the south side of the canal is Keighley Golf course and beyond this the area of Utley on the outskirts of Keighley. The almost continuous screen of tree canopies alongside the waterway blocks many of the views and vistas to the south of the canal.

The towpath is wide, level and has a gravel surface that allows comfortable walking and cycling. Concrete copings line much of the waterway on both sides through this part of the conservation area.

### Features of the Area

**1. Booth's Bridge (195):** Booth's Bridge is a modern swing bridge that is operated manually from a pivot on the northside of the canal. Shown on the first O.S. map of the district as being a swing bridge, the original timber bridge has long since been replaced with the existing structure. The current bridge is almost entirely of metal construction, having a metal base and handrails. The decking appears to have been covered with a layer of tarmac. The abutments on each side of the canal are coped with stone, as are the moorings that extend down the side of the canal for a short distance to the southeast of the bridge.

**2. Lime Kiln, Booth's Bridge:** Set in the banks of the canal on the south side of the waterway is a single lime kiln. The kiln is accessed via a rough, rocky path that leads off the towpath into an area of dense woodland on the edge of Keighley Golf Course. The kiln was probably built contemporarily with or shortly after the construction of the canal and therefore may well date to the late 18th century. The kiln is built of rubble stone and has an arched opening defined by dressed voussoirs that leads to an arched roof space with an opening at the back for the flue. Now in poor condition with trees growing out of the roof of the kiln, the future of the structure is uncertain unless maintenance work is undertaken.

**3. Carr Delph:** To the south of Riddlesden Golf Course Club-house is an area known on the maps as Carr Delph. This area contains a number of sandstone escarpments, some of which stand immediately alongside the canal and appear to have been quarried in the past. A line of concrete coped moorings along this section of the canal indicates that stone was taken directly from the quarries onto the boats.



### Issues

- ▶ The lime kiln alongside Booth's Bridge is in poor condition and requires some maintenance and removal of trees from its roof to halt further damage to the historic fabric.
- ▶ Concrete copings to the edges of the canal and particularly around the overflow have a negative visual impact.
- ▶ Overgrown and overhanging vegetation alongside the towpath needs regular cutting back.

The area around Booth's Bridge is dominated by trees and foliage which hem in both the canal (above) and the tracks which lead to the bridge (top).

Top Right: Carr Delph: one of the few former quarries alongside the canal in the conservation area.

Illustration: The 18th century lime kiln near Booth's Bridge is overgrown and neglected.

