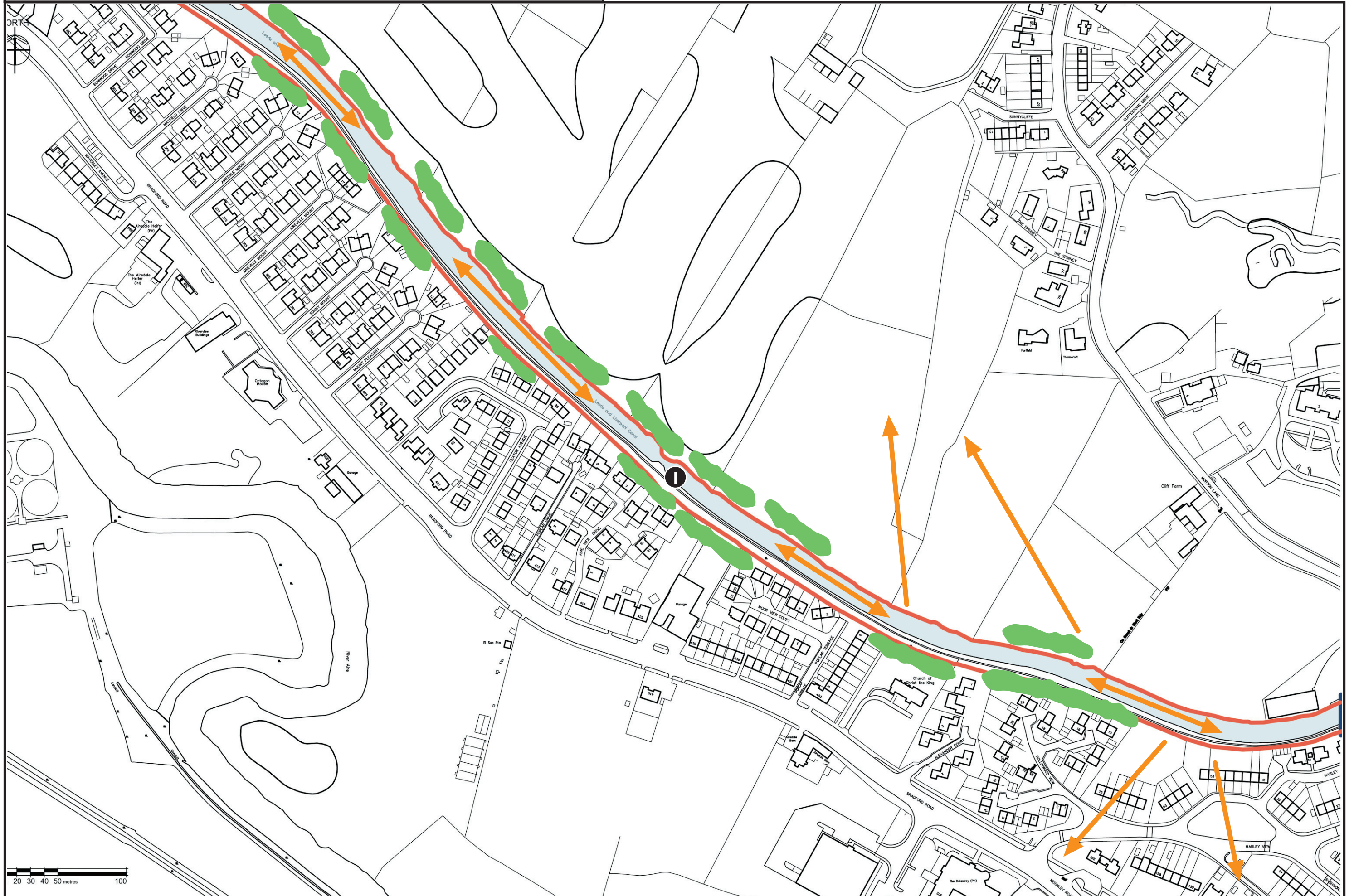


Map 11: Area to east of Swine Lane and west of Morton



Map 11: Area to east of Swine Lane and west of Morton



Character of the Area

This section of canal has a surprisingly rural and leafy character, despite its close proximity to the suburban outskirts of Keighley and Bingley. The southern side of the canal is lined with housing developments that are mostly built to a typical mid-20th century style and layout. Due to the slope of the land, these houses are set down slightly below the level of the canal and because of an almost continuous screen of trees and shrubs along the edge of the towpath, they are an almost unseen presence.

To the north of the canal is an area of green open space that is again almost entirely hidden from view due to vegetation along the water's edge. This creates a very enclosed and insular feel along this section of the canal, limiting views to short and medium distance vistas along the gently curving line of the waterway. As the canal approaches Morton Bridge the trees to either side of the canal become more scattered allowing some long distance views towards the village of East Morton and to the south towards the suburban edge of Bingley.

The towpath runs along the southern side of the canal and is fairly wide with a mostly level gravel surface. This section of the canal seems to be well used by walkers and anglers. The water appears clean with lilies and other water plants growing along its edges. Wildlife was present in the form of ducks, geese and swans.

Features of the Area

1. Waterstop, Sandbeds: The banks of the canal close in at this point, narrowing the waterway down to half its normal width. Located alongside on the edge of the towpath is a pile of long, heavy timbers that are intended to act as a barrier to halt the flow of the water. The purpose of this feature was to isolate sections of the canal should there be a serious breach of the banks. Many of these water stops were constructed during the Second World War to potentially minimise water loss and damage should the canal have suffered a direct hit from a bomb.

Issues

- ▶ Dog fouling on the canal towpath and banks.
- ▶ Overgrown trees and shrubs adjacent to the towpath.
- ▶ Lack of access points onto and off the canal between Swine Lane Bridge and Morton Bridge.
- ▶ Encroachment of water plants, reeds etc into the waterway potentially causing problems to manoeuvring boats.



Far Left: Potentially built during the Second World War, this waterstop was one of 80 along the canal. In the case of a serious breach the timbers stored by the towpath would be slotted into the rebates set into the banks of the narrowed canal in order to stop water from flowing to the area where the breach has occurred.

Left: The trees alongside the canal at Sandbeds are effective in screening the suburban housing along the northern bank.