

HOLMFIRTH CONSERVATION AREA

DRAFT APPRAISAL

Appendix C Footpaths Survey

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
Old road bridge at Perseverance Place		HOL/96/41
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use and is it worth using?		
Signage	3	There is a green Kirklees footpath sign which is worn with a yellow directional arrow. No other information.
Connectivity	3	Footpath linking Modd Lane and Woodhead Road is almost opposite Perseverance Place. Two other footpaths directly link with it. One going up through the fields to Cemetery Road and one up through the woods above the river.
Attractiveness	1	Can look down from the bridge onto the river Holme. Main view is of the estate that is under construction or Woodhead Road.
Character	1	The path is on a former road bridge over the Holme.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	1	Tarmac.
Boundaries	1	Stone walls of old bridge
Wheelchair access	1	May not be enough space around a boulder in the path for wheelchair access. The route beyond the bridge is inaccessible to a wheelchair.
Barriers	N	No barriers. Potentially two needed to prevent running onto Woodhead Road and the road into the estate.
Cycling	3	A bike could be ridden on this short stretch
Lighting	1	
Visibility	1	Could be surveillance from houses in the estate at Perseverance Place.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	3	There is no litter and no vandalism.
Litter bins	0	None
Dog fouling	3	
Dog excrement bins	0	None
General Conclusions		Vehicular access to the bridge is now blocked by a boulder. Beyond the bridge new landscaping (a grassy bank) makes it difficult to determine where the path goes from here.

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
Bridge Lane to Station Road		No number
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use , is it worth using?		
Signage	3	No sign on Bridge Lane end. Green Kirklees footpath sign on lamp post on Station Road. This is high up and could be missed. No other information.
Connectivity	3	It is a short cut linking Bridge Lane to Station Road which was well-used when survey took place.
Attractiveness	1	Unattractive but could be of historical interest.
Character	1	Urban. Between buildings and there are steep steps at Bridge Lane end which have a handrail. However, this path is an integral part of the retaining walls for the railway line and must have given access to the station.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	3	Stone steps then tarmac.
Boundaries	3	High wall on one side and high wooden garden fence the other.
Wheelchair access	0	Not suitable
Barriers	N	No barriers
Cycling	N	Not suitable for cycling
Lighting	1	Lamp post at top.
Visibility	1	Could be surveillance from house on Station Road.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	1	Some litter
Litter bins	0	None
Dog fouling	1	None
Dog excrement bins	0	None
General Conclusions		This path is of historical interest because it looks like it was connected to the railway station.

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
Cliff Lane to Town End Road (Bank House Lane)		HOL/110/11
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use and is it worth using?		
Signage	3	Old oblong Kirklees footpath sign at start. No other information. However, a stranger would have to be brave to proceed as the start of the path goes through one garden gate, through the garden and out through another garden gate. It needs a yellow arrow on the second gate to reassure walkers.
Connectivity	3	This path is used by the Friday Health Walks as part of circular walks around Holmfirth and avoids Station Road which runs parallel to it.
Attractiveness	5	At points there are good views over the centre of Holmfirth and up to Holme Moss , down to Castle Hill an across to Wolfstones and Netherthong.
Character	3	Semi-urban. Runs along the hillside above fields but directly below the gardens of modern houses. For some distance the views across the valley are blocked by trees. Easy if nettle-free.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	3	Can be muddy.
Boundaries	1	Sections with stone walls either side. At one point, wall has collapsed but misses path. Can be overgrown with nettles in the season. Overhanging shrubs from garden. One garden had recently collapsed onto the footpath as the retaining wall did not hold, blocking it for months. This has now been repaired with an extensive gabion. This does, however, raise doubts about the other gardens at this point on the route.
Wheelchair access	0	Not suitable
Barriers	N	No barriers at Town End end.
Cycling	N	Not suitable for cycling
Lighting	0	None
Visibility	1	None apart from two houses at Cliff Lane end.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	1	None
Litter bins	0	None
Dog fouling	1	None
Dog excrement bins	0	None and dog fouling notice worn away at Town End.
General Conclusions		Because I saw how the retaining wall of a garden had collapsed across the path I have concerns about how secure other gardens are on this part of the route.

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
A6024 to Victoria Park		HOL/104/21
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use and is it worth using?		
Signage	3	Black cast iron sign with gold lettering stating "Footpath to Victoria Park".
Connectivity	3	Joins HOL/104/30 as it runs through the park.
Attractiveness	1	
Character	3	Urban. First section is through the Library car park with Library building on one side and HVPC building on the other. Easy.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	3	First section through the car park is tarmac. Four lots of stone steps to get up to the park level.
Boundaries	3	No vegetation as urban. Some railings on steps.
Wheelchair access	0	Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs
Barriers	N	No barriers at A6024.
Cycling	N	Not suitable for cycling
Lighting	0	None but lots just above in park
Visibility	1	Shop on opposite side of A6024 would look across to path.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	1	None
Litter bins	0	None but lots just above in park
Dog fouling	1	None
Dog excrement bins	0	None
General Conclusions		

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
A6024 to Cooper Lane via Victoria Park		HOL/104/31
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use and is it worth using?		
Signage	3	Black cast iron sign with gold lettering stating "Footpath to Victoria Park". No sign the top end.
Connectivity	3	Joins HOL/104/20. Hill Lane Track leading up to Upperthong is opposite Cooper Lane so path could link with that.
Attractiveness	3	Good views of old Holmfirth townscape and green fields above town.
Character	3	Moderate because of gradient. Urban in character.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	1	First section is sets from main road and then steps. Care has to be taken when walking on the sets in the park as they can be very slippery when wet and the mortar between them is disappearing. Steps in park with handrails. Also ridged concrete and tarmac surfaces in park. Mud as you emerge onto Cooper Lane.
Boundaries	3	At bottom end it goes between walls and when it leaves the park it is very narrow and runs up against a house. It then widens out.
Wheelchair access	0	Not suitable as steps and sets
Barriers	N	No barriers at A6024 or when it joins Cooper Lane.
Cycling	N	Not suitable for cycling
Lighting	3	Street lights in park and on side of house
Visibility	3	Limited passive surveillance from back window of buildings on main road eg. Library plus house overlooking park.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	1	Graffiti on one wall. At A6024 end there is some litter.
Litter bins	3	Litter bins in park along route.
Dog fouling	3	None
Dog excrement bins	0	None
General Conclusions		

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
Upperthong Lane to Binns Lane		Not numbered
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use and is it worth using?		
Signage	3	On Upperthong Lane, old rectangular Kirklees footpath sign. Kirklees green footpath sign on Binns Lane. Sign now getting hidden by tree. No other information either end.
Connectivity	3	Shortcut between Binns Lane and Uperthong Lane
Attractiveness	1	In its present state the path is more like a tunnel.
Character	3	Between buildings and gardens. If clear, moderate.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	1	Section at top is slippery mud. The rest of the path is muddy but less slippery. There are stone steps at the start.
Boundaries	1	Path is one person wide. 15 very steep steps lead up from Upperthong Lane. This section is between walls and is very overgrown beyond the steps. It looks like someone has roughly cleared some undergrowth. There is an elder almost blocking the path and ivy , bracken an d nettles. It is muddy underfoot here. After this there is another elder blocking the path which requires you to bend double to get through. The path now runs alongside a garden. Another elder means you are pushed right up against the wall to get through. Then a sycamore is growing in the path but the undergrowth now disappears. Then there is a very large sycamore on the path which has pushed the wall over away from the path. From now on the walls do not look secure, topping stones have been lost and walls have tumbled away from the path in places. Near the top a horse chestnut is sprouting into the path and then a path leads off down to the side of Victoria Park. (Not a public right of way). The final section section runs between a wooden fence and a hedge which is trimmed back.
Wheelchair access	0	Not suitable
Barriers	N	None. One needed.
Cycling	N	Not suitable for cycling
Lighting	0	None
Visibility	1	There is some surveillance from properties on the right. There are bends.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	1	Littered in places
Litter bins	0	None
Dog fouling	3	Not a problem
Dog excrement bins	0	None
General Conclusions		In danger of being lost because of trees and undergrowth.

FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION		FOOTPATH REFERENCE
Binns Lane to Upperthong Lane		HOL/102/11
FEATURE	Score	COMMENT
Is path made easy to use and is it worth using?		
Signage	1	No sign at start at Upper Binns Cottage therefore very difficult to spot path. Old rectangular Kirklees footpath sign on Upperthong Lane at bottom.
Connectivity	3	Could continue down Little Lane to get to Woodhead Road and Prickleden Mills area.
Attractiveness	3	Good views across valley.
Character	3	Urban. Starts between buildings on Binns Lane, then between gardens and cemetery. Have to walk across threshold of Upper Binns Cottage. Moderate due to gradient.
Health, safety and security		
Surface	1	Surface at Upper Binns Cottage difficult as owner has put loose pebbles on surface. Steps near the top then surface becomes green and slippery. Undergrowth starts after this. Surface muddy. More steps which are dangerous as one step too narrow. Two sewage manhole covers on path. 17 steps down to Upperthong Lane (very old, nicely worn). Step straight onto road here.
Boundaries	1	Owner of Upper Binns Cottage said her late husband used to cut back the undergrowth and this no longer happens. However, evidence at Upperthong Lane end that someone has cut back undergrowth. Path one person wide.
Wheelchair access	0	Not suitable
Barriers	N	None
Cycling	N	Not suitable for cycling
Lighting	1	None
Visibility	1	Can be surveyed at top from Upper Binns Cottage.
Litter and vandalism		
Vandalism, litter and or fly tipping.	1	Plastic bags and dog excrement bag at Upperthong Lane end.
Litter bins	0	None
Dog fouling	3	None
Dog excrement bins	0	None
General Conclusions		Path in danger of being lost. The owner of Upper Binns Cottage said that the path is hardly ever used now and from the top it did look impassable. However, with secateurs it is possible to get through but needs properly clearing and a dangerous step needs addressing. Historically could have been route to Prickleden Mill area if you continue down Little Lane?