

“RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY”

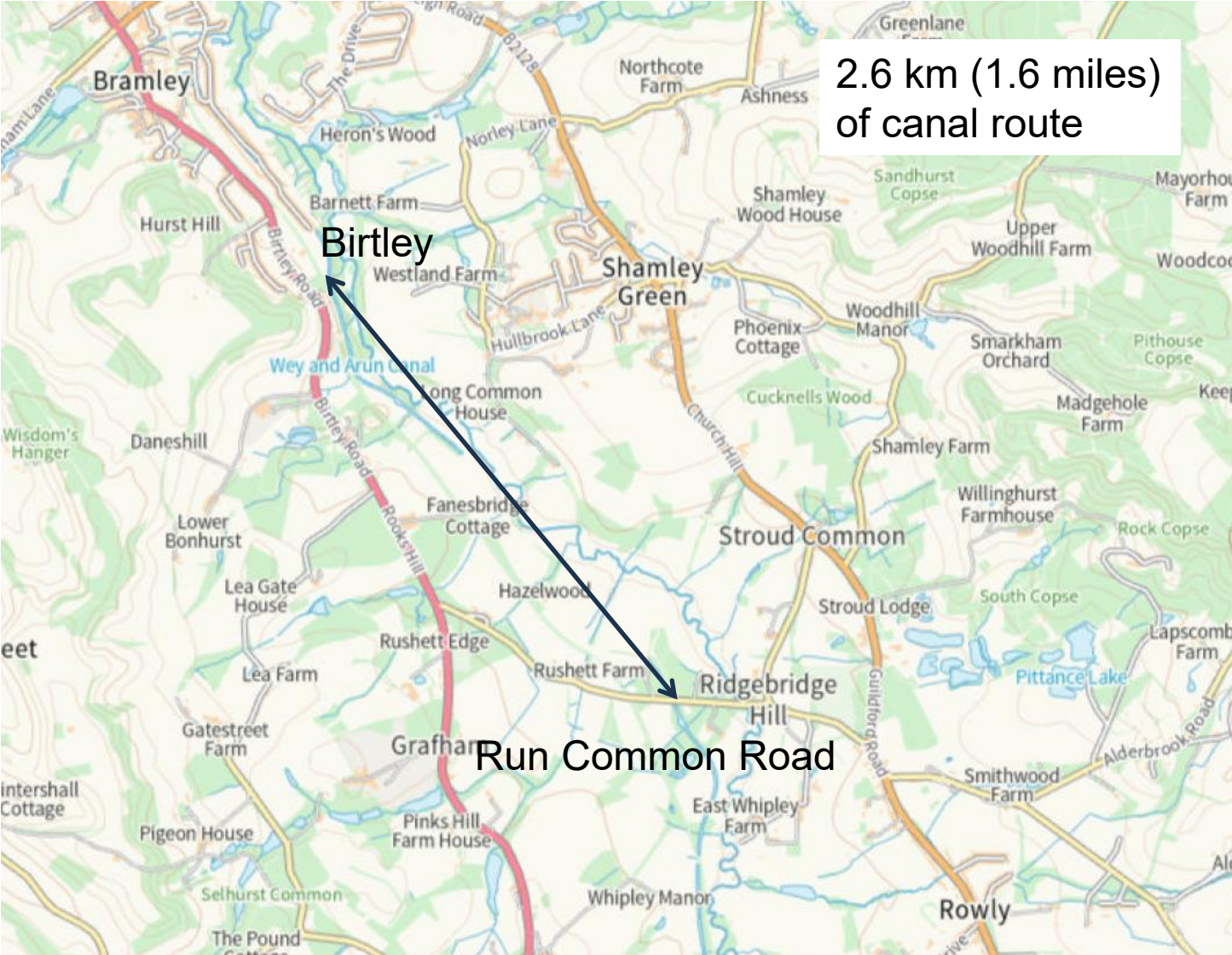


RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

... to take opportunities when they arise, to open up waterway where possible and public access even where it is not ...

Sited between the infilled canal at Bramley and the expensive crossing of Run Common Road is the “Birtley to Run Common” stretch

BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY



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Of that 2.6km:

- 1.1km (42%) is intact and largely “in water”

- 1.0km (38%) is intact but generally dry

- 0.5km (20%) is infilled

For decades, the whole length was in private ownership with no public access

But it is crossed by three bridleways and in part runs parallel to the Downs Link long-distance path

BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : VIEW SOUTH FROM BIRTLEY



BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : VIEW NORTH AT RUN COMMON



BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

The restoration opportunity was taken in 2018 when we obtained ownership of about 850m of canal from Westland Farm.

Birtley Bridges 1 and 2 followed.

The “circular walk” to and from the Downs Link, crossing the two bridges and along 600m of rejuvenated towpath, has provided new and popular public access for the residents of Bramley

BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

The beauty of one restoration opportunity is that it can lead to the next!

So in 2021 we purchased a strip of land from Rooks Hill Farm together with a land parcel at Fanesbridge

This added another 900m to the length of canal in our ownership – running total 1.75km

Restoration is now well underway – the Rooks Hill project

BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

On completion of Rooks Hill Phases 1 and 2, the intention is to open a further 450m of towpath to public use, from Birtley Bridge 1 southwards to Rooks Hill bridleway bridge

Separately, we also intend to construct a new 400m long path running northwards from Birtley Bridge 2, bringing a further length of towpath into use and providing an additional connection to the Downs Link path

In addition, we are now actively pursuing purchase of the final 850m of canal from the south end of the Rooks Hill site to reach Run Common Road

BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : ROOKS HILL PHASE 3



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BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

This overall restoration opportunity comprises three distinct projects, each adding to the one before and each with its own set of issues around land, planning permission and technical approval

But, on completion, a further 1.6 miles, or 7%, will have been added to the Wey & Arun restoration

We are continually on the lookout for other locations where similar restoration opportunities might occur

BIRTLEY TO RUN COMMON : RESTORATION OPPORTUNITY

