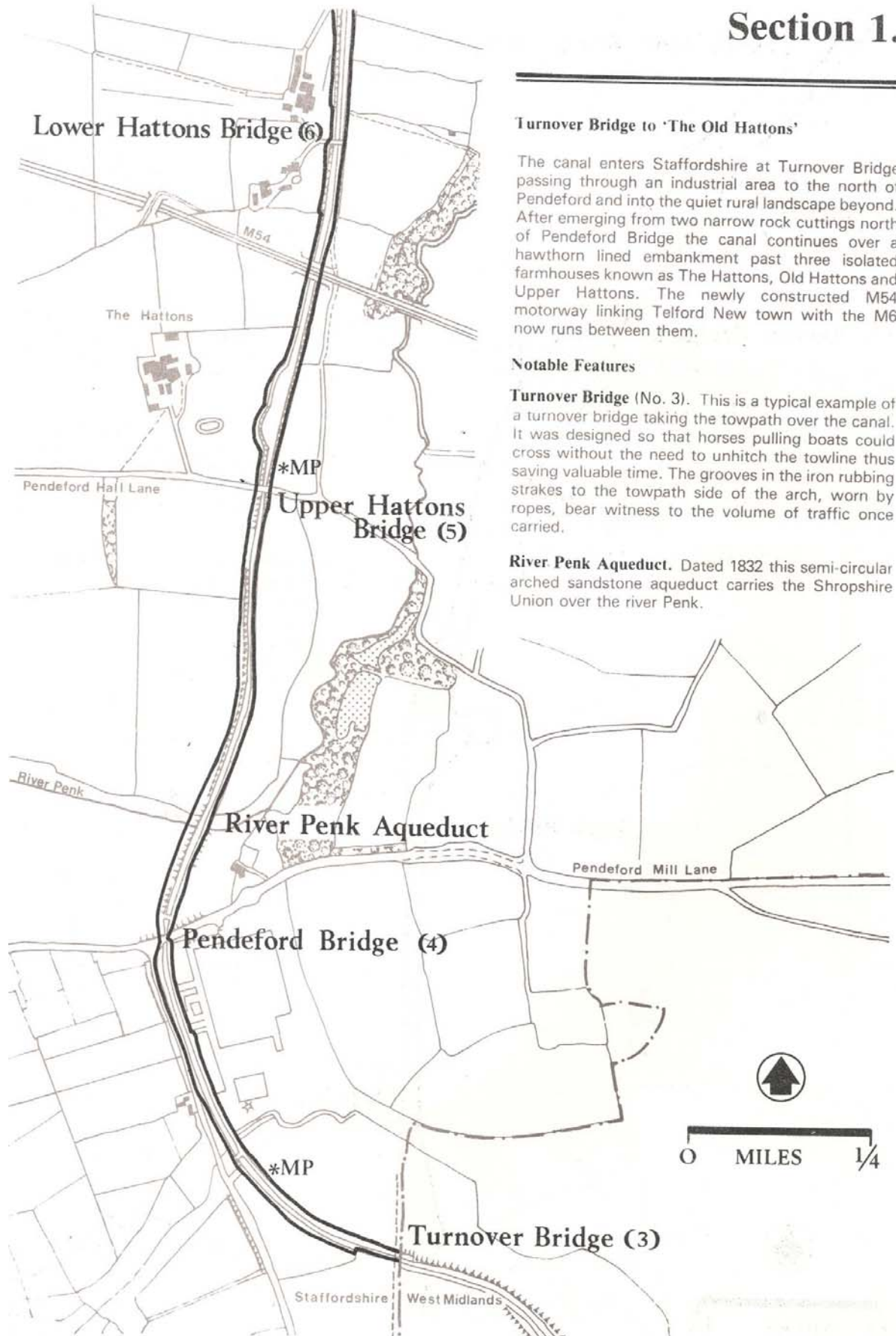


Section 1.



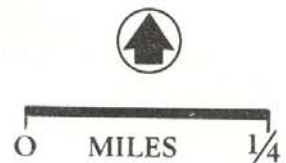
Turnover Bridge to 'The Old Hattons'

The canal enters Staffordshire at Turnover Bridge passing through an industrial area to the north of Pendeford and into the quiet rural landscape beyond. After emerging from two narrow rock cuttings north of Pendeford Bridge the canal continues over a hawthorn lined embankment past three isolated farmhouses known as The Hattons, Old Hattons and Upper Hattons. The newly constructed M54 motorway linking Telford New town with the M6 now runs between them.

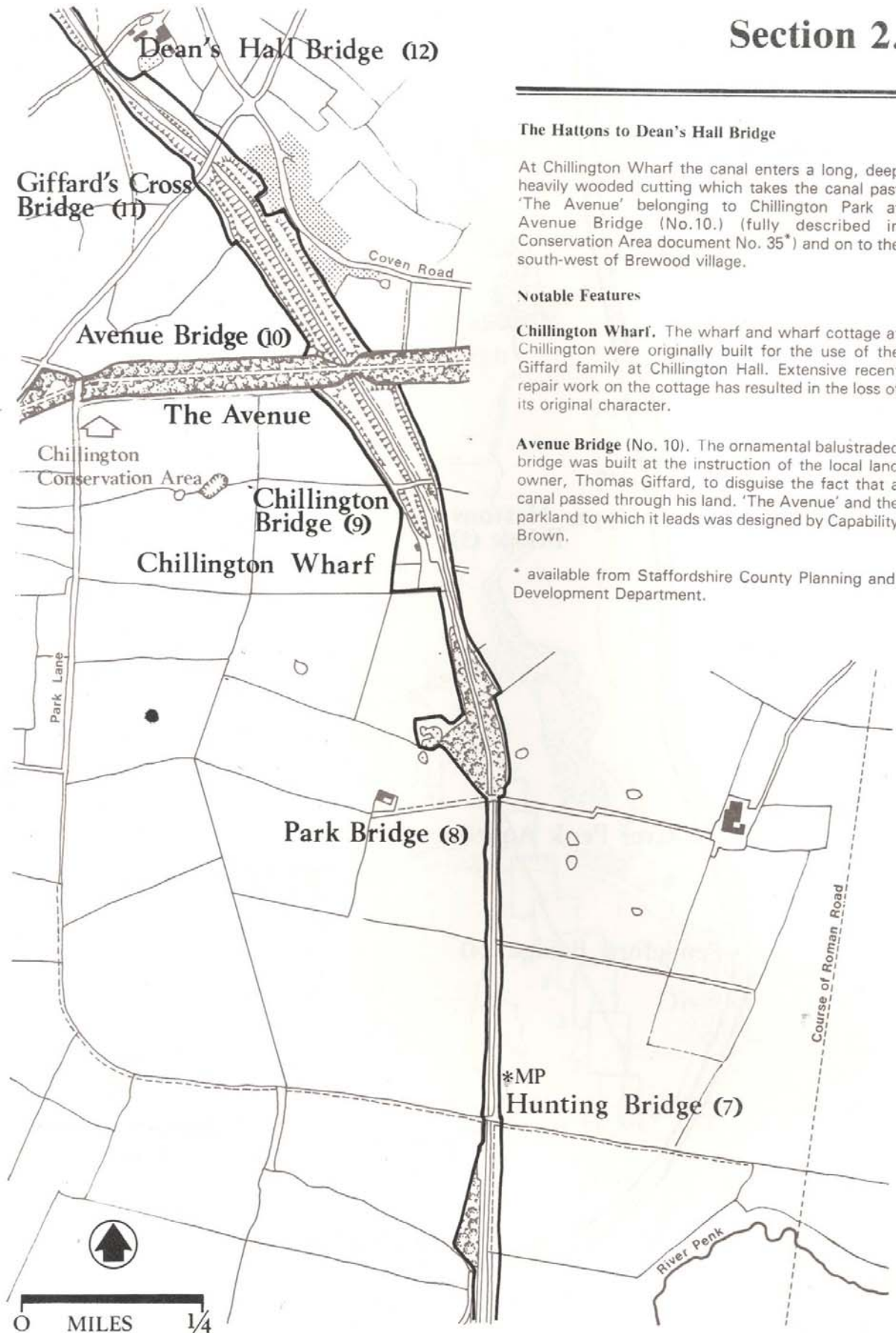
Notable Features

Turnover Bridge (No. 3). This is a typical example of a turnover bridge taking the towpath over the canal. It was designed so that horses pulling boats could cross without the need to unhitch the towline thus saving valuable time. The grooves in the iron rubbing stakes to the towpath side of the arch, worn by ropes, bear witness to the volume of traffic once carried.

River Penk Aqueduct. Dated 1832 this semi-circular arched sandstone aqueduct carries the Shropshire Union over the river Penk.



Section 2.



The Hattons to Dean's Hall Bridge

At Chillington Wharf the canal enters a long, deep heavily wooded cutting which takes the canal past 'The Avenue' belonging to Chillington Park at Avenue Bridge (No.10.) (fully described in Conservation Area document No. 35*) and on to the south-west of Brewwood village.

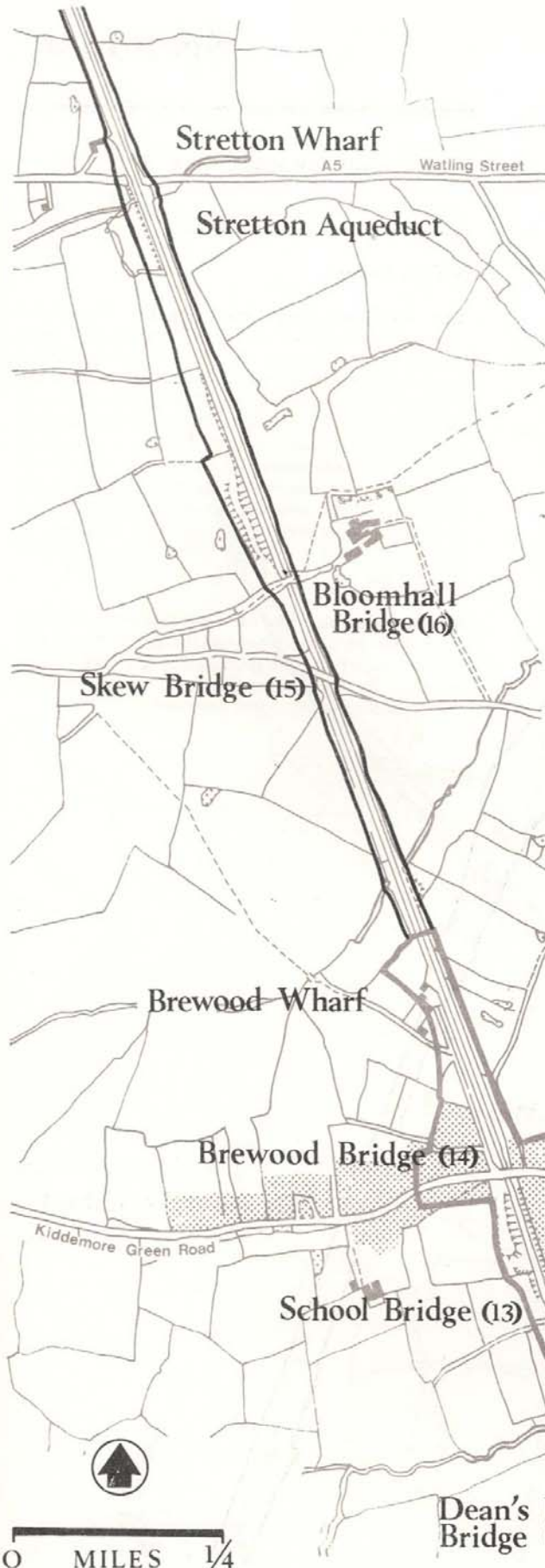
Notable Features

Chillington Wharf. The wharf and wharf cottage at Chillington were originally built for the use of the Giffard family at Chillington Hall. Extensive recent repair work on the cottage has resulted in the loss of its original character.

Avenue Bridge (No. 10). The ornamental balustraded bridge was built at the instruction of the local land owner, Thomas Giffard, to disguise the fact that a canal passed through his land. 'The Avenue' and the parkland to which it leads was designed by Capability Brown.

* available from Staffordshire County Planning and Development Department.

Section 3.



Dean's Hall Bridge to Stretton Wharf

From the south of School Bridge to Brewood Wharf the canal passes through Brewood village Conservation Area (described in Conservation Area document No. 4*) and continues from there on a straight course to Stretton Wharf.

Notable Features

Stretton Aqueduct. The aqueduct carries the Shropshire Union over Watling Street. Listed as a building of architectural and historic interest (Grade II), it is constructed of cast iron with circular stone piers and iron balustrade and bears the inscription "Thomas Telford 1832."

Stretton Wharf. There was known to be a wharf here by 1851 under the ownership of the Monks from Stretton Hall and which was still in use in 1928. The cottage on the site was, until 1967, The Aqueduct Inn, a canalside pub.

* available from Staffordshire County Planning and Development Department, and South Staffordshire District Planning Department.

Section 4.

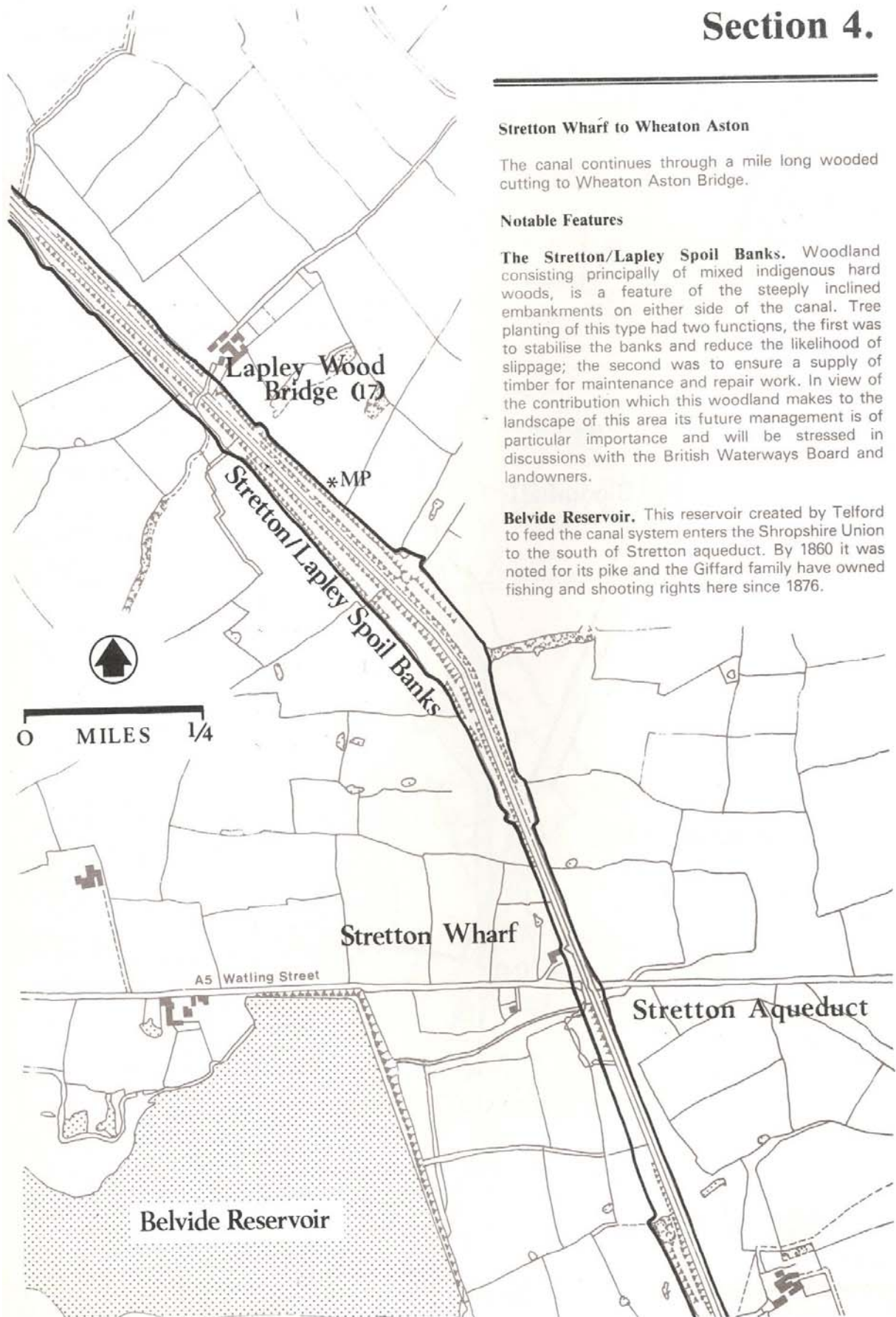
Stretton Wharf to Wheaton Aston

The canal continues through a mile long wooded cutting to Wheaton Aston Bridge.

Notable Features

The Stretton/Lapley Spoil Banks. Woodland consisting principally of mixed indigenous hard woods, is a feature of the steeply inclined embankments on either side of the canal. Tree planting of this type had two functions, the first was to stabilise the banks and reduce the likelihood of slippage; the second was to ensure a supply of timber for maintenance and repair work. In view of the contribution which this woodland makes to the landscape of this area its future management is of particular importance and will be stressed in discussions with the British Waterways Board and landowners.

Belvide Reservoir. This reservoir created by Telford to feed the canal system enters the Shropshire Union to the south of Stretton aqueduct. By 1860 it was noted for its pike and the Giffard family have owned fishing and shooting rights here since 1876.



Section 5.

Wheaton Aston Bridge to Wheaton Aston Brook

The canal emerges from the Lapley/Stretton cutting to pass the village of Wheaton Aston to the south west. A long straight embankment to the north of Dirty Lane Bridge (No. 20) carries the canal over Wheaton Aston brook offering fine open views to distant Cannock Chase in the east.

Notable Features

Wheaton Aston Lock. This, the only single lock on the canal, lies to the S.E. of Tavern Bridge (No. 19) and marks the beginning of a 17 mile long pound to Tyrley Locks just south of Market Drayton. Adjoining the lock is a lock keepers cottage by Telford. Of one storey and built of blue brick with a slate roof it has a five sided bay at tow path level commanding views of the canal in both directions.

Wheaton Aston Conservation Area document is available from South Staffordshire District Planning Department.

