



**Rugeley Wharf to Wharf Cottage**

The canal continues its course along the outskirts of Rugeley. At Brindley Bank it takes a sharp bend to the north east and crosses the River Trent back out into open countryside. Another bend to the north west takes it back towards the Trent at Wharf Cottage.

**Notable Features**

**Rugeley Wharf**

Bridge No. 66 carries Leathermill Lane over the canal. To the south of the bridge are a number of historical features including the Old Mill. Built in 1863, the building was used as a corn mill. Although greatly changed since then, the gable which fronts the canal still has a date plaque and the remains of the steam powered lifting gear. The building now houses a variety of small industries. Some of the smaller surrounding outbuildings are also original, although these have been altered dramatically.

To the north of the bridge are the now derelict wharf buildings. They date from the early 19th century and were built for use as a tannery. Some of the original buildings remain; extensions of the early 1900s covered a much larger site but these were demolished in 1972 and the site is now occupied by the Magistrates' Courts and the Fire Station. The canal agent's house was built in 1829 and subsequently used as the tannery offices between 1947 and 1966. It then fell into disuse and in 1979 was restored to residential use. There are plans now to restore the wharf buildings and convert them into a pub and restaurant with canalside facilities for boat users. At the wharf, the canal narrows slightly where there were once lock gates. This also provided a point at which barges were weighed. A path leads from the towing path to town via the bridge.

**St. Augustine's**

The playing fields and Church of St. Augustine's are both important features along the canal. Adjacent to Church Croft House, are the 13th and 14th century remains of the first St. Augustine's Church and, across the road, there is the Church of St. Augustine's (built 1823) and Churchyard.

**Brindley Bank Wharf**

Aptly named Brindley Bank is an attractive area of trees at the bend in the canal. It is known as the Wharf, but there is no evidence of any buildings on the site at any time. It was here that the body of Christina Collins was found in 1839. Mrs. Collins had set out to travel by canal from Liverpool to join her husband in London. Somewhere between Colwich and Rugeley she was attacked by the boat's crew, raped and pushed into the canal to drown. The Captain and a crew member were convicted of murder and hanged at Stafford. Local folklore reports that her screams can still be heard along the steps from the Wharf to Wolseley Road,; they are known as the "Bloody Steps".

**The Pumping Station**

The Wolseley Road Pumping Station is a 19th century building.