



Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

*Hon. Secretary
Dr R Wilson
Oak House
Hamshill
Coaley
Dursley
Gloucestershire
GL11 5EH
☎ 01453-860595*

GSIA Research Projects in Support of the Restoration of the Stroudwater Canal (1 October 2006 - 30 April 2007)

List of Projects

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Prepared by R Wilson

This is the list of research projects that GSIA members and others have carried out in support of the restoration of the Stroudwater Canal.

- S01. Stroudwater Canal Features Influenced by the Ship Canal to Gloucester**
Hugh Conway-Jones has written of canal-side features between Saul Junction and Whitminster Lock that have been influenced by the needs of the Gloucester & Sharpness ship canal. His account is available on the Internet.
- S02. Research into the Stone Used in the Canal and the Stone Carried as Cargo**
Arthur Price, has written an account of both the use of stone in the building of the canal and also stone as a cargo on the canal. The article is available on the GSIA website.
- S03. The Importance of the Canal to the Cloth Mills at Eastington**
Stephen Mills has studied the use made of the canal by the large cloth mills at Eastington. His article primarily relates to the supply of coal to the mills and has been put on the Internet
- S04. The Stroudwater Pillboxes: A Review of the WWII Pillboxes Along the Stroudwater Canal**
Alan Strickland has led a project to visit and record the various pill-boxes and other structures relating to World War II along the canal. The reasons for building these structures and how they relate to each other in the form of “stop-lines” has been investigated. A very detailed report has been produced which includes a fully illustrated record sheet on each structure.
- S05. Stonehouse Parish: Tithe Survey 1839 and 1841 Census**
A Stonehouse resident, Janet Hudson, completed her doctoral thesis on early modern Stonehouse. She has identified the ownership and occupiers of the land bordering the canal in Stonehouse in 1839 using the Tithe survey. Where possible additional information was taken from the 1841 census for Stonehouse. The information has been provided in a PDF file which has been put on the Internet.

**S06. Eastington, Whitminster and Fretherne with Saul Parishes:
Tithe Surveys and 1841 Census**

Following on from the work done by Janet Hudson on Stonehouse, the remaining parishes along the line of the canal from Saul Junction to Stonehouse have been analysed by Paul Davies using the Stonehouse work as a model. The output of the study is available on the Internet.

S07. Traffic on the Stroudwater Canal: 1775 to 1822

Alan Tucker has been looking at the cargoes recorded in the tonnage books for the Stroudwater Canal from 1775 to 1822. A number of spreadsheets giving an overview of the trade on the canal at this period have been compiled. In addition, information on the vessels and their masters and owners has been extracted. The files provide a wealth of information and are now available on the Internet.

S08. Traffic on the Stroudwater Canal: 1881

Hugh Conway-Jones has carried out a tabulation of the vessels and cargoes recorded in the tonnage books for the Stroudwater Canal in the early months of 1881 with some analysis. It is hoped that in the future someone will make a comparison of the results of this study with the results obtained by Alan Tucker and possibly if available the results for other years. The output of this study has been put on the Internet.

S09. Some Vessels Associated with the Stroudwater Canal

Joan Tucker, author of the recent book on the Stroudwater Canal, has a card index of vessels associated with the canal. She has transferred this information into an electronic format and it has now been made available on the GSIA website.

S10. Some Vessels in the Purton Boat Graveyard Associated with the Stroudwater Canal

Paul Barnett has carried out extensive work on the barges in the "Purton Barge Graveyard". Several of these vessels and their owners and masters have some association with the Stroudwater Canal and he has provided a information on these for the resources pack for research on the Canal.

S11. Servants (Employees) of the Stroudwater Company

Joan Tucker, author of the recent book on the Stroudwater Canal, has a card index of Company Servants (employees of the Stroudwater Canal Company). This is a valuable record as it gives an insight into the actual people associated with the canal. She has transferred this information into an electronic format and it has now been made available on the GSIA website.

S12. Public Houses Along the Line of The Stroudwater Canal

Geoff Sandles, the creator of the Gloucestershire pubs website, has kindly agreed that information on local canal side pubs can be printed out and included in the resources pack for research on the Canal. A single PDF file has been created from the various extracts.

S13. The Ford Brothers of Ryeford

Peter Ford has written an account of the Ford Brothers' (his ancestors) involvement with Ryeford Mill and their use of the Stroudwater Canal for carrying wheat and flour.

S14. Tape Recorded Reminiscences of Rev Malcolm Donald Relating to His Campaign to Prevent Closure of the Canal (1954).

Penny Fernando has listened to the three hours of tape recordings at Gloucestershire Archives and produced a note highlighting the main points. This note is available on the Internet.

S15. Review of Heritage Database (Structure and Implementation)

The structure of the Microsoft Access databases created by Cotswold Archaeology in 2003 has been reviewed by Ray Wilson. The databases have been rationalised so that the various 'tables' have been combined into a single 'table' incorporating all the relevant information. The data is now available on the Internet in a searchable form using a MySQL database. At present, only relatively simple searches can be performed but more complex searches are being developed following feedback from users. It is planned to link the web-based database to the photographs being taken in other projects.

S16. Review of Heritage Database (Content)

The comments and corrections submitted by various individuals and organisations in 2003 on the Cotswold Archaeology Heritage Survey have been reviewed. These have been compared with the contents of the Cotswold Archaeology Report and Database as finally issued to ensure that the comments and corrections have been suitably addressed. In addition a short programme of walks along the canal for GSIA Members has been completed. Points of interest were noted along the walk, and these will be used in updating the content of the database (in the section from Saul Junction to The Ocean, Stonehouse).

S17. Review of Archive Sources in UK Record Offices for Stroudwater Canal Records

Printouts have been made from the National Archives A2A Internet web site of all references to "Stroudwater Canal" or "Stroudwater Navigation". These are mainly references to collections held in Gloucestershire Archives, but there are some references to other repositories. Whilst the material in Gloucestershire Archives is relatively well known these listings have shown a number of records outside Gloucestershire which will be worth following up.

S18. GSIA Journal Articles Relating to the Stroudwater Canal

A number of articles have been published in recent years which relate to the Stroudwater Canal. Electronic versions of these articles have been produced and put on the GSIA website. Topics include *The Ryeford Coal Pen*, *The Stroudwater Cranes* and *Coal & Steam - The Arrival of Steam Power in Stroud's Woollen Mills*. In addition, the five articles on the Canals Restoration Project written by Dr Theo Stening for the 2001-2005 Journals have been made available in the same way.

S19. Kemmett Canal: A Photographic Survey in 2007

John Berry has made a photographic record of the line of the earlier Kemmett Canal (1759-1763) from Framilode to Stonehouse. A full index to the 161 photographs has been compiled together with a brief account of the history of the Kemmett Canal. Proposals have been made for future work to relate the physical features still visible on the ground with the surviving maps of the period.

S20. Photographic Record of the Stroudwater Canal (Phase 1b Section)

In 2003 Martin Phillips took a series of photographs of the Thames & Severn Canal and put them on his web site. He has started to do the same for the Phase 1b section of the Stroudwater canal. It is planned that various photographs of the canal will eventually be linked to the Canal Heritage database on the Internet.

S21. Survey of Historic Photographs Relating to the Stroudwater Canal

Howard Beard, who has perhaps one of the best collections of historic postcards and photographs in the Stroud area, kindly agreed to go through his collection with Ray Wilson. The aim was to identify illustrations of structures which may help the restoration project. For example a picture of the former footbridge at Ebley Mill is of particular interest.

- S22. Recording Mr Les Pugh's Memories of the Canal in Operation in the 1920s**
Mr Les Pugh was born on 8 August 1915 in a cottage on the Whitminster House Estate close to the canal. His family later moved to Eastington and from there he attended Marling School in the late 1920s. Mr Pugh has clear memories of some of the people who worked on the canal and the boats that operated at this time. Ray Wilson has written up the notes from the first visit and these were checked and expanded during a further visit.
- S23. The Wharfs on the Stroudwater Canal**
GSIA Members are making a photographic record of sites of the various wharfs along the canal. The history of each site will be compiled and the results will be correlated in due course with other studies (e.g. Company servants, vessels and traffic research noted above).
- S24. Stroudwater Canal Walks for Members (Phase 1B)**
Three 2½ hour field visits have been organised for GSIA Members to explore the line of the Canal (Phase 1b Section). This is a key activity in the review and updating of the contents of the Cotswold Archaeology Database created in 2003.
Field Visit 1 Sunday 17 December 2006 Saul Junction to Bristol Road (18 Members attended).
Field Visit 2 Sunday 28 January 2007 Bristol Road to Eastington (24 Members attended).
Field Visit 3 Sunday 29 April 2007 Eastington to The Ocean (Stonehouse) (PLANNED).
- S25. Stroudwater Canal Inspection Reports (1908-1978)**
Joan Tucker has produced transcripts of 16 inspection reports for the period 1908 to 1978. They contain information that is of particular interest to the engineers involved in the present restoration project. The reports have been made available on the Internet.
- S26. Geology of the Frome Valley between Wheatenhurst and Eastington**
Penny Fernando has carried out a review of the geology of this section of the canal including the possible new line of the canal near the A38 Gloucester to Bristol road. This brief report contains a simplified geological map of the area and is available on the Internet.
- S27. List of Maps Relevant to Stroudwater Canal Research Projects**
Hugh Conway-Jones has compiled a list of tithe, enclosure, estate and canal company maps that are relevant to the Stroudwater Canal. This useful resource has been put on the Internet and the list will be extended in due course to include maps relating to the Thames and Severn Canal.
- S28. "The Trow" 1990 – 1995: Articles Relating to the History and Archaeology of the Canals**
Penny Fernando has gone through issues 71 to 90 of the Trow (the newsletter of the Cotswold Canals Trust) and listed items relating to the history and archaeology of the canal. Where an article includes any photographs this has been noted.
- S29. Tithe Map Information for Areas Affected by Possible New Line of Canal (Phase 1b)**
Paul Davies has extracted the full information from the relevant tithe maps for the area likely to be affected by the new line of the canal near the A38 Gloucester to Bristol road. The information is available on the Internet