

THE PROPOSED STAFFORD AND RADFORD CANAL 1797-1800

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY

Researched and written by

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Introduction

Between 1797 and 1800 the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Company (S&WCCo) proposed linking the County Town of Stafford with the main line of their Canal at Radford Bank.

This article uses contemporary sources to find out what happened and attempts to discover why this branch canal was not built. We should be mindful that few relevant primary sources have survived and those that have are scattered.

Although the Canal Company's Committee Meeting Minutes between 1785 and 1803 have not survived, information was gleaned from records held by Staffordshire Record Office, the William Salt Library (Stafford), the National Waterways Museum and the National Archive (Kew). The local weekly newspaper, the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, published each Saturday from January 1795, chronologically sequenced events that were reported locally at the time. The *London Gazette*, House of Commons and House of Lords Journals indicated Parliamentary progress, and advice was sought from the House of Commons Enquiry Service, the History of Parliament Trust and the Railway & Canal Historical Society.

Four secondary sources served as starting points:

- Charles Hadfield, *Canals of the West Midlands* (1969)¹
- J.Ian Langford, *A Towpath Guide to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal* (1974)²
- S.R. and E.Broadbridge, *Communication with Canals in the Stafford Area* (1970)³
- Roy Lewis, *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga* (2012)⁴

Although the first three only have a sentence or two about the proposed canal, the third source includes a one-page appendix added when the article was reprinted in 1994. The last source has more information. None of these sources give a complete picture or provide any evidence as to what happened.

Background

The main line of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal was authorised by an Act of Parliament on 14 May 1766⁵. The canal took six years to build and cost just over £100,000; 46 $\frac{1}{8}$ miles long, it runs from the junction with the Trent & Mersey Canal (then called the Grand Trunk Canal) at Great Haywood to the River Severn at

Stourport (then called Lower Mitton). The surveyor was James Brindley and the engineers were Samuel Simcock, Thomas Dadford (senior) and John Baker.⁶

Soon after the Bill was passed, work started near Compton (now a suburb of Wolverhampton) which was about midway along the route. By November 1770 the southern section of the canal, from Compton to Stourport, was open for business.⁷

An additional Act of Parliament was required in 1770⁸ when the plan for part of the northern route close to Great Haywood was altered to avoid the risk of the canal being frequently flooded, and extra capital was required. The closest the canal came to Stafford was at Radford Bank, about 1½ miles from the town. Radford Bank was on the main turnpike road between Stafford and Lichfield.

The whole canal was open by 28 May 1772⁹ and on 21 September 1772⁹ a connection was also made with the Birmingham Canal at Aldersley Junction, giving immediate access to the rapidly developing West Midlands industrial conurbation.

It was not long before wharves and warehouses were built at various points along the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal, including at Radford Bank which by 1782 was known locally as “the Port of Stafford”.¹⁰ Goods, particularly coal and limestone, were delivered by boat and unloaded at Radford Wharf (Bridge 98), and then taken by cart the 1½ miles to Stafford along the Lichfield Road. Transshipment involves additional costs, and in those days transporting goods by road had its own challenges; roads lacked a weather-proof surface so could be uneven, potholed, dusty in summer, muddy quagmires when wet, and could be impassable in winter. The industrial revolution was gathering apace, and with a burgeoning population there were clearly long-term advantages in having a direct canal link into Stafford.

But when did the S&WCCo begin to consider building a branch canal from the main line at Radford Bank to Stafford to address this problem? It may have been part of the plan from the start and discussed at Committee Meetings but not recorded as there is no mention of such a scheme in the Canal Company’s Committee Meeting books between 1766 and 1785¹¹ or in the Minutes of the half-yearly General Meetings of Proprietors.¹² So it would seem that nothing tangible was done before 1785.

The 1787 Plan

However, the Canal Company must have been considering a branch canal soon after, because Thomas Dadford (senior), the Company’s Surveyor and Engineer, drew up a plan (dated 1787) for a lock-free branch canal, 1.54 miles (123.24 chains) long, from Radford to Stafford with an aqueduct over the River Penk and five accommodation bridges. He produced a map of the route and a list of landowners, noting the length of their land adjoining the canal.¹³ There were possibly other documents but none appear to have survived.

The proposed branch was to leave the main line at Radford, cross the River Penk on an aqueduct just north of the *Horn & Trumpet Inn* (now the *Radford Bank Inn*), follow the Lichfield Road, swing north towards Silvester’s Hovel, return close to the road for a while before swinging north to pass behind the houses along the Lichfield Road on

the approach to Stafford; the canal would then run parallel with the River Sow and terminate near Green Bridge in Stafford where a wharf would be built.

For whatever reason, the Canal Company did not proceed with this scheme and the plan was not taken to Parliament. Was the scheme considered too expensive? Did the scheme just remain on the drawing board in the Company's Head Office in Wolverhampton? Or, if it had been brought to the attention of the people of Stafford, how had it been received and was there opposition from any of the landowners, occupiers and others who would be affected? There is no mention of any scheme in the Minutes of the General Meetings of the Company's Proprietors of the period.¹² In the absence of the Canal Company's Committee Meeting Minutes between 1785 and 1803¹⁴, and with no Stafford newspaper to report the local news until 1795, it is not possible to know for certain.

The 1797/1798 Plan

The next we hear of the branch canal was ten years later, at the General Meeting of the Canal Proprietors held on 21 March 1797 at the *Swan Inn* (Wolverhampton). The Canal Company Committee was keen to proceed and was "invested with full powers to do every necessary Act and thing" to ensure a successful outcome. It was agreed that George Molineux would approach some of the principal inhabitants of Stafford and inform them that representatives of the Canal Company would attend any meeting of a Deputation from the town.¹⁵

Presumably, the Company was encouraged by the response because a Notice was signed by John Wright (solicitors for the Company) on 1 September 1797 that an application was "intended to be made to Parliament in the next session", (2 November 1797 – 29 June 1798), to seek a Bill to make a branch canal "at Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford".

The Notice¹⁶ appeared in three consecutive issues of the *Staffordshire Advertiser* (9, 16 and 23 September 1797) – see below:

<p style="text-align: center;">NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,</p> <p>THAT application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill, for the purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the sixth and tenth years of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal, from the River Severn, &c. to the Trent and Mersey Canal at Haywood, in the County of Stafford, the said Bill being intended to give power to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, and other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J. W. Solicitor.</p> <p>September 1, 1797.</p>
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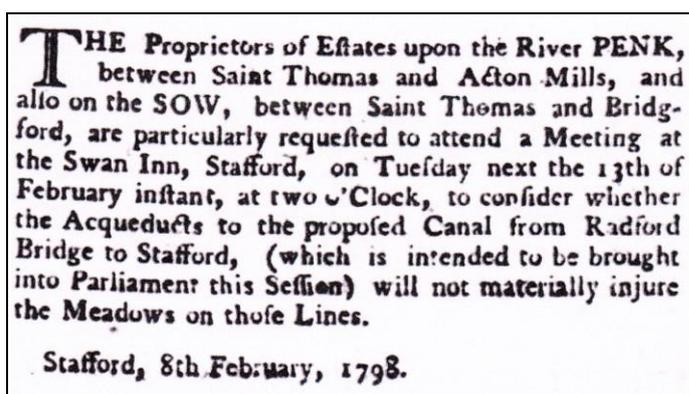
It is likely that at some stage the application would involve Stafford's two MP's, Edward Monckton and Richard Sheridan – the latter being the playwright and owner of the *Theatre Royal* in London's Drury Lane who wrote *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal*.

The intention to make this application to Parliament was reported at the next General Meeting of S&WCCo held on 19 September 1797 at the *Red Lyon/Lion Inn* (Wolverhampton).¹⁷

There must have been some issues with Dadford's 1787 scheme because the Company produced a new plan which had two aqueducts, six bridges and its terminus was further into the town across the River Sow. The surveyor was John Adams and the plan¹⁸ was deposited with the Quarter Sessions on 2 January 1798¹⁹.

As before, starting from Radford, there was to be an aqueduct over the River Penk, then the proposed branch canal would follow the Lichfield Road more closely and for longer (so shortening the route by avoiding the section by Silvester's Hovel) before heading north to cross one of the River Sow's oxbows by an aqueduct and terminating at the Old Gaol Ground in Stafford. However, the scheme would be much more expensive.

There seems to have been some local concern about whether the two aqueducts would adversely affect the meadows along the proposed route and a meeting for landowners who might be affected was arranged for 13 February 1798 at the *Swan Inn* (Stafford). Notice of the meeting was given in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* on the 10 February²⁰ :



THE Proprietors of Estates upon the River PENK, between Saint Thomas and Acton Mills, and also on the SOW, between Saint Thomas and Bridgford, are particularly requested to attend a Meeting at the Swan Inn, Stafford, on Tuesday next the 13th of February instant, at two o'Clock, to consider whether the Acqueducts to the proposed Canal from Radford Bridge to Stafford, (which is intended to be brought into Parliament this Session) will not materially injure the Meadows on those Lines.

Stafford, 8th February, 1798.

The outcome of that meeting is unknown. However, no Bill was introduced in that session of Parliament to authorise the scheme, and there does not appear to be any direct evidence as to what actually happened to the Canal Company's application. I strongly suspect the Canal Company withdrew the application before it reached Parliament, as Parliament would have aborted the application.

The Application Procedure

To find out what happened we should consider the application procedure for introducing Private Bills into Parliament. This was governed by the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to "Navigable Canals, Aqueducts, and the Navigation of Rivers".

There had been several changes to these Orders over the years, which gave plenty of opportunity for the unsuspecting to be caught off-guard by the modification of some Orders and the addition of others.

The original Orders (dated 28 January 1771, 25 April 1774, 15 November 1775 and 20 July 1789) were repealed and replaced by the Orders dated 7 June 1792 which more closely regulated the application procedures at the height of *Canal Mania*. The 1792 Orders were themselves added to and replaced by those passed on 7 May 1794 and 16 June 1795.^{21, 22, 23}

It is these latter Orders that were in place between 1797 and 1800 when the Canal Company were considering the branch canal. There were **14** resolutions stating the procedures to be followed. Did the Canal Company comply with these Orders? Let us consider the First, Second and Seventh Orders:

The First Order concerned “Notices of intended Application”. The Notice was to be inserted in *The London Gazette* three times in the months of August and September (or either of them) prior to the Session of Parliament in which the Application was to be made. The Notice was also to be similarly inserted in a local newspaper in every County through which the navigation passed.

Although the Notice had appeared three times in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* (9, 16 and 23 September 1797), it had not been inserted in *The London Gazette*.

The Second Order stated that the parishes and towns through which the intended navigation was to pass must be named.

The Notice did not name any parishes. The Company had not complied with this Order either.

The Seventh Order asked the Parliamentary Committee to ascertain whether the first **six** Orders had been complied with – noncompliance would mean the petition would be thrown out. So, we know what the Committee would have done had the petition reached this stage.

Were these omissions common knowledge? Possibly not. It would have made a good story but there was no mention in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*. Perhaps Joshua Drewry, the proprietor of the newspaper, had a vested interest in the canal scheme and withheld the story?

I suspect the Canal Company at some point realised it was too late to rectify these omissions (and possibly others), and abandoned the attempt to present the petition to Parliament that Session. We don't know when that might have been. Did the Company try to conceal what had happened in an attempt not to lose face? Perhaps the Company had a new scheme?

The Third Order may be relevant in unravelling the sequence of events and what happened. Together with other requirements, the map or plan of the intended navigation had to be submitted to the Office of the Clerk of the Peace (Quarter

Sessions) by 30 September (1797) prior to the session of Parliament in which the application was intended to be made.

Yet that deadline had passed before the Adams Plan was submitted on 2 January 1798. Perhaps it was Dadford's 1787 Plan that had been submitted by the 30 September 1797 deadline? However, there is no entry in the Quarter Session Index to indicate that any such Plan had been submitted by that deadline. This suggests the Canal Company were already reconsidering their plan, and as the 2 January 1798 submission was outside the accepted time frame, it would seem that the new plan was inadmissible for that Session as it would not comply with the Third Order?

The Notice of the Meeting to be held at the *Swan Inn* (Stafford), which appeared in the 10 February 1798 edition of the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, maintained the belief that the Application would be introduced in that session of Parliament. So, it would seem the pretence lasted at least until then, after which the trail goes cold until August 1798.

The 1798/1799 Plan

By mid-August 1798 the Canal Company had had time to reconsider their strategy and seemed better prepared. This time there were to be no mistakes and Notices were to be placed in the *London Gazette* which would include the names of the parishes involved. What could possibly go wrong?

On 30th August 1798 a Notice was signed by J & G Wright (solicitors for the Company) ... similar to the Notice that had appeared 12 months before but with extra words that I have shown in italics, that application was "intended to be made to Parliament in the next session" (20 November 1798 – 12 July 1799) to seek a Bill to make a branch canal:

"at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford in the Parishes of Berkswich, otherwise Belsage, Castle, Forebridge, St Mary ~~St-Philip~~ and St Chad, Stafford".

The change of wording might have been to give the Company some flexibility as to where the branch would leave the main canal, and this time the parishes along the route were named. On this document, for some reason, there is a line through "St Philip".²⁴ Written on the back of the document is "The Stafford and Radford Canal Notice."

The Company's Notice of Intention initially appeared in two consecutive issues of the *London Gazette* (11 and 15 September 1798) and the *Staffordshire Advertiser* (8 and 15 September 1798). However, the parish of St Mary had been omitted²⁵ but was reinstated in a further three consecutive issues of the *London Gazette* (18, 22 and 25 September 1798) and the *Staffordshire Advertiser* (22 and 29 September, and 6 October 1798)²⁶; in these Notices, St Mary appeared after St Philip rather than before, as in the original document. Did this reversal matter? Possibly not.

The Notice used in the last three *Staffordshire Advertiser* versions is shown below:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Torton Brook, to the Trent and Mersey Canal, at Haywood, in the County of Stafford, the said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkwich otherwise Ballage, Castle, Forebridge, St. Philip, St. Mary, and St. Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

J. & G. W. Solicitors.

August 30, 1798.

It is interesting to note that the wording of the Notices in the *London Gazette* and the *Staffordshire Advertiser* are similar but not identical. For instance, the *London Gazette* version did not include the date of the Notice or the name of the person submitting the Notice, "Heywood Mill" was mentioned and Radford Bridge was referred to as "Ratford Bridge". Does this suggest the Canal Company and their solicitors had been less than meticulous? Did these inconsistencies invalidate the Application procedure?

Even if the answer to the last question is "No", it was the initial omission of the parish of St Mary that was unfortunate, as we shall see.

Nevertheless, on 8 December 1798 a Notice²⁷ appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of a Meeting to be held at the Grand Jury Room in the County Hall (Stafford) for landowners on Monday 10 December starting at 10.00 am, somewhat short notice. Is there a sense of déjà vu as there had been a meeting for landowners at the *Swan Inn* (Stafford) earlier in the year (13 February 1798)? The change of venue to County Hall perhaps signifies that the stakes had been raised?

The purpose of that Meeting was to consider just one question:

"What measures it may be proper to adopt, (in case the said projected Canal is carried into execution), to indemnify the Land Owners on the Line of the said Canal, and such others as may be eventually affected, by the two Aqua-ducts intended to be erected across the Rivers Penk and Sow."

We do not know the outcome of this meeting but clearly the issue of compensation was a major issue for the affected landowners.

But what did the inhabitants of Stafford think about the scheme? The trades people, the business people? We know they approved of the plan because a month later, on 9 January 1799, a general meeting was held at the *Swan Inn* (Stafford) to consider the intended application to Parliament for a Canal from Radford to Stafford and it

was reported in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* on 12 January 1799 that “the measure met with the concurrence of the inhabitants.”²⁸

And a month after that (13 February 1799) the Canal Company drafted letters to Stafford’s two MPs, Edward Monckton and Richard Brinsley Sheridan, seeking their assistance “in obtaining powers from Parliament” for the Branch Canal, and requesting their “interest and support of a Bill to be introduced into the House of Commons” in that current Session. The MPs were told about the Meeting at the *Swan Inn* and that:

“It was unanimously agreed that such an undertaking will be of General Public Utility & will particularly benefit the town & Trade of Stafford – Which Resolutions have been since signed by upwards of 200 of the Principal Inhabitants.”²⁹

The following day (14 February 1799) it seems the Canal Company had reached an agreement with Mr Drakeford regarding his land through which the branch canal would pass.^{30, 31, 32.}

Messers Collins & Keen, attorneys at law based in Stafford, were now acting for the Canal Company and on 20 February 1799 were sent a list³³ of the land owners and land occupiers along the line of the proposed branch and reservoirs by James Perry from the Company’s Head Office in Wolverhampton, to be attached to the Plan they already had – presumably this was the Adams’ Plan, that had been submitted a year before (2 January 1798)? Or was this a modified version of the Adams’ plan – modified by Adams or perhaps by someone else such as Thomas Dadford? I suspect it was the Adams’ Plan submitted the year before, as no new Plan had been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace.

Parliament at last

Four days later, on Monday 25 February 1799, the Petition to amend the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Act and to bring in a Bill for the Stafford Branch came before Parliament, and was recorded in the *House of Commons Journal*³⁴. It was ordered that:

“... the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee: And that they do examine the Matter thereof; and report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the House:

“And it is referred to Mr. *John Pitt*, Mr. *Jodrell*, &c.: And they are to meet Tomorrow Morning, at Nine of the Clock, in the Speaker’s Chamber; and have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.”

Presumably the Committee met on Tuesday 26 February 1799 to consider the proposal and “examine the Matter”? However, it seems the Committee did not report back to the House of Commons and there is no further mention of the Stafford Branch. Nothing appears in the *House of Lords Journal* for 1799³⁵ either, although the Oxford Canal and Thames & Isis Navigation were also discussed on 26 February. The *Staffordshire Advertiser* is silent on what might have happened.

It is unfortunate that all Petitions lodged before 1834 were destroyed by fire when both Houses of Parliament burned down.³⁶ Fortunately the Journals survived.

Perhaps the wording in the Petition put before Parliament (and reported in the *House of Commons Journal*) regarding the proposed route of the branch canal may give a clue?

“... from or near a Place called *Radford Bridge*, in the County of *Stafford*, to or near the County Town of *Stafford*”.

The wording is almost identical to the *initial* Notice of Intention of the previous year (1 September 1797) which did not mention the parishes along the route. Had the wrong papers been presented to Parliament? Was this an unfortunate oversight?

This means there are inconsistencies between what the Company had advertised in the *London Gazette* and the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, and the Petition as presented to Parliament. Perhaps this invalidated the Petition?

Or is this inconsistency, between the Petition and the entry in the Commons Journal simply a red-herring, as it could be, because the Journal is a summary, rather than a verbatim record?³⁷

Private bill procedure at this time was very expensive. The committee sitting would have been more like minor court proceedings, where objections could be raised by lawyers acting on behalf of each side. Local MPs would have been heavily involved. Petitions for private bills often fell foul of the various technical rules and regulations, so this is not uncommon.³⁷

I suspect one of the lawyers drew the Committee's attention to the **First Standing Order** that the Notice of intended Application must be inserted in *The London Gazette* and a local newspaper (in this case the *Staffordshire Advertiser*) “three times in the months of August and September (or either of them) immediately preceding the Session of Parliament in which the Application is intended to be made”.³⁸

The correct Notice, of course, with the parish of St Mary reinstated, had appeared in the *London Gazette* and the *Staffordshire Advertiser* on three occasions. Unfortunately, as the local paper was a weekly publication, there was only time to insert the Notice twice in September (22 and 29) and as the next edition was on 6 October 1798 this meant that the criteria for the First Standing Order were not met. As the *House of Commons Journal* make no mention of what happened, it seems likely the Canal Company withdrew the Application when it became clear that the scheme as presented was unlikely to meet with parliamentary approval. And, perhaps at this stage, the scale of potential objections from those with a vested interest had become apparent.

The 1799/1800 Plan

The Canal Company was undaunted and soon acted. There was a different strategy, with a modified route, which would possibly be less costly and/or meet with less opposition from landowners?

Within a month (25 March 1799) there had been a meeting at Stone between “Messers Jesson and Perry with Mr Sparrow on Stafford Branch idea put to Staffs & Worcs Committee and considered by the Grand Trunk Co.”³⁹

And two and a half weeks later (11 April 1799) a “Memorandum of Mr John Bishton [was] put to S&WCCo at their General Meeting at the *Red Lion* [Wolverhampton] for a branch canal at Stafford on Sir Wm. Jerningham’s land.”⁴⁰ Sir William Jerningham, (the 6th baronet Stafford) was an important landowner who had always supported the building of a branch canal.

The Canal Company were getting ready for another attempt at taking a petition to Parliament.

On 2 September 1799 a Notice⁴¹ was signed by John Jesson (junior), solicitor for the Company, that application was “intended to be made in the next session” (24 September 1799 – 29 July 1800) to seek a Bill to make a branch canal:

“ ... from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the parishes of Berkswich, otherwise Balsage, and Castle Church, otherwise Forebridge ...”.

The route had been changed and would now not go through the parishes of St Philip, St Mary and St Chad but instead terminate near Green Bridge. In fact, John Wright (solicitor) had written to John Jesson four days earlier (29 August 1799):

“I am very glad to find that the S&W Canal Company mean to persevere in their intended plan of a Cut from Radford to Stafford, on the scale of bringing it to the Bridge at Stafford is made only go through the Parishes of Berkswich alias Balsage, & Castle Church often called Forebridge but if it sho’d happen that a Wharf or any use is made on the North side of the River near Stafford you should then insert in the Advertizement for safety the Parishes of St.Mary & St.Chad the only ones in the Borough – No other parish can interfere in the Plan to the Bridge – Wishing the scheme succes & with my best Comp^s to your Father & friend.”⁴²

This new plan (dated 1799)⁴³ had been drawn up by the Company’s Engineer and Surveyor Thomas Dadford and incorporated features of both his 1787 plan and Adams’ 1798 plan. There would be one aqueduct and five bridges.

From Radford, after the aqueduct over the River Penk, the proposed branch followed the Lichfield Road – there was to be a tunnel where the branch passed through the land owned by Sir William Jerningham and Mr Edward Drakeford – until near Stafford

it passed behind several houses and terminated at a wharf parallel to the River Sow by Green Bridge; it was 1.37 miles (109.67 chains) in length. The tunnel was possibly an aesthetic addition, to hide the canal from view, and would have been between where St Leonard's Avenue and the railway bridge are today.

The Notice of Intention appeared in three issues of the *London Gazette* (10, 14 and 17 September 1799) and the *Staffordshire Advertiser* (7, 14 and 21 September 1799).⁴¹ This time there was no fiasco with an October entry, and, apart from minor differences such as in the use of upper case or lower case letters for some of the words, the content of the Notices was the same in both newspapers. In addition, the Notices bore the name and role of the Canal Company's representative and the date when the Notice was signed.

By 17 September 1799 Thomas Dadford had estimated the cost to be just over £4400.⁴⁴

The breakdown of the costs is given below:

- Cutting 2451 yards of Canal (£612 15s 0d).
- Extra Cutting and Banking (£200).
- 100 yards of Tunnel (£300).
- Aqueduct over River Penk (£1000).
- Suppose 5 Accommodation Bridges @£50 (£250).
- 207 Rood of Fencing with Towpaths and Back Drains @14s (£144 18s 0d).
- 10 acres of land, suppose @£80 (£800).
- Obtaining the Act of Parliament (suppose £500).
- Making Wharfs near Stafford (suppose £200).

All this came to £4007 13s 0d. An extra 10 per cent was added for unforeseen expenses (£400) which brought the total to £4407 13s 0d.

(It does look as though this estimate probably replaced an earlier estimate, as mention is made of "Extra Cutting and Banking" presumably for the "100 yards of Tunnel". And this also implies that the Plan was still in a state of flux.)

On 27 September 1799 John Jesson deposited with Collins & Keen (Stafford) the plan and estimated cost of the proposed scheme together with a list of landowners (and length of their land adjoining the canal) and occupiers; the list showed who agreed or disagreed with the proposal.⁴⁵ Presumably other documents were submitted but none appear to have survived?

Only three landowners disagreed with the proposal: Mr Henry Webb (a solicitor in Stafford), Mr John Hughes (also owner of the *Horn and Trumpet* at Radford and adjacent land between the main canal and the River Penk) and Mr John Plant. They were the only landowners who were also listed as occupiers; the other landowners rented their land to tenants, all of whom supported the proposal.

On the same day, John Jesson wrote a handwritten Notice of Intention dated 27 September 1799;⁴⁶ it was almost the same as his 2 September 1799 Notice but with one word changed, from:

“ ... at or near Radford Bridge to or near the town of Stafford *in* the parishes of ...” to

“ ... at or near Radford Bridge to or near the town of Stafford *thro'* the parishes of ...”.

This is possibly just a “carbon copy” of the Notice he had included with the other material that day, and the unexpected date (27 September) was perhaps just a slip and not necessarily of any significance?

And what happened to this scheme? The Plan was certainly deposited with the Clerk of the Peace on 27 September 1799⁴⁷ but there is no evidence that anything was submitted to Parliament before the session ended on 29 July 1800 and the *Staffordshire Advertiser* makes no further mention of this scheme. And that appears to be that.

Perhaps these events should also be considered against the prevailing background of political, social and economic instability? This was the time of the French Revolutionary Wars. The industrial revolution continued apace, benefitting some, there was industrial unrest, the Combination Acts were introduced and there were shortages of food. The momentum of Canal Mania was ever present, accelerating from 1791 to a peak in 1793 but after 1796 fewer new canals were authorised. Money would have been tight. In 1797 there was a financial crisis that was to last for years, the country was essentially bankrupt, income tax was imposed, the French invaded Wales and there was a naval mutiny. In 1798 there was an armed uprising in Ireland and by the Act of Union the new country of Great Britain and Ireland came into being on 1 January 1801. Catholic emancipation was a very contentious issue. The Prime Minister, William Pitt, lost the support of his Party and was replaced by Henry Addington (who incidentally was known as “The Doctor”). And in 1802 the unfavourable Peace of Amiens with Napoleonic France gave some respite. So perhaps Parliament had more urgent matters to address than a mundane 1½ mile canal extension application? But I don't think this was the case.

Was the Canal Company in a position to comply with all the Standing Orders? For example, if the money was to be raised by subscription, **Standing Order 6** required the Company to attach to the Petition an Account of the Money subscribed, together with the names of the subscribers and how much each had subscribed. And **Standing Order 13** required the subscribers to make their payment in advance. However, none of the documents that survived from the Quarter Sessions have this information; so, if they had been deposited, why are they missing? Or perhaps the money was not going to be raised by subscription?

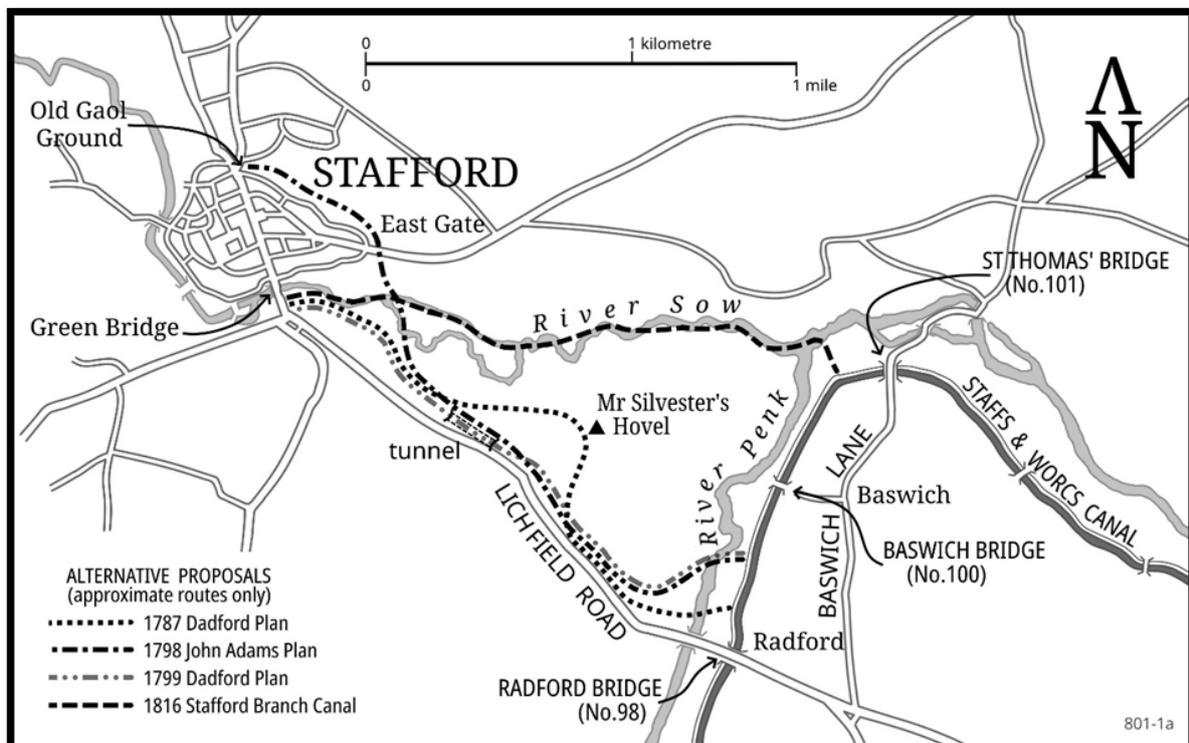
In all probability, the three landowners (and others) continued objecting for a variety of reasons. There were clearly influential forces against the scheme, and probably had been from the outset. The role of Radford Bank as the ‘Port of Stafford’ would have been diminished had the branch canal been built and we should not forget the carters whose jobs would have been at risk. The spectre of escalating parliamentary costs for the Company loomed.

For a while it is likely that the Canal Company continued to look at modifying the route and purchasing land from more receptive landowners – a letter from John Jesson (solicitor for the Canal Company) to Collins and Keen (Stafford) dated 30 April 1800, states that “I hope I shall be able to establish our title to the land” belonging to a “Mr Fowler (??)” in the context of the papers passed over on the 27 September 1799.⁴⁸

Clearly, any such discussions did not of themselves advance the project and the Canal Company abandoned the idea of a branch canal. The idea of making a waterways connection between Stafford and the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal would be left to others.

Transporting goods by cart between Radford and Stafford continued and in 1805 a horse-drawn tramway opened, but that too had its limitations and failed. There were two other initiatives to build a branch canal from Radford, this time using the Rivers Sow and Penk, but both attempts were unsuccessful; the first (between 1810 and 1812) involved a lock into the River Penk and the other (between 1812 and 1813) involved an inclined plane instead of a lock.

Eventually, a branch canal was constructed between 1814 and 1816. It left the main canal a little further north than Radford, at Baswich (St Thomas’); there was a lock and the route followed the River Sow to a terminus basin by Green Bridge in Stafford. It opened on 19 February 1816. It did not require an Act of Parliament because all the land was owned by the Jerningham Family.



The different routes proposed between 1787 and 1799 to connect Stafford to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal (John de Havilland)

REFERENCES AND NOTES

- (1) Charles Hadfield, *Canals of the West Midlands* (David & Charles, 1969), p 130: “In 1798 a rather elaborate branch to Stafford had been considered, with aqueducts over the Sow and Penk, and a notice issued.” (with a reference: “*Staffordshire Advertiser* 10 February & 8 September 1798”).
- (2) J.Ian Langford, *A Towpath Guide to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal* (Cambridge: Goose, 1974), pp 41-2: “Proposals for the branch were made in 1798, with aqueducts across the Sow and Penk, but this costly scheme was dropped”.
- (3) S.R & E. Broadbridge, “Communication with canals in the Stafford area”, *Staffordshire Industrial Archaeology Society Journal*, vol 1 (1970), pp 8-27: “In September 1798 notice was given of intention to apply to Parliament” and in February 1799 “A petition for a Bill was presented to the House of Commons, and was sent to a committee, where it disappeared”. A one-page appendix (*ibid*, 1994, pp 27-40) mentions Dadford’s 1787 plan, Adams’ 1798 plan and Dadford’s 1799 plan and estimate.
- (4) Roy Lewis, *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga* (priv print, 2012): pp 5-7.
- (5) 6 Geo III c97.
- (6) Hadfield (1969), p 49.
- (7) The National Archives, RAIL 871/1, S&WCCo Committee Minute Book 1766-1785, 6 November 1770.
- (8) 10 Geo III c103.
- (9) Hadfield (1969), p 50.
- (10) Lewis (2012), p 2.
- (11) TNA, RAIL 871/1, S&WCCo Committee Minute Book 1766-1785.
- (12) Staffordshire Record Office (SRO), D3186.1/1/1, S&WCCo Half Yearly General Meetings of Proprietors.
- (13) SRO, Q/RUm/25, List of Landowners and length (relating to Dadford’s 1787 Map).
- (14) S&WCCo Committee Meeting Minutes 1785-1803 is not among the surviving Minute Books in TNA, RAIL 871.
- (15) SRO, D3186/1/1/1, S&WCCo General Assembly Committee Meeting Minutes, 21 March 1797.
- (16) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 9, 16 and 23 September 1797. Notice of Intention.
- (17) SRO, D3186/1/1/1, S&WCCo General Assembly Committee Meeting Minutes, 19 September 1797.
- (18) SRO, Q/RUm/21a. Adams’ Plan.
- (19) SRO, Q/RA/1, Index of documents enrolled with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Stafford (1792-1829), p120, entry no 21a (2 January 1798) relating to navigation and railroad plans.
- (20) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 10 February 1798. Notice of Meeting at the *Swan Inn*.
- (21) *Standing Orders of the House of Commons, on the 7th day of June 1792, with respect to navigable canals, aqueducts and the navigation of rivers (Ordered to be printed, 1792)*.
- (22) *Standing Orders of the House of Commons, 7 May 1794 and 16 June 1795*. Taken from *A Collection of Rules and Standing Orders of the House of Commons Relative to the Applying for and Passing Bills ... A New Edition* (printed by Luke Hansard, 1799), chapter IV, pp 13 – 17 (Navigations and aqueducts).
- (23) O.C.Williams, *The Historical Development of Private Bill Procedure and Standing Orders in the House of Commons* (HMSO, 1948), vol 1, pp 1 – 57

(particularly pp 23 – 46) and pp 264 – 266, Calendar of Select Committees appointed, etc, 1752 – 1800.

- (24) SRO, Q/RUm/21a, 30 August 1798. Handwritten Notice of Intention.
- (25) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 8 and 15 September 1798. Notice of Intention.
- (26) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 22 and 29 September, and 6 October 1798. Notice of Intention.
- (27) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 8 December 1798. Notice of Meeting at County Hall.
- (28) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 12 January 1799. Report of Meeting at the *Swan Inn*.
- (29) British Waterways Archive (now at National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port) (BW), 450.94. Draft letter dated 13 February 1799 to Stafford's two MPs.
- (30) BW, 454.94. Letter dated 14 February 1799 relating to Mr Drakeford.
- (31) BW, 451.94. Mr Drakeford Draft agreement (undated).
- (32) BW, 452.94. Mr Drakeford Draft agreement (plus amendments) (undated).
- (33) SRO, Q/RUm/21a or new Q/RUm/25 pt4. Letter dated 20 February 1799 from James Perry to Collins & Keen.
- (34) *House of Commons Journal*, vol 54, p 211, 25 February 1799.
- (35) *House of Lords Journal*, 1799, Main Papers, HL/PO/JO/10/7/1080 to /1109.
- (36) Parliamentary Archives: section on Petitions.
- (37) Information from *History of Parliament Trust* (Ms Connie Jeffery, Dr Philip Salmon and Dr Paul Seaward), 7 July 2020.
- (38) Standing Orders of the House of Commons, 7 May 1794 (see note 22 for full reference).
- (39) BW, 448.94. Memorandum from Meeting at Stone, 25 March 1799.
- (40) BW, 447.94. Memorandum from John Bishton at *Red Lion*, 11 April 1799.
- (41) *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 7, 14 and 21 September 1799. Notice of Intention.
- (42) BW, 456.94. Letter from John Wright dated 29 August 1799.
- (43) SRO, D3186/8/1/30/120. Dadford's plan dated 1799.
- (44) SRO, Q/RUm/25. Dadford's estimate dated 17 September 1799.
- (45) SRO, Q/RUm/25, Q/RUm/21a and D3186/8/1/30/7b. List of landowners & tenants.
- (46) BW, 457.94. Handwritten Notice dated 27 September 1799 signed by J.Jesson.
- (47) SRO, Q/RA/1. Index of documents enrolled with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Stafford (1792-1829), p121, entry no 25 (27 September 1799) relating to navigation & railroad plans.
- (48) SRO, Q/RUm/25, Letter dated 30 April 1800 from John Jesson.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Staffordshire Record Office (Rebecca Jackson and Liz Street).
- Wolverhampton City Archives (Christine Brown).
- Julian Souter (Researching the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

(A) Primary Sources

- Staffordshire Record Office (Stafford):
Q/U/RUm/21a; Q/U/RUm/25: Stafford Quarter Sessions (various 1787-1800).
D3186/8/1/30/7b; D3186/8/1/30/120; D3186/8/1/30/7: Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Company: (1798-1799).
- British Waterways Archive (Gloucester) [This Material is now at the National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port, all in BW151/5/8]:
BW447.94; BW448.94; BW450.94; BW451.94; BW452.94; BW454.94; BW455.94;
BW456.94; BW457.94.
- William Salt Library (Stafford).
- National Archive (Kew): *Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal Company Records*:
Committee Minute Books / Order Books: RAIL 871/1 1766-1785 (no mention); 1785-1803 (No known surviving Minute Books); RAIL 871/2 1803-1804 (no mention); RAIL 871/2 1804-1805 (Books Missing).
- *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 1795 to 1805 (various).
- *The London Gazette* : 1796 to 1800.
- *House of Commons Journal* for 25 February 1799: Vol 54 page 211.
(27 September 1796 to 28 June 1802 & 16 November 1802 to 23 July 1806.)
- *Standing Orders of the House of Commons* 7 June 1792, 7 May 1794 and 16 June 1795 w.r.t Navigable Canals etc.
- *House of Lords Journal Office Main Papers for 1799*:
HL/PO/JO/10/7/1083 to HL/PO/JO/10/7/1109.

(B) Secondary Sources: Bibliography

- *The Historical Development of Private Bill Procedure and Standing Orders in the House of Commons* by O.C.Williams (HMSO 1948): vol 1 pp 1 to 57 (particularly pp 23 – 46) and pp 264 to 266 (Calendar of Select Committees 1752-1800).
 - *Canals of the West Midlands* by Charles Hadfield 1969.
 - *The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal: Towpath Guide* by J.Ian Langford 1974.
 - *Communication with Canals in the Stafford Area* by S.R. and E.Broadbridge: Staffordshire Industrial Archaeology Society 1970 & 1994.
 - *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga* by Roy Lewis 2012.
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TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 1787: Thomas Dadford's Map and List of Land Owners and length 123.24 chains (Appendix 1).
- March 21 1797: General Assembly of Proprietors meeting at Swan Inn (Wolverhampton) informed of intended Canal (Appendix 2).
- Sept 1 1797: **First Notice of Intention**: issued by J W Solicitors.
- Sept 9 1797: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser*.
- Sept 16 1797: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser*.
- Sept 19 1797: General Assembly of Proprietors meeting at The Red Lyon (Wolverhampton) informed of the Notice of Intention (Appendix 3).
- Sept 23 1797: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser*.
- Sept 30 1797: Last date to submit documents to the Quarter Sessions.
- Jan 2 1798: **John Adam's Plan for intended Canal deposited**.
- Feb 8 1798: Notice of Meeting at Swan Inn (Stafford) signed.
- Feb 10 1798: Notice of Meeting at Swan Inn (Stafford) appears in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 4).
- Feb 13 1798: Meeting at Swan Inn (Stafford).

- Aug 30 1798: **Second Notice of Intention**: issued by J & G Wright Solicitors (Appendix 6).
- Sept 8 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 7).
- Sept 11 1798: Notice published in *London Gazette* p 866 (Appendix 8).
- Sept 15 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 10).
- Sept 15 1798: Notice published in *London Gazette* p 880 (Appendix 8).
- Sept 18 1798: Notice published in *London Gazette* pp 889-890 (Appendix 9).
- Sept 22 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 11).
- Sept 22 1798: Notice published in *London Gazette* p 902 (Appendix 9).
- Sept 25 1798: Notice published in *London Gazette* p 908 (Appendix 9).
- Sept 29 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 12).
- Sept 30 1798: Last date to submit documents to the Quarter Sessions.
- Oct 6 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 12).
- Dec 8 1798: Notice in *Staffordshire Advertiser* of Meeting at County Hall (Stafford) for landowners and others (Appendix 13).
- Dec 10 1798: Meeting at Grand Jury Room in County Hall (Stafford) of landowners and others.
- Jan 9 1799: Meeting at *Swan Inn* (Stafford).
- Jan 12 1799: *Staffordshire Advertiser* Report on Meeting at Swan Inn (Stafford) (Appendix 14).
- Feb 13 1799: Draft letter to Edward Monckton and Richard Brinsley Sheridan (Appendix 15).
- Feb 14 1799: Letter about Stafford Branch and Mr Drakeford (BW 454.94). Draft agreement for Stafford Branch & Provisions & Conditions on land to be taken of Mr Drakeford (undated BW 451.94); Draft agreement, S&WCCo and Mr Drakeford for Stafford Branch (undated BW 452.94).
- Feb 20 1799: Letter from James Perry (Wolverhampton) to Collins & Keen Attorneys at Law (Stafford) sent with **Plan of the Canal** from Radford Bridge

to Stafford, and two Reservoirs, with list of Land Owners and Land Occupiers (Appendix 16).

- Feb 25 1799: Stafford Branch Petition introduced in Parliament (Appendix 17).
 - Feb 26 1799: Parliamentary Select Committee Meeting?

 - March 25 1799: Letter/Memorandum at Stone. Messers Jesson & Perry with Mr Sparrow on Stafford Branch idea put to Staffs & Worcs Committee and considered by the Grand Trunk Co (Trent & Mersey Co). BW 448.94.
 - April 11 1799: Memorandum of Mr John Bishton put to S&WCCo at their General Meeting at the *Red Lion* (Wolverhampton) for a branch canal at Stafford on Sir Wm. Jerningham's land. BW447.94.
 - Aug 29 1799: Letter from John Wright to Mr Jesson (S&WCCo) about the route to go only through Berkswich & Castle Church (Forebridge) (Appendix 18).

 - Sept 2 1799: **Third Notice of Intention**: issued by John Jesson.
 - Sept 7 1799: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 22).
 - Sept 10 1799: Notice published in *London Gazette* (Appendix 23).
 - Sept 14 1799: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 22).
 - Sept 14 1799: Notice published in *London Gazette* (Appendix 23).
 - Sept 17 1799: Notice published in *London Gazette* (Appendix 23).
 - Sept 21 1799: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 22).
 - Sept 17 1799: Thomas Dadford's Estimate, deposited 27 Sept (Appendix 24).
 - Sept 27 1799: John Jesson deposits with Collins & Keen the Plan and Estimate together with: List of landowners (and length) and occupiers of the proposed Branch from Radford Bridge to Stafford (Appendices 19, 20 & 21).
 - Sept 27 1799: Handwritten Notice from John Jesson to bring in a Parliamentary Bill for the Stafford Branch (Appendix 25).
 - Sept 30 1799: Last date to submit documents to the Quarter Sessions.
 - April 30 1800: Letter from John Jesson (Wolverhampton) to Collins & Keen (Stafford) about establishing title to some land (Appendix 26).
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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: 1787 List of Land Owners and length (Thomas Dadford Map): Q/RUm/25.
Appendix 2: General Meeting of Proprietors 21 March 1797 at Swan Inn (W-ton).
Appendix 3: General Meeting of Proprietors 19 September 1797 at Red Lyon (W-ton).
Appendix 4: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 10 February 1798: Notice of meeting at Swan Inn (Stafford).
Appendix 5: Standing Orders of the House of Commons 7 June 1792.
Appendix 5a: Standing Orders of the House of Commons 7 May 1794 and 16 June 1795.
Appendix 6: Notice of Intention dated 30 August 1798 from J & G Wright: Q/RUm.
Appendix 7: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 8 September 1798: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 8: *London Gazette* 11 and 15 September 1798: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 9: *London Gazette* 18, 22 and 29 September 1798: Notice of Intention
Appendix 10: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 15 September 1798: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 11: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 22 September 1798: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 12: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 29 September 1798: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 13: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 08 December 1798: Notice of meeting at County Hall (Stafford).
Appendix 14: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 12 January 1799: Report of Meeting at Swan Inn (Stafford).
Appendix 15: Draft letter dated 13 February 1799 to Stafford MPs: BW 450.94.
Appendix 16: Letter dated 20 February 1799 from James Perry to Collins & Keen: Q/RUm.
Appendix 17: Petition presented to Parliament 25 February 1799: HCJ Vol 54 p 211.
Appendix 18: Letter dated 29 August 1799 from John Wright to John Jesson: BW 456.94.
Appendix 19: 1799 List of Land Owners and length (Dadford Map): Q/RUm/25.
Appendix 20: List of Land Owners and Occupiers – agree or disagree: Q/RUm/21a.
Appendix 21: List of Land Owners (and length) and Tenants – agree or disagree: D3186/8/1/30/7b.
Appendix 22: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 7, 14 and 21 September 1799: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 23: *London Gazette* 10, 14 and 17 September 1799: Notice of Intention.
Appendix 24: Dadford Estimate dated 17 September 1799: Q/RUm/25.
Appendix 25: Handwritten Notice of Intention from John Jesson dated 27 September 1799: BW 457.94.
Appendix 26: Letter dated 30 April 1800 from John Jesson to Collins & Keen: Q/RUm/25.
Appendix 27: Table of the Number of Acts of Parliament relating to building new canals or modifying existing canals between 1787 and 1804.
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APPENDIX 1

Title: 1787 Thomas Dadford's Map: List of Land Owners and length.

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office: Q/RUm/25, pt1 (previously assigned as Q/RUm/25 pt7).

No	Land Owners	Length (Chains Links)
1	Sir Will ^m Jerningham	30.22
2	Edw ^d Wright	3.49
3	Edw ^d Drakeford Esq	2.46
4	Tho ^s Parker Esq	10.18
5	Stafford School	4.48
6	Rich ^d Drakeford Esq	25.48
7	Doct ^r Wright	7.17
8	Sir Geo ^e Chetwyn	14.98
9	Mifs Robins	17.50
10	M ^{rs} Winkle	6.08
11	Mr John Lycett	0.40
	River Penk	0.80
Total	Whole length	123.24

1 mile 4 furlongs and 3 chains.

Note on the units

100 links = 1 chain (22 yards)
10 chains = 1 furlong (220 yards)
8 furlongs = 1 mile (1760 yards)

APPENDIX 2

Title: Meeting of the General Assembly of Proprietors of the S&WCCo at the Swan Inn on 21 March 1797.

Reference: Minutes of the General Assembly of Proprietors of the S&WCCo on 21 March 1797 (pages 181-182).

(Resolved) Also: That George Molineux Esquire be requested to inform some of the principal Inhabitants of the Borough of Stafford that this Company is disposed to make a Cut from their said Canal to the said Borough and that a Deputation from the Committee of this (page 182) Company will attend a Meeting of a Deputation from the said Borough at a time and place to be fixed on for carrying such proposition into execution and that the necessary advertizements on that Occasion and for making some alteration and Improvements in our said Canal be advertized in due time and

the said Company Committee of this Company are hereby invested with full powers to do every necessary Act and thing relating to the Carrying these works into execution.

APPENDIX 3

Title: Meeting of the General Assembly of Proprietors of the S&WCCo at the Red Lyon (Wolverhampton) on 19 September 1797.

Reference: Minutes of the General Assembly of Proprietors of the S&WCCo on 19 September 1797 (page 183).

(Resolved) Also: That application be made to Parliament the next sessions for the Purpose of amending and extending the Powers of this Navigation, and also to make and maintain a Branch of a Canal from Radford Bridge to near the Town of Stafford, and for other Purposes under the Direction of the Committee of Proprietors.

APPENDIX 4

Title: Notice of a meeting at the Swan Inn (Stafford) 13 February 1798.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser* (10 February 1798).

THE Proprietors of Eftates upon the River PENK, between Saint Thomas and Acton Mills, and also on the Sow, between Saint Thomas and Bridgford, are particularly requested to attend a Meeting at the Swan Inn, Stafford, on Tuesday next the 13th of February instant, at two o'Clock, to consider whether the Acqueducts to the proposed Canal from Radford Bridge to Stafford, (which is intended to be brought into Parliament this Session) will not materially injure the Meadows on those Lines.

Stafford, 8th February, 1798.

APPENDIX 5

Title: Transcription of Standing Orders of the House of Commons 7 June 1792 with reference to Navigable Canals, Aqueducts, and the Navigation of Rivers.

Reference: Vint Hill Killick Papers at Bradford Record Office: 10076/4/136/37.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Of the 7th Day of June 1792,

WITH REFERENCE TO

NAVIGABLE CANALS, AQUEDUCTS, AND THE NAVIGATION OF RIVERS

RESOLVED,

THAT the Standing Orders of the House, of the 28th of January 1771, the 25th of April 1774, the 15th of November 1775, and the 20th of July 1789, respecting Navigation Bills, be repealed.

RESOLVED,

THAT, when any Application is intended to be made to the House, for Leave to bring in a Bill for making any Cut or Canal for the Purposes of Navigation, or any Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, for the Purpose of supplying any City, Town, or Place, with Water, or for varying or altering any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, already made, or for making or improving the Navigation of any River, or for altering any Act of Parliament passed for any or either of those Purposes (in which Bill for altering any such Act it is intended to give Power for raising any further or additional Rates, Tolls, or Duties) Notice of such intended Application shall be inserted Three Times in *The London Gazette*, in the Months of *August* and *September*, or either of them, previous to the Session of Parliament in which such Application is intended to be made : And that such Notice shall also be inserted in some One News-paper of every County through which any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, is intended to be carried, or in which such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered, or in which such River, or such Part thereof as is intended to be made Navigable, or the Navigation thereof to be improved, is situated (or, if there is not any News-paper printed in or for such Counties respectively, then in the News-paper of some County near or adjoining thereto) Three Times at the least, in the Months of *August* and *September*, or either of them, immediately preceding the Session of Parliament in which such Application is intended to be made : And that such Notice shall also be given at the General Quarter Session of the Peace which shall be holden for every and each County, Riding, or Division, through which any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, is intended to be carried, or in which such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered, or in which such River, or such Part thereof as is intended to be made Navigable, or the Navigation thereof to be improved, is situated, at the *Michaelmas* preceding the Session of Parliament in which

such Application is intended to be made, by affixing such Notice to the Door of the Session Houses respectively where such General Quarter Session shall be holden.

RESOLVED,

THAT such several Notices shall contain the Names of the Parishes and Townships in, to, or through which any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, is intended to be carried, varied, or altered, or in which such River, or such Part thereof as is intended to be made Navigable, or the Navigation thereof to be improved, is situated.

RESOLVED,

THAT a Map or Plan of such intended Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, and also of any intended Alteration in any Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, already made, shall be deposited, for Public Inspection, at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace of every County, Riding, or Division, through which such Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, is intended to be carried, or such Alteration is intended to be made, on or before the Eleventh Day of *November* previous to the Session of Parliament, in which such Application is intended to be made ; which Map or Plan shall describe the Line of such intended Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, or of such intended Alteration, and the Lands through which the same is intended to be carried, together with a Book of Reference containing a List of the Names of the Owners, or reputed Owners, and Occupiers, of such Lands respectively.

RESOLVED,

THAT, before any Application is made to the House for any or either of the Purposes aforesaid, a previous Application shall be made to the Owners, or reputed Owners, and Occupiers, of the Lands through which any such Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such Alteration is intended to be made ; and that separate Lists shall be made of the Names of such Owners and Occupiers, distinguishing which of them, upon such Application, have assented to, or dissented from, such intended Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, or such Alteration, or are neuter in respect thereto.

RESOLVED,

THAT, whenever any Petition is presented to the House for any or either of the Purposes aforesaid, there shall be presented, with such Petition, the Lists mentioned in the last preceding Resolution, and also a Duplicate of the Map or Plan so to be deposited at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, as aforesaid.

RESOLVED,

THAT, whenever any Petition is presented to the House for making, varying, or altering, any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, as aforesaid, or making or improving the Navigation of a River, there be annexed to the said Petition an Estimate of the proposed Expence of such Undertaking (in Cases where Provision is intended to be made for raising Money to defray such Expence) such Estimate to be signed by the

Person or Persons making the same : And, if such Money is proposed to be raised by Subscription, that there be also annexed to the said Petition, an Account of the Money subscribed for that Purpose, and the Names of the Subscribers, with the Sums by them subscribed respectively.

RESOLVED,

THAT, whenever any Petition has been presented to the House for the Purposes aforesaid, or any or either of them, the Committee, to whom such Petition shall be referred, do examine, in the First Place, how far the Orders contained in the preceding Resolutions have been complied with, and do report the same, at the Time when they report the Matter of any such Petition, as it shall appear to them, to the House.

RESOLVED,

THAT the Clerks of the Peace, or their respective Deputies, do make a Memorial, in Writing, upon the Plan and Book of Reference deposited with them in Manner aforesaid, denoting the Time at which the same was lodged in their respective Offices ; and do, at all reasonable Hours of the Day, permit any Person to view and examine the same, and to make Copies or Extracts therefrom, such Person paying the same the usual and accustomed Fees paid to such Clerks of the Peace, for the Inspection, and Copying of, or making Extracts from, Records in their respective Offices.

RESOLVED,

THAT, in all Bills presented to the House for any or either of the Purposes aforesaid, Provision be made for compelling the Persons who have subscribed towards carrying any such Work into Execution, to make Payment of the Sums severally subscribed by them ; and also to oblige the Commissioners or Trustees to take Security from their Treasurer, Receiver, or Collector, for the faithful Execution of his Office.

ORDERED,

THAT the last Nine of the said Resolutions be made Standing Orders of this House.

ORDERED,

THAT the said several Resolutions be printed ; and that Copies thereof be sent to the Sheriffs of the several Counties of *Great Britain*, and also, to the Clerks of the Peace within *England* and *Wales* ; and that the said Sheriffs do take Care that Copies of the same be published, and distributed within their respective Counties.

J.HATSELL,
Cl. Dom. Com.

APPENDIX 5a

Title: Transcription of Standing Orders of the House of Commons 7 May 1794 and 16 June 1795 with reference to Navigable Canals, Aqueducts, and the Navigation of Rivers.

Reference: Taken from: “*A Collection of Rules and Standing Orders of The Houfe of Commons Relative to the Applying for and Passing Bills*”. A New Edition. Printed by Luke Hansard, 1799.

Chapter IV (pages 13 – 17) Orders relating to Navigable Canals, Aqueducts, and the Navigation of Rivers.

(These Standing Orders replaced those passed on 7 June 1792. I have highlighted the changes/additions in red.)

STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Of the 7th MAY 1794 and 16th JUNE 1795

WITH REFERENCE TO

NAVIGABLE CANALS, AQUEDUCTS, AND THE NAVIGATION OF RIVERS

1. ON the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That when any Application is intended to be made to the Houfe, for Leave to bring in a Bill for making any Cut or Canal for the Purpofes of Navigation, or any Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, for the Purpofe of fupplying any City, Town, or Place, with Water, or for varying or altering any fuch Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, already made, or for making or improving the Navigation of any River, or for altering any Act of Parliament paffed for any or either of thofe Purpofes (in which Bill for altering any fuch Act it is intended to give Power for railing any further or additional Rates, Tolls, or Duties) Notice of fuch intended Application fhall be inferted Three Times in *The London Gazette*, in the Months of *Auguft* and *September*, or either of them, **immediately preceding** the Seffion of Parliament in which fuch Application is intended to be made : And that fuch Notice fhall alfo be inferted in fome One News-paper of every County through which any fuch Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, is intended to be carried, or in which fuch Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered, or in which fuch River, or fuch Part thereof as is intended to be made Navigable, or the Navigation thereof to be improved, is fituated (or, if there is not any News-paper printed in or for fuch Counties refpectively, then in the News-paper of fome County near or adjoining thereto) Three Times at the leaft, in the Months of *Auguft* and *September*, or either of them, immediately preceding the Seffion of Parliament in which fuch Application is intended to be made : And that fuch Notice fhall alfo be given at the General Quarter Seffion of the Peace which fhall be holden for every and each County, Riding, or Divifion, through which any fuch Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, is intended to be carried, or in which fuch Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, already made, is intended to be varied or altered, or in which fuch River, or fuch Part thereof as is intended to be made

Navigable, or the Navigation thereof to be improved, is situated, at the *Michaelmas* preceding the Session of Parliament in which such Application is intended to be made, by affixing such Notice to the Door of the Session Houses respectively where such General Quarter Session shall be holden.

2. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That such several Notices shall contain the Names of the Parishes and Townships in, to, or through which any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, is intended to be carried, varied, or altered; or in which such River, or such Part thereof as is intended to be made Navigable, or the Navigation thereof to be improved, is situated.

3. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That a Map or Plan of such intended Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, and also of any intended Alteration in any Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, already made, shall be deposited, for Public Inspection, at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace of every County, Riding, or Division, through which such Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, is intended to be carried, or such Alteration is intended to be made, on or before the **Thirtieth** Day of **September** previous to the Session of Parliament in which such Application is intended to be made ; which Map or Plan shall describe the Line of such intended Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, or of such intended Alteration, and the Lands through which the same is intended to be carried, together with a Book of Reference, containing a List of the Names of the Owners, or reputed Owners, and Occupiers, of such Lands respectively.

4. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That, before any Application is made to the House for any or either of the Purposes aforesaid, a previous Application shall be made to the Owners, or reputed Owners, and Occupiers, of the Lands through which any such Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such Alteration is intended to be made ; and that separate Lists shall be made of the Names of such Owners and Occupiers, distinguishing which of them, upon such Application, have assented to, or dissented from, such intended Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, or such Alteration, or are **Neuter** in respect thereto.

5. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That, whenever any Petition is presented to the House for any or either of the Purposes aforesaid, there shall be presented, with such Petition, the Lists mentioned in the last preceding Resolution, and also a Duplicate of the Map or Plan so to be deposited at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace as aforesaid.

6. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That, whenever any Petition is presented to the House for making, varying, or altering, any such Cut, Canal, or Aqueduct, as aforesaid, or making or improving the Navigation of a River, there be annexed to the said Petition an Estimate of the proposed Expence of such Undertaking (in Cases where Provision is intended to be made for raising Money to defray such Expence) such Estimate to be signed by the Person or Persons making the same ; and, if such Money is proposed to be raised by Subscription, that there be also annexed to the said Petition, an Account of the Money subscribed for that Purpose, and the Names of the Subscribers, with the Sums by them subscribed respectively.

7. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That, whenever any Petition has been presented to the House for the Purposes aforefaid, or any or either of them, the Committee, to whom such Petition shall be referred, do examine, in the First Place, how far the Orders contained in the preceding Resolutions have been complied with; and do report the same, at the Time when they report the Matter of any such Petition, as it shall appear to them, to the House.

8. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That there be Seven Days between the First and Second Reading of such Bills.

9. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That all Persons, Owners, or reputed Owners, and Occupiers, of the Land through which any such Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, is intended to be carried, or any such Alteration is intended to be made, do personally attend the Committee to whom such Bill shall be committed; or if they do not personally attend, do give their Certificate in Writing, signifying that they have seen a printed Copy of the said Bill, and do give their Consent, or Dissent thereto, or declare themselves Neuter in respect thereof; and that the Hand Writing of such Owner or Occupier to such Certificate be proved by One or more Witnesses before the said Committee; and that the said Committee shall report to the House, together with the Report of the said Bill, a List of the Names of such Persons who shall appear to them to have given such Assent, or Dissent, or to have been Neuter, in respect to the said Bill.

10. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That there be Seven Days between the Day on which such Bill is reported to the House, and the Day when the said Report shall be taken into Consideration.

11. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That, after such Bill is reported to the House, the Bill, as amended by the Committee, be printed, at the Expence of the Parties applying for the same, and be delivered at the Door to the Members of the House, Three Days at least before such Report shall be taken into Consideration.

12. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That the Clerks of the Peace, or their respective Deputies, do make a Memorial, in Writing, upon the Plan and Book of Reference deposited with them in Manner aforefaid, denoting the Time at which the same was lodged in their respective Offices; and do, at all reasonable Hours of the Day, permit any Person to view and examine the same, and to make Copies or Extracts therefrom, such Person paying for the same the usual and accustomed Fees paid to such Clerks of the Peace, for the Inspection, and Copying of, or making Extracts from, Records in their respective Offices.

13. On the 7th May, 1794, **RESOLVED**, That, in all Bills presented to the House for any or either of the Purposes aforefaid, Provision be made for compelling the Persons who have subscribed towards carrying any such Work into Execution, to make Payment of the Sums severally subscribed by them; and also to oblige the Commissioners or Trustees to take Security from their Treasurer, Receiver, or Collector, for the faithful Execution of his Office.

14. On the 16th June, 1795, **RESOLVED**, That, before any Application is made to the Houfe for the Purpofes fet forth in the Firft, Second, and Third Refolutions of the 7th Day of May 1794, relating to Navigable Canals, Aqueducts, and the Navigation of Rivers, a previous Application fhall be made to the Owners and Occupiers of the Lands in which any Refervoir is intended to be made or erected, and through which any Channel or Conveyance is intended to be made for the Purpofes of feeding or fupplying with Water, from the faid Refervoirs, any fuch Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation ; and that feperate Lifts fhall be made of fuch Owners and Occupiers, diftinguifhing which of them have affented to, or diffented from, the making or erecting any fuch Refervoirs or Channels therefrom, for the Purpofes above fpecified, or are neuter in refpect thereto ; and that the Chairman of the Committee, to whom the Petition for making any fuch Cut, Canal, Aqueduct, or Navigation, is referred, do report the fame to the Houfe.

And thefe Refolutions are made Standing Orders.

APPENDIX 6

Title: Notice of intention for application for Bill of Amendment and Extension dated 30 August 1798 from J & G Wright (Solicitors).

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office: Q/RUm/21a, pt3 (previously assigned as Q/RUm/25 pt3).

Notice is hereby given

That application is intended to be made to Parliament in the course of the next Sefions for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending, and extending, the Powers of the Acts pafed in the sixth¹ and tenth² years, of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal, from the River Severn between Bewdley and Tilton Brooke to the Trent and Mersey Canal at Haywood, in the County of Stafford. – the said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkswich, otherwise Befsage, Castle, Forebridge, St Mary ~~St Philip~~ and St Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to fupply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

30th August 1798

J & G W Solicitors

My Comments and Notes

The following was written on the other side of the paper:
“The Stafford and Radford Canal Notice”.

(1) 6 Geo III. C97

(2) 10 Geo III. C103

APPENDIX 7

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser* (8 September 1798).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the River Severn, &c. to the Trent and Merley Canal, at Haywood, in the County of Stafford, the said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkswich otherwise Ballage, Castle, Forebridge, St. Philip, and St. Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

J. & G. W. Solicitors

APPENDIX 8

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *London Gazette* page 866 (11 September 1798) and page 880 (15 September 1798).

Notice is hereby given, that Application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Session for Leave to bring in a Bill for the Purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the 6th and 10th Years of His present Majesty, "for making and maintaining a Navigable Cut or Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Tilton Brook, in the County of Worcester, to cross the River Trent, at or near Heywood Mill, in the County of Stafford, and to communicate with a Canal intended to be made between the said River Trent and the River Merley;" the said Bill being intended to give Powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkswich, otherwise Ballage, Castle Forebridge, St. Philip, and St. Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

APPENDIX 9

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament (Parish of St. Mary added).

Reference: *London Gazette* pages 889 & 890 (18 September 1798), page 902 (22 September 1798) and page 908 (25 September 1798).

Notice is hereby given, that Application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Session for Leave to bring in a Bill for the Purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the 6th and 10th Years of His present Majesty, “for making and maintaining a Navigable Cut or Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Tilton Brook, in the County of Worcester, to cross the River Trent, at or near Heywood Mill, in the County of Stafford, and to communicate with a Canal intended to be made between the said River Trent and the River Mersey;” the said Bill being intended to give Powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, at or near Ratford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkswich, otherwise Balfage, Castle Forebridge, St. Philip, St. Chad, and St. Mary, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

APPENDIX 10

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser* (15 September 1798).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the River Severn, &c. to the Trent and Mersey Canal, at Haywood, in the County of Stafford, the said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkswich otherwise Balfage, Castle, Forebridge, St. Philip, and St. Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

J. & G. W. Solicitors

APPENDIX 11

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 22 September 1798.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That application is intended to be made to Parliament in the course of the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the River Severn, **between Bewdley and Tilton Brook**, to the Trent and Merley Canal, at Haywood, in the County of Stafford, the said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkwich otherwise Ballage, Castle, Forebridge, St. Philip, **St. Mary**, and St. Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

J. & G. W. Solicitors

APPENDIX 12

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 29 September 1798, **6 October 1798**.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Tilton Brook, to the Trent and Merley Canal, at Haywood, in the County of Stafford, the said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parishes of Berkwich otherwise Ballage, Castle, Forebridge, St. Philip, **St. Mary**, and St. Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

J. & G. W. Solicitors

APPENDIX 13

Title: Notice of a meeting at the County Hall (Stafford) 10 December 1798.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 08 December 1798.

INTENDED CANAL From RADFORD to STAFFORD

Notice is hereby given, that a Meeting of the Land Owners on the Rivers Penk and Sow, and others interested in the consequences of the above-mention'd Canal, will be held at the Grand Jury Room in the County Hall, Stafford, on Monday next, the 10th instant, at ten o'clock in the Forenoon, to consider of the following Question:

What measures it may be proper to adopt, (in case the said projected Canal is carried into execution), to indemnify the Land Owners on the Line of the said Canal, and such others as may be eventually affected, by the two Aqua-ducts intended to be erected across the Rivers Penk and Sow.

APPENDIX 14

Title: Report of a meeting at the Swan Inn (Stafford) 9 January 1799.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 12 January 1799.

On Wednesday last, a general meeting was held at the Swan Inn, to consider of the intended application to Parliament for a Canal from Radford to this town, when the measure met with the concurrence of the inhabitants.

APPENDIX 15

Title: Draft letter dated 13 February 1799 to obtain support from Hon. Edward Monckton & Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

Reference: British Waterways Archive, Gloucester (BW 450.94).

Stafford February 13th 1799

Gentlemen Sir

At a very respectable Meeting of the Inhabitants of this town held at the Swan Inn the (*blank*) day of (*blank*) last for the purpose of taking into consideration a proposed Plan of making a Collateral Branch from the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal at Radford to the town of Stafford.

It was unanimously Agreed that such an undertaking will be of General Public Utility & will particularly benefit the town & Trade of Stafford – Which Resolutions have been since signed by upwards of 200 of the Principal Inhabitants.

Convinced of the expediency of the Measure We beg leave to solicit your assistance in obtaining powers from Parliament to make & maintain such collateral Branch & earnestly request your Interest and support of a Bill to be introduced into the House of Commons this Session for that purpose which we shall consider as favor conferred on.

~~Gentlemen~~ Sir
Your very humble servants

To
The Hon'ble Edward Monckton
& Richard Brinsley Sheridan Esq^{re}

APPENDIX 16

Title: Letter from James Perry (Wolverhampton) to Collins & Keen (Stafford).

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office: Q/RUm/21a, pt4 (previously assigned as Q/RUm/25 pt4).

Wolverhampton 20 Feb^y 1799

Gent^m

You have by you a Plan of the Canal from Radford Bridge to the Town of Stafford, also of two Reservoirs ~~from~~ one is Sardon Valley, the other on Penn Wood Common in the County of Stafford; please to Annex them to the enclosed List of the Land Owners, and Land occupiers, in the tracts of the said Canal and Reservoirs.

I am Sirs,

Your very obed Serv^t

James Perry.

[Envelope addressed to Me^s Collins + Keen Attorneys at Law, Stafford]

APPENDIX 17

Title: The Petition presented to Parliament on 25 February 1799 to bring in a Parliamentary Bill for the Stafford Branch from the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal at Radford, with a reservoir.

Reference: House of Commons Journal: Volume 54 page 211.

Petition to amend the Staffordshire and Worcesterhire Canal Act.

A Petition of the Company of Proprietors of the *Staffordshire* and *Worcesterhire* Canal Navigation, under their Common Seal, was presented to the House, and read; Setting forth, That the Petitioners have proceeded to execute Two Acts, passed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of the Reign of His present Majesty, for making and maintaining a navigable Cut or Canal from the River *Severn* between *Bewdley* and *Titon Brooke*, in the County of *Worcester*, to cross the River *Trent* at or near *Haywood Mill*, in the County of *Stafford*, and to communicate with a Canal intended to be made between the River *Trent* and the River *Mersey*; and that it appears, from Surveys since taken, that a Navigable Cut or Canal, for Boats and other Vessels, may be made and extended from the *Staffordshire* and *Worcesterhire* Canal Navigation, from or near a Place called *Radford Bridge*, in the County of *Stafford*, to or near the County Town of *Stafford*; and that, by Means of such Cut or Canal, the said Town of *Stafford* and its Neighbourhood will be more regularly, and on lower Terms, supplied with Coal and Merchandise than at present; and that it is found necessary to give a better Supply of Water to the said *Staffordshire* and *Worcesterhire* Canal Navigation, to make one or more Reservoirs, with Cuts to convey the said Water from the said Reservoirs into the said Canal Navigation, and it is necessary also to make Side Cuts and Railways for more conveniently using, maintaining, and extending, the said Canal Navigation, and also to amend the Powers of the said Acts: And therefore praying, That Leave may be given to bring in a Bill for making and maintaining a Navigable Cut or Canal communicating with the *Staffordshire* and *Worcesterhire* Canal Navigation, at or near *Radford Bridge*, to, or near to, the Town of *Stafford*, and for other the Purposes of this Petition, in such Manner as to the House shall seem meet.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee: And that they do examine the Matter thereof; and report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the House:

And it is referred to Mr. *John Pitt*, Mr. *Jodrell*, &c.: And they are to meet To-morrow Morning, at Nine of the Clock, in the Speaker's Chamber; and have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

APPENDIX 18

Title: Letter from John Wright of Stafford dated 29 August 1799 to Mr Jesson (Clerk of S&WCCo) about the Stafford Branch of Canal & Wharf on the river, & parishes to be mentioned from John Wright dated to Mr Jesson (Clerk of S&WCCo).

Reference: British Waterways Archive, Gloucester: BW 456.94.

Stafford 29th Aug^t 1799

Dear Sir

I am very glad to find that the S&W Canal Company mean to persevere in their intended plan of a Cut from Radford to Stafford, on the scale of bringing it to the Bridge at Stafford is made only go through the Parishes of Berkswich alias Balsage, & Castle Church often called Forebridge but if it sho'd happen that a Wharf or any use is made on the North side of the River near Stafford you should then insert in the Advertizement for safety the Parishes of St.Mary & St.Chad the only ones in the Borough – No other parish can interfere in the Plan to the Bridge – Wishing the scheme succels & with my best Comp^s to your Father & friend. I am,

Your obed^t Hble Serv^t
John Wright

APPENDIX 19

Title: List of 'Land Owners and length' written on Thomas Dadford's 1799 Map (Deposited 27 September 1799).

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office: Q/RUm/25, pt2 (previously assigned as Q/RUm/25 pt6).

No	Land Owners	Length (Chains Links)
1	Mr Edw ^d Wright	4.50
2	Mr Henry Webb	12.50
3	Mr Edw ^d Drakeford	25.26
4	S ^r W ^m Jerningham	15.81
5	Stafford School	7~
6	M ^{rs} Plant	9.62
7	M ^r Tho ^s Mottershaw	11~
8	Mifs Crutchley	18.20
9	Jn ^o Hughes	4.72
10	River Penk	1~
Total	Whole length	109.67

Length : 1 mile + 3/8

APPENDIX 20 (a, b)

Title: List of Land Owners and Occupiers of the Lands.

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office: Q/RUm/21a, pt2).

(a) A list of the **Owners** or reputed Owners of the Lands through which the Extension of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal from or from near Radford Bridge to or near to the Town of Stafford is intended to pass distinguishing which of them Assent, Dissent or are Neither.

No	Land Owners Names	Assent or Dissent
1	Sir William Jerningham	Assent
2	Mr Henry Webb	Dissent
3	Edward Drakeford Esq	Assent
4	Sir William Jerningham	Assent
5	Stafford School Lands	Assent
6	Mr John Plant	Dissent
7	Mr Tho ^s Mottershaw	Assent
8	Mifs Crutchleys	Assent
9	Mr John Hughes	Dissent

(b) A list of the **Occupiers** of the Lands through which the Extension of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal from or from near Radford Bridge to or near to the Town of Stafford is intended to pass distinguishing which of them Assent, Dissent or are Neither.

No	Land Occupiers Names	Assent or Dissent
1	Mr John Williamson	Assent
	Mr Will ^m Keen	Assent
	Mr Fran Brooks	Assent
	Mr John Marsh	Assent
	Mrs Mary Peak	Assent
2	Mr Henry Webb	Dissent
3	The Revd Rathbone, Shawcrofs & Yates	Assent
4	Mr Robert Silvester	Assent
5	Mr Warren + Mr Wright	Assent
6	Mr John Plant	Dissent
7	Mr Sam ^l Mottershaw Kent	Assent
8	Mifs Crutchley Mr Sam ^l Kent	Assent
9	Mr John Hughes	Dissent

Two other lists of Owners were included: for the Sardon* Valley Reservoir and then for Penn Wood Common.

[*Saredon.]

APPENDIX 21 (a, b, c)

Title: List of the Land Owners and Tenants on the Line of the intended Canal from Radford to or near the Town of Stafford and from the intended Reservoirs near Sardon and on Penn Wood in the County of Stafford. (The Adams Plan 1798).

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office: D3186/8/1/30/7b.

Note: On the reverse of this document is written:

“Feb^y 20 1799 Sent a copy thereof
To Mefs^s Keen + Collins Stafford
by Edward Ward”

List of the Land Owners and Tenants on the:

(21a) intended Canal from Radford to or near the Town of Stafford:

No	Land Owners Names	Tenants Names	Distances Chains Links	Afsents or Difsents
1	S ^r William Jerningham	M ^r Williamsons Meadow adjoining the old Gaol Ground	6 – 0	Afsents
1	Do	2 Meadows M ^r Keen	0 – 37	Afsents
1	Do	2 Meadows M ^r Brooks	10 – 0	Afsents
1	Do	M ^r Marsh	6 – 0	Afsents
	Turnpike Road to Uttoxeter	-----	0 – 03	-----
1	S ^r Will ^m Jerningham	M ^r Peak	14 – 71	Afsents
2	M ^r Henry Webb	M ^r Henry Webb	3 – 40	Difsents
3	----- Drakeford Esq	The Rev ^d M ^r Rathbone J Kingston, Shawcrofs and Yates	27 – 67	Afsents on giving him ????
4	S ^r W ^m Jerningham	M ^r Rob ^t Silvester	7 – 64	Afsents
5	Stafford School Lands	M ^r Warren, M ^r Wright	7 – 32	Afsents
6	M ^r Plant	M ^r Plant	0 – 26	Difsents
7	M ^r Mottershaw	M ^r Sam ^l Kent	14 – 0	Afsents
8	Mifs Crutchley	M ^r Sam ^l Kent	19 – 01	Afsents
9	M ^r John Hughes	M ^r John Hughes	4 – 93	Difsents
	River Sow	-----	0 – 41	-----

(21b) Intended Reservoir in Sardon Valley.

Land Owners Names	Tenants Names	Afsents or Dfsents
Rev ^d John St Petits	M ^r Stephen Pratt	Afsents
Rev ^d John Clare	Rev ^d John Clare	Afsents
John Perks Esq	Rev ^d John Clare	Afsents
Gough W Thompson	His Steward has wrote but we have no anfwer.	to him
Mifs Mary Littlehales	M ^r Molineux	will exchange
Rev ^d John St Petit	Henry Hordern	Afsents
Stephen Pratt	M ^r Step ⁿ Pratt	Afsents
S ^{ir} Edw Littleton Bar ^t	M ^r Lovat	Afsents
Matthew Boulton Esq	M ^r Stephen Pratt	Afsents

(21c) Intended Reservoir on Penn Wood Common in the County of Stafford.

Land Owner's Name		
Marquis of Stafford	Lord of the Manor	Afsents

APPENDIX 22

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser* (7 September 1799; 14 &, 21 September 1799).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That Application is intended to be made to Parliament in the courfe of the next Seffions, for leave to bring in a Bill for amending and extending the Powers of the Acts paffed in the 6th and 10th years of the reign of his prefent Majefty, for making and maintaining a navigable Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Tifton Brook, to the Trent and Merfey Canal at Haywood, in the County of Stafford; the laid Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a navigable Canal from the Staffordfhire and Worcefterfhire Canal, at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the parifhes of Berkfwich, otherwife Baffage, and Cattle Church, otherwife Forebridge, with other collateral Cuts and Refervoirs to fupply the laid Staffordfhire and Worcefterfhire Canal with Water.

JOHN JESSON, JUN.
Solicitor

September 2nd, 1799.

APPENDIX 23

Title: Notice of intention to apply to Parliament.

Reference: *London Gazette*: page 932 (10 September 1799), page 946 (14 September 1799) and page 959 (17 September 1799).

Notice is hereby given, that Application is intended to be made to Parliament in the Courfe of next Seflions, for Leave to bring in a Bill for amending and extending the Powers of the Acts, paffed in the Sixth and Tenth Years of the Reign of His prefent Majefty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Tifton Brook, to the Trent and Merfey Canal at Haywood, in the County of Stafford ; the laid Bill being intended to give Powers to make and maintain a Navigable Canal from the Staffordfhire and Worcefterfhire Canal, at or near Radford Bridge, to or near the Town of Stafford, in the Parifhes of Berkfwick, otherwife Ballage and Caftle Church, otherwife Forebridge, with other collateral Cuts and Refervoirs, to fupply the laid Staffordfhire and Worcefterfhire Canal with Water.

John Jesson, junior, Solicitor.

September 2, 1799.

APPENDIX 24

Title: Thomas Dadford's Estimate for making the Stafford Canal dated 17 September 1799 and deposited 27 September 1799.

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office. Q/RUm/25 pt3 (previously assigned as Q/RUm/25 pt1).

		£	s	d
Estimate for Making the Stafford Canal				
2451 Yard of Cutting Canal in length	@5s	612	15	-
Extra Cutting and Banking		200	-	-
100 Yards in Length, Tunneling @ N ^o 3 + 4	@£3	300	-	-
Aqueduct over the River Penk		1000	-	-
Supose 5 Bridges	@£50	250	-	-
207 Rood of Fencing with Tow paths and back				
	Drains @14s	144	18	-
10 Acres of Land – Supose @£80		800	-	-
Obtaining the Act of parliament Suppose		500	-	-
Making Wharfs near Stafford ... Suppose		200	-	-
		4007	13	0
Agency ^s unforeseen Expenses &c Suppose 10 per C		400	0	0
		4407	13	0

Tho^s Dadford
17 Sep^r 1799

APPENDIX 25

Title: A handwritten Notice dated 27 September 1799 by J.Jesson to bring in a Parliamentary Bill for the Stafford Branch from the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal at Radford, with a reservoir.

Reference: British Waterways Archive, Gloucester: BW 457.94.

Notice is hereby given that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the course of the next Sefsions for leave to bring in a Bill for amending and extending the powers of the Acts pafsed in the sixth and tenth years of the Reign of His present Majesty for making and maintaining a navigable Cut or Canal from the River Severn between Bewdley and Titton Brook to the River Trent at or near Heywood in the County of Stafford. The said Bill being intended to give powers to make and maintain a navigable Canal from the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal at or near Radford Bridge to or near the town of Stafford thro' the parishes of Berkswich otherwise Bafsage and Castle Church otherwise Forebridge with other collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with water.

J.Jefson Jun
Soll^r
September 27th 1799.

APPENDIX 26

Title: Letter from John Jesson (Wolverhampton) to Collins and Keen (Stafford) dated 30 April 1800.

Reference: Staffordshire Record Office. Q/RUm/25 pt4 (previously assigned as Q/RUm/25 pt2).

Wolverhampton Ap^l 30th 1800

Gentlemen

Upon reference to my papers I find that I deposited the Plan of the proposed Branch from Radford Bridge to Stafford with you on the 27th of September last I'll thank you not to return the Writ of pofsefion agt* Mr Fowler (?) till you hear further from me, as I hope I shall be able to establish our title to the land upon the production of the Writ, ifsued + proof of its execution. I remain Gentlⁿ, Your obt Serv^t

Jn^o.Jefson Jnr

To: Messers Collins + Keen, Stafford. Postmarked "WOLVERHAMPTON".

Observation and Note: The last part of this letter has a "X" (cross) through it. If made by Messers Collins & Keen might suggest the letter had been acted upon; if made by John Jesson might suggest the letter was only a draft.

(*): agt = against

APPENDIX 27

Title: Table of the number of Acts of Parliament relating to building new canals or modifying existing canals between 1787 and 1803.

Reference: *A Chronology of Inland Navigation in Great Britain* by de Salis (1896).

Year	Acts relating to Canals		Year	Acts relating to Canals
1787	0		1796	4
1788	1		1797	1
1789	2		1798	0
1790	3		1799	0
1791	8		1800	1
1792	8		1801	2
1793	22		1802	3
1794	13/14		1803	3
1795	7		1804	0

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