

THE PROPOSED STAFFORD AND RADFORD CANAL:

1797-1800

Researched and written by

David Jones

Introduction

Between 1797 and 1800 the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Company 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, some 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 at the time. House of Commons and House of Lords Journals indicated Parliamentary progress, and advice was sought from the House of Commons Enquiry Service and from the History of Parliament Trust.

Four secondary sources served as starting points:

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

Background

The main line of the Staffordshire and 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; 46½ miles long, it runs from the junction with the Trent & Mersey 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

Work started soon after the Bill had passed, at Compton (now part 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 Staffs & Worcs 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 99), and then taken by cart to Stafford along the Lichfield Road. Transshipment incurs costs and in those days transporting goods by road had its own challenges; roads lacked a weather-proof surface so were often uneven, potholed, dusty in summer, muddy quagmires when wet, and could be impassable in winter. Transporting goods the 1½ miles by cart had economic and physical limitations.

But when did the Staffs & Worcs Canal Company begin to consider building a branch canal from the main line at Radford Bank to Stafford to overcome 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. 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 in 1787 for a 1.54 miles (123.24 chains) long lock-free branch canal from Radford to Stafford with an aqueduct over the River Penk. He produced a map of the route and a list of landowners, noting the length of their land adjoining the canal.¹²

The proposed branch would 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/s, 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 who would be affected? In the absence of Canal Company Committee Meeting Minutes between 1785 and 1803¹³, 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, in March 1797, when a General Meeting of the Canal Company revived the scheme and suggested that "a deputation from the town be invited to discuss it."¹⁴

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". It is likely that at some stage this would involve Stafford's two MP's, Edward Monckton and Richard Sheridan, the playwright (and owner of the Theatre Royal in London's Drury Lane) who wrote *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal*.

The Notice¹⁵ appeared in three consecutive issues of the *Staffordshire Advertiser* – 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>
--

There must have been concerns about Dadford's 1787 scheme because the Company produced a new plan which although shorter, 1.37 miles (109.67 chains) as opposed to 1.54 miles, had two aqueducts and its terminus was further into the town across the River Sow. The surveyor was John Adams and the plan¹⁶ was deposited with the Quarter Sessions on 2 January 1798.

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 Gaol Square in Stafford. However, although the route was shorter, the scheme would be much more expensive.

There seems to have been some 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*¹⁷ :

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.

Staffordshire Advertiser : 10 February 1798

What happened at that meeting is unknown, but for whatever reason/s the Canal Company did not proceed and the plan was not submitted in that session of Parliament. Perhaps there was insufficient Parliamentary time left? But I suspect the reasons were closer to home, some of the landowners objected to the scheme.

The 1798/1799 Plan

By mid-August 1798, the Canal Company had had time to reconsider their strategy and seemed better prepared.

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 *the Parishes of Berkswich, otherwise Belsage, Castle, Forebridge, St Mary St-Philip and St Chad, Stafford*”.

The change of wording might give the Company some flexibility of where the branch would leave the main canal, and for the first time the parishes along the route were named. On this document, for some reason, there is a line through “St Philip”.¹⁸ Written on the back of the document is “The Stafford and Radford Canal Notice.”

The Company’s Notice of Intention appeared in five consecutive issues of the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, from 8 September to 6 October 1798. In the first two issues¹⁹, the parish of St Mary was omitted but was reinstated in the last three²⁰ but after St Philip rather than before – see below for the final version.

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 Tipton 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 Berkswich otherwise Baffage, 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.

Staffordshire Advertiser : 22 & 29 September and 6 October 1798 Version

The omission of the parish of St Mary was unfortunate, as we shall see.

On 8 December 1798 a Notice²¹ 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* 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 don't know the outcome of this meeting but it seems 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* 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.”²²

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.”²³

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 would pass.^{24a,b,c.}

Messers Collins & Keen, Attorneys at Law based in Stafford, were now acting for the Canal Company and on 20 February 1799 were sent a list²⁵ 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?

Presumably the Canal Company also included “an Account of the Money subscribed for carrying the said Work into Execution, and the Names of the Subscribers, with the Sums respectively subscribed by them”²⁶ as specified by Parliamentary Standing Order? Unfortunately no such documents appear to have survived, so we can’t be sure who supported the scheme or how much money had been pledged.

Parliament at last

Four days later, on Monday 25 February 1799, the Petition to amend the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Act to bring in a Bill for the Stafford Branch came before Parliament, and was recorded in the *House of Commons Journal*²⁷. 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 House of Lords Journals for 1799²⁸ either, although the Oxford Canal and Thames & Isis Navigation were discussed on 26 February. No Bill was introduced. What might have happened? The *Staffordshire Advertiser* is silent.

It is unfortunate that all Petitions lodged before 1834 were destroyed by fire when both Houses of Parliament burned down.²⁹ Fortunately the Journals survived.

Perhaps the wording in the Petition about 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 (1 September 1797) which didn't mention the parishes along the route. The wording that had been published in the *latest* Notice of Intention (30 August 1798) specified the parishes of “*Berkswich, otherwise Belsage, Castle, Forebridge, St Philip, St Mary and St Chad*”.

There is an inconsistency between what the Company had advertised and the Petition presented to Parliament. Perhaps this invalidated the Petition? Perhaps opponents of the scheme were concerned that the wording was too open-ended? Had the Company been deliberately devious or was this an unfortunate oversight?

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?³⁰

However, it is likely that the bill was dropped by the sponsors (the Canal Company) during the committee stage, probably once the scale of potential objections from those with an interest became apparent. 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. Unfortunately there are no formal records of private bill committees and because the local press is silent on the issue, it is likely that the bill would have lapsed. Petitions for private bills often fell foul of the various technical rules and regulations, so this is not uncommon.³⁰

Perhaps one of the lawyers drew the Committee's attention to a Resolution made in the Standing Order of 25 April 1774 regarding Turnpike roads about Notices of Intention? –

“That this Notice be given by affixing to the Door of the Sessions House where such General Quarter Sessions are held, a printed or written Paper, describing the Parishes through which the said Road passes or is intended to pass; and the such Notice be also printed in some one News-paper of the County, Three times at least in the months of August and September, or either of them, immediately preceding the Session of Parliament in which such Petition is to be presented”.³¹

Although this Resolution relates to petitions regarding Turnpike roads, it may be that the same principles were applied to other petitions informally without being included in a separate Standing Order?

The correct Notice, of course, with the parish of St Mary reinstated, had appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* on three occasions (22 & 29 September and 6 October 1798) but unfortunately only twice in the September, and the other in October was invalid, so it seems the criteria were not met. A technicality perhaps?

It seems reasonable to conclude that the Company quickly realised that the scheme as presented was unlikely to meet with parliamentary approval and had decided on a different strategy, with a modified route, which would possibly be less costly and/or meet with less opposition from landowners? It was not long before the Canal Company acted.

The 1799/1800 Plan

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.”³²

And two and a half weeks later (11 April 1799) a “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.”³³ Sir William Jerningham, (the 6th baronet Stafford) was an important landowner who had always supported the building of a branch canal.

It looks as though the Canal Company were getting ready for another attempt at taking a petition to Parliament.

On 2 September 1799 a Notice³⁴ was signed by John Jesson (Junior), solicitor for the Company, similar to that issued 12 months before (30 August 1798), 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 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 succeeds & with my best Comp^s to your Father & friend.”³⁵

This new plan (dated 1799)³⁶ 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.

From Radford, after the aqueduct over the 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. 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 *Staffordshire Advertiser* (7, 14 and 21 September 1799).³⁴ This time there was to be no problem with the dates.

By 17 September 1799 Thomas Dadford had estimated the cost to be just over £4400.³⁷

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% was added for unforeseen expenses (£400) which brought the total to £4407 13s 0d.

(It does look as though this estimate may have replaced an earlier estimate, as mention is made of "Extra Cutting and Banking" presumably for the "100 yards of Tunnel".)

On 27 September 1799 John Jesson deposited with Collins & Keen (Stafford) the Plan, 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.³⁸

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 tenants; the other landowners rented their land to tenants, all of whom supported the proposal.

On the same day, John Jesson wrote a handwritten Notice³⁹ of Intention dated 27 September 1799, 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 not necessarily of any significance.

And what happened to this scheme? There is no evidence that it 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 backdrop 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. Perhaps Parliament had more urgent matters to address than a mundane canal extension application?

In all probability, the three landowners (and possibly others) continued objecting to the route passing through their land and the spectre of escalating parliamentary costs loomed. There were clearly influential forces against the scheme, and probably had been from the outset.

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 1799.⁴⁰

Clearly, any such discussions came to nothing and the Canal Company abandoned the idea of a Branch Canal. The idea of making a waterways connection between Stafford and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal would be left to others.

Transporting goods by cart between Radford and Stafford continued to be unsatisfactory 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 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 started 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 events of 1805 to 1816 are considered in another chapter.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

(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).
- *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.)
- *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

- *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.
- *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga* by Roy Lewis 2012.

(C) Email Correspondence with:

- (i) House of Commons Enquiry Service (Rachel Holland).
 - (ii) History of Parliament Trust (Connie Jeffery).
 - (iii) National Waterways Archive (Linda Barley).
 - (iv) Staffordshire Record Office (Rebecca Jackson and Liz Street).
 - (v) Wolverhampton City Archives (Christine Brown).
-

REFERENCES AND NOTES

- (1) Charles Hadfield *Canals of the West Midlands*: p130: "In 1798 a rather elaborate branch to Stafford had been considered, with aqueducts over the Sow and Penk, and a notice issued." [With Reference: *Staffordshire Advertiser* 10 Feb, 8 Sept 1798.]
- (2) J.Ian Langford (1974): p41-42: "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: (1970): "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". The one page appendix (1994) mentions Dadford's 1787 plan, Adams 1798 plan and Dadford's September 1799 plan and estimate.
- (4) Roy Lewis, *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga*, 2012.
- (5) 6 Geo III C97.
- (6) Charles Hadfield, *Canals of the West Midlands*, 1969, page 49.
- (7) S&WCCo Committee Minute Book 6 November 1770.
- (8) 10 Geo III C103.
- (9) Charles Hadfield, *Canals of the West Midlands*, 1969, page 50.
- (10) Roy Lewis, *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga*, 2012, page 2.
- (11) TNA: S&WCCo Committee Meeting Minutes 1766-1785: RAIL 871/1.
- (12) SRO: Q/RUm/25: List of Landowners and length (relating to Dadford's 1787 Map).
- (13) TNA: S&WCCo Committee Meeting Minutes 1785-1803: RAIL 871: (No known surviving Minute Books).
- (14) Lewis, *Radford to Stafford – A Transport Saga*, 2012, page 2.
- (15) *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 9, 16 and 23 September 1797. Notice of Intention.
- (16) SRO: Q/RUm/21a: Adams' Plan.
- (17) *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 10 February 1798. Notice of Meeting at the *Swan Inn*.
- (18) SRO: Q/RUm/21a : 30 August 1798 Handwritten Notice of Intention.
- (19) *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 8 & 15 September 1798. Notice of Intention.
- (20) *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 22 & 29 September & 6 October 1798. Notice of Intention.
- (21) *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 8 December 1798: Notice of Meeting at County Hall.
- (22) *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 12 January 1799: Report of Meeting at the *Swan Inn*.
- (23) BW 450.94: Draft letter dated 13 February 1799 to Stafford's two MPs.
- (24a) BW 454.94: Letter dated 14 February 1799 relating to Mr Drakeford.
- (24b) BW 451.94: Mr Drakeford Draft agreement (undated).
- (24c) BW 452.94: Mr Drakeford Draft agreement (plus amendments) (undated).
- (25) SRO: Q/RUm/21a or new Q/RUm/25 pt4: Letter dated 20 February 1799 from James Perry to Collins & Keen.
- (26) House of Commons Standing Order: 25 April 1774.
- (27) House of Commons Journal: 25 February 1799: Volume 54 page 211.
- (28) House of Lords Journal 1799: Main Papers: HL/PO/JO/10/7/1080 to /1109.
- (29) Parliamentary Archives: section on Petitions.
- (30) Information from *History of Parliament Trust* (Ms Connie Jeffery, Dr Philip Salmon & Dr Paul Seaward) 7 July 2020.
- (31) House of Commons Standing Order 25 April 1774 (Reply from Ms Rachel Holland of the House of Commons Enquiry Service 10 July 2020).
- (32) BW 448.94: Memorandum from Meeting at Stone: 25 March 1799.
- (33) BW 447.94: Memorandum from John Bishton at *Red Lion*: 11 April 1799.

- (34)** *Staffordshire Advertiser* : 7, 14 & 21 September 1799. Notice of Intention.
 - (35)** BW 456.94: Letter from John Wright dated 29 August 1799.
 - (36)** SRO: D3186/8/1/30/120: Dadford's Plan dated 1799.
 - (37)** SRO: Q/RUm/25: Dadford's estimate dated 17 September 1799.
 - (38)** SRO: Q/RUm/25, Q/RUm/21a and D3186/8/1/30/7b. List of landowners & tenants.
 - (39)** BW 457.94: Handwritten Notice dated 27 September 1799 signed by J.Jesson.
 - (40)** SRO: Q/RUm/25: Letter dated 30 April 1800 from John Jesson.
-

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 1787: Thomas Dadford's Map and List of Land Owners and length 123.24 chains (Appendix 1).
- 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 23 1797: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser*.
- **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 appears in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 2).
- Feb 13 1798: Meeting at Swan Inn Stafford.

- Aug 30 1798: **Second Notice of Intention** issued by J & G Wright Solicitors (Appendix 3)
- Sept 8 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 4)
- Sept 15 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 5)
- Sept 22 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 6)
- Sept 29 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 7a)
- Oct 6 1798: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 7b)
- Dec 8 1798: Notice in *Staffordshire Advertiser* of Meeting at County Hall for landowners and others (Appendix 8)
- 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 (Appendix 9)
- Feb 13 1799: Draft letter to Edward Monckton and Richard Brinsley Sheridan (Appendix 10)
- 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 11)
- **Feb 25 1799:** Stafford Branch Petition introduced in Parliament (Appendix 12)
- **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 13)
- Sept 2 1799: **Third Notice of Intention** issued by John Jesson.
- Sept 7 1799: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 17)
- Sept 14 1799: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 17)
- Sept 21 1799: Notice published in *Staffordshire Advertiser* (Appendix 17)
- Sept 17 1799: Thomas Dadford's Estimate, deposited 27 Sept (Appendix 18)
- 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 14, 15 &16)
- Sept 27 1799: Handwritten Notice from John Jesson to bring in a Parliamentary Bill for the Stafford Branch (Appendix 19)
- April 30 1800: Letter from John Jesson (Wolverhampton) to Collins & Keen (Stafford) about establishing title to some land (Appendix 20)

APPENDICES

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

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: 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 alfo on the Sow, between Saint Thomas and Bridgford, are particularly requested to attend a Meeting at the Swan Inn, Stafford, on Tuefday next the 13th of February infant, at two o'Clock, to confider whether the Acqueducts to the propofed Canal from Radford Bridge to Stafford, (which is intended to be brought into Parliament this Seffion) will not materially injure the Meadows on thofe Lines.

Stafford, 8th February, 1798.

APPENDIX 3

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 Sefsions for leave to bring in a Bill for the purpose of amending, and extending, the Powers of the Acts pafsed in the sixth¹ and tenth² years, of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a Navigable Canal, from the River Severn between Bewdley and Titton 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 Belsage, Castle, Forebridge, St Mary ~~St Philip~~ and St Chad, Stafford, with other Collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

30th August 1798

J & G W Solicitors

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 4

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 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, 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 5

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 Berkwich 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 6

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 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*

APPENDIX 7

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 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*

APPENDIX 8

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-ducks intended to be erected across the Rivers Penk and Sow.

APPENDIX 9

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 10

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 Sesion 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 11

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 12

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 13

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 succesfs & with my best Comp^s to your Father & friend. I am,

Your obed^t Hble Serv^t

John Wright

APPENDIX 14

Title: 1799 Thomas Dadford's Map: List of Land Owners and length.

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 ^r 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 15 (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 Afsent, Difsent or are Neither.

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

(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 Sheen	Assent
	Mr Fran Brooks	Assent
	Mr John Marsh	Assent
	Mrs Mary Peak	Assent
2	Mr Henry Webb	Dissent
3	The Revd Rathbone, Shawcross & 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	Mrs 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 16 (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.

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

List of the Land Owners and Tenants on the:

(a) 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 Sheen	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	-----

(b) 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 anwer.	to him
Mifs Mary Littlehales	M ^r Molineux	will exchange
Rev ^d John St Petit	Henry Horder	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

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

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

APPENDIX 17

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 course of the next Sessions, for leave to bring in a Bill for amending and extending the Powers of the Acts passed in the 6th and 10th years of the reign of his present Majesty, for making and maintaining a navigable Canal from the River Severn, between Bewdley and Titton 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 Berkswich, otherwise Ballage, and Castle Church, otherwise Forebridge, with other collateral Cuts and Reservoirs to supply the said Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal with Water.

JOHN JESSON, JUN.
Solicitor

September 2nd, 1799.

APPENDIX 18

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	-	-
Suppose 5 Bridges	@£50	250	-	-
207 Rood of Fencing with Tow paths and back				
Drains @14s		144	18	-
10 Acres of Land – Suppose @£80		800	-	-
Obtaining the Act of parliament Suppose		500	-	-
Making Wharfs near Stafford ... Suppose		<u>200</u>	-	-
		4007	13	0
Agency ^s unforeseen Expenses &c Suppose 10 per C		<u>400</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		4407	13	0

Tho^s Dadford
17 Sep^r 1799

APPENDIX 19

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 Tilton 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 Balsage 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 20

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 po^sefion 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, if sued + 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. This was probably made by Messers Collins & Keen signifying that the letter had been acted upon, rather than by John Jesson which would have indicated that the letter was only a draft.

(*): agt = against

APPENDIX 21

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

© D J Jones 2020