



The canal at Semington (Kennet and Avon Canal the Wilts and Berks no longer exists here in 2016)

## Canal Cutting Wilts and Berks Canal

Notice is hereby given, that a General Meeting of the Committee of Management will be held at the Angel Inn, in Chippenham, on Wednesday the 17th day of August next, at noon, when the Committee will be ready to receive proposals from any person or persons desirous of contracting for the digging, puddling and completing such parts of the Line of Canal, as lie between the junction of the Kennet and Avon Canal, at Semington and Outmarsh, being a distance of about half a mile, and between Queen-field and Scanley, a distance of about four miles and a half; particulars of which may be known by applying to Mr. Whitworth, the Engineer, at the King's Arms Inn, in Melksham.

By order of the Committee,

July 23rd 1796

J. RALPH, Principal Clerk

### Reading Mercury, 15th August 1796

Monday last several gentlemen of the Wilts and Berks canal committee, sailed from the present termination of the line near Dauntsy Park to Cunigen Farm near Calne, where a tunnel is now making, which will pass under the turnpike road leading to Bath. From thence they proceeded to Chippenham, and the next day went down the canal to Semington, where it joins the Kennet and Avon navigation. A great concourse of spectators were assembled, who expressed their satisfaction by repeated huzzas, on this very pleasing occasion. The gentlemen of the committee were highly gratified with the appearance of the work, which is executed in a masterly manner. The Marquis of Lansdown, Lord Henry Petty, and Captain Lloyd of the navy, honoured the party with their presence on Monday, and accompanied them from Cadnam to the tunnel, and passed great encomiums on the work. The fertility of the country adjoining the canal, perhaps unrivalled in the kingdom, with the many towns, villages and mansions with which it is interspersed, afforded at once many beautiful and picturesque scenes, as well as tended to presage the future success of the scheme. – We understand that in the course of a month the tunnel near Calne will be completed, and the principal line will be navigable to the turnpike road at Dauntsey Park, near Lineham, and the branches to Chippenham and Calne, an extent of upwards of twenty miles. We sincerely hope that the navigation with which this is intended to be connected, will speedily be made to communicate with it, that the public may reap the advantage of this very useful undertaking.

### Oxford Journal 3rd August 1799

We have the pleasure of informing the public that the Wilts and Berks canal is now open, and completely navigable from Semington to Chippenham, Calne, Dauntsey Park and Bowdes Farm, near Wootton Bassett; and that there is now an uninterrupted communication by water from those places to Bath, and from thence by the Avon to Bristol. The canal promises to be of the greatest public utility, and considerable advantage to the individual subscribers. The neighbourhood on the line will also be more materially benefitted at this season, by obtaining a supply of coal at a cheap rate before winter, and the timber and other articles ready to be conveyed will create a very considerable trade immediately. **Oxford Journal, 14 November 1801**