

# LAPAL CANAL TRUST

## Restoration of Dudley No 2 Canal

(The 5.5 mile Lapal Link)

### History of Dudley No 1 Canal

**1775** Lord Dudley promoted the building of a Canal from Dudley to Stourton . Robert Whitworth was commissioned to survey the route.

**1776** April , Act of Parliament passed.

**1778** £16,200 raised.

**1779** First short link built from Dudley to join the canal from Stourbridge to the river Severn.

**1785** Act of Parliament passed for the Dudley tunnel link.

**1792** June, Dudley Tunnel completed to link the Stourbridge canal to the Birmingham Canal



### History of Dudley No 2 Canal

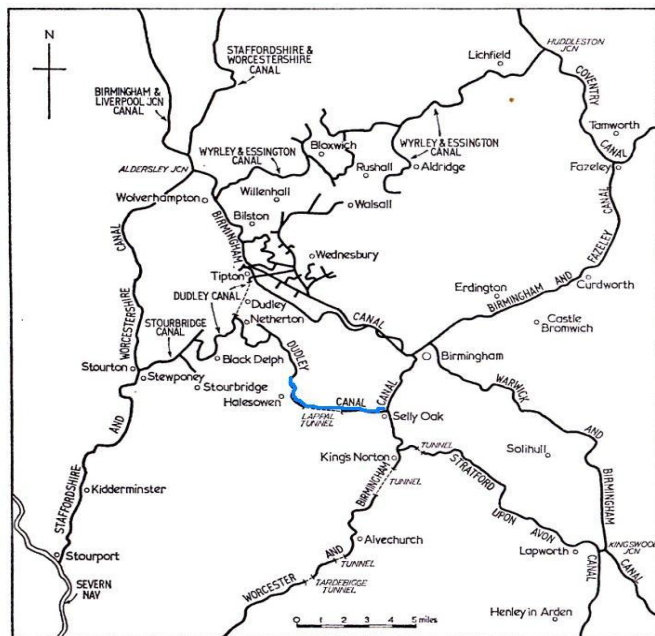
**1792** The owners of the Dudley No1 canal planned an extension of the Canal via Netherton to Selly Oak forming a new Southern route to supply goods and coal to London. Agreement reached in August.

**1793** Parliament approved the plan which received Royal Assent, a company was established with £90,000 authorised capital raised.

**1794** early work started with Josiah Clowes as engineer and William Underhill as resident engineer.

**1796** The original £90,000 spent and a further £40,000 raised.

**1798** May, work completed and the 11 miles Dudley No2 canal was opened to provide a bypass to avoid canal congestion and charges in central Birmingham.



Map 7 The Birmingham canals and their connections



Canal in Selly Oak Park

The Leasowes Valley was crossed by a famous 18 meter high embankment.



View of Historic Shenstone Gardens from 1755

The high ground of Woodgate watershed was crossed by a 2.2 mile tunnel, one of the longest in the UK.



100 meter Gorsty Hill Tunnel



Hawne Basin of Coombeswood Trust

**1801** First of many tunnel collapses.

**1841**, the superintendent of the canal, Thomas Brewin, devised a very successful scheme which used a steam pumping engine and stop locks at either end of the tunnel to create a flow to speed up traffic.

**1846** The moderately successful canal became part of the Birmingham Canal Network

### Decline of the Lapal link of Dudley No 2 Canal

**1917** there was a serious tunnel collapse, it was not reopened

**1926** Eastern section from Hawne Basin to the Selly Oak canal was formally closed

**1953** the 5.5 mile eastern section was abandoned



Junction of the Lapal Canal with the Worcester & Birmingham canal



# Restoration of the Lapal Link

**1990** the Lapal Canal Trust was formed to restore the canal

**1997** Dudley council restored the Leasowes Section

**2007** the canal trust commissioned Atkins to produce a feasibility study

**2008** Sainsbury's submitted a plan to the city council for a new shopping centre with restoration of the first section of the canal included in the plan

**2009** Birmingham Council reconstructed the Harborne Lane Canal Bridge



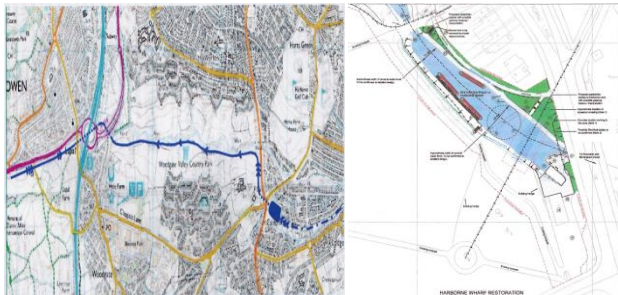
New Harborne Lane Bridge

## Atkins - Feasibility Study

Recommended to use an alternative route through Woodgate valley

Route would be cost effective and make greater use of the Woodgate Valley for the wider community of anglers, walkers, cyclists, canoeists as well as boaters. Canal could include a new marina and help to rejuvenate the heritage sites of Weoley Castle and St Mary's Abbey in Halesowen

Restoration to be done in stages, with estimated total cost of around £60m



Possible Alignment of the Restored Lapal Canal



[www.Facebook.com/Lapalcanaltrust](http://www.Facebook.com/Lapalcanaltrust)

[www.Lapal.org](http://www.Lapal.org)

**Sainsbury's proposals** revised proposal with new partner Land Securities granted planning permission in 2014 from Selly Oak to Harborne Lane Bridge



Sainsbury's current proposal 2014

## Summary of Benefits of Restoration

### Enhanced Leisure facilities

**Water based.** Canoeing, Angling, use by hire and privately owned boats, use by Trip and restaurants boats

**Land based activity.** Walking, Cycling, horse riding, sightseeing, picnicking, bird watching, Educational initiatives, health and fitness schemes

**New water feature** will greatly enhance both Selly Oak Park and the Woodgate Valley Parks



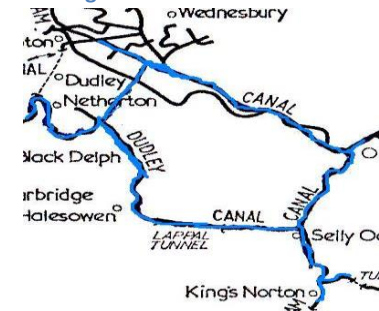
Harborne Wharf December 2015



**Encourage greater use of the attractive Woodgate Valley Park**

**Reinstate an important Birmingham Canal**

Navigation missing Link Creation of a new ring route around Birmingham



**Create additional employment during construction and also on completion**

Employment opportunities for a wide range of skills, opportunities to learn construction skills

On completion the canal will be a significant magnet to attract people, so new cafes and canal side restaurants could be expected within what is essentially an urban area  
Proposal to include a Marina in the California area, converting an unused area into a revenue earning facility

**Enhance Heritage sites adjacent to the canal**



St Mary's Abbey founded 1215 Weoley Castle Founded 1260