



GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Ted Homer

Introduction

In modern times, our landscape is brought into question much more frequently; how we try to preserve our heritage and natural aesthetic, but also how we try to utilise our land for new uses.

This project aims to comment on these changes to our land, and investigates whether our perspective on land heritage and tradition is changing or if its dependant to the region, social class, or any variable.

Gloucestershire mirrors many of these same concerns the country faces as a whole. The county has four distinct regions; The Forest of Dean, a heavily post industrial area. The Cotswolds, a designated area of outstanding beauty. The Severn Vale, an area of low lying land that follows the River Severn, and South Gloucestershire, a region that is made up of suburbs and commuter towns for Bristol.

Robinswood Hill, Severn Vale 2015

The hill was originally the main water source for Gloucester, with reservoirs built in the 1830's that supplied the city until 1924. At its highest point, it is 650ft above sea level. Because of this the hill gains from panoramic views of the Severn Vale, Forest of Dean, Malvern Hills and both Severn Bridges.

In 1972 the hill became a country park, and in 2003 it gained importance by becoming a local nature reserve. In this time the hill became home to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust headquarters, it also gained an artificial ski slope. The ski slope was also the place that Eddie the Eagle learnt to ski.



A38 Patchway, South Gloucestershire 2015

The A38 runs almost the full length of the county and has historically connected Gloucester and Bristol. Much of the A38 within Gloucestershire follows Roman roads and hasn't changed course much overtime. The main shift in the road's history was with the construction of the M5 (1962), which follows the route of the A38 closely and has taken much of the traffic from the road. This left many businesses and communities along the A38 affected, and there are still signs of this today with many pubs, petrol stations and hotels closed.

Stroud, Severn Vale 2016

The Cotswold Canals Trust is a charity that's aims to restore the Stroudwater Navigation and the Thames and Severn Canal. The trust was founded in 1972 by local enthusiasts, with the original idea of restoring only the Stroudwater Navigation, so the town of Stroud would be connected to the water ways again. However, as soon as the trust gained membership there was an obvious want to extend the restoration into the Thames and Severn Canal.

Currently, restoration work is taking part on a stretch of the canal that travels through the middle of Stroud. This a particularly difficult section of the restoration, with the restoration of 10 locks and rebuilding 10 bridges. This first section is part of Phase 1a of the restoration. (The trust has started to create funds to start work on Phase 1b, this phase will finally connect Stroud with Gloucester and Sharpness Canal.)



Chipping Campden, Cotswolds 2016

In the centre of Chipping Campden stands a 400 year old market hall. This market hall signifies the start of the Cotswold way. The Cotswold way is a long distance footpath that follows the Cotswold Edge escarpment south to Bath. The footpath is 102 miles long and the route travels over Cleeve Hill, which is the highest point in the Cotswolds, and subsequently, the highest point in Gloucestershire at 1,083 feet. The official record for running the footpath was set in 2012 by Darryl Carter, who ran it in 20 hours and 38 minutes.



Ruardean Hill, Forest of Dean 2016

At a height of 950 feet the village Ruardean Hill is the highest point of the Forest of Dean. In the village there is a viewpoint called 'Pan Tod Beacon'. At this viewpoint there is one of the three memorials dedicated to the forest's miners. This particular memorial was created in the memory of five miners from Ruardean hill who lost their lives in the mines.

Since the memorial was unveiled in 2008, it has been subject to several acts of vandalism and metal theft. Now the site is being watched by CCTV.



Gloucester Prison, Gloucester 2015

Gloucester Prison is situated on the former site of Gloucester Castle. When the site was first used as the County Gaol, it used the original castle keep. In time, the keep was considered to be unsuitable for use as a gaol, and its demolition began in 1787. The new gaol was finished in 1791 leaving no visible remains of the castle. In 2013 the prison was closed and sold for redevelopment.

Before the redevelopment project could start archaeologists investigated the site, rediscovering the castle in 2015. Due to the impressive remains the redevelopment of the site hasn't started, with the site news considering to include the castle remains in their redevelopment plans.

Thornbury, South Gloucestershire 2014

When the county of Avon was created (1974) it was decided to take in much of the surrounding countryside of Bristol and Bath, taking parts of Gloucestershire and Somerset to form the county of Avon. In 1996, the former county of Avon was abolished, and instead of giving the areas back to the counties it was decided that the areas would create new Unitary authorities. South Gloucestershire was formed and named as such for the historic reason that it used to be southern Gloucestershire. The area is still part of the Ceremonial county of Gloucestershire.



Lower Slaughter, Cotswolds 2015

The Cotswolds was designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966 and encompasses an area of 787 sq. miles, making it the largest AONB in the UK, and the second largest protected landscape in the UK. The Cotswolds expands across 6 counties but is largely situated in Gloucestershire. The area attracted around 23 million visitors and created £1 billion from tourism in 2003. Even with such large numbers visiting the area, 80% of the Cotswolds are made up of farmland and has only a population of around 84,000.

Cinderford, Forest of Dean 2016

Before the 18th century, there was very little in the way of any permanent settlements within the Forest of Dean, apart from one small town of Cinderford. Much of the population was set up in illegal settlements made up of makeshift cabins on Crown land. The illegal settlers had to move in order to find work and for the threat of expulsion.

With industry and the population growing many settlers wanted to make permanent settlements, and so moved to the edge of the Crown owned forest and created roughly built hamlets. Overtime these hamlets became well established, and still exist like Parkend and Berry Hill. Industry continued to be the main employer within the forest, with the coal industry itself employing half of the male working population up until 1945. 20 years later the last large colliery, Northern United would close.

Cheltenham, Severn Vale 2015

In 1976 an article in Time Out magazine revealed the existence of The Government Communications Headquarters, (GCHQ) even though it was founded in 1919. GCHQ was formed during the First World War and was originally called 'Government Code and Cypher School', (GC&CS) with the function to advise all Government departments on codes and cyphers, and to also study cypher communications of foreign powers. During the Second World War, GC&CS was based at Bletchley Park and famously decoded the German Enigma code.

GC&CS was renamed GCHQ in 1946, and in 1951 moved to Cheltenham at two sites Oakley and Benhall. Even though the organisation was outed, it didn't attract much media attention until 1983, with the trail of KGB spy Geoffrey Prime.

In 2004 the organisation moved into a modern HQ know as "The Doughnut" that became the base for GCHQ in Cheltenham. When built it was the second-largest public-sector building in Europe, and was the largest building for secret intelligence operations outside of the USA, and cost an estimated £330 million. The building houses 5,500 employees, making GCHQ the single largest employer in Gloucestershire. Even with such a large building it was too small for the staff numbers, so there is a second building in a secret and undisclosed location within the 'Gloucestershire area'.







Severn Beach, South Gloucestershire 2015

The village didn't exist until a new railway line was built to link Pilning and Avonmouth in 1900. The railway brought development opportunities to the area and in 1922, the village was created as a seaside resort. The resort attracted many visitors from the local area thanks to lax licensing laws compared with Bristol. At its peak the village had a swimming pool, boating lake and a strip club.

Since its heyday, the village has lost the resort tag and with convenient transport links by road and rail Severn Beach has become a commuter town. Now the village is more famous for being the English side of the Second Severn bridge, which was built in 1996 and is the UK's longest bridge with a length of 3.2 miles.



Fosse Way, Cotswolds 2016

The Fosse Way was a Roman road that traveled from Exeter to Lincoln, via Bath, Cirencester and Leicester. The road way was remarkably direct in its route. As it never deviates more than 6 miles from a straight line. The name Fosse is thought to have originated from the latin 'fossa', which means ditch. It's believed that the road could have begun life as a defensive ditch at the Romans early Western frontier.

South of Cirencester the Fosse Way heads towards Bath via a cross county route. Much of this route is made up of country lanes and byways. This stretch of the Roman road creates the county boundary between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

New Fancy, Forest of Dean 2015

Formerly the site of New Fancy Colliery (1827-1944). Once closed the site was landscaped to create a picnic site and a viewpoint on top of one of the remaining spoil heaps. The site is particularly popular with birdwatchers, and is best known for raptors such as Goshawks.

The site is also home to a sculpture that honours those who worked, were killed or injured in the mines and quarries across the Forest of Dean. The Sculpture is made from 3 elements. Stone, iron (represented by steel) and coal (represented by blackened local oak). It stands over 3 metres tall and has several metal discs set into it to symbolise the tokens miners took below ground to determine who was in the mine. The sculpture is named the 'Roll of Honour' and was created by local artists Graham Tyler and John Wakefield.



Grey Friars, Gloucester 2015

Situated just inside the old city walls, the Franciscan friary was founded in 1231. The name 'Grey Friars' was gained from the grey habits monks wore to symbolise their vow of poverty. The remains of the friary were built in 1518 and was funded by a local family, the Berkeleys. Damaged during the civil war, by 1721 very little survived leading to houses being built around the site. In the 19th century a house was built into the remains of the church.

Now the site is sandwiched between Gloucester indoor market, Eastgate shopping centre and the 19th century house that is now a library. It is maintained by English Heritage.



Elmore, Severn Vale 2015

The Severn bore is a natural phenomenon, where the incoming tide forms a wave or waves whilst traveling up the river against the river's current. Bores are not rare in the UK, but the Severn Bore is one of the largest in the world. This is because the Severn the third largest tidal range of any river in the world of around 13 metres (43ft). Also, the shape of the river that suddenly narrows helps create the wave. The largest wave recorded was in 1966 which reached the height of 2.8 metres (9.2ft).

With regular large waves, the bore has attracted surfers, canoeists and spectators in large numbers. The river was first surfed by famous World War Two veteran Jack Churchill, but a railway engineer from Gloucestershire set a world record for surfing the bore for a distance of 9.25 miles, in a time of 1 hour and 17 minutes.



Thames Head, Cotswolds 2015

Officially, the source of the River Thames lies north of a village Kemble at a height of 361 feet above sea level. The spring is a winterbourne, meaning the upper course of the river only runs during the winter months and is dry for the rest of the year. From there the river stretches across England at a length of 215 miles, making it the longest river in England and the second longest in the UK.

Alternatively, there is a claim that there is an other ultimate source to the River. Seven Springs, a Hamlet 4 miles south of Cheltenham. If this spring were the official source to the Thames the river would be 229 miles in length. This would make it the longest river in the UK, beating The River Severn by 9 miles.



Bixslade Valley, Forest of Dean 2014

Bixslade is a short and steep sided valley which has been mined and quarried for over 500 years. Because of this it has been described as a 'one of the country's finest areas of extractive industrial heritage'. Along the length of valley is a footpath that follows the old route of the Bixslade Tramroad, which opened in 1812 and continued to be in use until 1950 making it the last working horse powered tramroad in the forest. There are still three quarries and a freemine named 'Monument Colliery' operating in the valley.

Dursley, Severn Vale 2014

R A Lister and Co, set up in Dursley in 1867 and soon became the towns largest employer and central to the areas economy. The company started out producing a large range of agricultural machinery, until 1909 when they started to manufacture petrol engines. During World War I, the factory helped the war effort by producing munition components, and like many factories at the time women replaced the men that left to fight.

In 1929 the company started to produce diesel engines, and within the decade they became one of the largest manufactures of diesel engines in the world. When World War II struck the company went back to producing for the war effort again. After the war, the company struggled with labour costs and competition from abroad that copied their design. Many say that the company suffered because their engines were simply 'too reliable'.

Through the company's next 50 years they were bought out, merged with another company and in 1986 the company's name changed to Lister Petter Ltd. In 2014 the company decided to relocate from Dursley ending its association with the town. The 92 acre site that the factory was situated will be redeveloped with 450 planned new homes, a community hospital and commercial space.

Oldbury Nuclear Power Station, Severn Vale 2014

Gloucestershire has been home to two nuclear power stations since the early 1960's. The first nuclear power plant was Berkeley, which opened in 1962 and produced enough energy to supply a city the size of Bristol. After 27 years it was decommissioned, making it the first nuclear power station in the UK to close. The second nuclear power station is at Oldbury, and was built in 1967. This newer power station could produce almost double the electricity that Berkeley could. In 2012 Oldbury was also decommissioned.

The Berkeley site is going through decommissioning, but since 2014 has stored nuclear waste from Oldbury. Berkeley is believed to be cleared between 2070-80. Oldbury site may have a future as a new power plant, after it was selected by the government as one of eight sites suitable for future nuclear power plants.







Breakheart Quarry, Cotswolds 2016

This large disused limestone quarry owned by the Nuclear Development Agency was once used to test components that were used in nuclear power stations. In 2009 the site that included a wood was leased for 99 years to a community project that plan to turn the site into a wildlife and recreational area. The site now has a wide network of paths and trails to walk, and the charity Breakheart Community Project Ltd, that runs the site encourages environmental surveys and studies of the site.



Cambridge, Severn Vale 2015

Hillhouse farm is a solar panel farm situated on the A38 north of the village of Cambridge. The site is 97 acres and has the capacity to generate enough electricity for 7000 households. As part of the development there is a community benefit fund that will benefit the local parish council by providing £30,000 per year for local community projects.

There are currently 14 active solar panel farms active within Gloucestershire, with a further 2 currently planned for construction.

Severn Bridge, Aust 2015

Opened in 1966, the bridge was a replacement for the Aust ferry. It spans the River Severn and Wye, and connects the South West of England with South Wales. When officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II she hailed it as the dawn of a new economic era for South Wales.

Throughout its history, the bridge has been a tolled crossing with the original toll being set at £0.125 (post-decimalisation) for all vehicles. With the toll rising in accordance with inflation the tolls are currently £6.60 for a car or small bus, and up to £19.80 for a heavy goods vehicle. Many have disputed the need for such high tolls describing it as a "tax on entering Wales", and many believing the tolls are having a negative effect on the South Wales economy. With many businesses associated with the M4 corridor choosing to stay on the English side of the Severn to avoid the toll.



The Union Colliery Memorial, Forest of Dean 2016

On Thursday 4th September 1902, the Union Colliery flooded trapping seven men. Four of the men died, three men trapped in complete darkness, in deep water and with little food or water. When word of the disaster spread to the local area, hundreds of friends and relatives of the missing men gathered at the pit head and by Sunday the crowd grew to thousands. With other miners working to clear the shaft to search for survivors. It wasn't until the Tuesday that they gained access to search, and this is when they found the four bodies of the deceased. But they also found the three survivors.

At the pit head, the shafts have been capped, and a memorial has been erected. One part of the memorial is a stone with a short description of the disaster and the second part is a stone sculpture of two miners. The sculpture is based on two of the victims of the disaster. They were brothers found huddled together, clutching hands.



Dursley, Severn Vale 2014

Gloucestershire as a ceremonial county has a population (mid-2014 est.) of 861,700, making it the 25th most populated county in country. The county covers an area of 1,220 sq miles making it the 16th largest county in the country. This gives Gloucestershire a density of 274 people per sq km.



Cribbs Causeway, South Gloucestershire 2015

Originally, the name Cribbs Causeway was just in reference to a historic road that ran through the area, but with the development of the M5 motorway and the newly built motorway junction in 1970's, the area soon became developed and adopted the name from the road. Carrefour was the first company to come to the area with planning permission for a hypermarket granted in 1978. The area then grew into a large out-of-town shopping centre with two retail parks and a large shopping centre, named 'The Mall', completed in 1998. When built, The Mall was the largest shopping centre in the Southwest. The centre still attracts over 12 million shoppers a year and the area is still growing. The Mall has plans to extend and almost double its size. The new development includes more space for shops and restaurants, a hotel, housing, a new bus station, and more parking. It is to be completed by 2021.

Foxes Bridge Colliery, Forest of Dean 2016

Like many areas heavily reliant on industry, the Forest of Dean has seen a shift in the last 70 years. In 1945 the Forest's coal industry employed half of the male working population, but after the Second World War collieries started to close, with the last large colliery closing in 1965. As the name suggests, the Forest of Dean is a heavily wooded area being one of the surviving ancient woodlands in England, and is the second largest crown forest in England after the New Forest.

With this asset the Forest of Dean has shifted focus to the tourism industry to create employment. This shift has seen many old colliery sites being redeveloped as viewpoints, sculpture trails, cafes and cycle centres. This has also seen much of the old railway infrastructure being reused as cycle routes across the forest.

All of this investment has changed the area into a very popular tourist destination. Tourism generates over £350 million a year from around 7 million visitors, which is estimated to create employment for around 8,000 workers.



Great Witcombe Roman Villa, Cotswolds 2015

There have been over 50 Roman villas discovered in the Cotswolds. The Cotswolds were popular with the Romans thanks to the number of nearby settlements and networks of major Roman roads. Cirencester (Corinium) was the provincial capital and second largest city in Roman Britain. Placed in the heart of the Cotswolds, and at the junction of several Roman roads, the Fosse Way, the Ermin Way and Akeman Street. This gave the Cotswolds access to other large Roman towns, such as Bath (Aquae Sulis) a famous hot spring bathing complex and also Gloucester (Glevum) which was a military base.



Beachley, Forest of Dean 2016

Beachley is a village situated on a peninsula at the point that the River Wye joins the River Severn. The peninsula is also home to the beginning/end of Offa's Dyke. The dyke is large earthwork that roughly follows the current English Welsh border. It is generally accepted the earthwork was constructed in the 8th century under the then king of Mercia, Offa. When constructed it is believed to be 20m wide and 2.4m high with a ditch on the Welsh side, and is roughly 150 miles long.

Beachley is also where the first Severn Bridge meets land before crossing the river Wye. Before the construction of the bridge, the Aust ferry used to land on the peninsula almost directly under the now completed Severn bridge.

Wimberry Slade Valley, Forest of Dean 2016

The valley has a long history with mining and quarrying. The largest colliery near the site was the Cannop Colliery, viewed as one of the most successful collieries in the forest, but came to a close in 1961. The site of the colliery has now been redeveloped with some old buildings being reused by a cycle hire centre, the old bathhouse used by a highway maintenance company and a large car park placed over the two capped mine shafts.

Within the valley itself, there are many old sites used by Freemaners and one still in operation. A 'Freeminer' is a title given to some miners in the forest of dean. The Forests coalfield have been regulated through a system of Freemaning since at least the 15th century. To be eligible, you need to have been born and live within the area of the 'Hundred of St Briavels', be at least 21 years old and to have worked for over a year in a mine also within the 'Hundred of St Briavels'. The ancient district known as the Hundred of St Briavels is now generally considered to be anywhere within the Forest of Dean. In 2010 there was also a change, with women being allowed to register to be a Freeminer for the first time. Now there is believed to be around 150 Freemaners alive, but only a handful of collieries still operating.



Painswick Beacon, Cotswolds 2015

Situated just over a mile north of the village of Painswick lies Painswick Beacon. Historically the site of an Iron Age hill fort called Kimsbury, dated around 500-100 BC. Much of the ramparts of the fort are still intact, but the interior of the fort has been heavily quarried. Local legends say that the stone quarried from the site was used to build Gloucester Cathedral.

In 1891 Painswick Golf club was founded. The course was partly built within the fort, using the ramparts to create a testing course. Now the long-distance footpath the Cotswold Way runs through the site, and with the extensive views of the Severn Vale the fort attracts a lot of walkers.



St Mary's Square, Gloucester 2015

Set in a 1960s housing development, this statue of King Charles II which was created by sculptor Stephen Baldwyn in 1662. Originally set in the Wheat Market in Southgate Street until 1785 when removed before the demolition of the market, little is known of the statue's whereabouts until it was rediscovered in 1945 in pieces.

St Mary's Square is also home to St Mary de Lode Church. The church is believed to be on the site of the first Christian church in Britain, and local legend suggests that the church was the burial place of the first Christian king of Britain King Lucius.

Emersons Green, South Gloucestershire 2015

The area was historically green belt land, used mainly for farming. It sits on one of the most southerly British coalfields which makes up the Bristol and Somerset Coalfield. Emersons Green itself wasn't developed until the 1990's, so it falls within the historic parish of Mangotsfield. The area was selected for development in 1985, and developers proposed to move the greenbelt further out and to create a large residential area.

During the same period, the creation of the Avon Ring Road, which gave connections to other major roads such as the M32 and A4. These new transport links created an area perfect for businesses and eventually was decided to be the site for a new science and technology park. The £300 million construction of the park started in 2010 and was named Bristol Bath Science Park, which when completed should create around 6,000 jobs.



Newnham on Severn, Forest of Dean 2016

There has been a river crossing at this point of the River Severn since the Romans created a ford. The ford lasted until 1802 when a change in the course in the river made it difficult to use, so a ferry crossing was created which lasted until the 1950's. Because of this important crossing over the Severn in time the village became a major port. In 1171 King Henry II staged an invasion of Ireland from the port, with accounts claiming 5,000 men and 400 ships set sailed from here. The port remained integral to the area until the opening of the Gloucester and Sharpness canal in 1827 taking a lot of trade from the port. It was also the site of an early and unsuccessful attempt in 1810, to tunnel under the river to create a tunnel for the Forest of Deans tram road system.



Whiteway Colony, Cotswolds 2015

The colony was founded in 1898 by a group of Tolstoyans, who bought 41 acres of land near the village of Miserden. Their socialist ideals included sharing provisions and welcoming people of all classes, religion and politics to be members.

The notion of 'private property' was rejected and the deeds to the land were burnt. Because of this, new colonists would be loaned a plot of land to build a home and live from. The colony abandoned their Tolstoy philosophy early on. Whiteway was visited in 1909 by Mahatma Gandhi, and was regarded as a failed Tolstoyan experiment.

The Colony still exists today, with some original structures, descendants of its original settlers remaining, and still no one legally owns land within the colony.



Charlton Hayes, South Gloucestershire 2015

Charlton Hayes is a new large mixed development on land north of Filton Airfield. Once finished it will be home to around 6,000 residents. The development gained its name from a nearby village, (Charlton) that was demolished to make way for the Filton Airfield to have its runway extended.

The runway was extended in the late 1940's to accommodate the longer take-offs for the development of the Bristol Brabazon airliner. It was designed to fly transatlantic route between the UK and the USA, but was cancelled after only a couple of years development in 1953. Even though initially it seemed that the large sums of money used to develop the airliner was wasted, much of this was spent on the infrastructure of Filton Airfield, such as extending the runway, which meant that Filton was well placed for other future plane development such as the Bristol Britannia.



Purton, Severn Vale 2014

In the early 20th century it became apparent that the river Severn was changing course, eroding the riverbank that separated the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal from the river. To counteract the erosion in 1909, a number of old vessels were beached along the bank to act as a makeshift barrier. Over the next half a century more than 80 vessels were beached, creating a successful barrier against erosion but also the largest ship graveyard in Britain. Currently, the site has no legal protection and is only cared for by local volunteers that have researched and recorded each vessel.

Kings Walk Shopping Centre, Gloucester 2015

Gloucester was founded in AD 48 as a Roman fort and market and called Glevum. The fortress was founded at this location because of the important crossing of the River Severn, as this gave the Roman Legion future access and a base to invade Wales from. It is thought that at its height Glevum would have had a population as large as 10,000 people and much of the area around the town would have been heavily Romanised.

Gloucester was captured by Saxons in 577 and continued to grow throughout The Middle Ages. This was thanks to its situation on the River Severn, the founding of the abbey of St Peter (681) and the export of wool from the Cotswolds.

Modern day Gloucester still resembles its past, with the city centre still laid out as a cross where the four main historic streets meet (Northgate, Southgate, Eastgate and Westgate Streets).



Princess Royal Colliery, Forest of Dean 2016

Opened in 1842 the colliery grew to be highly productive for the Forest of Dean. At its height of productivity the colliery employed 1,300 men and produced 1,000 tons of coal per day. Princess Royal outlived many other large collieries of the area, and when nearby New Fancy colliery closed in 1944, Princess Royal found employment for 300 out of work miners. The colliery closed in 1962.

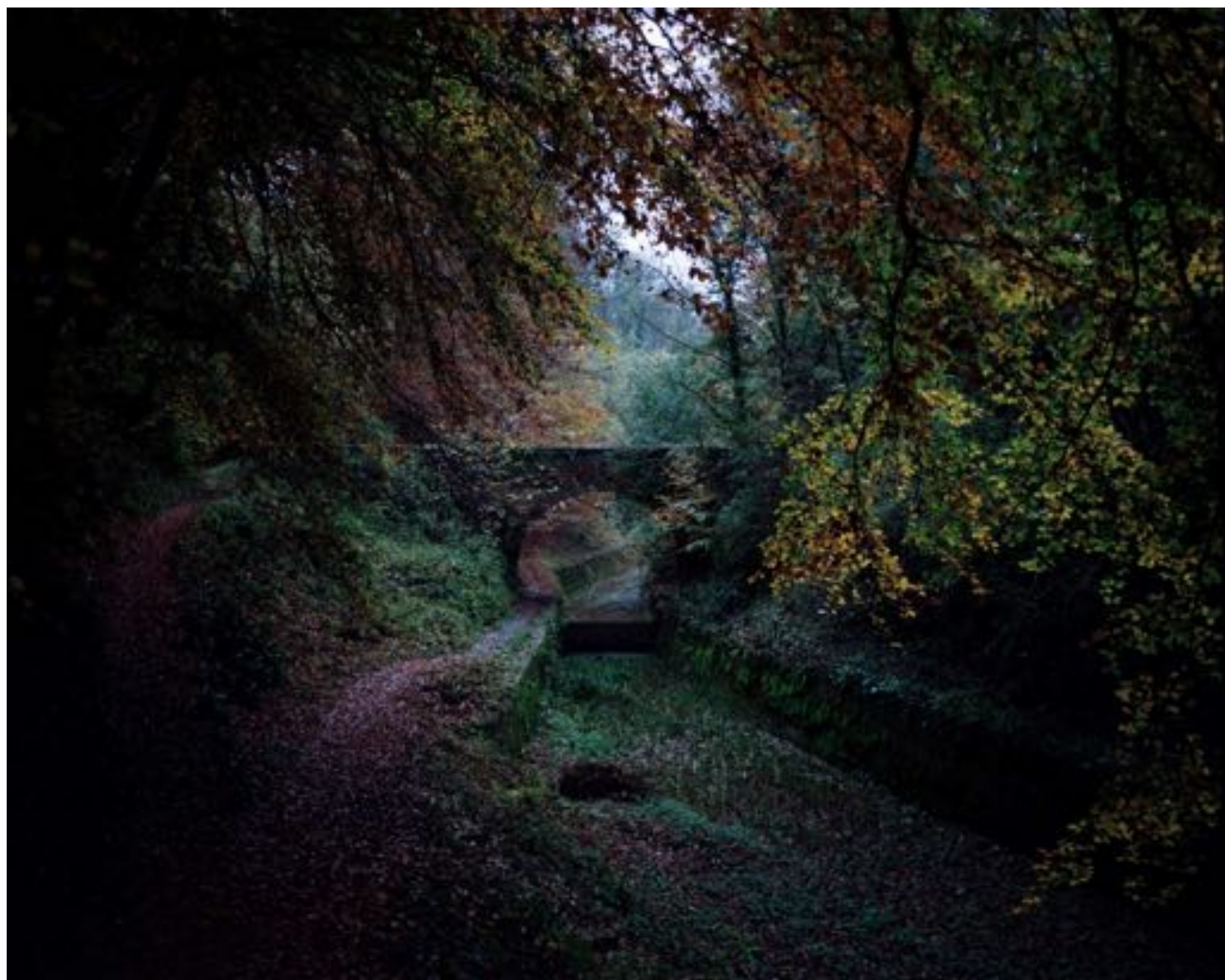
Some of the old colliery buildings are still in use by other industries and part of the site has been cleared for a new trading estate. North of the site is a very large spoil heap that belonged to the colliery that can be seen from the surrounding area.



Thames and Severn Canal, Cotswolds 2015

The canal was opened in 1789, with the idea of connecting Bristol to London via canal. As the name suggests, at its eastern end it connects into the Thames near Lechalde, and at the western end it connects to another canal, Stroudwater Navigation which leads to the River Severn.

At the highest point of the canal is the Sapperton Tunnel. The tunnel is 2.17 miles long and cuts through the Cotswolds hills. When built, it was the longest tunnel of any kind in the UK, and like many canals of the time its success was short-lived thanks to the arrival of the railway network. During the majority of the 19th century, the canal battled to compete financially, but in failing, the canal fell into poor condition. With this and an issue with keeping water levels high enough at the summit it led to being completely abandoned in 1933.



A48 Nutshell, Forest of Dean 2015

The A48 starts just outside Gloucester, and follows the River Severn. It stays within Gloucestershire until it reaches the Wales-England border and crosses over the River Wye. This stretch of the road is considered to be one of the most dangerous roads in Europe, with 28 serious collisions and 10 fatal incidents in the last five years.

The River Wye creates the Wales-England border. The A48 and the Gloucester to Newport railway line cross at the same point of the river. The railway bridge was originally designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and became his design prototype for his Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash, Cornwall.





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