

Extracted from the book "Priestley's Navigable Rivers and Canals" by Joseph Priestley which was originally published in April 1831. NOTE: The book was originally called "Historical Account of the Navigable Rivers, Canals, and Railways, of Great Britain".

SALISBURY AND SOUTHAMPTON CANAL.

35 George III. Cap. 51, Royal Assent 30th April, 1795.

40 George III. Cap. 108, Royal Assent 9th July, 1800.

THE first act of parliament respecting this undertaking was passed in 1795, and is entitled, '*An Act for making and maintaining a navigable Canal from the town and county of Southampton, to the city of New Sarum, in the county of Wilts, with a collateral Branch to Northam, within the Liberties of the town of Southampton.*' This was followed in 1800 by a second act, entitled, '*An Act for altering and amending an Act made in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, entitled, An Act for making and maintaining a navigable Canal from the town and county of Southampton, to the city of New Sarum, in the county of Wilts, with a collateral Branch to Northam, within the liberties of the town of Southampton.*'

The canal contemplated by these acts of parliament has been in part only made, that portion of it only between Southampton and Redbridge, where it joins the Andover Canal, being completed. It was to branch from the Andover Canal at Mitchelmersh, and passing through the parishes of Mattisfont, Lockerley, West Dean, East Dean, East Grinstead, West Grinstead, Alderbury, Peter's Finger, Laverstock and Milford, to proceed to the Avon River at Salisbury.

That part of the canal between Salisbury and the Andover Canal was excavated, but in consequence of meeting with an extensive quick-sand, it would not hold water, and was therefore abandoned. The projectors of this work contemplated supplying the interior with fuel at a cheaper rate, and of transmitting, in return, the agricultural produce of that part of Wiltshire to the sea coast.