

# Pewsham Locks Trail Answers

1. William and Eliza Hodgson were first mentioned living in the cottage in the census of 1851. By 1861, they were living there with ten children!
2. The locks lifted the boats going to Chippenham by nearly 29 feet (8.8 metres)  
The lock keeper or Canal Agent was an employee of the canal company. He was responsible for the upkeep of the canal and locks, and was also the person who charged tolls for the cargo carried on the boats.
3. Locks often have ponds to act as reservoirs. This is to ensure that there will be sufficient water; each time a lock is opened, tens of thousands of litres are used.  
The wood and metal ring are part of the lock gate hinge.  
Middle Lock is about 14 feet deep (4.3 metres).
4. With a sawpit, two men could do the job standing up with the saw vertical, and gravity would help the process. The man underneath would get covered in sawdust!
5. The arched structure was part of the paddle mechanism where the water flowed into the lock to fill it.
6. The dry dock did not need to be deep as canal boats are flat bottomed and when empty, need very little water to float in. The dock would be filled with water, the boat floated in, and the water then drained out.  
The opening at the back is the drain.
7. It would take 2 - 3 hours to get to Semington at a steady walking pace.
8. For tying the boat up while it waited to go through the locks.  
Chippenham coal wharf was in Timber Street, where the bus station is now.
9. When a canal route was planned, water sources were a very important consideration. Streams and rivers often flow into canals, sometimes reservoirs and pumping stations are needed.  
A leak, a culvert collapse or a drought which dries up the water source could all cause the water level to fall.
10. -
11. They would have been too heavy to work with comfortably!
12. The Great Western Railway.  
The competition from the railway led to the decline and eventual closure of the canal.