

I'm not 100% sure, but I think it was a Mr George Russell was the contractor, working for the New Towns Commission. Well I was, I was his.. machine driver, and he got the job of er, clearing the water gardens. We was clearing the base of the river with the machine, loading it into skips and clearing it away, and working our way down through the old river Gade bed , a very dirty job. I was actually in the river bed. Cos it had a concrete base so we couldn't sink through it. And of course we had to come out every time we got to a bridge. We had to come out, and move over the bridge, and also move all the equipment down with us to load the mud base what we was digging up into skips to be taken away. And we worked our way down.

We had no fences around. There was fences around where the skip was, to stop people getting injured or.., but it was mud everywhere. When the people see the amount of mud that was there, they just kept away from it. Had people viewing from a distance. Just like when you're loading mud into a skip, it splashes. And er, it kept people away. We also had an engineer that used to come and inspect our work, but I mean there's not much other than, moving mud. Loading it away and working our way through.

The river Gade, they changed the River Gade when the water gardens was built. It used to go in a different direction. And they stopped it at the Bury and diverted it into the old culvert, that took it away from the water gardens while we done the work. And I think that's happened again this time. I'm not sure, I think they've had pumps there this time. But that's what happened, we, we had it stopped. And diverted. Maybe the old culvert what was used has been destroyed over the years,so they couldn't use it again? I've been very interested. In how they've done it. I mean they've got machinery which is much better equipped today than what we used. I mean we had a thing on, primarily we had a machine on wheels, but they have a track vehicle, and the way they've done it, they haven't taken it away, they've stored it on site, to re use. Which is very good.