

Dave Walsh and Tim Edwin talk about the construction process

Dave:

The culvert, that's underneath. That was put in with the new town to bring all the water down from the hills and under and when they built that culvert, they actually had a mini in it. That's how big it is. I think the interesting.. point looking at that photograph, is, that all the offices along Waterhouse street had already been built at the time of the building of the water gardens.

Tim:

They must have actually been taking.. a lot of the water down through the culvert because, obviously they couldn't do all that digging with the water in it, so I remember that all, all the river Gade at that point being dry. So so they must have been bypassing the water

Dave:

The water, yes.

Tim:

And.... and in that, in those, in those fields we talked about at back of Cotterells, where, where... you could walk across, I can remember..... and I really don't know what they were doing, but that they had something like four big diesel pumps, with big big pipes coming out of it, pump, pumping water, actually back into that culvert. So I don't know, er, er, it must have, there must have been flooding going on as well, so they were pumping that back into the culvert as well, and..... where Bank court is now, where the gardens are, I, I can remember as, as the work progressed, they had, a really really big....cement mixer....that's a 22, Bucyrus 22, so that was the dragline they were using. That was the skimmer they were using, an international BTT 6, they used that as well, that was a small bulldozer, but they had a, a big cement mixer actually bigger than this. and I can remember they had all the gravel and all the sand piled up and was delivered, where those gardens were. and.. the way they loaded that, they actually had a winch on top of the..cement mixer, and a man would, would have a huge sort of bucket which he would just..hold like that..and, the, cement mixer would pull it. So he'd pull all the um, the earth and sand into the, the front loading bucket, tip it into the cement mixer, and then it would discharge from the back of it. And then they had, sort of, dumper trucks taking it, so that's what they used to build..all the weirs and ... the concreted sites. So that was going on for quite a long long time.