

JIM COOKE BACKWATER

This body of work is an observation of the relatively obscure Middle Level Waterway. Essentially a water drainage system incorporating old river courses and man made cuts. It links the Rivers Great Ouse and Nene.

My affinity with water is partly based in my activity as a boat owner. Time spent on my narrow boat Alice Mary, currently moored on the Middle Level, gives me an intimate connection with the waterways and my everyday activities inform and influence my picture making.

I use large and small format film cameras, microscopes, camera-less methodologies and video to explore my surrounding from broad topographical vistas to more intimate and hidden detail of the components of the landscape.

Elements of this formative project were shown as part of the Whittlesey Festival Art Competition in September 2020.

By following the working methods I have employed with other waterway projects I hope to, in some way, reveal something of what makes the Middle Level Waterways so unique.

Jim Cooke

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