



People used to come to the docks and it was like a factory as soon as they got in and started work all the gates were shut - it was a dangerous place.

Gloucester isn't by the sea, by any stretch of the imagination. So you're a long way from the sea. And when I first come, because I'm not local, I couldn't understand the docks. Because I didn't know about the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal, the ship canal. So when you first come, you're in almost the West Midlands and then you're at a port.

And it's really trying to explain that to people and tell them about, you know, the trade that used to go on here and the Trow's, the boats used to go up and down the Severn. And try and get people really interested in that in the locality as well as further afield.

It's not just about curators in ivory towers putting objects on display. It's those stories they're about people. You know, a spade that a navy used can tell you lots and lots and lots of stories, can give you an in. And the object for me, it's just a gateway to telling a story about those people.

Steve Bagley, Curator at Canal & River Trust

National Waterways Museum



Historic England



Gloucester
History Festival