

CANAL

cut banks out
water capture
course land
capture course
water Lud let
in let out low
line landcut
line strip sky
seaward but
back-locked
brick-sealed
sluice-leveled
iron & wood
weir & gate
syphon intake
becks & dykes
& drains let
all that wide
fenland Great
Eau fall pipe
pump seep
slack leak in
culvert outfall
channel cut
banks stream
millrace fish-
pond reservoir
intake abstract
flow keep canal-
ised keep flow
(redundant)
against flood

LOUTH

rat jumps in
to black water
& gone under
ragwort yell-
ow edge brick-
yard warehouse
windows broke
long [grain wool
flour] gone
willow-side opp-
oses new brick
housing paved
neat to brink

fast-falling sun-
water old top
lock over, now
tilting weir stilled
on far side bubb-
led slow-green
july enclosure
hemlock lean
morning glory
nettle, bramble
balsam bending
down dark canal
backs banks slips

KEDDINGTON

red admirals
flutter buddleia
to balsam july
under ivied
sycamores let
only little light
paths & pools
flicker in water
checker football
softening since

cracked cop-
ing stone held
heavy up by
brick & wire
empty where
gates hung but

still canalised
streams ever
over growing
edge aslanted
dead-dropped
branches into
falling white
& dark, over
again deeper
ledge deep

LUD

river ruptures out
sluice running Lud
under **DUCKERING**
LINCO iron foot-
bridge worn ropes
hang **JONO ♥ JODI**
twist back jump
turn to cross felled
trunks onto dark
intricate paths in &
out of bushes from
town where they
brought each other
down here down

clagged over ditch
under hedgerow
brushing mallow
bedstraw clover
whites

& flows

again into plantain
sorrel meadow **DR**
PEPPER & PEPSI
caught at reed
cress edge, winds
to roadside behind
greened barbwire
creep-ripples to
small stone bridge
wanders north-
east into fen

TICKLEPENNY

bramble brick lock
curve purple dead-
nettle haw & ivy
hanging over tumb-
ling white into
pale- aged orange
rounding echoes
on land's quiet
side : thrush lands,
sings on july elder
all green berries
not yet turning :
on Eastfield Road
cars run louder
in parallel dusk

a little clip off
early moon nov-
ember never now
to level out to stop
fast fall down to
rosebay-choked
lock chamber be-
neath concrete
bridge off Cowslip
Lane : blackbirds
sing-fly from aged
hawthorn to still
scraper arm of big
yellow digger on
green near dusk

FARM

alongside thistle-
lined arable River
Farm bales new
piled hay: crop
scent succumbs
to sweet bastard
balsam : swallow
pair cross canal
imposter, grassy
land tongue, river
over hedgerow to
road re-replaces all

COWS CALVES AND A BULL GRAZING IN THIS FIELD

small whites flit
wild meadow-
sweet edge to
rape escape :
screened sewer
age works drain
effluent out by
willows : single
swan & reflection
slow swim head
dipping legs up
stretching & on

ALVINGHAM

weather vane
atop brick barn
once Ship Inn
now Lock Farm
sees northeast
to turbines high
over fen farm
pylon tree cast
white air into
weather : sees
south along
water lines to
Louth's filigree
steeple : half-
grown ducklings
trail a line hid-
ing in verges &
out again : weed-
green Lud drags
downstream still
filters under to
mill pond race
wheel, then back
by Westfield drain
& gravity : lock lies
low, bubbles under
imagined gates
grows bright stone-
crop where goods
wharf was

HIGH BRIDGE

three quarter
november pale
moon : brick base
of wood swing
bridge merges
into concrete
parapet direct
reflect on mirror
sky strip lane
navigation takes
northern turn
narrows between
teasel blackthorn
tangle bank small
half-buried plaque

**In Memory Of
PEARL IRENE SIMPSON
1943-2013
A Wandering Star**

clouds shift pink
afternoon sun
falls on farside
over swan feather
edge, gold spread
sycamore on canal
on damp-mown
land : reed warblers
& wrens heard
not seen settle to
hedges & verges
white egret wings
over darkening
water float back
last cloud light

TOWPATH

cows amble-graze
above : shove at low
tow level, rape stalks
to shoulder : pappus-
webbed thistles clump-
ing bee-clustered
orange-purple honey
& bumble feeding
crop sprayers draw
water off, whirr over
something catching
at eyes, throat

bikers flash over
Fire Beacon Bridge
on july spin : kingfisher
darts blue beneath
onto kingcup yellow

canal narrows in
burrowed banks
[water vole /rat?]
pumping stations
cross, pipe & syphon
in & out of treatment
works, walled reservoir
swan sits low on eggs
high above her land
rises to western wolds
where Waithe & Lud
first stream up

WAREHOUSE

dragonflies flit over
mown grass curves
bulrush still pool
by 3 stories 7-bays
iron staples holding
walls in, bricked-up
windows, pigeon loft
up top **T.H. 1821** :
steel gantry raking
debris towers high
over stone wharf
winch wheels scour
timber : Old Fleet,
Black Leg drain in

drive up on 1031 at
Thoresby, park, unload
sit up high at fish retreat
cast your lines catch
far echo shots, clay
pigeon drops : call of
gulls peewits geese
flying up over & back
to farmland : poultry
stink from sheds over
bridge : buntings rise
sink rise in rushes till
red-gold reeds low sun
slant line canal-side

NEW DELIGHTS

low where horses
trekked yarrow
nettle thistle trail
pale to darkest pink
july through high
wind-lit part-purpled
teasel, silver-green
bracts & spines, Tetney
church tower sways
behind deep willow-
hidden wells : buzzard
circle-soars over high
yellow ragwort down
low to watermint

red tractor & baler
send dust flying, larks
high over windmill
turn, oil tanks' green
on green : starlings up
over gates & hedges
telegraph poles hay-
wire lines & high
pressure pipeline
warning posts bright
white & orange stalking
over farms & cross canal
from Theddelthorpe
to Killingholme

TETNEY LOCK

november wrens
& redwings feed
on bright rosehips
up through haws
angle error teasel
DANGER OVERHEAD
always carry rods
level, parallel to
the ground walk-
ing dead & alive
grass trod up by
hooves & moles

rust-red farm
bridge girders
spider-woven
MAX 3 TONNES
fisherman sits
behind his line
texting intent

cars strip silver
around away on
North Coates Rd
moorhens take
long canal curve
left : shadows slow
swerve on water
cattle across drink
call deeply chime
to unseen machine
scrape : grey heron
flies far upstream

TETNEY HAVEN

out past oil pipe
out past sluice gate
saline protection
Sand Haile Flats
stretch, samphire
awaits may : red-
rust gate side-angle
open : canal outfall
merge Lud mouth :
here ships exported
wool & corn, landed
coal & timber

DANGER

DEEP

MUD

reed rustle knock
hollow stem slippery
red clover path by
deep cut channel
creeks crevicing into
marsh : scoter flies
up & over grey
november : redshanks
probe mud swathing
into its own shining
smelling shape not
taking human weight

TENDER SUBMISSION

economic engine eco-
logical compensation
flows primary drainage
channel reverting back
to a more semi-natural
ecosystem conservation
designated assets with
historical value access
amenity recreation

now abandoned

un-navigable

wildlife corridor

fish passes

new marina

heritage trail

tourism

healthy living

social inclusion

employment

restoration

diversification