CanalPlan AC plugin user guide

Version 1.0

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1 Installation and Configuration

1.1 System Requirements

Please make sure that your Wordpress installation meets the minimum following requirements:

- PHP 5 – with the fopen modules installed and access allowed to external sites.
- Wordpress 3.x running in either Single Blog (classic) or Networked Blog Mode
- MySQL 5

1.2 Installation

1. Download the Canalplan AC Wordpress plug-in from the Wordpress repositories (http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/canalplan-ac/)

2. Unzip the archive

3. Upload the plug-in into the plugins folder in your Wordpress installation

4. Go into Wordpress and enable the plug-in as normal.

Canaplan AC can be Network activated – however if you are planning to do this there are some Networked Blog mode configuration steps to carry out. Also as the plugin creates a set of tables it is recommended that the plugin is initially activated on a single blog and then network activated.

2 Configuration

Once Canalplan AC is installed all the configuration can be carried out from the various Canalplan AC Menu screens. However if you are running a blog network you will more than likely want to carry out the following steps

2.1 Enable Network blog support

In the Canalplan folder there is a file called multisite.php.txt Rename this to multisite.php

2.1.1 Site wide Google Maps API Key

1. Rather than having each user of your network get their own Maps API key you can set a site wide API key. To do this:
2. Go to http://code.google.com/apis/maps/signup.html
3. Obtain a domain level key rather than a subdomain key. So if your urls are blogname.sitename.com then get a key for http://sitename.com

4. Copy that key and paste it into the CANALPLAN_GMAP_KEY line – replacing the key that is there.
5. Save the file

2.1.2 Set the Route Page slug

One of the features of the plugin is a "trips" page which displays all the trips recorded in a blog and if you are running in Network Blog mode it displays all the trips recorded in all the blogs in the network.(Note that there is a limitation in that the "root" blog cannot contain trip posts) For this to work ALL the blogs in the network must have a "trips" page with an identical page slug. This option allows you to set this sitewide slug.

3 Customisation

Once Canalplan is installed and, if needed, edited the multisite.php file then you are almost there. You can now go through the various Canalplan menus and complete the installation and customisation.
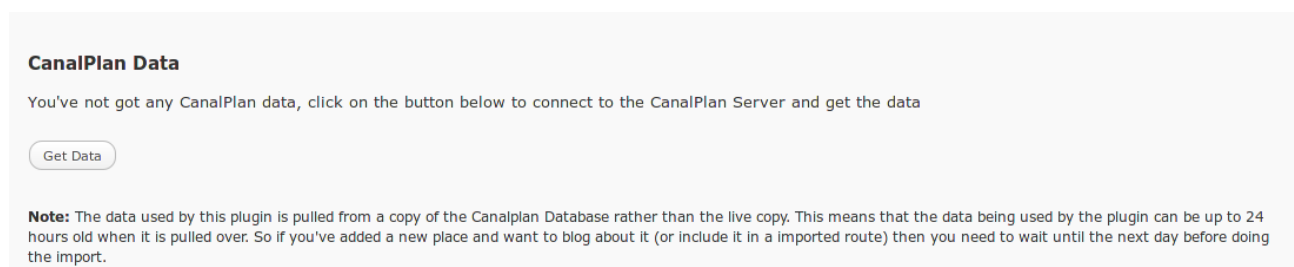
3.1 General Options

This menu allows you to get/update data from the main Canalplan website and also to set a few other general options.

3.1.1 Canalplan Data

To allow the plugin to work properly you need to get some data from the main Canalplan website. Click on the button to import the data from Canalplan. Depending on the internet this might take a few minutes. It is recommended that you revisit this option before you do any major blogging using the Canalplan functionality and check how old the data is, and if needed click on the button to refresh it.

When first installed the plugin contains no data and the Canalplan Data section will look like this;

CanalPlan Data

You've not got any CanalPlan data, click on the button below to connect to the CanalPlan Server and get the data

Get Data

Note: The data used by this plugin is pulled from a copy of the Canalplan Database rather than the live copy. This means that the data being used by the plugin can be up to 24 hours old when it is pulled over. So if you've added a new place and want to blog about it (or include it in a imported route) then you need to wait until the next day before doing the import.

Clicking on the Get Data link will go to the live Canalplan site, pull the data down to your server and then populate the tables. This could take a minute or so – depending on network speeds and server load. Once its completed you are shown a summary of the data:

CanalPlan Data

Table Name	Contained (Rows)	Now Contains (Rows)
Canalplan Aliases	0	710
Canalplan Places	0	15594
Canalplan Links	0	15645
Canalplan Waterways	0	560
Canalplan Polylines	0	472

All Done

CanalPlan data was last updated 0 hours ago - you cannot refresh it yet

Note: The data used by this plugin is pulled from a copy of the Canalplan Database rather than the live copy. This means that the data being used by the plugin can be up to 24 hours old when it is pulled over. So if you've added a new place and want to blog about it (or include it in a imported route) then you need to wait until the next day before doing the import.

You will notice that there is no button to get data – instead there is the statement "CanalPlan data was last updated 0.06 hours ago - you cannot refresh it yet". As the plugin pulls data from a backup copy of the live Canalplan AC Database the data can be up to 24 hours old so the plugin won't let you do another data fetch for 12 hours. Once 12 hours have passed then the screen will look like this:

CanalPlan Data

CanalPlan data was last updated 1.38 days ago. Click on the button to refresh it

(Refresh Data)

Note: The data used by this plugin is pulled from a copy of the Canalplan Database rather than the live database. This means that the data being used by the plugin can be up to 24 hours old when it is pulled over. So if you've added a new place and want to blog about it (or include it in a imported route) then you need to wait until the next day before doing the import.

and you can then do a data refresh which should show any changes in the data:

CanalPlan Data

Table Name	Contained (Rows)	Now Contains (Rows)
Canalplan Aliases	710	711
Canalplan Places	15594	15596
Canalplan Links	15645	15651
Canalplan Waterways	560	560
Canalplan Polylines	472	472

All Done

CanalPlan data was last updated 0 hours ago - you cannot refresh it yet

Note: The data used by this plugin is pulled from a copy of the Canalplan Database rather than the live database. This means that the data being used by the plugin can be up to 24 hours old when it is pulled over. So if you've added a new place and want to blog about it (or include it in a imported route) then you need to wait until the next day before doing the import.

Multisite Note : There is only 1 set of data tables for the whole blog network and anyone who has the plugin enabled can update this data, so don't be worried if you've not visited for a few days but the plugin is telling you that the data was refreshed a few hours ago.

3.1.2 Distance Format

Traditionally distances on canals are measured in miles and furlongs but as Canalplan itself now has details on canals outside the UK you have the ability to chose how distances are displayed by the

plugin. This is used as the default distance format for importing routes but it can be over-ridden during route import/modification.

Distance Format

This is the default format that will be used when importing routes from Canalplan AC. It can be overridden on a route by route basis:

Miles and Furlongs (2 miles , 2 ¾ flg)

(Save Options)

3.1.3 Google Maps API Key

If you are running in single blog mode, or you are in a network and the administrator hasn't enabled multisite support then you will need to enter a Google Maps API key. If you are in a network and the administrator has obtained a site wide key and entered it in the multisite configuration file then you will not see this option.

Google Maps API Key

(Save API Key)

You can obtain a Google Map API Key by Signing up for one at Google

These are available from http://code.google.com/apis/maps/signup.html . Once you have the key paste it into here and click on Save API Key.

3.1.4 Canalplan API Key

To allow your blog to fully interact with the Canalplan AC website you need to obtain an API key from Canalplan. This is totally automatic. The first time you visit this screen you will see something like this:

Canalplan Key

This key allows Canalplan to link back to your blog posts.

API Key has been set to : f07cd0b48fe7732590df42a8804064b080940e28befc19cc93e92cd722df83d2 and is valid for the blog titled: **'Scribblings from the Mintball'** on the following url : **http://blogs.canalplan.org.uk/mintball**

(Save Canalplan Key)

Click on Save to save the key – the screen should then change to this:

Canalplan Key

This key allows Canalplan to link back to your blog posts.

API Key currently set to : f07cd0b48fe7732590df42a8804064b080940e28befc19cc93e92cd722df83d2 and is valid for the blog titled: **'Scribblings from the Mintball'** on the following url : **http://blogs.canalplan.org.uk/mintball**

(Reset Canalplan Key)

You don't need to do anything else.

If you ever change your website URL or title then you'll need to obtain a new API key by clicking on Reset Canalplan Key which will go and obtain a new one.

Note : If you don't want Canalplan AC to link back you your blog then you simply don't set the API key.

3.1.5 Route Page Slug

One of the main features of the Canalplan plugin is the "trip blogging" feature which allows you to basically create a cruising log for a trip. To fully enable this feature you need to create a specific page to support this. Once you've created the page enter the slug in here and save the settings. For example if your page is called Trips then the slug would be trips. If you are in a network and the adminstrator has enabled multisite support then you will be told the url of the page that you need to create.

Enter the name of the page slug you plan to use in the box and click on Save Route Page Slug:

You should then see something similar to this:

If you are running in networked blog mode and the administrator has set a slug then the option will look like this:

Route Page Slug

The Route Page Slug is the name of the page you are using for your Route Handling page. The page needs to contain the following code to work :
{BLOGGEDROUTES}.

The Site Administrator has set the page slug for blogged routes to be ' trips' so you need to make sure that http://blogs.canalplan.org.uk/mintball/trips exists

You can see that the plugin is telling you to make sure that the page on that url exists. If it doesn't then you need to create it and make sure that the page contains the following text:

{BLOGGEDROUTES}

You can add other text round this tag but for the plugin to work correctly this tag must be present in the page

3.2 Home Mooring

The Home Mooring is always the first location on the list of favourites and it is always passed to Canalplan as the start location when planning/importing routes. Rather than making you have to use the name from Canalplan the plugin allows you to basically create a local alias for the place.

When you go to the screen the following is displayed. If you have a current home mooring set then it is displayed at the top of the screen.

Set Home Mooring

Current Mooring

No Home Mooring Set

Stage 1 : Find a Canalplan Location

Insert CanalPlan Location

Stage 2 : Edit the Description

Update Mooring

Save Changes

So to add/update you home mooring you click into the box in Stage 1 and start to type the name of the place you want to find. You'll probably recognise the way it works from Canalplan itself and you'll soon have your home mooring listed in the box under Stage 1

Then click on "Insert Canalplan Location" which will populate the box under Stage 2.

Mintball is moored by Lord's Bridge 64 on the Shropshire Union but we're moored on a set of moorings called "Tom's Moorings". So we can type that into the box in Stage 2

Then we click on Update mooring

And finally we click on Save Changes to save our customised home mooring.

3.3 Favourites

Its likely that if you are blogging regularly about trips from your home mooring that you'll often be blogging about some of the same places - "favourite" locations if you like. This option allows you to select places from the Canalplan Data and rename them and put them into a specific order. The form shows each of the three steps involved and is pretty self explanatory. You do not need to add your home mooring to the list of favourites as the plugin always adds your home mooring as the top favourite location for you.

So lets say we want to add the boat yard at Norbury Junction to our list of favourites. We start typing in the box "Find a Canalplan Location" and then we can pick Norbury Junction from the list of places that appears in the drop down.

Once we've got the right place in Stage 1 box we click on Select Location and that copies it into the

box in Stage 2.

But we don't want it to be Norbury Junction – we'd like it to appear in our blog as "Norbury Junction Boatyard" and so we edit the description to be what we want it to be:

Once we're happy with the new description we click on Add to Favourites and it loads the information into Stage 3.

Manage Your Favourites

Stage 1 : Find a Canalplan Location

Norbury Junction | Select Location

Stage 2 : Edit the Description

Norbury Junction Boatyard | Add To Favourites

Stage 3: Organise Favourites

Favourites

Norbury Junction Boatyard

To top
Up   Select all
Down   Unselect all
To bottom Toggle selection
Delete

Save Favourites

So now lets add a couple of more places to our list of favourites so we can then move onto Stage 3

Manage Your Favourites

Help ▽

Stage 1 : Find a Canalplan Location

Gnosall Bridge No 35 | Select Location

Stage 2 : Edit the Description

Gnosall Bridge No 35 | Add To Favourites

Stage 3: Organise Favourites

Favourites

Norbury Junction Boatyard
Gnosall Bridge No 35

To top
Up   Select all
Down   Unselect all
To bottom Toggle selection
Delete

Save Favourites

OK – Now we've got three places in our list of favourites and we can now click on Save Favourites to save them for future use.

But they might not be in the right order, or maybe we've added one that we didn't want. Stage 3 allow us to manipulate the list of favourites. To use it you click on the favourite in question and then use the options listed to the right of the box to make changes.

For example : we want "Penkridge – Visitor Moorings above Lock" to be our second favourite location rather than the third, so we click on it once and then click on "Up" on the list of options and it moves up the list:

Once we're happy with everything we can click on Save Favourites and its all done.

You can come back to this screen at any time and add, delete, rename and re-arrange your

favourites. If you delete a location from your list of favourites or rename it then any existing blog posts containing that place are unaffected.

4 Import a route

This is one of the big features of the plugin but, as with so much else the plugin basically walks you through the steps so its pretty hard to mess it up, and if you do then you can always abandon all the changes. You do not need a Canalplan AC API or user login to use this functionality. Basically this option goes out to Canalplan where you plan a route and then it imports it back into your blog and will create 1 blog post per day of planned route – so its important that you get the number of days right when you are planning your route. You don't need to worry if the overnight stops are wrong as the plugin allows you to change those.

4.1 Planning the Route

To import a route we need a route to import from Canalplan so when you go to the Import Route screen the first thing you will see is this:

When you click on the button you will find yourself on the Canalplan AC route planning screen and if you 've set your home mooring then you'll see it loaded as the "Start From" location (Canalplan AC will always show the original place name and not your customised description)

So lets plan an out and back route from our home mooring - you can give the route a title if you want.

We're only going as far as the Penkridge Visitor moorings :

You can set all the other options as normal and then click on calculate route and Canalplan AC will display the itinerary. At the bottom there are the usual options – but notice the new one on the right - "Blog about this". That option tells Canalplan AC that you want to take the route back to your blog.

When you click on the button you should find yourself back in your blog and the screen should now look like this:

This allows you to make changes to your route before you import it. As the import process creates posts you might want to assign them to a specific category. Getting the date right is important as a post is created for each day.

The Route Title and Route Description are used on the trip summary pages.

Once you've made the changes and you are happy click on the button and we move onto Step 3:

As you can see we now have a set of posts – one for each day of the trip. At the moment these posts are bare skeleton posts and are in draft mode. You can go and edit them right now but really the next logical step is to go and adjust the daily totals. To do this clcik on the "change the daily subtotals" link which will take you to the Manage import routes page.

5 Manage imported routes

This option does just what it suggests – it allows you to make changes to routes that have been imported into your blog.

The first step is to select a route to manage – and as with so much else the plugin simply gives you a drop down of routes that you can manage:

So you select the route you want from the drop down and click on Manage route:

As you can see this screen allows you to change various aspects of the route such as the title and description. You can also change the distance format from your default.

The Route Status is, for new routes, set to Not Published – this means that the route doesn't appear in the list of routes on your routes page (or on the global routes page if you are in a network). Note that changing the status of a route from Not Published to Published **does not** change the status of the posts associated with the route.

It is highly likely that the overnight stops for your trip are wrong because it isn't possible for Canalplan AC to be totally accurate on a day to day basis. So on the first night we didn't stop at Castle Cutting Bridge – we actually stopped somewhere else. So we go to the drop down for the first day and change it to High Ohn Wharf which is where we actually stopped. The plugin gives you about 15 places either side of the "planned" stop – if you stopped a lot further out than that then take it to the limit and do a Recalculate and then change the stop point again.

At the moment the day totals are still wrong, as is the start location for the second day, so we click on Recalculate and Save Changes and the plugin makes all the changes for you.

Once you've made all your changes and you are happy click on OK, I'm happy with that. Don't worry if you've got something wrong – you can come back and change things at any time and everything will be updated on the fly for you.

The Delete This Route option does just what it suggests – it deletes everything but it does give you an option to change your mind:

6 Editing auto created blog posts.

The posts created by the plugin when you import a route are normal Wordpress blog posts and you edit them as normal. NOTE : **DO NOT** delete an auto created post through the regular post management options as there is no way to change post associations.

If you are using date related permalinks you'll see that the plugin has created the post with the correct permalink format – that is assuming you got the date right when you imported the route.

Each post is created with a basic title – for example "Post for Day 5 of trip". You really should change these to something more suitable.

When you open a newly created post it contains just two fields:

[[CPRM:]] and [[CPRS:]]

These are two special short code fields – standing for CanalPlan Route Map and CanalPlan Route Stats and are used by the plugin to create the map that is associated with each post which shows the route for that day and the "stats" information for that day's cruising. You can delete either of these two fields if you wish, or you can move them around to suit your page layout.

Apart from that there is nothing special about the auto created posts and you can edit them as normal.

7   Using Canalplan in Blog Posts / Pages

When the plugin was activated it added a new box to the Post/Page edit screen. The box is called "Canalplan Tags" and by default will be located at the bottom of the page. The box looks like this:
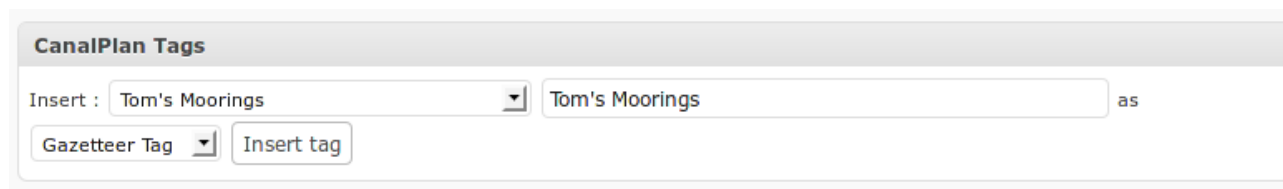
The Box is multifunctional

7.1 Insert Favourite

Inserting a favourite location into your post is the simplest method. You select a favourite from the drop down list (which you set up using the "Favourites" option) and it puts the text into the second field:

Where you can edit the description if you wish.

You then select how you want to insert the tag – you can insert it as either a gazetteer tag (basically a link back to the relevant gazetteer entry on the Canalplan AC web site) or as a small google map which is rendered in the blog post.

When you click on Insert Tag you should see that all that happens is that the plugin inserts a short code into your post. The following screen grab shows a post with with a Gazetteer Tag and a Google Map tag inserted into the post:

Upload/Insert ▣ ▦ ♫ ⚙ ●●   Visual | HTML

| **b** | *i* | link | b-quote | ~~del~~ | ins | img | ul | ol | li | code | more | lookup | close tags |

We keep the boat moored at [[CP:Tom's Moorings|jco8]] [[CPGM:Tom's Moorings|jco8]]

Word count: 0   Draft saved at 12:34:58 pm. Last edited on June 23, 2011 at 12:00 am
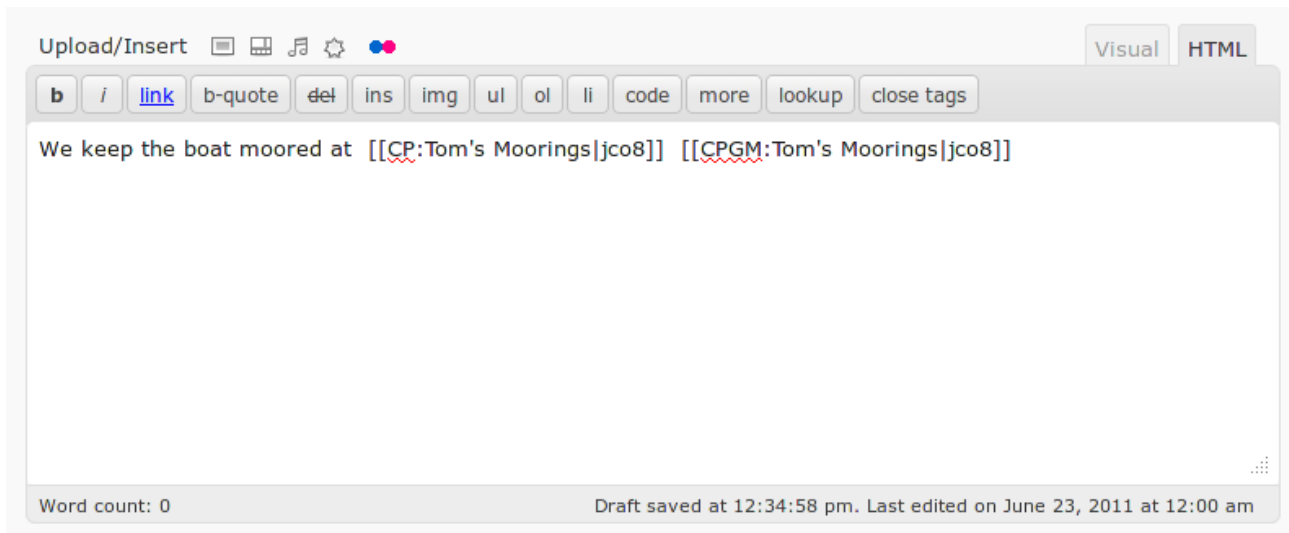
7.2 Insert other Canalplan Place

If you want to add a place that isn't in your favourites list then simply start typing the name of the place into the second field and, just like on the Website (and elsewhere in this plugin) you'll be presented with a short list of matching places. Select the one you want and the tag type and click on Insert Tag

CanalPlan Tags

Insert : | Select Favourite   ▼ | | Crooke Underground Canal | as
| Gazetteer Tag ▼ | Insert tag |

Upload/Insert ▣ ▦ ♫ ⚙ ●●   Visual | HTML

| **b** | *i* | link | b-quote | ~~del~~ | ins | img | ul | ol | li | code | more | lookup | close tags |

[[CP:Crooke Underground Canal|5gl3]]

Word count: 10   Last edited by Steve on July 4, 2011 at 12:47 pm
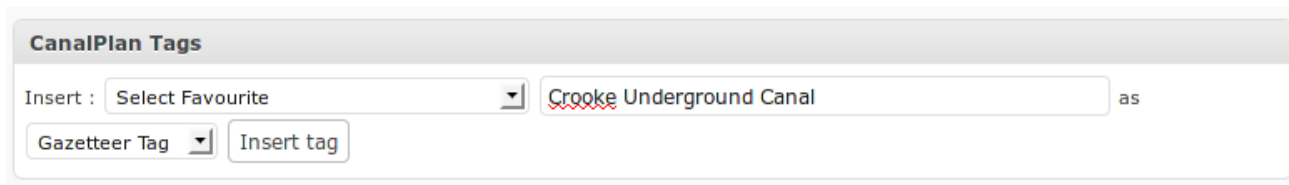
If you want to edit the text that appears in your blog post then you can change it – only change the text between the **:** and the |
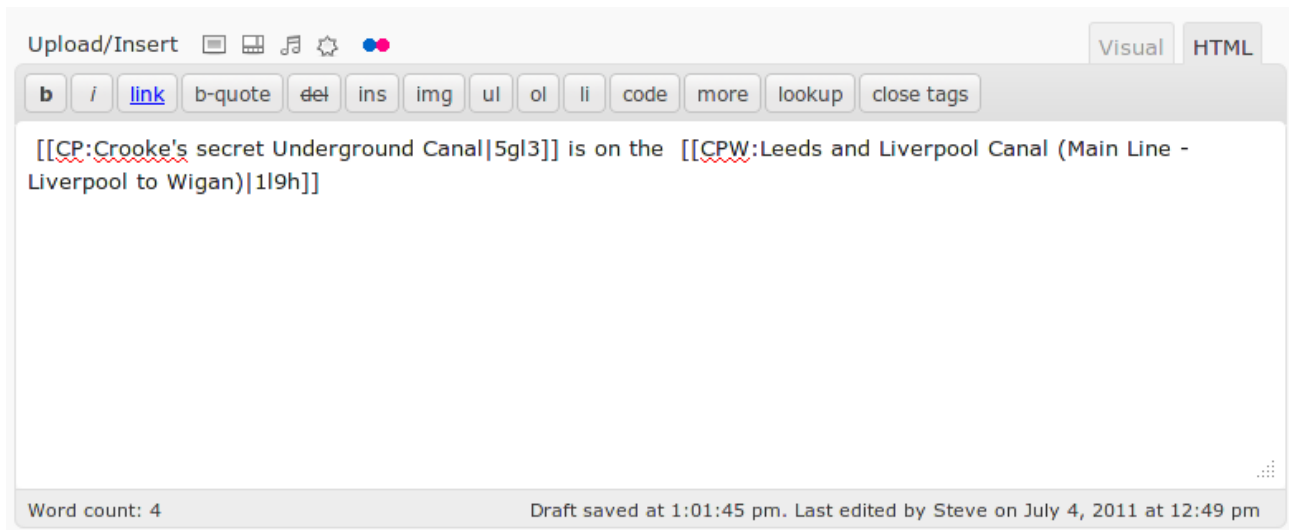
7.3 Insert a Waterway or Section

You can also insert a link to a section of waterway, or an entire waterway if you want. As with adding a place you simply start typing in the first field. So we can add the Leeds and Liverpool from Liverpool to Wigan:
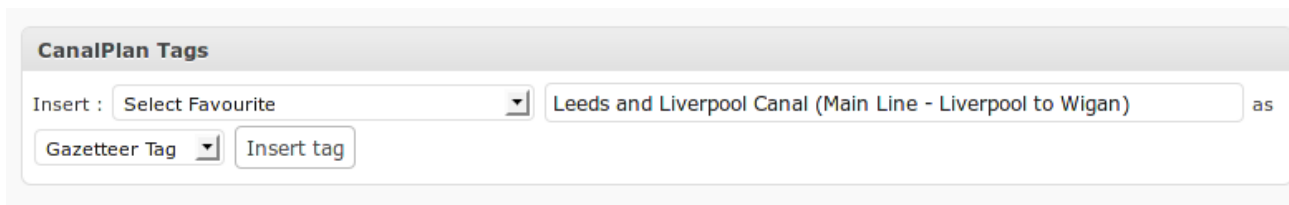
And we can then insert it as we do with a normal location – note that the tag is slightly different:

8 Bulk link Notifier

This option is only available if you've got a Canalplan AC API key associated with your blog.

During normal use Canalplan AC will learn about your blog posts – when someone (or a search

engine) follows a CP link from your blog back to the Canalplan AC website the website "remembers" where that link came from and puts a link back to your blog posts from the relevant gazetteer entry page.

However there might be situations where you want to let Canalplan AC know about a set of links – you might have just published a set of blog entries, or you might have changed your blog name or url, and that is where this option comes in handy.

9   Diagnostics / Version information

The Canalplan plugin doesn't have any huge system requirements but if you are having problems then this is the page to come to. It gives some basic diagnostic information and the information displayed should always be included in any support request that you make.