

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Bourne Mill
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Bourne Mill, one of the places on the Canals Trail. This is one of a series of recordings made up of local people's experience that you can listen to at different places along the Cotswold canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	You are now standing at Bourne Mill. Chris Hart the current owner of Bourne Mill is going to take you on a quick tour of its history. Chris and his wife Charlotte were looking for a property in the area but, even after advertising in the local paper, they couldn't find anything suitable. Chris takes up the story
Chris Hart	— one afternoon, the owner of Bourne mills came to see me, a little fella with a long white beard, wearing a red boiler suit, looked a bit like Father Christmas. He came in and said "hello Chris, I've got just the place for you", and his name was Len Taylor, lovely bloke, and he took me at that time down to Bourne Mills which I was aware of the building but didn't know it was for sale. And he took me around and showed me what it was like and he repeated many times as we went around "I'm not hiding nothing, what you see is what you get!". And what I saw was dry rot, we rot, rising damp, no gutters, saturated walls, rotten timbers, broken floorboards, smashed windows, subsidence, cracks, just about everything that you could think of really...but the price was right, and we finished up buying it.
Narrator	Chris and his wife have worked hard on renovating the mill buildings, starting with the smaller building that now holds their surf shop.
Chris Hart	The small mill as they call it, which apparently in its day was a fulling mill. Which is a process of cutting the knapp of felt material, but I'm not an expert so I could be wrong about that. But apparently its quite a noisy process which involves a lot of power and they had a water wheel and stuff, back in the day, and they did this fulling in there. That building had been on fire and didn't have a roof anymore. The beams that held the floor on the first and second floor had all collapsed and the roof was mostly missing. All the windows were broken, the doors were rotten and the staircase going up to the first floor was similarly leaning away from the building and had got buddleia growing between the stone steps and the wall
Narrator	The area is dominated by the railway viaduct, which left a significant mark on the back of the building as Chris explains.
Chris Hart Clip 1	To the rear of the property there is the old great western railway bridge, which has got 13 brick arches made of engineering bricks.

Clip 2	The railway originally came through on a wooden viaduct and that was rebuilt as a brick viaduct, I would say at the beginning of this century. The viaduct is really a large structure, and when it was put in, I think the cost of the, to the railway of the land the money, the money given to the mill owners possibly spent on building a second mill which is the felling mill because I think it dates from when the railway when through. Ironically the railway seemed to have the upper hand as they wanted to put their bridge partly where one of the building was which resulted in a corner of one of the buildings being chopped off for the viaduct, you would think they would just have built the viaduct a little bit further away from the building but they didn't see it like that.
Narrator	After milling stopped at Bourne Mills the building was used by several businesses, including, in the middle of last century, the manufacture of walking sticks
Chris Hart	I think before the invention of nurofen and artificial hips, just about everybody got a walking stick for their 50 th birthday, and this Mill was busy making them and exporting them all around the world. There are one or two photographs of umm a large consignment going to Tanganyika or Kenya or somewhere like that.
Narrator	Chris and his team have worked hard to improve the area around Bourne Mills as well. This has included clearing the canal and restoring walls. Chris explains why....
Chris Hart	We enjoy being by the canal. Umm, there are a lot of extra interesting things going on that you wouldn't get if you were in the high street. And umm its nice to see various ducks, herons, kingfishers, dippers and the odd fish and all that sort of stuff. Its just a lot nicer than being in the town centre.
Music	Fade In
Close	Thank you for listening, other recordings are available along the towpath or can be downloaded on our web site www.alongthecotswoldcanal.co.uk
Music	Fade Out