

## Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Capel Mill
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Capel Mill, one of the places on the Canals Trail. This is one of a series of recordings made by local people you can listen to at different places along the Cotswold's canals. Should read Cotswold Canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	<p>The Capel's Mill is between Wallbridge Upper Lock and Dudbridge. Milling on the site dates back to the early 1500s and during the 1700s the Capel family owned a Mill there. This mill was demolished in 1964. In the 1980s a section of the canal was filled in to create Dr Newton's Way.</p> <p>Ian Macintosh, a local resident and historian describes the area before the road was built.</p>
Ian Macintosh	<p>From the moment of crossing the London road you were in safety. The children could run ahead, they could run down to where the canal, the canal didn't lap or have free water it was all choked with weed and everything like this so, err, nobody was going to drown in it in any way but then the path went over this little bridge and then went down towards the viaduct and on the left hand side was this great heap of earth which we discovered was the old mill pond of Capel's Mill of course filled with rubbish and then you came to the little bridge which happily is still there and the ruins of the mill sticking out into the river. And it was a sublime area, I'm very much a romantic about the past and err so this was, and this was still a place of enemas appeal.</p>
Narrator	<p>The big railway viaduct was built in 1840 to replace the bridge that once stood here as Ian goes on to explain</p>
Ian Macintosh	<p>The original bridge was a wooden bridge and one of nine down the valley and these viaducts, because Brunel didn't have enough capital to build brick viaducts so he worked out how to build wooden ones. he wasn't sure how long they would survive so he built these viaducts so that any individual spar could be replaced without closing the line.</p>
Narrator	<p>At the start of 2012 work to clear this area was started so that the canal could be rebuilt. Chris Balodis used to regularly walk this way</p>
Chris Balodis	<p>There was a little trail that actually you could follow along the river, and you could see herons and you name it and again the railway track was right there beside you, and you could eventually join up if you carried along, alongside the newer path, you could come out towards Waitrose or you could come out and under the railway bridge again, you could come out a bit further along the actual start of where the canal stopped, which was under Dr Newton's way bypass.</p>

Narrator	The reconnection of the canal in this area represents is a big challenge for the engineers. Mark Steward explains why.
Mark Steward	<p>its one of the few sections on the channel, where the original channel line has been completely lost. So our main challenge there is the original canal was under Dr Newton's Way which I think was built in the '70s or '80s and the site that used to have a mill pond has been used as a landfill so basically we've got to find a new route for the canal underneath the rail viaduct through a landfill site to connect to our viaduct at the other side. So it's a stretch of about 200 metres.</p> <p>It's a very interesting site in that we have the river Frome to one side and there is clearly the environmental agency are very that any intervention in that site may potentially increase contamination into the Frome so we've spent a great deal of time on the design and in discussion with them and have come up with a solution that will actually reduce the contamination into the Frome and reduce the risk of that whilst also giving us what we need in terms of a brand new canal channel through the site.</p>
Music	Fade In
Close	Thank you for listening, other recordings are available along the towpath or can be downloaded on our web site <a href="http://www.alongthecotswoldcanal.co.uk">www.alongthecotswoldcanal.co.uk</a>
Music	Fade Out