

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

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| Location: | Dudbridge Locks |
| Music | Fade In |
| Introduction | Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Dudbridge Locks, one of the places on the Canals Trail. This is one of a series of recordings made by local you can listen to at different places along the Cotswold Canals. |
| Music | Fade Out |
| Narrator | You are now standing at Dudbridge Locks. Iris Capps has been researching the history of the canal for many years and has discovered a series of documents about the Dudbridge lockkeeper in the early 1900s, a Mr George Mynet |
| Iris Capps | he was a man of...umm...let say a short fuse and umm a determination to do things his way, so there were lots of complaints, various notes, saying that he had failed to arrive on time with his team to do various work (maintenance work), and one occasion he objected so strongly to being reprimanded that he flung his fists about and attacked the man whose responsibility it was to chide him for being late. |
| Narrator | Nick Darrion-Jones has produced a detailed map of the canal which includes historic and modern details. It shows that the Dudbridge locks were originally built by John Franklin, and called Franklin's locks... |
| Nick Darrion-Jones | there's a wonderful order, where he is ordered to make x million bricks on site from local clay and then construct the two locks and a bridge...and you envisage, you have to envisage how difficult it was then. You actually had to if your were building on that scale. You had to source all the clay within a few hundred yards of where you doing it, and that's interestingly why the bricks vary in colour as you go up the canal. It's to do with the local clay quality |
| Narrator | You can see original Franklin's bricks at Dudbridge Locks. You will also notice along here that the river becomes part of the canal. This provides a mixture of challenges and opportunitites for the engineers, as Mark Seward and Bruce Hall explain |
| Mark Seward | . There are three brooks that come in from the north of the river. There's Painswick stream, Ruscombe brook and Slad brook, that when the canal was first built, would have been taken underneath the waterway. So that means that any of the flood flows that came down those valleys wouldn't have ended up in the canal they would have all gone into the Frome. |
| Bruce Hall | You see you can't have a working canal with a huge quantity of water flowing over the top gates so that's in the process now of being diverted...round the side a separate channel...what a waste of energy, so we're going to put it through a turbine...before it re-enters the canal and that will umm generate £20000 worth of electricity per annum by feeding it to the national grid |
| Narrator | Things are changing fast! Chris Balodis remembers describes cycling to work here before all the work on the hydro project started. |
| Chris Balodis | At Dudbridge locks you have some really nice sort of dips down and dips back up depending on which way you were coming. From a mountain bikers |

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| | perspective, I think it always used to shock road users on the little bypass heading towards Sainsbury's to see someone hurtling along and then look like they were going to smack head first into the actual bypass, but then all of a sudden vanish from view and shoot out the other end heading towards Ebley...umm...very exciting as a biker... |
| 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 |