

Along the Cotswold Canals Audio Trail Script

Location:	Dudbridge Wharf
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Dudbridge Wharf, 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 canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	Look around. Looming above you here at Dudbridge Wharf is a rare thing, an original canal crane. Sadly, as Nick Darrion Jones and Bruce Hall point out, not many people notice it
Nick Darrion-Jones	that's one of those obscure things, is well nobody know is it, unless somebody points it out its completely you know not seen
Bruce Hall	...there's the only crane left in existence on this whole navigation, yes yes...and umm Gloucestershire society for industrial archaeology have recorded it and actually did quite a bit of work on to restore it
Narrator	Records show that well-known local boat builder, Edwin Clark regularly used this very crane in the 1900's to lift some of this ?? boats out of the canal. These boats needed to go to Gloucester to have their engines fitted and the Dudbridge crane had good road and rail links.
	The crane was installed in 1854. It would have been hand operated and can lift up and rotate. It was designed to lift up to five tons and would have helped with loading and unloading heavy and bulky cargoes like stone, engineering equipment and boats.
Narrator	Just up from here, going towards Ebley Mill, is Hilly Orchard Bridge. This was one of the locations popular for swimming in the '40s.
Jenny	My family, my mum and her sisters used to swim in the canal. I know that once my Aunty Eileen jumped in with her shoes on which was a bad thing in those days as shoes where expensive.
Tom Older	As children, the canal was our playground and it was commonplace that any boy in the village was expected to jump off hilly orchard bridge into the canal because in those days there was plenty of depth in the canal and we did have an old swimming pool in Stroud before Strafford park opened but this was where we learnt to swim.
Music	Fade In
Close	Thank you for listening, other recordings are available along the towpath or can be downloaded on our web site www.alongthecotswoldcanals.co.uk
Music	Fade Out