

Along the Cotswold Canals Audio Trail Script

Location:	Ebley Mill
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Ebley Mill, one of the places on the Canals Trail. This is one of a series of recordings made local people you can listen to at different places along the Cotswold Canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	You are now standing at Ebley Mill, the current offices of Stroud District Council. In the 1980s the council took the massive step of converting this mill building into offices. They have continued to support the improvements in the area as Jon Pontefract explains.
Jon Pontefract	Stroud District Council staff are able to spend up to three days a year doing voluntary work, and so we capitalised on that by encouraging them to do that work pretty much on their own doorstep outside the council offices at Ebley mill.
Narrator	Chris Balodis works in the IT department at the council and has done a couple of volunteer days.
Chris Balodis	<p>We were out there you know, cutting back reeds, the growth that had taken over the canal, especially around Ebley mill and working up towards well as far up towards the new Stroud brewery bridge.</p> <p>You know...those volunteer days were kind of a bit of fun but also kinda rewarding because when you saw the actual hedges and everything being cut back you actually realised how overgrown and how...you know...the canal had really just fallen into wastage in some respect and it could have been more of a dangerous place in some respect</p>
Narrator	As well as being such an important place for volunteer work, Ebley Mill has one of the most significant new structures on the canal, a flood lock. JP explains why it was necessary...
Jon Pontefract	the canal from the centre of Stroud down to Ebley carries river water and were going to use that river water to good effect, were going to keep as much of it as we need, and just release the excess back into the river, but obviously rivers have a tendency to flood and we've got to be able to control that flooding, and there are three separate structures to do that and the Ebley flood lock is one of those and that is designed to deal with a hundred year flood and send the water back to where it can cascade over into the adjacent river rather than carrying on down and inundating the double lock at Ryeford and properties below
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

