

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Hope Mill
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Hope 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 Canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	In front of you, you will see a red brick house with an old chimneystack on the side. This used to be the site of the Edwin Clark's boat-building firm Hope Mill. Edwin died in 1896 when he was only 31 but he had already gained a reputation for building steam boats that were sent all over the world as historian Colin Rudland explains.
Colin Rudland	Some of them very interestingly went to Africa. Some of them were in kit form, backpacks and were backpacked up to central, places like lake victoria to be used by missions and these sorts of people, and so they would be reassembled in central Africa from very many backpacks that the native people had brought up. They would be assembled by engineers and the stories are horrendous of the deaths. The engineers would all die in some cases, leaving the locals to put the boats together.
Narrator	In Gloucestershire, after Edwin Clark's death, the company became Abdela and Mitchell. It's thought that this company built one of Hollywood's (?) most famous boats Mike Ayland takes up the story...
Mike Ayland	Those boats went all over the world South America, Africa and of course the most famous of them is the boat that starred in the African Queen which apparently is somewhere in Florida and is allegedly up for restoration project to be brought back into being and back to the UK. I have actually seen her, one year in the 1970s she the star attraction at the Earls Court boat show.
Narrator	Further along the canal, if you're heading towards Stroud, you'll come to Ham Mill. Both of these locks have been renovated by canal volunteers. Bill Evill describes what they discovered one lunch time...
Bill Evill	The lads found something that had been dropped from a plane... I had gone to lunch came back and they said, you missed all the excitement. They told me that basically they found this 8 inch canister, 2 and a half inch in diameter and had been basically, well didn't know what it was and so they said they had been playing catch with it and an elderly gentleman been walking down the tow path and more or less hit the deck very worried and had asked them if they did they realise what it was? And of course No...and the story goes that it was live ammunition about the time that Stroud had its new police station built near the launderette in Stroud, whose of you that know it, and that coursed great fun apparently because the police called Hereford bomb disposal people and they had to come and take it away.
Narrator	This area is popular with fisherman who make use of small fishing pegs. Chris Balodis sometimes runs along the canal path and describes how these fishermen sometimes entertain themselves.
Chris Balodis	There's an area where, sort of there's fishing rams and in summer especially or when the fishing season is on, there is a lot of people out there with their long rods fishing, if your a runner they make you steeple chase over their rods in a very amusing way...its good fun
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
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