

Along the Cotswold Canals Audio Trail Script

Location:	Lodgemore Mill
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Lodgemore 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	Between Wallbridge and Lodgemore Mill you will find an arch that Jill Field, Manager of the Cotswold Canals Visitors Centre vividly describes here
Jill Field	<p>Walking along the towpath there is a curious arch. Looks as if a door must have fitted there, there's some hinges, there's a bit of chain. Yes that is a doorway, it was the former entrance to the basin, which had to be kept secure. So you are now going through the arch, you'll also see little indentations in the arch where the ropes from the horse drawn barges and boats have worn away into the stonework. So look for the rope marks in the arch.</p> <p>You'll then be behind Winterbothams Strawn and Plaine cloth mill. Now you'll see the steam rising from the cloth mill and that's showing you the cloth is being shrunk, it's being felted. You may smell a curious sweet sort of laundrette smell, but that's part of the felting process.</p> <p>Now behind that wall, that long wall of the cloth mill, is where the processing of the cloth takes place. You may catch a glimpse through a window if you are lucky, but there is a little bit of a secret as to where you might see the chinks to look through and I'll leave that to the visitor to find.</p>
Narrator	This mill is producing a number of very successful lines as Clive Field explains.
Clive Field	Its in fact working three shifts, as we speak now here in February 2012. They're working three shifts, 160 local people and they are producing west of England cloth, which is being exported all over the world. The most impressive of which possibly is the billiard cloth, which is being exported in lorry loads to china currently. There was a bit of a wedding back in London 2011 where the young groom was wearing the red uniform of the Irish guards, the colour is known as Stroud scarlet, the cloth is known as Stroud scarlet. As was then Millicans, which was now recently changed in 2012 to Winterbothams Strawn and Plaine, they manufactured this red cloth for the military, for the guards uniforms and Chelsea plant shows and so on.
Narrator	The wedding Clive was referring to, was obviously the Royal wedding in 2011 of Prince William to Kate Middleton. It's amazing to think that Stroud continues to supply cloth around the world.
Narrator	If you head into Lodgemore Mill and go under the sign between the

	two mill buildings, Jill Fields describes what you're looking at.
Jill Field	There is the mill owners house, a listed building - I understand listed as a same listing as the subscription rooms the town hall, not sure what that is, beautiful stone tiles, but that's the mill owners house. Through the mill, up over the Mill stream on a balustrade bridge, a beautiful balustrade bridge. Carrying up through the cobbled pathway, past the mill and then you are on the A46.
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