

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Oil Mills Bridge
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Oil Mills Bridge, one of the places on the Canals Trail. This is one of a series of recordings made up of local people's experience that you can listen to at different places along the Cotswolds canals.
Music	Fade Out
Narrator	Volunteers have played a major part of restoring the canal. This has included significant work at various locks and bridges. They have also undertaken the major task to create and repair the towpath including the one you are now standing on. This work has opened up access to previously inaccessible areas. The team of volunteer's have been co-ordinated by Jon Pontefract who explains how this work is undertaken.
Jon Pontifract	We will go along and initially clear the edges of the towpath of vegetation, then we'll level the existing, sort of, muddy surface down to something firm. Then we start to build up wooden edge boards to retain the surface. That has to be done quiet acutely maintaining a consistent gauge of two meters width if we can squeeze that in or a bit narrower if there are obstructions in the way and with a cross fall so the surface drains towards the canal. We devise methods of keeping it running level but with a cross fall over it and to gauge. And then we lay a barrier, a membrane, and then fill it in with aggregate. The materials we using is recycled materials, which not only saves us moment but is also pretty good for the environment.
Narrator	Jon is rightfully proud of the impact this work has had and describes here what it will mean to people in the area.
Jon Pontifract	Getting people who have not done any volunteering before to join in on the project to feel a sense of ownership. You know. We are doing this project for the people of Stroud not just for obscure boaters from somewhere else in the country. Its a project that's going to bring benefits in terms of tourism but its also going to give people an amenity that they can use whether its for boating, fishing, walking or just sitting around watching the ducks whatever.
Wendy Townsend	I worked hard, really hard, we started doing the towpath and it was every Thursday. So we would just come along and dig to level it out and we put wooden batons at the side for it then to be filled in with grave. We would go backwards and forwards filling and emptying wheelbarrows of grave. It was really hard work.
Narrator	That was Wendy Townsend ending that clip. She worked as a volunteer for several months after being made redundant. Clive Field, one of the visitors centre manager echo's this view and here gives an encouraging prediction for the future
Clive Field	I'm convinced from what I know of tourism and having travelled the world a bit that this canal is going to make a big difference to Stroud again. It made a difference once, it's going to make that difference again. And even in these strained times here we are in 2012 and we're all worried about the bankers and so on, I'm convinced that just the way that the people reacting

	to it that it will make Stroud a wealthily place yet again.
Narrator	Behind were you are standing; Eliza Botham explains what you will see.
Eliza Botham	<p>Just along the canal from Oil Mills Bridge, or Ebley Mill if you're coming from the other direction, is a very nice Georgian fronted house called Holly Tree House. It has a rather pretty, quite delicate window over the front door called a fanlight. It's also got some little carved faces high up near the roof!</p> <p>Apparently the house is older than the canal, but it was fashionable for Georgian gentlemen to turn their house to face the canal as it was quite an important location. Ebley House is just across the canal (although the one there now is Victorian) and Ebley Mill a little further away.</p>
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

Actually v close to Oil Mills Bridge not Ebley Wharf.

Peter Burris	<p>Err 1954 I started working in my father in laws business which was Hoopers of Ebley saw mill along side the canal. We drew water from the canal too keep the boiler going there was a well actually in the side of the building which was filled from the canal....wasn't a proper well it was a sump. And we had a boat which we maintained the bits and pieces of the canal bank in fact I got in trouble with the water bailiff 'course I hardback razor blades to an outboard motor propeller and cut the weeds and got told off for blocking the sluice up at Ryeford, at the double lock.</p>
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