

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Ryeford Double Lock
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Ryeford Double Lock, 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	You are now standing in front of Ryeford Double Lock which as had significant work to restore it following damage caused by a flood in the 1980's as Martin Hyde a long time resident of the area explains.
Martin Hyde	There was a big flooding over here, because a water main up, up across the field up by the main road, a big water main burst and the water came roaring down the field and it sort of built up behind the brick walls of the lock and they collapsed and there was a terrific rumble and the walls on the other side of the lock here just sort of fell in.
Narrator	The lock has a rare lock chamber and as such is a grade 2 listed structure. This has mean painstaking work to repair it as Simon Casey, a member of the engineering team explains.
Simon Casey	Ryeford lock, actually, apart from the gates being in there, doesn't actually look much different apart from a bit of grass cutting then it did when it was unless you knew what you were looking at but you know there is so much engineering work to keep that in place you just can't appreciate just like they've had to do things like...its like....its like, somebody drilling, you know how they do micro surgery, its like drilling in to do microsurgery doing a heart bypass and then coming back out the same whole because their not allowed to touch that lock to like take away, so they've like
Narrator	Behind you will see a cottage, this is the original lock keepers cottage dating back to the 1800s. On the side you will see a small lean too that would have been a stable for horses. Back to Martin Hyde now who highlight how unused the towpath along this stretch was before restoration work started.
Martin Hyde	If anyone came along the towpath you'd say 'oh look somebody is just walking down the towpath' we hardly ever saw anybody, at all. It was quite a rarity to see anybody walking along the towpath or come along on a bicycle or anything.
Narrator	To end here is Ken Burges explaining why lock ladders are now added to locks, a feature that wouldn't have been seen in the past.
Ken Burges	When the locks where original built you had varied gates at the top, varied gates at the bottom and lock walls in-between which were basically completely vertical. What has happened in more recent years is the safety ladders have been put in on locks so if somebody falls in they can climb up a ladder to get back out again. Whether this has made things safer or not actually that clear because it also means that boaters in the lock instead of getting off before they get into the lock sometimes clime up the safety

	ladders so whereas before they were for people who feel in they are now regularly get used by people who are actually boating and using them for that. Which is not the lowest risk way of getting in and out a boat in a lock.
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