

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Ryeford Wharf
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Ryeford Wharf, 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	Ryeford Wharf was a busy hub for the transportation of coal on the canal. If you look just down from the bridge on the left of the path you will see a walled area. This is in fact an original coal pen. The canal played an important part in transporting coal as Bruce Hall explains.
Bruce Hall	and for one purpose and that purpose was to bring coal to the mills. Industrial revolution, the change over from water powered to steam power and the commodity needed was coal.
	Clive Field now goes on to explain where that coal was coming to the area from.
Clive Field	Coal being used for mills and domestic use locally that coal came along the Stroud Water Navigation and it came from the coal fields of Staffordshire, south wales and also the Forest of Dean.
Narrator	Transporting coal is thirsty work and if you look across the canal the Cotswold stone house you can see opposite used to be a pub called The Anchor.
Colin Wood	It was owned by some of the Brunston family and it was one of the only pubs on the canal stretch here that had a beer breakfast licence and the bargees could stop up here and have beer with their breakfast.
Narrator	That was Colin Wood a XXXXXX who XXXXX Simon Casey grew up in Stroud and here tells us about his first memory of the canal.
Simon Casey	I played cub football up here and my first memories is actually going over Ryeford Bridge and a humpbacked bridge that I'm sure everyone is aware off and my dad driving a Renault Espace over the top of that bridge. Now the Renault Espase took off and I don't know if you remember 1980's cars but they were not particularly good and we bottomed out and my father actually just at the bottom where there is now the link road round Stroud with the car having bottomed out. We did get to Leonard Standley to play football but not in a very good state.
Narrator	Ryeford has seen a lot of changes during the restoration of the canal but is also offering some problems for the team. Here Jon Pontefract the volunteer manager explains why.
Jon Pontefract	There's one here where we have some difficult at the moment because the river and the canal run parallel less than ten feet apart. And the river is nibbling away at the edge of the causeway between the canal and the river, their at similar levels and we're not sure at this stage how we can lay the path without that being eroded as well as the edges.
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