

Along the Cotswold Canal Audio Trail Script

Location:	Skew Bridge
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Skew 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	Skew bridge was regularly used by steam trains up until the 1960s. The narrow single-track bridge allowed Midland Railway trains to travel from Stonehouse to Nailsworth. Photos from the time highlight how low the sides of the bridge were. The bridge was built in 1863 by local firm Phoenix Ironworks in Thrupp as Eliza Botham a canal enthusiast explains.
Eliza Botham	<p>One of my favourite places on the canal is called Skew Bridge, probably because its at a funny angle.</p> <p>In 1863 the Act for the building of the Stonehouse to Nailsworth Railway was passed and the Stroudwater Canal Company made sure that their requirements were included as a clause in the act. A "good and substantial bridge or viaduct" had to be built to cross the canal and its towing path and was to be approved by the Company Engineer.</p> <p>These days the path is part of the Sustran's national cycle network, so you can cycle along a peaceful route away from traffic, but I like to look up and imagine that one day a steam engine might go over the bridge again.</p>
Narrator	As Eliza mention the bridge is now used by cyclists travelling Ryeford and Kings Stanley. It was actually part of the first dedicated cycle track in the Stroud area.
Narrator	The bridge takes it name from the strange angle at which it was built. You will also see bracing between the bridge legs.
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