

Along the Cotswold Canals Audio Trail Script

Location Name:	Wallbridge
Music	Fade In
Introduction	Along the Cotswold Canals. Welcome to Wallbridge, 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	In 1779 when the Stroudwater Canal opened, this area would have looked rather different than it does now. Just around the bend to your left there was a large basin, where the canal ended. Overlooking it was a grand building, which we can only see the back of. As Jill Field explains, this was Bankfield House, the Headquarters of the canal proprietors...
Jill Field	“So that’s the first thing you would see after you had gone under the A46 bridge of course, so under the A46 bridge go and see Bankfield House and the grandeur of what would have looked the basin and terminus of the Stroudwater Canal. From there behind Bankfield House is actually the very first lock on the Thames & Severn Canal, so don’t forget I’ve said this is a terminus, so somewhere there’s a seamless join of two canals, the Stroudwater Navigation joins seamlessly with the Thames & Severn Canal close to that basin that is no more. So seek out the number one lock, don’t forget number two lock is the one outside our visitor centre so go and find number one lock.”
Narrator	Somewhere close to the number one lock, wedged between the canal and the River Frome, there were several houses. One of them was a pub called the Ship Inn. At some point it was converted into a house and Glenda Coombe’s grandparents moved in, and it was here that Glenda’s mother was born...
Glenda Coombs	“When you walked along the road there was a railing and you went down some steep steps into what would have been the pub and the wafer was straight in front of the one window and my grandmother went into premature labour because somebody thought it was still a pub and staggered down the steps and frightened her and my mum was born two month early, 28th November, and she survived and they kept her alive and wrapped her in cotton wool as well as clothes as well but cotton wool to keep her all warm and how she managed to live I don’t know in such a cold house that was so damp and dark would have been very difficult.”
Narrator	These houses were effectively in the middle of a working wharf with

	<p>the river on one side and the canal on the other. Howard Beard, one of the founding members of the Cotswold Canals Trust, <u>had grown</u> grew up next-door to the old Ship Inn.</p>
Narrator	<p>Wallbridge has been the focus of restoration work, including the building of a new bridge named after the original Stroud Brewery, which stood here at the end of the 1900s. You can still see the remains of one of their warehouses that were just filled with rubble without removing the barred windows you see today.</p> <p>Bruce Hall, former chairman of the Cotswold Canals Trust sums up the impact the new bridge has had.</p>
Bruce Hall	<p>Go there now and you will see lovely brand new bridge named Brewery Bridge and what a transformation! Because that is the image now of Stroud.</p>
Music	Fade In
Close	
Music	Fade Out