### Key to Symbols

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<td><img src="Image" alt="Defibrillator" /></td>
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<td><img src="Image" alt="Vet - see p 11" /></td>
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INTRODUCTION

This guide covers a seven mile section of the Cotswold Canals. They comprise the Stroudwater Navigation to the west of Stroud and the Thames & Severn Canal to the east.

In these pages you will find lots of information to help you enjoy the waterway in whatever way you choose. Much of the content will be especially helpful to boaters with essential instructions for navigation.

The Cotswold Canals extend way beyond this section as you can see on the map to the right. As restoration has progressed, the canal has become more popular as a wonderful destination for those seeking the relaxing atmosphere as well as a place that’s well used by locals. Much of the work has been done by a volunteer workforce. Only the larger projects have been undertaken by contractors.

Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC) is responsible for the operation of the section of canal covered in this guide. There are still finishing touches to be made and lots of ongoing maintenance.

SVCC asks for your understanding as they work with others to improve the waterway and its environs.

Do enjoy your visit to the Cotswold Canals.

DETAILS SUBJECT TO CHANGE                E&OE

To the best of our knowledge, the information in this guide is correct at the date of publication. Please check website for updates before planning your visit.

www.stroudvalleyscanal.co.uk
**NAVIGATION NOTES**

**Powered craft up to 32ft (9.5m) can use this short section if accessing the canal via the slipway. Limits of navigation are Pike Lock and Bonds Mill Bridge. Canoes can use the whole section.**

**Dock Lock**
Part restored but not navigable.

**Pike Bridge**
New bridge in 2005 based on previous one which was demolished. The road to Eastington crosses. Whilst restored, the bridge is technically not navigable.

**Pike Lock**
Part restored but not navigable.

**Blunder Lock**
Navigable.
*Do not leave craft unattended in this lock or leave it empty.*
*Bottom gates and paddles must be closed when boat passage is not underway.*

**Newtown Lock**
Navigable.

**Newtown Roving Bridge**
Navigable - Heritage brick humpbacked.

**Bonds Mill Bridge**
Not navigable. Lift bridge installed in 1994 which is currently fixed down. Very limited headroom - canoes should portage.

**‘Ocean’ Rail Bridge**
Not navigable to large craft but a small culvert is passable with care by canoes and other craft with shallow draft and beam of less than 4ft (1.2m). Towpath runs through larger ‘tunnel’.

**BOATING FACILITIES**

**SLIPWAY - Eastington**
Requires Watermate key
See section on Slipways on page 14

**OLDBURY SERVICES FACILITIES**

**Filling Station:** 24 Hrs
with small shop
01453 827309

**Subway**
01453 827468

**Starbucks**
020 3510 0444

**Hotel: Travelodge**
www.travelodge.co.uk
GL10 3SQ
08719 846054

**EASTINGTON FAUCILITIES**

**Village is almost 1 mile from canal**

**The Old Badger**
01453 822892
www.oldbadgerinn.co.uk
Pub, Food and Real Ales

**Kings Head**
01453 822277
www.thekingsheadhouse.com
Pub, Food & Rooms

**Co-op**
01453 824785

**Butcher: J Broomhall & Sons**
01453 823229

**EASTINGTON - CANAL-SIDE**

**Cotswold Canals Trust Western Depot**
(Mon & Weds mornings only)
Maintenance HQ, Log sales.
*Defibrillator (limited access)*
BOND’S MILL FACILITIES

Cafe at the Mill
01453 828042
www.cafeatthemill.com
Light snacks served weekdays at heart of Bond’s Mill Estate.

Cotswold Canals Trust Visitor Centre - Bond’s Mill
Information centre run by volunteers to provide information about the canal and its restoration to visitors. Learn about the history of the industrial estate too. Open some weekends - check opening times at 01453 752568.
www.cotswoldcanals.com

MAP SCALE

This Guide was produced to be viewed as an A5 booklet

A5 MAPS SCALE:
5cm to 1 km
3 ¼ inches to 1 mile

However, if you printed the guide on to A4 sheets:

A4 MAPS SCALE
7cm to 1km
4 inches to 1 mile
NAVIGATION NOTES

Powered craft can use this section if accessing the canal via the slipway at Strachans Close - see page 8 & 14. but see notes on p8 re Dudbridge Lock Canoes can use the whole section.

The Ocean Swing Bridge
Navigable. Manual Swing Bridge. Requires Windlass. Very difficult to operate at present

Nutshell Bridge
Navigable - Heritage brick humpbacked

Downton Bridge
Navigable built 2000

Upper Mills Bridge
Navigable built 2010 Restricted height (8ft - 2.44m)

Skew Bridge
Navigable ex railway bridge

Dr Hayward’s Bridge
Navigable built 1997 Tunnel-like as it was built for the Ebley bypass

Ryeford Road Bridge
Navigable - Heritage brick humpbacked

Ryeford Swing Bridge
Requires Watermate key Navigable - Manual pedestrian bridge

Ryeford Double Lock
Navigable - For operating instructions, see page 17

BOATING FACILITIES

Turning Space - The Ocean
Max length 70ft - 21.3m

Permanent Moorings
Stonehouse Wharf

Turning Space - Upper Mills Bridge
Max length 50ft - 15.2m Immediately to the east of the bridge

Turning Space - Harpers Field
Max length 70ft - 21.3m

Harper’s Field Facilities

Permanent Moorings

CANALSIDE FACILITIES

Stonehouse Court Hotel
01453 794950
www.stonehousecourt.co.uk
STONEHOUSE FACILITIES

Town Centre is a quarter of a mile from canal. Rail Station, car park, many shops, co-op supermarket (incl. Post Office), 2 butchers, ATM, cafes, 2 pubs, takeaways.

Filling station 1 mile away on Gloucester Road with outdoor launderette.

The Woolpack
01453 822542
Pub, Food and Real Ales
Nearest to canal on High Street

The Globe
Pub
01453 297691
www.facebook.com/Globe-Stonehouse

Stonehouse Station
Trains to Stroud, Gloucester & beyond

Buses
to Stroud, Gloucester & beyond
NAVIGATION NOTES

Powered craft can use this section if accessing the canal via the slipway at Strachans Close.
but see notes below - Dudbridge Locks
Canoes can use the whole section.

Oil Mills Bridge
Navigable. Modern Structure built on heritage bridge foundation.

Cloth Mills Bridge  Navigable.

Ebley Floodgate
Single set of gates closed at times of high water levels - see page 18

Ebley Mill Foot Bridge  Navigable
Manual Swing Bridge.

Hilly Orchard Foot Bridge  Navigable.

Dudbridge Bridge - Navigable.
Towpath not suitable for wheelchairs but alternate route signposted.

Dudbridge Hydro Scheme
Beware outfall below Dudbridge Bridge which may cause turbulence.

Dudbridge Lower Lock
Heavily Restricted Use!
Phone 07986 351412 if passage is planned

Dudbridge Upper Lock
Navigable

DANGER - SHALLOW
Gas pipe crosses

DANGER - SHALLOW
Sewer crosses

8
Heavily Restricted Use!

50 yards west of Chestnut Lane Bridge - watch for markers

Chestnut Lane Swing-Bridge
Navigable. Electrically operated.
Fully mechanised. Insert Watermate Key and follow instructions

Lodgemore Lane Lift-Bridge
Navigable. Electrically operated.
Insert Watermate Key and follow instructions.

Depth 1.5ft 0.5m
50 yards west of Wallbridge Lower Lock - watch for markers

Wallbridge Lower Lock  Navigable

Stroud Brewery Bridge
Navigable under 4 lanes of road

Wallbridge Bridge  Navigable
Part heritage bridge

Wallbridge Upper Lock  Navigable

BOATING FACILITIES

SLIPWAY - Strachans Close
Requires Watermate key
See section on Slipways on page 14

EBLEY FACILITIES

Kitsch Coffee & Wine Bar
01453 350930
Canal-side
Coffee Food Licensed

Coach & Horses  01453 825692
Pub, Bar Snacks lunchtime

Old Crown Inn  01453 821131
Pub

Shop: Best One Convenience Store
01453 759678
DUDBRIDGE - The towpath under Dudbridge road bridge is not suitable for wheelchairs. Alternate route is shown in green dots.

DUDBRIDGE FACILITIES

Accessed from Dudbridge Road Bridge

Filling Station - Dudbridge Garage incl. Spar Convenience Store
01453 762345

Sainsbury's Supermarket
01453 755749 incl ATM outside

CAINS CROSS FACILITIES

Accessed from Hilly Orchard Bridge or Dudbridge Road Bridge
Car park, co-op supermarket, Original Factory Shop, cafe takeaways

Fortune Takeaway
01453 762575 Chinese
01453 759298 Fish & Chips

Hot Wok Takeaway
01453 764668

Woody’s Sandwich & Coffee Bar
01453 767622

Co-op
01453 824785

RODBOROUGH FACILITIES

Clothiers Arms
01453 763801
www.clothiersarms.co.uk
Pub, Food in bar plus separate restaurant. Up path from Lodgemore Bridge. B&B
STROUD FACILITIES

Very close to the canal uphill from Wallbridge Bridge

Shops from national chains to independents. Many cafes, banks
Vue Cinema, Launderette

Pubs listed are closest to canal

The Lord John (Wetherspoons)
www.jdwetherspoon.com
Russel Street 01453 767610
Food

The Little George (Micropub)
George Street 01453 750300
Limited opening hours
www.stroudmicropub.co.uk

Curio Lounge
King Street 01453 757052
Bar and Food
www.thelounges.co.uk/curio

The Ale House
John Street
Many real ales and food
01453 755447

The Retreat
Church Street 01453 750208
Food lunchtimes. Closed Sundays
www.retreatstroud.com

Imperial Hotel
Bar and Thai Cuisine
01453 764 077
www.imperialhotelstroud.co.uk

STROUD WALLBRIDGE FACILITIES

Canal-side by Wallbridge Upper Lock

Upper Lock Cafe
01453 297172
www.upperlockcafe.co.uk
Canal-side cafe, coffees, light meals, licensed. Open mornings and lunchtimes

Cotswold Canals Trust
Visitor Centre
07582 286636
www.cotswoldcanals.com
Information centre run by volunteers to provide information about the canal and its restoration to visitors.
Canal shop and exhibitions
Defibrillator on side of building approaching cafe.

EDGE OF STROUD TOWN FACILITIES

LEISURE CENTRE
Stratford Rd, Stroud GL5 4AF
01453 766771
Almost a mile from the canal in Stratford Park: Nearest point on canal is Wallbridge Upper Lock.
Indoor and outdoor pool and showers

A&E MINOR INJURIES
Nearest point on canal is Capel’s Mill - see map p 13. NOT 24 HRS
0300 421 8080
Trinity Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2HY
www.glos-care.nhs.uk

BOATING FACILITIES

Visitor Moorings - Wallbridge
On the towpath above Wallbridge Upper Lock.
STROUD LARGE SCALE MAP

STROUD TOURIST INFORMATION

www.cotswolds.com/plan-your-trip
01453 760960

A&E MINOR INJURIES, STROUD. Nearest point on canal is Capel’s Mill NOT 24 HRS
0300 421 8080  Trinity Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2HY

VETS
STONEHOUSE: Bowbridge Veterinary Group, 17 Gloucester Rd GL10 2NZ, 01453 825796
STROUD: Five Valleys Veterinary Practice, GL10 2NZ 01453 765304
STROUD: Clockhouse Veterinary Group GL5 3JD 01453 752555
BOWBRIDGE: Bowbridge Veterinary Group, GL5 2LA, 01453 762350

TAXIS
STONEHOUSE: Apollo Taxis. Office in Queen Road 01453 823344
STROUD: Rank at rail station and uphill from Wallbridge Upper Lock
A&A Taxis Office in Station Road 01453 767777
NAVIGATION NOTES

**Stroud to Bowbridge**
Powered craft can use this section to Bowbridge if accessing the canal via the slipway at Strachan’s Close - see page 14. Canoes can use most of this stretch with portages.

**Bowbridge to Thrupp:** Restored but not currently available for navigation by large craft. Canoes may use with care with difficult portages necessary.

**Thrupp to Brimscombe:** Currently infilled

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LONDON ROAD FACILITIES

**Accessed from Capel’s Mill**
- **Waitrose**
  - Supermarket incl. ATM inside
  - 01453 757067
- **Filling Station: BP incl shop**
  - 01453 751294

BOWBRIDGE FACILITIES

**Accessed from Bowbridge Bridge**
- **Bowbridge Arms**
  - Sister pub to Clothiers Arms
  - food lunch & eves
  - Closed Sunday evenings
  - [www.thebowbridgearms.co.uk](http://www.thebowbridgearms.co.uk)
  - 01453 298914

THRUPP FACILITIES

**Accessible from Hope Mill Lock**
- **Stroud Brewery Bar**
  - Brewery bar and pizzas
  - Limited opening hours
  - [www.stroudbrewery.co.uk](http://www.stroudbrewery.co.uk)
  - 01453 887122

BRIMSCOMBE FACILITIES

**Along the towpath**
- **The Ship Inn**
  - 01453 884388
  - Pub with food - closed Mondays
  - [www.theshipstroud.co.uk](http://www.theshipstroud.co.uk)
- **Takeaway: Simply Fish & Chips**
  - 01453 885856
- **Brimscombe Newsagents & Shop**
  - 01453 882262

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**CURRENT LIMIT OF NAVIGATION**
Below Bowbridge Bridge

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**Bowbridge Bridge**
Restored but not open for navigation
Towpath not suitable for wheelchairs but alternate route signposted

**Bowbridge Lock, Stanton’s Bridge, Griffin’s Mill Lock, Jubilee Bridge, Ham Mill Bridge and Ham Mill Lock**
Restored but not open for navigation

**Bagpath Bridge**
Restored but not open for navigation

**Hope Mill Lock**
Infilled

**Goughs Orchard Lock**
Part restored but not navigable
**BOWBRIDGE**

The towpath under Bowbridge road bridge is not suitable for wheelchairs. Alternate route is shown in green dots.

**BOATING FACILITIES**

- **Turning Space - Capel’s Mill**
  - Max length 70ft (21.3m)
  - To the east of the viaduct

- **Visitor Moorings - Capel’s Mill**
  - Two lengths marked on map

- **Turning Space - below Bowbridge Lock**
  - Max length 35ft (10.5m)
  - LAST PLACE TO TURN

**EASTERN LIMIT OF FULLY NAVIGABLE SECTION**

LAST PLACE TO TURN OVER 35ft LENGTH (10.5m)

Cotswold Canals Trust
Second-hand Bookshop
at Brimscombe Port along towpath - open Tues, Thurs, Sat
www.cotswoldcanals.com
There are two slipways on the SVCC controlled length of canal:

The one at Strachans Close near Stroud provides access to about 4 miles and 7 locks (one a double) within the Phase 1A length.

The one at Eastington, between Pike Lock and Blunder Lock and not far from the M5, provides access to about a mile of canal and two locks within the Phase 1B length. A Watermate Key is required at Strachans Close.

In the Phase 1B length, both Blunder and Newtown Locks at Eastington are usable with care and accessible via the Eastington slipway above Pike Lock - please return the heavy stop plank into position after use. Please note that there is a pile of underwater debris in the Eastington Slipway on the left hand (upstream side) - for best results, use the right hand side. Recent volunteer work has removed fallen trees and branches but Bonds Mill Lift Bridge is currently inoperable and weed in the summer can sometimes be an issue.

A Watermate key is used nationally on the waterways operated by the Canal & River Trust. The key is needed to operate Chestnut Lane Swing Bridge, Lodgemore Lift Bridge and Ebley Swing Bridge. They are on sale at the Cotswold Canals Trust Visitor Centres, but please ensure you have one before you travel to navigate the canal.

The canal is now usually navigable with care from The Ocean near Stonehouse to Bowbridge Lock about 2 Km east of Stroud, a distance of 6.5Km with 7 locks with one being a double lock. (A further 2Km to the east of Stroud should be added to the length described above during late 2019). Many of the boat landing stages for the locks and movable bridges are in place but a few are not, so care is needed. Single handed navigation is not recommended at this time.

The Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC) is a charitable company that has been set up to be the navigation authority – i.e. the operational managers – for the Cotswold Canals as they are restored. It was created by four partners – Stroud District Council (SDC), the Cotswold Canals Trust (CCT), the Company of Proprietors of the Stroudwater Navigation and Gloucestershire County Council. It leases the Stroudwater Navigation from the Company of Proprietors and owns much of the course of the Thames & Severn Canal from Stroud up to, and including, Brimscombe Port. The restoration itself is being managed by SDC, but SVCC is obviously closely involved.

Please note that the canal is still undergoing restoration and some lengths are not yet available. Those that are may not be fully completed and use may be restricted by ongoing work.

The canal is still undergoing restoration and some lengths are not yet available. Those that are may not be fully completed and use may be restricted by ongoing work.
**MOORING**

There are three types of mooring.

**Visitor Mooring**, with a maximum period.

**Long-term Mooring**, for boats that are not lived on. The first five permanent moorings are now available.

**Residential Mooring.** None available yet.

Mooring fees are payable for anything other than short term visitor mooring. Visiting boats must always only moor on the towpath side or at clearly designated Visitor Moorings. The off-side bank is usually in private ownership.

**OPERATING LOCKS**

Please ensure that you know how to operate a lock if you intend to use one. You will need a windlass to operate the paddle gear with BOTH the two normal square holes to operate the locks and swing bridges.

Unless specifically instructed otherwise, leave all gates and paddles closed.

**RIVER SECTION**

The section of canal between Wallbridge Upper Lock and Ebley is shared with three streams. This river section is subject to high flow rates and increased depth during times of high rainfall. Extra care is necessary and occasionally the navigation needs to be closed.

Ebley Flood Gates should be dealt with in accordance with the instructions on page 18.

**FISHING**

The fishing rights on most of the canal are let to either the Stroud & District Angling Club, the Association Phoenix Angling Club or Frampton Angling Club. You will need to speak to them about fishing opportunities.

**LICENCES**

At present, we are not issuing licences or charging licence fees.

The canal is still undergoing restoration and although lengths may be navigated at your own risk, some sections will be unavailable due to ongoing work and subject to restrictions.

Once the canal is connected to the main system at Saul Junction, we will introduce a licensing regime, with, we hope, some degree of reciprocity with the Canal & River Trust (C&RT - formerly British Waterways).

However, other than for short term visitors, we do require ALL boats moored on the canal to be registered with us. For these, we will need the name, address and telephone number of the owner; evidence of compliance with the Boat Safety Scheme (a BSS certificate) for all powered craft except those powered solely by an outboard engine and with no inboard fuel, gas or electrical systems; and evidence of insurance covering third party liability of at least £2 million for all powered boats including those powered by outboard engines.

Unpowered boats, canoes and paddle boards must also be covered by insurance, which is available cheaply through a number of boating and canoeing organisations.

**LANDING STAGES ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY**

You will need our agreement to ensure it is a safe place to moor in terms of passing traffic and a licence from us. Generally, you should not plan for any structure to extend out into the canal or be built on land we own (sometimes the channel has narrowed over years of disuse or has not yet been dredged to the correct width). We will be as helpful as we can but may sometimes have to say no for navigational reasons.
A lock is a chamber that holds water and lowers or raises boats between the different levels of the canal. Locks should be treated with respect and you should not operate them unless you are confident in their use.

**Going Up**

- When you start, the lock must be empty.
- Ensure no paddles have been left open.
- Open bottom gates and take boat in.
- Close bottom gates.
- Open top paddles carefully and gradually.
- As the boat rises, ensure that the bow does not snag on the forward lock gate.
- When on a level, open top gates and exit.
- Ensure all gates and paddles are closed but look out for special instructions about how the lock should be left.

**Going Down**

- When you start, the lock must be full.
- Ensure no paddles have been left open.
- Open top gates and take boat in.
- Close top gates.
- Open bottom paddles carefully and gradually.
- Keep clear of the cill (the step in the lock) behind you under the top gate.
- When level, open bottom gates and exit.
- Ensure all gates and paddles are closed but look out for special instructions about how the lock should be left.
More detailed instructions about operating locks can be obtained online.

Recommended sites are
Inland Waterways Association  www.waterways.org.uk  Look for the Boating section

**Ryeford Double Lock - A Staircase Lock**

- At Ryeford Double Lock, the bottom gates of the top lock are also the top gates of the bottom lock, and water from the top lock fills the bottom lock.

- You need to prepare both locks before you start through the staircase.

- Never empty the top lock unless the bottom lock is already empty.

- Once you’ve prepared both locks, make sure all the paddles are fully closed. If the water level isn’t right, you could get stuck on the cill between the locks. If you do, just make sure the paddles on the bottom lock gates are closed and *slowly* let the water into the lower lock from the top lock.

**Going Up**

*When you start, the bottom lock should be empty and the top lock full.*

**Going Down**

*When you start, the top lock should be full and the bottom empty.*
The Ebley Floodgates are a single pair of lock gates situated next to the footbridge at Ebley Wharf. The gates are a vital part of a flood protection scheme which diverts all excess water into the river and thus prevents flooding in Central Stroud and the surrounding areas.

The gates must remain closed at all times except when a boat is navigating them. In times of flood, or when flood is imminent, there will be red signs placed on the gates and navigation is not permitted. In normal operation the signs on the gates will be amber or yellow, indicating the relative flood risk.

The gates have normal lock paddles in them. The paddle on the non-towpath side is locked and, as part of a careful water management scheme, it must only be adjusted by authorised personnel. The paddle on the towpath side is available for use in the rare event that the levels on each side of the gates are unequal. This paddle must be closed after use.

In summary, the three golden rules are:

• Never adjust the paddle on the non-towpath side.

• If the signs on the gate are red then do not open the gates or adjust the paddles. Be aware that the flow and levels upstream of the gates can vary and may be dangerous.

• In all other cases close the gates and the towpath side paddle after use. The gates should never be left open.

Enquiries about using the canal should be made to Peter Best.

Canal-related Emergency Phone Number: 01453 222104 (for other emergencies, call the emergency services on 999)

Main Contact: Peter Best 01453 835287 / 07703 200442

Other contacts/directors: Ken Burgin 0752 590 0374
                     Geoff Dyer 01453 873 095

Company Secretary: Sheila Harris 01531 820657
Stroud Valleys Canal Company (SVCC) has, by kind permission, adopted the Canal and River Trust National Towpath Policy as its guide. This policy can be found at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/8535-national-towpath-policy.pdf

SVCC is committed to providing a towpath available to all users of the canal, and to maintaining and improving the towpath to the best of our ability and resources.

**Principles of Towpath use:**

1. SVCC’s towpaths are places for people to spend time safely for a variety of activities.

2. Everyday access to the towpaths will be free to everyone, although we reserve the right to charge for specific access such as special events.

3. Towpaths will be available to support both use of the water-space, and the towpaths themselves.

4. SVCC aims to improve towpaths to achieve a good towpath condition throughout its length, consistent with the character of the area in which the towpath is located.

5. SVCC wants to offer all users an enjoyable towpath experience and recognises that this is dependent on people being considerate, particularly to those who are not moving, are slower, or more vulnerable; in general priority should be given to the slowest and those using the waterway.

6. SVCC recognises the incorporation of towpaths as part of walking and cycling routes.

7. The Canal and River Trust’s Towpath Design Guidance specifies physical characteristics of towpaths and also includes requirements for signage, recognising shared use and the historic waterside character.

8. Where there are concerns over towpath capacity or condition, we will seek opportunities to secure further external investment.

9. Where towpaths are unsuitable for some uses – too narrow or too heavily-used – we will seek to work with others to provide alternative routes.

10. Whilst SVCC is committed, within the above limitations, to providing a towpath, it reserves the right to close or restrict the use of the towpath at any time for maintenance purposes, and will aim to keep such disruption to a minimum.

**Towpath Code**

**Share the space** – towpaths are popular places to be enjoyed by everyone. Please be mindful of others, keep dogs under control, and clean up after them.

**Drop your pace** – pedestrians have priority on our towpaths so be ready to slow down; if you’re in a hurry, consider using an alternative route for your journey.

**It’s a special place** – our waterways are a living heritage with boats, working locks and low bridges so please give way to waterway users and be extra careful where visibility is limited.
The Cotswold Canals Trust is the membership organisation which supports the restoration of the Cotswold Canals. Their volunteers have worked alongside those from the Waterways Recovery Group. Stroud District Council have also organised drop-in work parties.

Visit one of the three Visitor Centres to find out more about the canals. Two are marked on these maps and the third one can be found at Saul Junction on the Gloucester-Sharpness Canal.