

Cloth, coal and canals

The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) has just published a brand new walk along the Cotswold Canals near Stroud

**Canal
walk**

**3 ½ miles
long**



**Self
guided**

**Free to
download**

Find out how a waterway transformed the Stroud Valley
See evidence of the woollen industry that once thrived here
Learn about the ambitious project to reopen the canal
Discover how heritage buildings have been restored

www.discoveringbritain.org

**the stories of our landscapes
discovered through walks**



Cloth, coal and canals

Discover how the Cotswold Canals transformed the Stroud Valley

Do you know why two creatures – the ‘Cotswolds Lion’ and the cochineal beetle – made Stroud’s name?

This was where some of the best quality coloured woollen cloth in Europe was produced.

However, the rolling hills and deep secluded valleys of the Cotswolds became a problem for the expanding woollen industry.



The construction of two connected canals in the late 1700s transformed everything. In came tons of coal and new steam-driven machinery; up went productivity and profits. This walk along the canal towpath from Stroud to Stonehouse tells the story of the Stroud Valley.



Along the way there is plenty of evidence of the industries that once thrived here in the mills and wharves, basins and locks, bridges and warehouses.

After years of disuse and dereliction, the canal is now being restored and you can now enjoy a walk along a stretch that is almost complete. Find out how this project is regenerating the area and reinvigorating the local economy once more.

**Download the free audio or written walk guide
from the Discovering Britain website**

**[http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/
south-west-england/cotswold-canals.html](http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/south-west-england/cotswold-canals.html)**