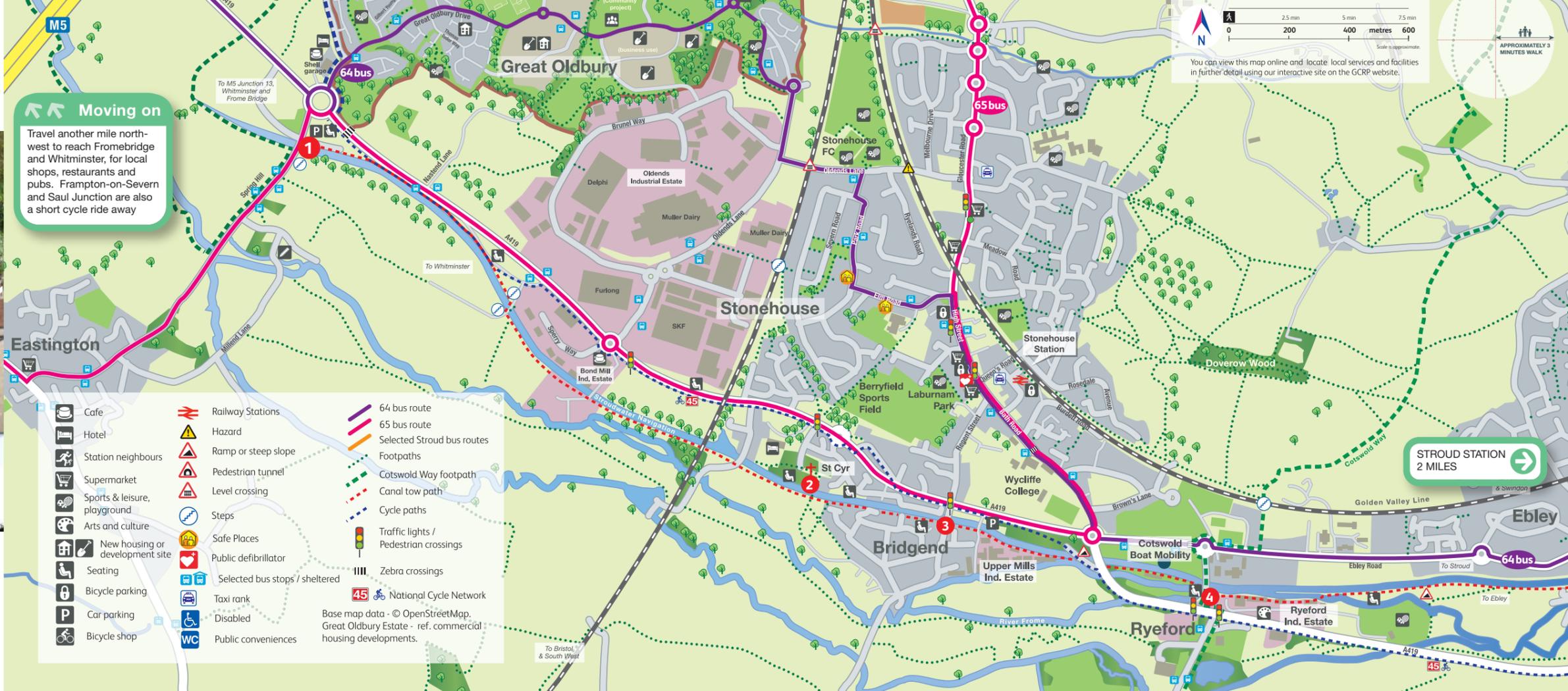




Canal Connections Guide Eastington to Thrupp



Useful Contacts

- Along the Cotswold Canals www.alongthecotswoldcanals.co.uk/index.html
- Discover Stroud District: Stroudwater Canal www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk/things-to-see-and-do/stroudwater-canal/
- Cotswold Canals Trust <https://cotswoldcanals.org/>
- Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership www.gloucestershirecommunityrail.org/
- Scenic Rail Britain: The Golden Valley Line www.scenicrailbritain.com/lines/golden-valley-line
- Creative Sustainability projects www.cscic.org/info/
- Stroud District Council www.stroud.gov.uk
- Local Canal History www.stroudwaterhistory.org.uk
- Cotswold Canals in Pictures www.cotswoldcanals.net/phase_1b
- Cotswold Boat Mobility www.cotswoldboatmobility.org.uk
- Find out more: info@gloucestershirecommunityrail.org

History of the Canal



The Stroudwater Navigation canal was opened in 1779, connecting the River Frome to Stroud. It went on to be part of a route that connected Bristol to London after the opening of the Thames and Severn Canal and was a commercial success. As the Industrial Revolution saw the growth of railways and use of more direct canal routes like the Kennet and Avon Canal, so the Stroudwater Navigation canal began to see less and less use and was finally abandoned in 1954. However through a series of successful strategic funding bids and new priorities being placed on canal use for leisure, tourism, active travel and wellbeing purposes - the Stroudwater canal is undergoing major revival.

Eastington

This is the westernmost part **1** of the current canal that can be assessed for 'easy walking'. Pedestrians and cyclists can connect the canal path network from to Eastington, Whitminster, and the Great Oldbury development here – there are also a range of small supermarkets/shops and pubs within a mile's walk from this point.



St Cyr's Church



There are excellent views of St Cyr Church **2** from the canal – and you can also glimpse the historic Stonehouse Court Hotel through the trees. St Cyr's Church has been open since at least 1225. The earliest recorded vicar at the Church was Sir Godfrey who was mentioned as being at the Church in 1225. The oldest part of the structure still standing today is the Church tower which was built in the 14th century.



Bridgend



Use the crossing points at Bridgend **3** or Ryeford to access Stonehouse town centre, bus services and the rail station.

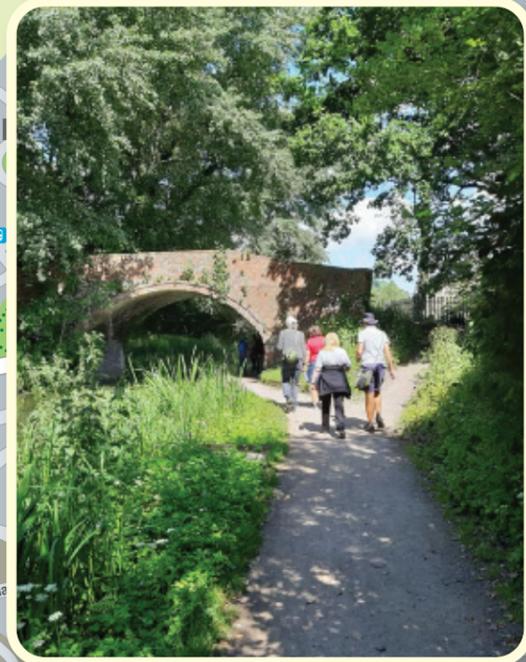
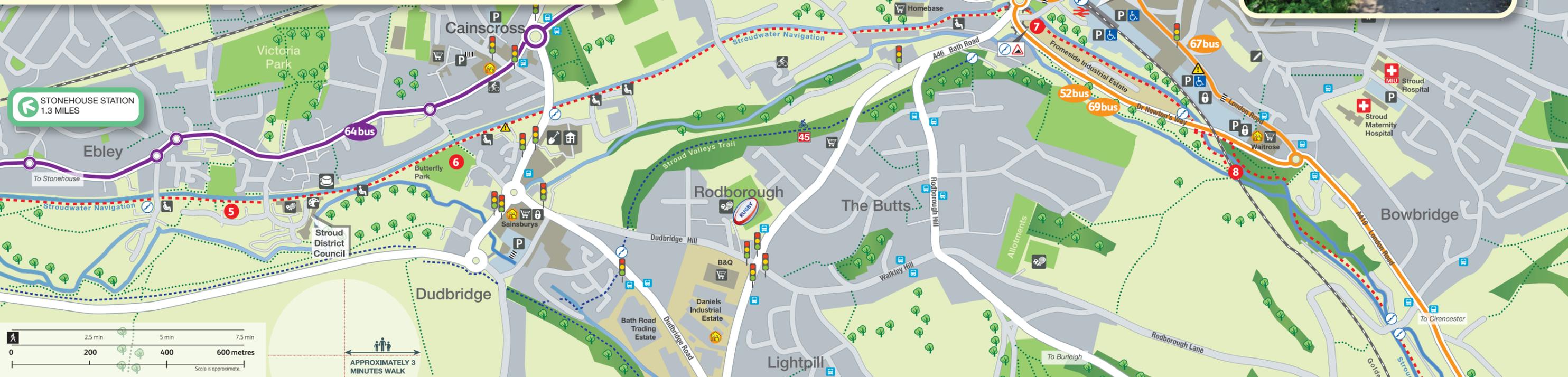
Ebley Mill



Photo credit: Cotswold Canals Trust

A mill **5** has existed at Ebley since 1393; however the current Ebley Mill was built between 1818-1820. It was later owned by S.S. Marling who saw additional constructions in the mid-1800s.

Between 1987-1990, part of the building was converted into offices for Stroud District Council who are still housed there to this day. Take a break from your walk here at the canalside café.



Queen Elizabeth Park | Wallbridge for Stroud Town Centre | Bowbridge Viaduct

Used by kind permission of Stroud District Council

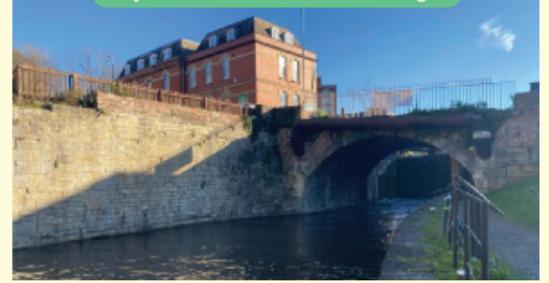


The Stroudwater Navigation route is largely flat and easy to use for its whole length, with many stretches that are well-surfaced and accessible for all users. Here at the Queen Elizabeth Park **6** (near Ebley Mill) the canal path is wide and ideal for those using pushchairs, wheelchairs, or mobility scooters. There are also plenty of benches and a children's play area so is a perfect place to take a break on the canal.

Pause a while at Wallbridge Lock **7** either taking advantage of the canalside café or taking a short walk to explore Stroud town centre. Merrywalks Bus Station is just under 10 minutes' walk from here, with Stroud Railway Station under 5 minutes' walk away.



Why not rest a while at Wallbridge?



This striking viaduct **8** near Bowbridge is difficult to miss and often sees steam trains using the 'Golden Valley' line as part of organised railtours on the UK rail network. This route connects Swindon to Gloucester and Cheltenham Spa and is part of the national scenic rail network. For more information, go to: (www.scenicrailbritain.com/lines/golden-valley-line). The name Golden Valley is said to have come from Queen Alexandra, the wife of Edward VII.

Scan me

Download our food and leisure trail maps for the local area:

GCRP

Moving on

Continue along this route for just over another mile taking in the industrial heritage and canalside scenery, plus you'll come across a choice of pubs and eateries as you reach Brimscombe

