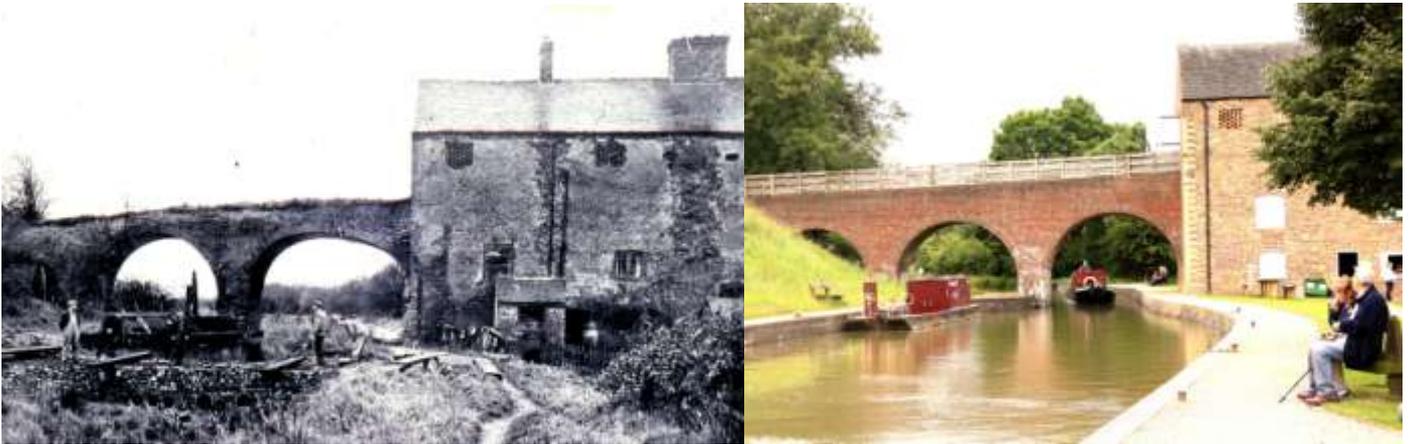


# AINA CASE STUDY

## THE WAY FORWARD

### Ashby Canal: restoration through partnership



#### ***Leicestershire County Council is taking the lead to restore the canal into the heart of the National Forest***

By 1966, due to the effects of coal mining, the Ashby Canal had been progressively abandoned from its original terminus north of Moira to its current terminus at Snarestone. However, mining had ceased by 1990 and, in response to community support for restoration, Leicestershire County Council initiated work to restore the canal back to Moira as a catalyst for recreation and tourism-led regeneration. This work was aided by the designation of the National Forest, in which the canal would eventually provide a green traffic-free gateway into the heart of the area.

Over 2 kilometres of canal have now been constructed at Moira, including a lock which compensates for mining subsidence and facilitates a road crossing. The canal terminates at the popular Conkers Discovery Centre, and passes the Donisthorpe Woodland Park and Grade II listed Moira Furnace. Visitor numbers have increased dramatically from a very low base since the canal was reopened, helping to ensure the viability of the Furnace site with its boat trips, museum, café and craft shops. The annual Moira Canal Festival attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Leicestershire County Council has subsequently been granted a Transport and Works Act Order to restore the canal from its current terminus at Snarestone to Measham. Planning permissions have been obtained and land purchased, and a start has been made on restoration works at Snarestone.

The project is supported by the Ashby Canal Trust which includes representatives from the County Council, Inland Waterways Association, British Waterways, Ashby Canal Association, Moira Furnace Museum Trust, North West Leicestershire District Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Major support or funding has been given by the Trust partners, as well as from the National Forest Company and East Midlands Development Agency.

*Further information and a copy of the summary business plan is available from [www.ashbycanaltrust.co.uk](http://www.ashbycanaltrust.co.uk)*