

# AINA CASE STUDY

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

### Lune Aqueduct: Lancaster Canal



#### ***Wide ranging improvements include an oral history project***

The Canal & River Trust worked in partnership with Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council, and the Lancaster Canal Trust to secure £1million funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help conserve and enhance the famous Grade 1 listed Lune Aqueduct. Over £2 million has being invested in total, including maintenance and repair work and the installation of a new canal liner to prevent leaks from the aqueduct at its northern end.

Lottery funding enabled a range of improvements to take place including restoration of historic masonry and brickwork, improved access between the aqueduct and the River Lune, towpath improvements, construction of a small visitor car park and works aimed to make the structure more prominent in its landscape setting. An innovative interpretation scheme has been supplemented by educational, training and volunteering activities.

The works have enabled the aqueduct to better fulfil its role as an important environmental, heritage and educational resource for local residents, schools and tourists. A project officer was employed to work with the local community on a range of activities and he commented: "The restoration work that has taken place will now safeguard this important piece of local and national heritage for generations to come."

The programme of events and activities has included a digital memories reminiscence project which aims to discover, record and communicate people's experiences and stories of the aqueduct and the Lancaster Canal. This has trained volunteers to undertake oral history work alongside local history research, heritage interpretation and podcast production. A series of workshops based around performing arts, light projection, creative writing and musical work have also taken place and a local artist led some of the events. A range of multimedia resources include a website and QR code linked to an audio trail.

Outdoor events have included volunteering sessions to help with landscape management and schools trips and free community boat trips. Environmental work ranged from the planting of new trees and hedgerows to the creation of two large and shallow temporary bodies of water to encourage amphibians and dragonflies. Twenty new bird and bat boxes were installed to help compensate for tree loss while parts of the site mature after the engineering work and a two-acre wild flower meadow will be seeded on the south east embankment.