

***Storm Desmond*-related damage to Grade II Stainton Aqueduct**

The beautiful Aqueduct that you are standing on was built almost 200 years ago, in 1819, designed by engineer Thomas Fletcher. It is constructed of limestone with a segmental-arch, flanked by curved and battered wing walls.

Back in December 2015 *Storm Desmond* caused water levels to rise six or seven feet higher than normal. Turbulence scoured the bed of the beck, washing away the path and part of the embankment, deepening the beck by up to one and a half metres. This undermined the foundations of the south-west wing wall leading to it subsiding and rotating, breaking the arch of the Aqueduct.

The Canal & River Trust has strengthened the damaged structure to prevent any further movement occurring. The water level in the canal above has also been lowered to reduce pressure on the Aqueduct.

We have now secured £500,000 of the £1.5 million funding needed to restore this important Aqueduct. We thank the Rural Payments Agency for their valuable support through the Countryside Access Fund (CAF). We are currently working on a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding which will be submitted in March 2017 and continue to look for funding from other sources.

We hope to secure funding in 2018 to enable the restoration of the Aqueduct and its path to its former glory.

Chantelle Seaborn, Waterway Manager, January 2017

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Stainton Aqueduct in 2015 before *Storm Desmond*



Severe damage caused by *Storm Desmond* December 2015