

# Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal Timeline

A surge in canal construction began across the UK. Navvies were employed to do the hard work of digging the canals by hand.



1760s 1761



The Bridgewater Canal near Manchester was one of the first in the UK to be completed.



Iron Bridge in Shropshire was completed, inspiring engineers to use iron for other projects.

1779



William Jessop, a renowned engineer, got involved with the design of the now Llangollen Canal.

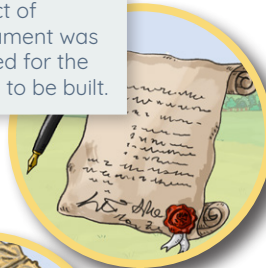
1791



Investors met to discuss plans for a new canal to transport coal from local mines to the growing industrial towns.

1792

An Act of Parliament was passed for the canal to be built.



1793



Thomas Telford, a talented engineer and architect, joined the design team.

1801 1805



The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was officially opened.



Chirk Aqueduct was completed.

Following the construction of the canal, industries flourished in the area.



1860s 1880s



Railways became a more efficient way of moving goods. Use of the canal by local industries decreased.

Campaigns by canal enthusiasts and increasing tourism ensured the canal and aqueduct remained open.



More tourists were visiting Llangollen.



1950s



Goods were rarely transported by canal but it survived as it supplied drinking water to north-west England.

People enjoy using the canal and towpath for boating, canoeing, walking and cycling. Wildlife also thrives there.



2005 2009



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct celebrated its 200th birthday!

Today



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal was made a World Heritage Site.