

AINA CASE STUDY

PLACE MAKING AND SHAPING

Selby canalside park



Environmental improvements to benefit all waterway users

The broad 20 kilometre Selby Canal in North Yorkshire links the River Ouse with the Aire and Calder Navigation. A programme of improvements was carried out to encourage better links between the canal and the historic town centre. These were initially identified in a detailed canal corridor study.

Proposals were developed to create a linear canalside park, approximately one kilometre in length, linking with pedestrian routes to the town centre and the regenerated Ouse waterfront. The scheme included improved towpath surfacing, significant landscape work, better access and signage, seating and public art, car parking and new provision for anglers.

Issues to be addressed included measures to reduce user conflict, access for all, refurbishment of an original swing bridge, liaison with neighbouring industrial premises and positive involvement of local people and schoolchildren. Local schools were invited to contribute ideas for a sculpture to celebrate the history of the canal, and a mosaic was also developed with their input. Adjoining businesses were asked to consider the ways in which their towpath boundaries could be improved and, where possible, funds were made available to assist.

An innovative part of the work included the development of a dedicated off-side walkway which caters for anglers without potential conflicts from other users. This also included a series of timber platforms specially built to cater for disabled anglers. Car parking for anglers was also provided. Towpath surfacing was a combination of limestone with dust and spray and chip, with timber boards or stone setts used as edging. All were chosen to cater for multi-use including cycling. New mooring bollards were installed with improved facilities in the small basin at Selby Lock.

A second phase allowed towpath works to continue further south and included an additional fifty angling pegs, with five designed for disabled use. The improvements have been successfully maintained and the Trans-Pennine Trail now passes along the towpath (see separate case study). Funding for the £150,000 scheme came from central government, Selby District Council, British Waterways and Landfill Tax credits. The local Groundwork Trust and Selby Angling Amalgamation also provided support.

The canalside park at Selby features maturing trees, shrubs, moorings, seating, angling platforms and public art. Dedicated car parking is provided on the adjacent road