



The Pocklington Canal was completed in 1818 but it was never heavily used. Commercial use ended in 1932 and deterioration of the locks prevented pleasure boats from using the canal a few years later.

There were various threats to the canal, notably a plan to use it as a dump for sludge from a water treatment plant. Thanks to the efforts of local residents and waterways enthusiasts, the canal was saved.

Today, the Pocklington Canal remains entirely rural and it is one of our most important canals for wildlife. The four road bridges are scheduled Ancient Monuments and eight of the locks are Grade II listed structures. There is a towpath throughout and at present the canal is only partly navigable.

Restoration of the canal started in 1969, soon after formation of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society (PCAS). Navigation from the Derwent to Melbourne Arm was restored in 1987. The canal is heavily silted near Thornton Lock, so the restored locks on the upper part of the canal remain unused.

The upper part of the canal is becoming overgrown with vegetation, which is displacing some unusual water plants. Dredging is needed and PCAS is working with British Waterways, English Nature and the Environment Agency to obtain funding for dredging and restoration. This will make the canal fully navigable and enhance the outstanding nature conservation value of this waterway.