

Bridge of the Month No43, July 2014 Sedgwick Aqueduct



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Back to the Lake District and the <u>Sedgwick Aqueduct</u> (disused) on the Kendal Canal.



There haveclearly been some changes here over the years. It is unlikely that the canal level has been raised but the aqueduct was probably built without a parapet.

The arch itself is very flat, but the advantage of aqueducts is that the load never changes.

The sweeping curve of the abutments suggests that there might be an invert, and with such a depth of fill, and the potential for water penetration, an engineer might well do that.

To the right, there is a huge extension to the wing wall.



The arch has a substantial skew. This photo also shows the batter on the buttresses.



There is a fine descriptive plaque sponsored by the Lancaster Canal Trust which names the original engineer as John Rennie, but was he still engaged when this section was built?



The canal itself is dewatered and cut by roads in several places, including by the M6.

Despite age (nearly 200 years after all) and neglect, the structure remains in good condition generally.



The joints are so tight that they almost look dry. Notice, though the slight crack spiralling away from the edge in an effort to follow the square line.