

Timeline of the Lagan Navigation

- ◇ 1649 Colonel Monk of the Cromwellian Army orders a survey on linking Lough Neagh to the eastern seaboard.
- ◇ 1690s Coal discovered in County Tyrone
- ◇ 1730s Newry canal constructed (Completed 1742)
- ◇ 1741 General Arthur Dobbs surveys canal route for Belfast to Lough Neagh
- ◇ 1753 Act of Parliament passed allowing construction of the Lagan Canal
- ◇ 1756 Construction begins on the Lagan Canal under engineer Thomas Omer
- ◇ 1763 Belfast to Lisburn section completed
- ◇ 1768 Construction brought to a halt due to lack of funds
- ◇ 1768 Robert Whitworth carries out second survey
- ◇ 1779 Company of Undertakers of the Lagan Navigation set up with controlling interest held by the Marquis of Donegall
- ◇ 1782 Engineer Richard Owen is employed to carry out works on Lisburn to Lough Neagh section
- ◇ 1782-5 River Lagan crossed by an aqueduct following Whitworth's recommendations to cut new canal on south side of the river
- ◇ December 1793 Final section is completed to Ellis's Gut, Aghagallon
- ◇ 1810 A group of Belfast businessmen take control from the Marquis and begin to make improvements
- ◇ 1839 Belfast to Lisburn rail line completed
- ◇ 1842 Legislation is passed to form the Lagan Navigation Company
- ◇ 1888 Lagan Navigation Company take over the Ulster Canal and Tyrone Navigation
- ◇ 1893 153,000 tonnes are transported on the Lagan Navigation
- ◇ 1930s and 1940s Annual tonnage declines to 30,000

Timeline of the Lagan Navigation

- ◇ April 1954 The Inland Navigation Act dissolves the Lagan Navigation Company, Lisburn to Lough Neagh stretch closed
- ◇ 1956 Belfast to Lisburn closed to commercial traffic with the last lighter delivering coal to the Island Mill, Lisburn
- ◇ 1958 Canal and respective companies abandoned, control taken over by Department of Agriculture with it later passing to Department of Culture Arts and Leisure
- ◇ 1960s 960s M1 Motorway is constructed destroying central section of canal between Sprucefield and Moria
- ◇ 1967 Lagan Valley Regional Park is founded by John Gilchrist
- ◇ Today Today towpath and canal are used by the general public with over 500,000 visitors each year for leisure