

**BRECON AND
MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL
MONUMENTS RECORD CARD**

**Monument
Number:
MB146A
LLANFOIST**

Monument Name: Embanked aqueduct and dam and feeder system

Map Reference: 329233 211702

Official Status: Listed Building Grade II (Reference: 17242)

Description from Historic Wales website:

History

The Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal was promoted in 1792 to connect the upper Usk valley to the Monmouthshire Canal at Pontymoile and from there to the sea at Newport. Construction began in 1797, with Thomas Dadford as engineer, and the first section, from Gilwern to Llangynidr was completed in that year with the stretch as far as Brecon following in 1800. Work then stopped for a time with the result that the section to the Blaenavon Road east of Govilon was not completed until 1805, now with Thomas Cartwright as engineer. Further funds had to be raised and the last section from west of Llanfoist to Pontymoile was completed between 1809 and 1812, with William Crosley as engineer. Linked to tramroads, the canal was an important artery for trade in iron, lime and coal. In 1865 the Monmouthshire and the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Companies merged becoming the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Company. Later still the canal was bought out by the Great Western Railway and gradually the canal was run down until it was finally abandoned in 1962. Restoration work was begun in 1964 and is still ongoing.

Exterior

This aqueduct (146B) lies within the section completed in 1812 under William Crosley. The line of this canal closely follows the contours with the result that instead of locks there are embanked aqueducts on sharp bends. In several places these streams serve as feeders for the canal with half their water being diverted into the canal and the remainder passing under the aqueduct. In this case the engineering of the canal also included a pond in woodland immediately beneath the canal and remains of its **masonry dam still exist** (146A), approximately 4m high. Masonry revetment on downhill side forms the embanked aqueduct to carry the canal around the corner and over the stream which passes under a low semicircular arch with voussoirs; no parapets. West side, including overflow, not accessible.

Reason for Listing

Listed as a scarce and well-preserved engineering feature of this early C19 canal.

As important, but not described are the weir and feeder system on the offside (146C).

Images:



146A The dam





146 B The aqueduct





culvert 146B





146C



146C

Condition:

Good: stonework needs detailed survey.

References:

Nicholson's guides to the Waterways, vol 3, South-west, p49-55, (n.d.);

R A Stevens, Brecknock & Abergavenny and Monmouthshire Canals (Towpath Guide No 2), (Cambridge, 1974), p54.

Notes: This feature needs a detailed survey. A good deal of poor pointing is evident. The side walls of the canal may be original masonry and worth a special effort.