

**BRECON AND
MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL
MONUMENTS RECORD CARD**

**Monument Number:
MB208
PONTMOILE**

Monument Name: Bridge 52

Map Reference: 329199 200161

Official Status: Listed Building Grade II - Ref 3136

Description:

Listing Description (Wrongly described as Bridge 53)

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 Jnr. 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 the 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 in 1880 the canal was bought out by the Great Western Railway and gradually the canal was run down until it was abandoned finally in 1962. Restoration work was begun in 1964, and the canal is once again open between Pontymoile and Brecon with the title Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Reason Included for its special interest as one of the unaltered surviving early C19 Brecknock and Abergavenny canal bridges.

Exterior Junction bridge at the junction of the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal and the now closed Monmouthshire Canal. Semi-elliptical arch with voussoirs; faced and coursed stone; parapet with slab coping; curving abutments partly with plain pilasters. Towpath to Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal runs beneath bridge arch on south-east side. A diamond shaped 6-ton weight limit sign survives from the GWR period of ownership.

The bridge measures 3600mm along the towpath

Images:







Condition:
Good

Reference Nicholson's Guides to the Waterways, Vol 3, South-west, p.49-55, (n.d.). R A Stevens, Brecknock and Abergavenny and Monmouthshire Canals (Towpath Guide No 2), Cambridge, 1974, p.63-64. Ronald Russell, Lost Canals and Waterways of Britain, Rev.Ed. 1982, p.105.

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