

BRECON AND MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL MONUMENTS RECORD CARD		Monument Number: MB145 LLANFOIST
Monument Name:	Bridge 95: Castle Upper Bridge	
Map Reference:	329037 212253	
Official Status:	National Park World Heritage Site Listed Building Grade: II (Reference: 17239)	
Description <b>from Historic Wales website:</b>		
<b>History:</b> 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.		
<b>Exterior</b> This bridge lies within the section constructed by William Crosley between 1809 and 1812. Semicircular-arched coursed rubble canal bridge of standard design with voussoirs and swept out parapets to the downhill side where there is also a <b>stile</b> . (One characteristic detail of the Crosley bridges is the elegant curving out of the foot of the arch on axial view.)		
<b>Reason for Listing</b> Listed for its special interest as one of the surviving early C19 Brecknock and Abergavenny canal bridges.		
The bridge measures 7700mm along the tow path. Old National Park sign on south parapet.		

Images:



North side





Stile



South side



South side.





Condition: Fair – Good: stonework needs a 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), p49-55.

Notes: