

**BRECON AND
MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL
MONUMENTS RECORD CARD**

**Monument Number:
MB166
LLANOVER**

Monument Name:	Bridge 81
Map Reference:	330771 208275
Official Status:	National Park Listed Grade II- Ref. 87141

Description:

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 Crossley as engineer. Linked to the tramroads the canal was an important artery for trade in iron, lime and coal. In 1865 the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal Company merged with the Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company who owned the connecting canal from Pontymoile to Newport. Later still in 1880 the MR&CC was bought out by the Great Western Railway, who probably rebuilt Bridge 81, 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.

Exterior Accommodation and access bridge over the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Semi-elliptical arch with voussoirs; squared, faced and coursed local sandstone; parapet with slab coping; curving abutments. The stonework is squared with a greater definition than on the earlier bridges and there is a triple arch ring of blue engineering brick. Bridge number on south face of arch. Towpath runs beneath bridge arch on east side.

Reason Included for its special interest as one of a series of bridges over the C19 Brecknock and Abergavenny canal. This bridge has was rebuilt by the Great Western Railway after it purchased the canal in 1880 (see History) and thus has interest as part of the canal's continuing development.

The bridge measures 5.600m along the towpath

Images:





Condition:

Good but detailed survey of stonework desirable.

References:

Nicholson's Guides to the Waterways, Vol 3, South-west, pps 49-55.

R A Stevens, Brecknock and Abergavenny and Monmouthshire Canals (Towpath Guide No 2), Cambridge, 1974, p 57.

D Morgan Rees, The Industrial Archaeology of Wales, 1975, p 269.

John Newman, The Buildings of Wales, Gwent/Monmouthshire, Penguin Books, 2000, p333.

Notes: