

BRECON AND MONMOUTHSHIRE CANAL MONUMENTS RECORD CARD

Monument Number:
MB206B
PONTMOILE

Monument Name: Aqueduct 18 over two tunnels.

Map Reference: 329278 200216

Official Status: Listed building Grade II - Ref 18833

Description:

Tramroad tunnels under the Brecon-Monmouthshire Canal, which once went to the Lower Mills Tinplate works (now the site of a Harvester Restaurant, a Travel Lodge and other units).

OS 1st Edition



Listing 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 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. The larger tunnel was constructed to carry a tramway running down from the Pontymoile Tinplate Works to Lower Mill; while the smaller tunnel carried a 'feeder' or water supply (probably in an iron pipe) to Lower Mill, but it is uncertain whether they were pre-existing; they are shown on the tithe map of 1839.

Reason An interesting structure surviving unaltered and in use from this important canal.

Interior The tunnels are lined and paved with stone. Headroom about 2m in centre of arch.

Exterior A paired tunnel of dressed semi-circular arches with a 1m thick pier between. Coursed squared stone revetment into the embankment on either side and above the arches. Same treatment on both faces. The smaller (eastern) tunnel was for a watercourse, the larger for a tramway, but it is uncertain whether they pre-existed the canal.

Images:





Condition:
Good

References (from Listing description – Stevens does not mention this monument.)

O.S. 25" Map editions 1880 and 1901. 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.55. Ronald Russell, Lost Canals and Waterways of Britain, Rev.Ed. 1982, p.105. Panteg parish tithe map, 1839.

Notes: