

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Morfydd Street Bridges and boundary wall to Davies Street, Morriston, Swansea
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	27.06.91 amended 30.09.93
National Grid Reference:-	SS 6713097690
O.S. 1:10000 Sheet No:-	SS 69 SE
CADW Reference No:-	11742
C & C of S Reference No:-	LB:210

Notes:-

Situated at the lower end of Morfydd Street, where it crosses the line of the Swansea Canal, now marked by a footpath in an area of landscape park.

Built c 1794-6 as one of the original structures of the Swansea Canal, which linked the growing port and industrial centre of Swansea with a large hinterland and was vital to its development. The bridge was built at a place where the towing path needed to cross from one side of the canal to the other and a street of the planned town of Morriston was intersected.

The bridge is of rubble sandstone, with a primitive copper slag string course, rubble voussoirs, and slag copings. The canal has been filled into above towpath level. The bridge is complex in structure, consisting of two crossings of the canal together. The north part has the appearance of a typical eighteenth-century canal 'changeover bridge' to carry the two path from one bank to the other. The deck was approached by two ramps from the towpath, forming a sweeping curve on the north face of the bridge. One ramp joined onto the towpath which has come under the bridge, and the other to the towpath which continued opposite. This arrangement was to allow horses to change banks without the rope being untied. The south part of the bridge has a steeply inclined deck carrying Morfydd Street down the hill, with high parapets on each side, the northerly of which separates is from the towpath crossing. The bridge was extended in the mid nineteenth century with a span in similar materials to the west, carrying Morfydd Street over a railway branch. A boundary wall of similar materials continues southward on the west side of the railway route for the length of Davies Street.

'Changeover' bridges are unique to canals of the Industrial Revolution, and are very rare in Wales. This example is particularly interesting in being combined with a road bridge. It is one of the few remaining canal structures in Swansea.