

Picture Quiz Item 2: Llanthony Swing Bridge

1 September 2020,

To GSIA Members

The answer to the second picture was Llanthony Swing Bridge.



2018 R Wilson



Llanthony Railway Bridge over the eastern arm of the River Sever in 2006. Hugh Conway-Jones

The original swing bridge over the eastern arm of the Severn brought the Docks Branch of the Gloucester and Dean Forest Railway in 1854 to the extensive sidings at Llanthony Railway yard. ([Map](#))

It was a pioneering design by the railway company's engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The bridge was reconstructed in stages between 1890-1899. The railway bridge was recorded as opening on 8 August 1922 – which may have been the last time. The full story of the bridge and railway yard is given in an article by Hugh Conway-Jones in [the 2005 GSIA Journal](#)

In 2003 the structure was listed Grade II and the list description is given here (note construction date given is incorrect)

Railway swing bridge. Constructed 1910, from 1890 Great Western Railway designs. Plate-girder steel swing bridge that pivoted on drum on south eastern bank and rested on two cylindrical iron-clad piers on north west side of river. The iron-clad piers might be the remains of the earlier 1852-4 Brunel swing bridge that he built for the Gloucester and Dean Forest [later South Wales] Railway. The abutments are of stone and brick and the bridge continues on the north west bank as a causeway on stone and brick piers. There is a later footbridge attached to the north east side. The swing bridge was hydraulically powered from Gloucester Docks. The Dock Branch line served the docks and the bridge was required to allow the passage of ships on the East Channel of the River Sever. The bridge has been fixed and is no longer operable as a swing bridge. SOURCE: Swindon Record Office: GWR drawing of hydraulic cylinder. September 1890. [R Wilson]