

Stroudwater Canal Swing Bridge at Saul Junction Restored

26 March 2021

Regular visitors to Saul Junction on the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal will be aware that the small historic swing bridge over the Stroudwater Canal to R W Davis's boatyard has been declared unsafe for some years and permanently locked open. ([see map](#))

However on a visit this afternoon, I was delighted to find that the finishing touches were being put to a splendid refurbishment of the bridge. I was also intrigued to see the Association for Industrial Archaeology (AIA) logo prominently displayed on a board, strapped to the rails. It turns out that [the project](#) has been awarded one of the AIA's "[Restoration Grants](#)" for 2020 and the work needed to be completed by 31 March 2021, and it has been – just!

GSIA holds the extensive photographic archive of our former Chairman, the late Neville Crawford, and this is the source of the top picture showing the swing bridge in September 1964. The view is looking east across the ship canal to the Stroudwater Canal of 1779 and the swing bridge is on the extreme right of the picture. In the foreground, are the upper lock gates of Saul Junction (or Stroudwater) Lock. This was constructed on the Stroudwater Canal, immediately to the west of the newly constructed ship canal, in about 1826. The lock was needed to raise the level of the earlier canal by about four feet at the junction to match that of the ship canal.

The bottom picture shows the newly restored bridge.

For more information about Saul Junction see Hugh Conway-Jones's article [Stroudwater Canal Features Influenced by the Ship Canal to Gloucester](#) .

Ray Wilson

[Images follow]



N Crawford September 1964



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