

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Loughor Railway Viaduct, Loughor, Swansea
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	16.10.1998 / Amended 06.08.2002 / Amended 22.7.2008
National Grid Reference:-	SS 5616798208
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	SS 59 NE
CADW Reference No.:-	26846
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:393

Notes:-

Location:-

Crossing the Lower Loughor Estuary, between Llŵchwr and Llanelli

History:-

The South Wales Railway Company was formed in 1845, and the section of the line from Swansea to Carmarthen including the crossing at Loughor Estuary was completed in 1852. The engineer was Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and the track was at first constructed in broad gauge. LE Fletcher assisted in the design of the original viaduct. The present viaduct however has been rebuilt, and essentially dates from 1907, with strengthening in 1980. Firstly, in 1880, the original wooden spans were replaced with wrought iron girders supported on the original trestles; there were 18 spans of 40ft (12 metres), and a swing bridge on the E side.

In 1907 there was a major reconstruction. The swing span was dismantled, and the abutments rebuilt in stone. New trestle were driven, and a timber deck was installed. There were 17 spans in all. In 1980, the trestles were reconfigured by detaching the outer timbers and re-using them as sloping stays to improve lateral stability.

Exterior:-

A viaduct over 200 metres in length, consisting of four longitudinal girders of rivetted plate construction carried on seventeen pile trestles. At each end is a substantial stone-faced embankment and abutment. An opening span at the west end has been replaced by a fixed span. The trestles each consist of eight

timber piles driven in pairs, with walings to strap them together at low water level, plus cross bracings, struts, and additional piles.

Listed:-

Listed as a very rare surviving timber viaduct on a major railway.

Reference:-

J. Newman, Glamorgan (Buildings of Wales Series, 1995), page 416.
Information from Paul Newman, Network Rail, Swindon.