



ENGLISH HERITAGE

SOUTH WEST

To whom it may concern

Date: 14/08/2014

Dear Madame/Sir,

Swing Bridge over North Entrance Lock, Cumberland Basin, Bristol

The Swing Bridge is a grade II* listed wrought iron swivel bridge, built in 1849 to the design of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, located at the north entrance lock connecting Bristol Floating Harbour to the tidal River Avon. The experimental use of tubular elements in its construction was pioneering at the time and the design was to be developed further by Brunel for some of his much larger structures.

Decommissioned in 1967 following the construction of Plimsoll Bridge, the Swing Bridge has been left unused on the harbourside ever since. Redundancy and limited maintenance has led to a slow deterioration of its fabric and machinery. Despite its publicly accessible location, few people are aware of its existence or significance. In 2011 it was included in the English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register.

Recently the Brunel Swivel Bridge Group has been working with a number of local building preservation trusts, local societies, the local authority and other volunteers, carrying out basic conservation works and further investigations, with a view to repair this important historic structure. English Heritage has been giving technical advice and financially contributing to the development of this project, in particular with the provision of safe access to the structure and the production of investigative reports.

We are pleased to continue supporting the above initiative, which is set not only to rescue and preserve this elegant structure but also to return it to its rightful place, as part of the much celebrated Brunel's legacy in Bristol.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Garner
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