

***Archaeological Recording at
Llanyblodwel Bridge,
Shropshire, 2011***

by
H R Hannaford

Archaeology Service



Archaeology Service Report Number 312
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March 2012

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING AT
LLANYBLODWEL BRIDGE, SHROPSHIRE, 2011**

by
H R HANNAFORD MifA

A report for
Highways and Transport,
Environment Group, Shropshire Council

Archaeology Service

Historic Environment Team, Environment,
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND
Tel: (01743) 252575 Fax: (01743) 252505



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1:50 scale

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Photo 2: The damage to the northeast wing wall (looking SE)

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SUMMARY

In August 2011 repairs and remodelling were carried out to the north end of Llanyblodwel Bridge, near Oswestry, Shropshire. The bridge is a scheduled Ancient Monument and one of the requirements of the scheduled monument consent was that a programme of archaeological recording should precede the repairs. A Level 3 recording of the area of the bridge affected by the works was carried out by the Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The village of Llanyblodwel is situated in northwest Shropshire, about 27km northwest of the centre of Shrewsbury. The river Tanat flows through the village and is crossed by a fine stone bridge (Historic Environment Record No. 01114).

1.2 A bridge is recorded at Llanyblodwel in 1684, but the current structure dates to 1710 (a tablet giving this date is said to exist in one of the downstream recesses). The bridge was repaired in 1886, and was taken over by Shropshire County Council in 1899 (there is a plaque commemorating this on the north parapet wing wall (east side). (HER 01114). Llanyblodwel Bridge is a three span bridge of regularly coursed and dressed Cefn-y-Fedw sandstone blocks. The central span is a four-centred arch flanked by triangular cutwaters, carried up to form pedestrian refuges. The northern and southern spans are segmental arches. There is a low parapet surmounted by cast-iron railings, probably of 1888. The abutments are of un-coursed rubble. The bridge is a scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument No 229, Llanyblodwel Bridge) and a Grade II listed structure (No. 256632)

1.3 The north end of the east wing wall at the north end of the bridge turned in towards the roadway. In 2011 the wing wall was damaged by traffic. It was proposed to take down this section of wall and rebuild it with a more conventional splay.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A bridge is recorded at Llanyblodwel in 1684 (Watkin, 1907, p24). The Court of Quarter Sessions for Shropshire (1709-1800) records that in 1709 an assessment was made on the townships of Oswestry for £80 for repairs to the bridge and again a further assessment of £50 was made in 1710. Presumably the repairs involved substantial rebuilding, as a tablet said to exist in one of the downstream recesses (or on the underside of the parapet) gives the date 1710 for the building of the bridge ("This bridge was erected with stone at ye charge of the Hundred of Oswestry. Anno. Dom. 1710"). Further assessments for repairs were made in 1745, 1770, and 1772, and again in 1784 when the bridge was damaged by a flood. (Watkin, 1907, pp24-5).

2.2 The bridge is not shown on John Rocques county map of 1752, but the cartography of this part of Shropshire on the map is poor. The bridge is shown on the Baugh map of 1808. By the early 19th century the bridge was again in need of repairs, which were carried out in 1814 to a scheme prepared by Thomas Telford. (Shropshire Archives DP92/1-3 & /9).

2.3 The bridge was repaired again in 1886 and 1898 (Watkin, 1907, p25), and was taken over by Shropshire County Council in 1899 (there is a plaque commemorating this on the north parapet wing wall (east side) (Blackwall 1985; HER 01114).

2.4 In 2010 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on repairs carried out to the invert between the arches (Hannaford, 2010). An assessment was made of the documentary sources for the bridge held in Shropshire Archives as part of the report on this watching brief.

3 THE RECORDING

3.1 A digital and black and white 35mm photographic record was made of the section of the wing wall to be taken down and re-built (sample colour photos reproduced as Photos 1-6).

3.2 A plan drawing at 1:50 scale was made of the northern abutment of the bridge at road level before the repairs were undertaken (Fig. 2).

4 REFERENCES

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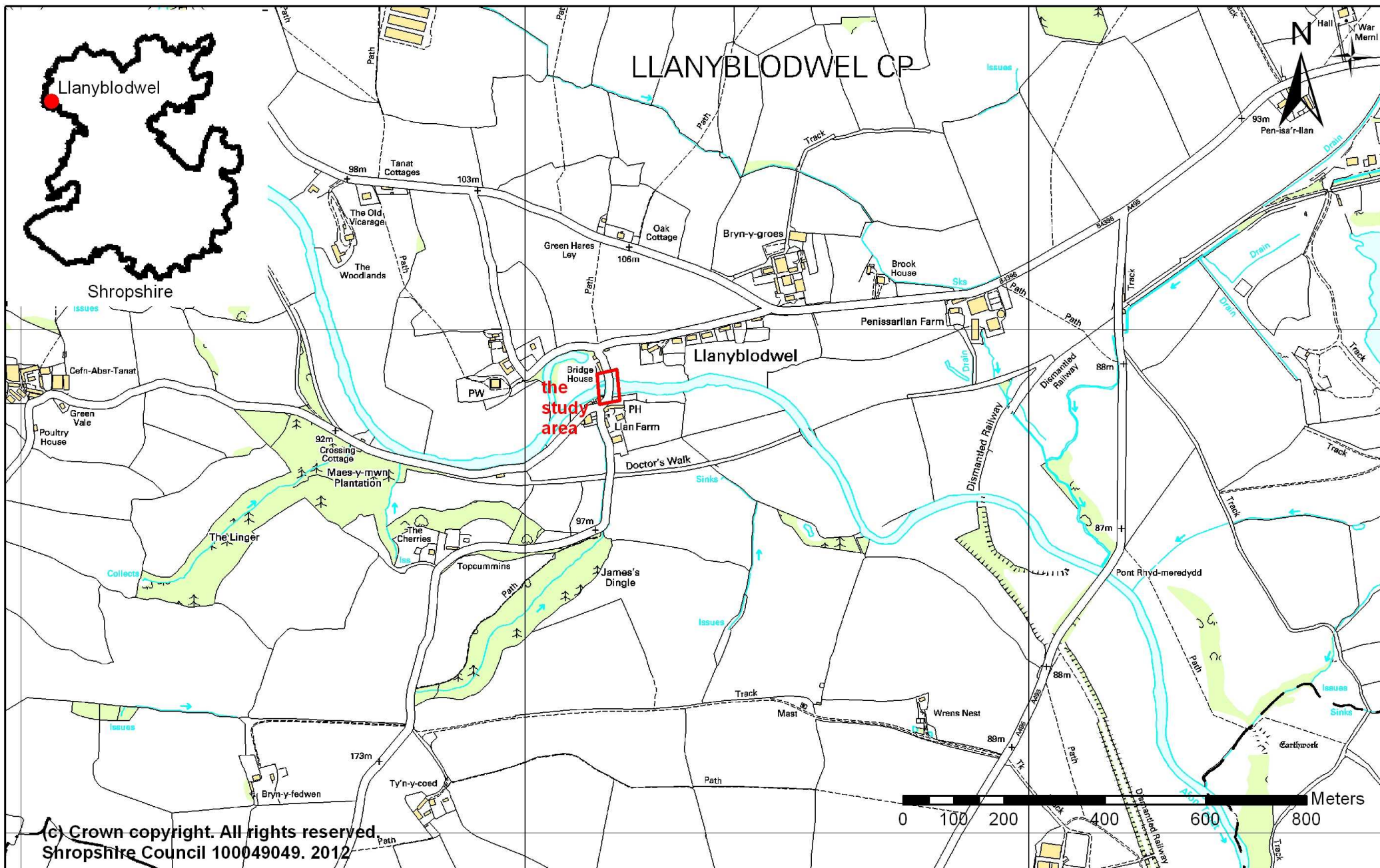
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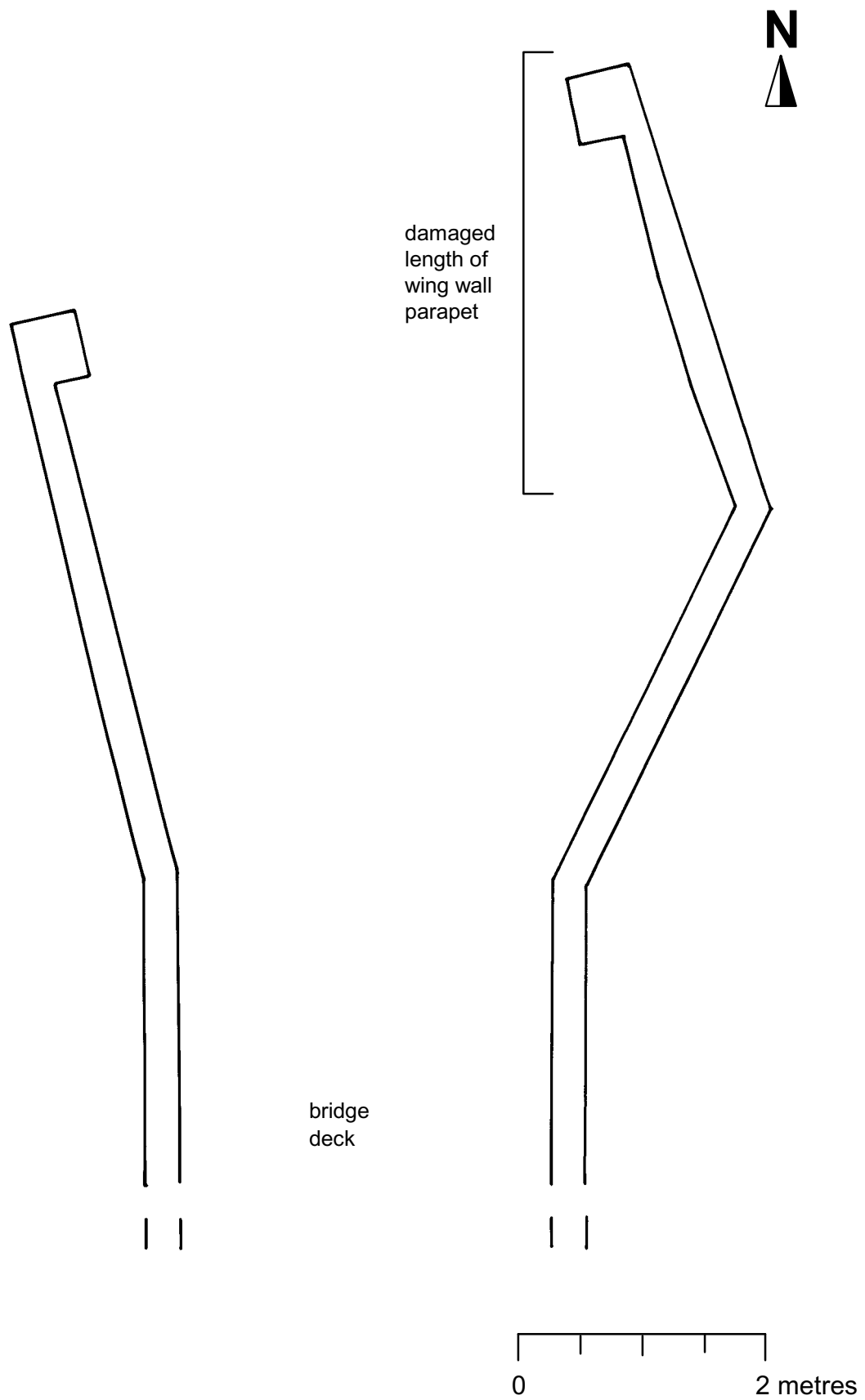
Ordnance Survey c. 1880: 25" (1:2,500) Shropshire Sheet XXV.4, 1st Edition, surveyed 1874

Watkin, I, 1907: *History of the Parish of Llanyblodwel*, Montgomeryshire Collections vol XXXIV, pp1-80 & 147-178

ABBREVIATIONS

CBA	Council for British Archaeology
HER	Historic Environment Record, Shropshire Council
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRO	Public Record Office
SA	Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury
TSAHS	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Historical Society
TSAS	Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society





LLANYBLODWEL BRIDGE 2011

Figure 2: The north bridge abutment, locating the damaged section of parapet wall;
1:50 scale



Photo 1: Llanyblodwel Bridge (looking SW)



Photo 2: The damage to the northeast wing wall (looking SE)



Photo 3: The damage to the northeast wing wall (looking NE)



Photo 4: The damage to the northeast wing wall (looking E)



Photo 5: The damage to the northeast wing wall (looking SW)



Photo 6: The damage to the northeast wing wall (looking NW)