

From: Arnall, Guy <Guy.Arnall@newport.gov.uk>

Sent: 15 April 2026 11:54

To: Hawkins, Grant (Principal Planning Officer) <Grant.Hawkins@newport.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Planning Consultation Request for case ref: 26/0261 (Bridge Over Ebbw River Forge Mews Bassaleg Newport NP10 8NE) (Outline)

Hi Grant

Bassaleg Bridge is an unlisted reinforced concrete structure built in the 1940s. It carries a two-way single lane carriageway, connecting Caerphilly Road to a small residential development known as Forge Mews. Though of C20 construction, it is a triple-span arch cast concrete bridge of elegant and classically inspired elliptical form, with pierced balustrading in imitation of decorative stone.

Heritage Context

Western end of the structure is located some 100m to the south-east of Grade II Listed church of St Basil (Cadw ref: 2913), though the asset's separately listed boundary wall (Cadw Ref: 81799) is set considerably closer, as it sweeps the corner of Caerphilly Road and Station Approach. To the north, the substantial railway viaduct built in 1826 for the Rumney Railway Co. also spans the river – GII* listed, as one of the most important early railway bridges in Wales.

Principal near views of the GII* listed viaduct are obtainable from Viaduct Way (and the adjacent footway) as one passes directly underneath. However, full span/elevation of said asset may be best appreciated from the existing long-range view available from Bassaleg Bridge, as the pedestrian passes along the pavement and looks north up the river.

Due to the recessed nature of the existing Bassaleg Bridge (set principally within the deep river channel), the structure is not readily appreciable from the GII Listed church (which is set some distance to the north-west), though views are more apparent from the eastern end of its extensive curtilage. The existing bridge also offers opportunity for a fine vista to the west, where long-range views down Caerphilly Road are framed by mature trees to the end of the bridge, the listed boundary structure to St Basil's church and long-range view of the church itself, which is appreciable through mature trees.

Proposals and Impact

25/0792 proposed complete demolition of the structure and replacement with a modern single-span bridge. Loss of the elegant existing structure was considered unfortunate, and it was concluded that any substantial height increase of the existing balustrades (to be replaced with modern structures) would result in hampered view the abovementioned assets and therefore harmful impact upon their setting.

As now proposed, the characterful C20 bridge is to remain, modified with a new, modern structure to take a single lane of traffic. Though supplied detail is low, from the information provided it seems likely that there will be some harm to setting, most notably within those easterly views from the curtilage of St Basil's church, where utilitarian modifications to the existing will be prominent.

Though the fine westerly view from Bassaleg bridge will also likely also be hampered by the proposed modification, perpetuation of pedestrian access to the northern side of the bridge will limit impact upon those key northerly views of the GII* listed viaduct located upstream, and those available long-range views of St Basil's church to the north-west.

This identified harm will inevitably need to be balanced against planning benefits of the proposed works, as part of the decision-making process.

Many thanks,

Guy Arnall

Prif Swyddog Treftadaeth / Principal Heritage Officer

Swyddog Dirprwyedig (Adeiladau Rhestredig) / Delegated Officer (Listed Buildings)

Adfywio a Datblygu Economaidd / Regeneration and Economic Development

Cyngor Dinas Casnewydd / Newport City Council

E: Guy.Arnall@newport.gov.uk | Planning@newport.gov.uk