


# BIENNIAL CONSERVATION REPORT 2009-2011



 **BRB (Residuary)**  
Ltd

Cover photograph: Leaderfoot Viaduct, Melrose

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**BRB (RESIDUARY) LIMITED**  
**BIENNIAL CONSERVATION REPORT**

**CONTENTS**

1	Introduction	4
2	Profile of the Historic Estate	5
3	Maintenance and Condition	7
4	Procurement and Works	8
5	Policies, Resources and Records	11
	Appendix 1 - Listed Buildings and Structures owned by BRB (Residuary) Limited, July 2011	12

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Photograph of Castlefield Viaduct on page 8 courtesy of Four by Three

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been commissioned by BRB (Residuary) Limited (“BRBR”) in compliance with the requirements of the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. It has been drafted by the company’s Director Structures and Property Sales & Management. It has been endorsed by the Board of BRBR. The report covers the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2011.
- 1.2 BRBR complies with the ‘Protocol for the Care of the Government Historic Estate’. The Director, Property Sales & Management and Director, Structures act as Conservation Officer for their respective estates.
- 1.3 The company has continued with its programme of maintenance to disused railway viaducts and bridges, whether they are listed or not, in order to preserve them for the future, to keep them in safe condition and to comply with legislation and the company’s statutory duties as appropriate. Five listed structures (6.8% of the total) have been subject to significant renovation work during the period under review.
- 1.4 The company continues to work with partners to bring railway structures back into use for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 1.5 The company is required to dispose of property surplus to future transport requirements, including listed buildings. Work has continued to secure the future of Whitebridge Crossing Cottage, Stone, Staffordshire.

## 2 Profile of the Historic Estate

2.1 BRBR is a subsidiary of the Secretary of State for Transport. It is responsible for the assets and liabilities of the British Railways Board that were not passed to others on privatisation of the rail industry between 1993 and 1997. So far as possible, the company is disposing of assets and discharging the liabilities. The company employs 36 full time equivalent staff, principally at offices in London and York.

2.2 One of the company's most significant activities is the maintenance of structures such as bridges, tunnels and viaducts on closed railway lines. Most track beds have been sold. Responsibility for many structures has passed to local councils, adjoining land owners, railway preservation societies and others. However, BRBR remains responsible for about 3,900 structures. These include 73 that are listed thus:

	England	Scotland	Wales	Total
Bridges	9	6	13	28
Viaduct	23	11§	2	36
Tunnels	4		2	6
Monuments	1		1	2
Other structures	1			1
Total	38	17	18	73

§ Includes one viaduct partly in England.

A schedule of all of BRBR's listed structures and buildings is included at the end of this report.

2.3 All structures in England and Wales are Grade II, except for the following which are grade II\*:

- North Eastern Railway War Memorial, York
- Lune Viaduct, Cumbria
- Riddings Viaduct, near Carlisle (part in Scotland)
- Woolston Viaduct, Devon

2.4 Listed structures in Scotland are in the following categories:

<b>A</b>	5
<b>B</b>	10
<b>C(S)</b>	3

The category A listed structures are:

- Castle Grant Bridge, near Granton-on-Spey
  - Goldilea Viaduct, near Dumfries
  - Leaderfoot Viaduct, near Melrose
  - Riddings Viaduct, near Carlisle (part in England)
  - Teviot Viaduct, Roxburgh
- 2.5 In addition to civil engineering structures, BRB (Residuary) Ltd owns two conventional listed buildings, which are:
- Kelvinside Station building, Glasgow (Category B)
  - Whitebridge crossing cottage, Stone, Staffordshire (Grade II)
- 2.6 BRBR owns two bridges, one of which is listed Grade II, within the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. BRBR owns properties within conservation areas in Carlisle, Glasgow and Weardale. BRBR owns a small part of the Priory of St Pancras at Lewes, East Sussex, an ancient monument. BRBR does not own any historic parks or gardens, or any protected wreck sites.
- 2.7 No listed buildings were disposed of during the period under review. Discussions are being pursued to lease Rugby Viaduct to Sustrans for inclusion in cycle routes.
- 2.9 BRBR did not purchase any listed buildings during the period under review.

### 3 Maintenance and Condition

- 3.1 BRBR inspects and maintains all of its bridges, viaducts and tunnels in compliance with Railway Group Standards. This requires structures to have a visual inspection annually and a detailed inspection every six years. Inspections are programmed so that every year approximately one sixth of the structures receive a detailed inspection. A visual inspection involves looking at the structure, using binoculars and other aids, if necessary. A detailed inspection requires the examiner to be able to touch all parts of the structure. Bridges that carry public roads are subject to periodic assessment of their load-bearing capacity. Examinations and assessments are undertaken for BRBR by suitably experienced contractors, with auditing by in house engineers.
- 3.2 Examinations enable BRBR's engineers to categorise the condition of structures and to identify and prioritise repair work. The number of listed structures in each condition category (including the two listed buildings) are:

<b>Grade or category:</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C(S)</b>	<b>A/II*</b>	<b>II*</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Priority 4</b>	2	6	1	1	2	20	32
<b>Priority 3</b>	2	4	2		1	26	35
<b>Priority 2</b>						5	5
<b>Priority 1</b>						2	2
<b>Priority 1*</b>						1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	4	10	3	1	3	54	75

The Priority ranking is a measure of the relative condition of the structures; Priority 1\* indicates the worst condition and Priority 4 the best condition.

Most of the structures classified as Priority 1 or Priority 1\* are either:

- Public road bridges that fail to meet Department for Transport BD21 loading standards. Apart from being under-strength for current road traffic, there is little wrong with them.
- Structures where there is regular damage to security fences.

The structure in very bad condition is Whitebridge Crossing Cottage.

- 3.3 BRBR has no buildings on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk register.

## 4 Procurement and Works

- 4.1 BRBR employs consultants and contractors with extensive experience of managing and maintaining historic engineering structures. Specialist advice is obtained when necessary, for example when dealing with memorials.
- 4.2 Work to structures is prioritised according to condition, and to avoid deterioration that would result in significantly greater expense at a later date. In the case of listed bridges and viaducts a programme of waterproofing decks, by installation of an impermeable membrane, has been under way for over ten years.
- 4.3 Work undertaken to listed civil engineering structures during the period under includes:
- **Castlefield Viaduct** is located near to Deansgate Station in Manchester. It is a large 8 span cast iron & wrought iron structure, located next to the Metrolink line to Old Trafford and it spans the railway line to Liverpool, several roads, a canal basin and a public car park. The drainage channels had become blocked and in places corroded, and a scheme to remove or renovate them was implemented. Work to descale the bottom chords of the main girders was also completed.



**Castlefield Viaduct. Manchester**  
**Photograph copyright Four by Three**

- **Cwmcarn Viaduct:** This eight-span wrought iron viaduct lies on the Halls Road Tramway near to Crosskeys in Caerphilly. The viaduct spans the A467 road, the Ebbw River, and the Ebbw Valley Railway. Cwmcarn Viaduct has a timber deck which was overlain

with stone ballast. Water held within the ballast had caused some rotting of the timbers, and the ballast was removed and the timbers replaced as necessary. Discussions are on-going with Sustrans about the possibility of reopening the Hall Road Tramway as a cycle path.

- **Harecastle South Tunnel:** Harecastle South Tunnel is one of three railway tunnels constructed by the North Staffordshire Railway at this location. The South Tunnel also lies above two canal tunnels, built by Brindley and Telford on the Trent & Mersey Canal, which run approximately parallel but at a deeper level. Water from the South Tunnel drains into the Brindley Tunnel which is owned by the British Waterways Board. Over time the drainage runs had become choked and a project to renovate them was undertaken. At the same time repairs were completed to the tunnel lining and northern portal.
- **Thornton Viaduct:** Located on the former Bradford St. Dunstons N&E Junction to Keighley Railway this twenty-arch viaduct was renovated as part of BRB (Residuary) Ltd's preventative maintenance policy. The work included repointing of the masonry and repairs to the brick arches. Sustrans constructed a cycleway over the structure to accommodate the Great North Trail, and they also waterproofed the structure as part of their works. They have assumed the maintenance responsibility for the parapets and the cycleway, and BRB (Residuary) Ltd continues to be responsible for the rest of the structure.



Thornton Viaduct

- **Talyllyn Tunnel:** This tunnel lies on the Hay Railway between Brecon and Hay. Repairs were undertaken to the tunnel lining and improvements made to the drainage. The tunnel is an important habitat for bats, including Lesser Horseshoe, Daubenton's, and Brown Long-eared Bats, and special measures were required to accommodate these creatures during the works.



Talyllyn Tunnel portal

- **York Railway War Memorial:** This impressive stone memorial is in sound condition, but the inscribed names are fading, which has resulted in calls for them to be re-cut. However, all of the conservation advice is that such work could seriously damage the structure. However, approval has been obtained to record the names on a series of bronze plaques attached to an adjacent retaining wall. A contract has been awarded for the work, which will be completed in summer 2011. In the meantime, the names of the Fallen are recorded in Books of Remembrance lodged at the National Railway Museum, nearby.



York Railway War Memorial

## **5 Policies, Resources and Records**

- 5.1 Conservation and ecological issues play an important part in planning and specifying work to engineering structures, whether or not they are listed. Animals and birds often make their homes in BRBR structures, particularly in rural locations. These creatures are protected and works must be programmed to avoid the breeding season and in some cases the hibernation period. In most cases simple mitigation measures, such as the removal of vegetation during the winter months or the provision of alternative nesting sites, allows work to progress normally. In cases involving great crested newts elaborate ground surveys and the provision of exclusion nets are required to ensure that these reptiles are kept away from the work site.
- 5.2 BRBR's staff, consultants and contractors have extensive experience of maintaining historic railway structures. Support and advice is sought from the Railway Heritage Trust, but it is usually only necessary to obtain assistance from other conservation experts if an unusual problem arises or particularly specialist or unusual work is proposed. Advice on heritage matters is also taken from Gordon Biddle, author of many books on the subject.
- 5.3 All listed structures are inspected annually and it is not normally necessary to employ conservation consultants in connection with this.
- 5.4 Listed buildings are noted on the company's database of engineering structures. A separate register of other listed buildings is not necessary, because there are only two of them.
- 5.5 Many of BRBR's structures are available to the public, because they span or support public roads or paths. Through work with Sustrans, local councils and other partners, BRBR works to make more structures accessible.
- 5.6 BRBR maintains contact with English Heritage, Historic Scotland and CADW in relation to works to structures.

## Appendix 1

### Listed Buildings and Structures owned by BRB (Residuary) Limited, July 2011

Engineers' Reference	Name	OS Ref	Listing Grade or Category	Location	Railway Company and Date	Notes
HGE/27	Appersett Viaduct	SD856904	II	Garsdale to Hawes Railway, North Yorkshire	Midland Railway, 1878	Reserved for the Wensleydale Railway
SAD/81	Bath Road Viaduct	ST621442	II	Shepton Mallet, Somerset	Somerset & Dorset Railway, 1874	Also known as Waterloo Road Viaduct
NLN/2	Berw Viaduct	ST078911	II	Pontypridd, South Wales	Taff Vale Railway, 1887	
DMB/5	Bonnington Bridge	NS899424	B	Lanark	Caledonian Railway, 1864	
CNH3/0m Och	Britannia Bridge Memorial	SH537712	II	St Mary's Churchyard, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, Gwynedd	London & North Western Railway, 1850	
KAS/253	Broomley Bridge	NO686596	C(S)	Montrose, Angus	Aberdeen Railway, 1848	
SLH/11	Burgh West Bridge	NY318588	II	Port Carlisle branch, Cumbria	Carlisle Canal Company, 1821	Built by the Port Carlisle Dock & Railway Company, 1854
CPI3/47	Burnden Viaduct	SD726083	II	Bolton, Greater Manchester	Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway, 1848	Original spans replaced 1882. Now part of a Sustrans Cycleway
LYM/17	Cannington Viaduct	SY315923	II	Lyme Regis branch, Devon	Axminster & Lyme Regis Light Railway, 1903	
KER/4	Captains Road Bridge	SO167937	II	Kerry branch, Powys	Oswestry & Newtown Railway, 1863	

<b>Engineers' Reference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>OS Ref</b>	<b>Listing Grade or Category</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Railway Company and Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
AFS/20	Castle Grant Bridge	NJ033302	A	Near Granton-on-Spey, Highland	Inverness & Perth Junction Railway, 1863	
MAJ/289	Castlefield North Viaduct	SJ831976	II	Manchester	Cheshire Lines Committee, 1893	
BEZ/22	Chelfham Viaduct	SS610357	II	Near Barnstaple, Devon	Lynton & Barnstaple Railway, 1898	Reserved for the Lynton & Barnstaple Light Railway
BDC/118	Chollerton Bridge	NY933716	II	Hexham to Wark line, Northumberland	Border Counties Railway, 1859	
LMC/573	Commercial Road Bridge & Drinking Fountain	TQ364811	II	Limehouse, London	Great Eastern Railway, 1886	
WAY/2	Crawleyside Tunnel	NY993404	II	Waskerley branch, Stanhope, County Durham	Stanhope & Tyne Railway, 1833	The north and south portals are listed separately
SDK/51	Cullingworth Viaduct	SE066362	II	Bradford to Keighley line, West Yorkshire	Great Northern Railway, 1884	Carries the Great Northern Trail cycleway
HRD2/1m 2ch	Cwmcarn Viaduct	ST218929	II	Abercarn, South Wales	Great Western Railway, 1912	Incorporates part of the Hall's Tramroad Viaduct, c. 1805
CPI3/44	Darcy Lever Viaduct	SD733083	II	Bolton, Greater Manchester	Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway, 1848	Original spans replaced 1882. Now part of a Sustrans Cycleway
DDN/31	Davidson Road Bridge	NO315395	C(S)	Newtyle, Angus	North British Railway, 1868	
KLO/38	Duddo Burn Viaduct	NT855379	II	Tweedmouth to Kelso line, Northumberland	York, Newcastle & Berwick Railway, 1849	Also known as East Learmouth Viaduct.
SLH/12	Dykesfield Bridge	NY307591	II	Port Carlisle branch, Cumbria	Carlisle Canal Company, 1821	Built by the Port Carlisle Dock & Railway Company, 1854

<b>Engineers' Reference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>OS Ref</b>	<b>Listing Grade or Category</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Railway Company and Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
ETC/265	Eden Viaduct	NY382565	II	Carlisle	Border Union Railway, 1861	Also known as the Waverley Viaduct
NDC/21	Fontburn Viaduct	NZ051938	II	Rothbury branch, Northumberland	Northumberland Central Railway, 1870	
KER/6	Fron-fraith Mill Bridge	SO164931	II	Kerry branch, Powys	Oswestry & Newtown Railway, 1863	
PCB/3	Glasson Bridge	NY254606	II	Port Carlisle branch, Cumbria	Carlisle Canal Company, 1821	Rebuilt by the Port Carlisle Dock & Railway Company, 1854
EGP/70	Glenfarg Viaduct	NO155132	B	Kinross to Perth line, Perthshire	North British Railway, 1890	
ACL/61	Glenmuir Viaduct	NS599215	B	Cumnock to Muirkirk line, East Ayrshire	Glasgow & South Western Railway, 1872	
CJD/18	Goldielea Viaduct	NX931737	A	Near Dumfries	Castle Douglas & Dumfries Railway, 1859	
CMD3/64	Harecastle Middle Tunnel	SJ840536	II	Kidsgrove, Staffordshire	North Staffordshire Railway, 1848	The north and south portals listed separately
CMD3/65	Harecastle South Tunnel	SJ840536	II	Kidsgrove, Staffordshire	North Staffordshire Railway, 1848	Only the north portal is listed
HYL/2	Hayle Swing Bridge	SW558376	II	Hayle, Cornwall	Great Western Railway, 1877	Located within the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. Listing includes the adjacent Engine House.
TIV/10	Herne Bridge	ST000121	II	Tiverton branch, Devon	Bristol & Exeter Railway, 1848	
SDK/48	Hewenden Viaduct	SE075358	II	Bradford to Keighley line, West Yorkshire	Great Northern Railway, 1884	Carries the Great Northern Trail cycleway

<b>Engineers' Reference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>OS Ref</b>	<b>Listing Grade or Category</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Railway Company and Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
BRO/53	Highfield Road	SJ315522	II	Brymbo branch, Wrexham	Wrexham, Mold & Connah's Quay Railway, 1882	
INL/88	Ingleton Viaduct	SD694731	II	Ingleton, North Yorkshire	Lancashire & Carlisle Railway, 1861	
	Kelvinside Station Building	NS556681	B	1051 Great Western Road, Glasgow	Caledonian Railway, 1897	Located over the south end of Balgray Tunnel. Leased out as a restaurant.
CHD/11m 24ch	Knowle Green River	ST341112	II	Taunton to Chard line, Somerset	Bristol & Exeter Railway	Sidebridge predating and acquired by the Railway
SML/7	Larkhall Viaduct	NS753503	B	Larkhall to Stonehouse line, South Lanarkshire	Caledonian Railway, 1904	
EVP/4	Lasswade Viaduct	NT301658	B	Polton branch, Midlothian	Esk Valley Railway, 1867	
GCT/126m 71ch	Lea Tunnel	SO674209	II	Near Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire	Hereford, Ross & Gloucester Railway, 1855	BRB (Residuary) Ltd owns only a part of the tunnel.
RWR/61	Leaderfoot Viaduct	NT574347	A	Near Melrose, Scottish Borders	Berwickshire Railway, 1865	Also known as Drygrange Viaduct
INL/3	Low Gill Viaduct	SD616965	II	Ingleton to Low Gill line, Cumbria	Lancashire & Carlisle Railway, 1861	
INL/12	Lune Viaduct	SD631931	II*	Ingleton to Low Gill line, Cumbria	Lancashire & Carlisle Railway, 1861	Also known as Waterside Viaduct.
TIV/14	Manley Bridge	SS988123	II	Tiverton branch, Devon	Bristol & Exeter Railway, 1848	
CNB3/72A	Millersdale North Viaduct	SK139733	II	Matlock to Buxton line, Derbyshire	Midland Railway, 1905	

Engineers' Reference	Name	OS Ref	Listing Grade or Category	Location	Railway Company and Date	Notes
POR/8m 3ch	Moor Lane Bridge	SS819786	II	Near Nottage, Bridgend	Dyffryn Llynfi Porthcawl Tramroad, c1825	
RID/2	Moulton Bridge	NZ283045	II	North Cowton, Richmond branch, North Yorkshire	York & Newcastle Railway, 1846	
HRD2/4m 42ch	Penar Tunnel	ST198964	II	Blackwood, South Wales	Great Western Railway, 1912	Original smaller structure formed part of the Hall's Tramroad, c. 1805
BND/4m 75ch	Pennorth Road Bridge	SO113259	II	Near Brecon, Powys	Brecon & Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway, 1863	
FNS3/17m 4ch	Pensford Viaduct	ST617635	II	Bristol to Radstock line, Somerset	Bristol & North Somerset Railway, 1873	
CLS/31	Pont Rhyddallt Overbridge	SH545637	II	Near Llanberis, Gwynedd	London & North Western Railway, 1869	
CLS/31A	Pont Rhyddallt Sidebridge	SH545637	II	Near Llanberis, Gwynedd	London & North Western Railway, 1869	Carries a road over the Afon Seiont.
CLS/24	Pont Rug Bridge	SH513632	II	Near Llanberis, Gwynedd	London & North Western Railway, 1869	
HRD2/B	Pontywaun Canal Overflow	ST220926	II	Abercarn, South Wales	Great Western Railway, 1884	
GSF/10	Rathillet Bridge	NO361214	C(S)	Newburgh to Wormit line, Fife	Newburgh & North Fife Railway, 1909	
RLB/1	Riddings Viaduct	NY411756	A/II*	Langholm branch, Dumfries and Galloway	Border Union Railway, 1864	The southern part of the viaduct is located in Cumbria, and is listed separately from the

Engineers' Reference	Name	OS Ref	Listing Grade or Category	Location	Railway Company and Date	Notes
						Scottish part.
RWJ/2	Rugby Viaduct	SP502765	II	Rugby, Warwickshire	Midland Counties Railway, 1840	May be included in a cycleway.
CLS/30	Sarn-y-Crewla Overbridge	SH533643	II	Llanberis, Gwynedd	London & North Western Railway, 1869	Also known as Llanrug Bridge
CLS/30A	Sarn-y-Crewla Sidebridge	SH533643	II	Llanberis, Gwynedd	London & North Western Railway, 1869	Also known as Llanrug Bridge. Carries a road over the Afon Seiont
ETC/195	Shankend Viaduct	NT522059	B	Between Hawick and Newcastleton, Scottish Borders	North British Railway, 1862	
ETC/189	Stobs Viaduct	NT505098	B	Between Hawick and Newcastleton, Scottish Borders	North British Railway, 1862	
BND/3m 41ch	Tallylyn Tunnel	SO100275	II	Near Brecon, Powys	Brecon & Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway, 1863	Reconstruction of Hay Railway Tunnel, built c 1817. Only the east portal is listed.
KLO/64	Teviot Viaduct	NT702304	A	Roxburgh, Scottish Borders	North British Railway, 1856	The footbridge attached to the viaduct is listed separately, Category B
SDK/37	Thornton Viaduct	SE096326	II	Bradford to Keighley line, West Yorkshire	Great Northern Railway, 1878	Carries the Great Northern Trail cycleway
HYB/78	Treble Hill Bridge	SO182391	II	Glasbury-on-Wye, Powys	Hereford, Hay & Brecon Railway, 1864	
KAS/200	Turfbeg Bridge	NO443517	B	Near Forfar, Angus	Scottish Midland Junction Railway, 1848	

<b>Engineers' Reference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>OS Ref</b>	<b>Listing Grade or Category</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Railway Company and Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
KLO/26	Twizel Viaduct	NT873430	II	Tweedmouth to Kelso line, Northumberland	York, Newcastle & Berwick Railway, 1849	Also known as St. Cuthbert's Viaduct. Public access over the structure is governed an agreement with Northumberland County Council
PEN/5m 54ch	Ty'r Filkins Bridge	ST182967	II	Blackwood, South Wales	Hall's Tramroad, c1805	
SLD/5	West Vale Viaduct	SE095210	II	Stainland branch, West Yorkshire	Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway, 1874	
BKN/10	Westfield Viaduct	NS935726	B	Bathgate to Blackston line, West Lothian	Monkland Railway, 1856	Pedestrian and cycle route.
	Whitebridge Crossing Cottage	SJ894348	II	Stone, Staffordshire	North Staffordshire Railway, 1849	
KLO/39	Willow Burn Viaduct	NT851379	II	Tweedmouth to Kelso line, Northumberland	York, Newcastle & Berwick Railway, 1849	
MJB/59	Woolston Viaduct	SS228021	II*	Bude branch, Cornwall	London & South Western Railway, 1898	
TCW/3/M	York War Memorial	SE598518	II*	York	London & North Eastern Railway, 1923	Commissioned by the North Eastern Railway