



Blaenau Gwent

Bridgend

Caerphilly

Monmouthshire

Newport

Rhondda Cynon Taf

NEWPORT *Through the Ages*



Follow the varied and surprising story of Newport at the Newport Museum and Art Gallery.

The Chartist Movement began here in 1839 and led to universal suffrage. City centre venue, free entry.

Discovered in 2002, the very rare **Newport Medieval Ship** is the most complete example of a 15th century clinker-built merchant vessel ever found in the UK. Public open days throughout the year, groups may book at any time.

www.newport.gov.uk/heritage

Visit the **Fourteen Locks Canal Centre** and discover the importance of the canal system at a time when Newport had the largest dock in the world.

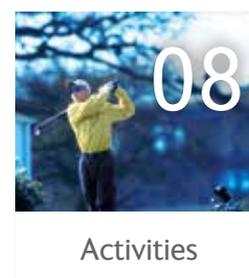
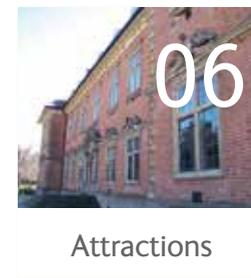
Free entry, café, toilets, shop, cycle hire, please contact venue for large coaches as access is via canal bridge.

www.fourteenlocks.co.uk

www.newport.gov.uk/visiting

tourism@newport.gov.uk +44(0)1633 233663  #VisitNP

Contents



*Hello... Shwd Mae.... Bonjour.....
Guten Tag.... Hallo... Dia duit*

Welcome (or Croeso as we prefer to say) to Southern Wales

You may already have an idea what to expect from a trip to Southern Wales.

We are split into six distinctive areas, each with their own character and charm. The areas of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf are well known for their history and heritage, whilst nearby Monmouthshire is more rural and famed for its fabulous food and drink. Newport is a thriving city with some world class attractions whilst Bridgend is a mix of coastal resorts, market towns and fabulous countryside.

We also have plenty of castles and museums but we also have a National Park, the start of the Wales Coast Path and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We also have some things you may not associate with us. There are the remains of a Roman amphitheatre and barracks, vineyards producing award winning wine and a great big sculpture, soaring 20 metres into the sky and standing guard over the Valleys below.

Each of our areas has its own guide. So have a flick through this one and then take a look at the companion brochures and before long you'll be planning your trip to Southern Wales.



For more information visit our website
www.visitsouthernwales.org



or contact the tourism team:
tel - **+44 (0)1633 233663**
email - tourism@newport.gov.uk

To order group travel brochures for other areas of Southern Wales please contact
+44 (0)1656 815336 or e-mail
brochure@southernwales.com



Discover Newport

It is one of Wales' newest cities, but Newport also has an intriguing past. In fact, it's a past that stretches all the way back to Roman times and beyond.

In the nearby small town of Caerleon lie the remains of Isca, once the base for over 5000 Roman soldiers. The barracks, amphitheatre and baths are still visible today whilst the National Roman Legion Museum brings the story together. New interpretation and digital technologies have brought the garrison back to life. The best bit is that they're all free to enter.

Elsewhere in the town, the Ffwrwm Arts and Crafts centre is a popular location and there is wide variety of cafes and restaurants to grab a bite to eat. There's plenty of free coach parking too.

From Caerleon, follow the River Usk down into Newport City Centre to see the city's Transporter Bridge. At over 240 feet high, you won't miss it.

It is one of only six transporter bridges still operational worldwide. You can take a walk across the top or glide across the river on the suspended gondola underneath.

The river was once home to one of the biggest ports in the world. Beneath these waters a great secret was unveiled in 2002, when The Newport Ship, a 15th century vessel, was discovered submerged in the river bank. Now in the process of being preserved and renovated, visitors can see for themselves the work that's underway.

The River Usk continues down to the Gwent Levels, where you will find the Newport Wetlands. The nature reserve is a haven for wildlife on the banks of the Severn Estuary.

A short drive away is the National Trust's Tredegar House. For over 500 years it was the grand home of the aristocratic Morgan Family. Hear the tales of what the family got up to on a fascinating tour of the house.

Attractions

A new city with a fascinating past. Discover the history of Newport, all the way up from Roman to industrial times.

Caerleon Roman Fortress Baths

Caerleon was one of the most important military sites in Britain under the Roman Empire. It was the home to over 5000 soldiers with an amphitheatre, baths, shops and temples. Free entry.



tel: +44 (0)1633 422518
email: cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk
web: www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/Caerleon-roman-fortress-baths

Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

See the unique Dadford flight of locks, and trace the history of the importance of the canal to Newport docks and the Valleys. Visitor centre, tea room and parking. Monthly guided walks. Free entry.



tel: +44 (0)1633 894802
email: mail@fourteenlocks.co.uk
web: www.fourteenlocks.co.uk

National Roman Legion Museum

The museum tells the story of the small town that was once one of the furthest outposts of the Roman Empire. Hear what made the Romans a formidable force and see the exhibitions and exhibits which show how they lived and worked. Free entry.



tel: +44 (0)2920 573550
web: www.museumwales.ac.uk/roman

Newport Transporter Bridge

Soaring 242 feet into the sky, this is a fun and novel way to cross the River Usk. Ride across on the suspended gondola and, if you've got a head for heights, climb the tower and walk across the high level gantry – you'll be greeted by some spectacular views.



tel: +44 (0)1633 250322
email: chairman@fontb.org.uk
web: www.fontb.org.uk

Newport Wetlands

On the banks of the Severn Estuary, Newport Wetlands offers a haven for wildlife. The RSPB Visitors Centre is the ideal place to find out what you might see. It's also a great place to enjoy a cup of tea whilst taking in the stunning views. Free entry and parking.



tel: +44 (0)1633 636363
email: newport-wetlands@rspb.org.uk
web: www.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands

Tredegar House

National Trust property set in 90 acres of beautiful grounds. For over 500 years, it was the ancestral home of the Morgan family. Visitors can hear all about the house's history, eccentric owners or take a leisurely stroll through beautiful parkland.



tel: +44 (0)1633 815880
email: tredegar@nationaltrust.org.uk
web: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house

ROMAN FORTRESS *town of Caerleon*



The most varied and fascinating Roman site in Britain.

Visit the National Roman Legion Museum, the Fortress Baths, the Amphitheatre and the only visible barracks block in Europe. A great destination for groups.

Free entry to all attractions, free coach parking, choice of refreshment venues all within easy level walking distance, arts and crafts mews.



www.newport.gov.uk/caerleon

tourism@newport.gov.uk

+44(0)1633 233663

 #VisitNP



01633 412 777

newportreservations@holidayinns.co.uk



Come and Explore South Wales

The Holiday Inn Newport is perfectly located to make the most of what is on offer in South Wales. Located just off Junction 24 off the M4 with free coach parking.

We offer all our tour groups the following:

- On board Welcome
- Tea/coffee on arrival
- Free portage

* Free room for the Coach driver

Contact us now to get a competitive quote.

Email: newportreservations@holidayinns.co.uk

Holiday Inn Newport, The Coldra, Newport, NP18 2YG
www.holidayinnnewport.co.uk



SHADES OF GREEN



The City of Newport is surrounded by beautiful parkland, countryside and nature reserves.

Gwent Wildlife Trust arranges nature rambles and guided walks across many local reserves throughout the year.

www.gwentwildlife.com

The RSPB Newport Wetlands Centre attracts twitchers and nature enthusiasts to the Reserve from all over the UK and abroad to see the rare species.

www.newport.gov.uk/naturereserves

tourism@newport.gov.uk

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Activities

Live it up at a 5 star resort, whizz around one of the best karting tracks in the country or enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. With so much to choose from it's hard to fit it all in.

Celtic Manor Resort

More than just a luxury hotel, The Celtic Manor Resort boasts three world class golf courses, including the Twenty Ten, built especially for The Ryder Cup in 2010. It also offers an exhilarating High Ropes course, Laser Combat Zone and a range of other activities.



tel: +44 (0)1633 413000
web: www.celtic-manor.com

Cwm Hedd Fishing Lakes

On the outskirts of Newport, yet a million miles from the city's hustle and bustle, is Cwm Hedd Lakes. A perfect location to relax, unwind and enjoy the tranquillity of the countryside. Cwm Hedd Lakes is renowned for its fly fishing with up to 700 fish and 40 platforms.



tel: +44 (0)1633 896854
email: info@cwmhedd.co.uk
web: www.cwmhedd.co.uk

Gwent Wildlife Walking Tours

Join us for a series of guided walks throughout the year. The walks take you to some of the most beautiful parts of the area and allow you to discover some fascinating wildlife.



tel: +44 (0)1600 740600
email: info@gwentwildlife.org
web: www.gwentwildlife.org

Supakart Karting

Enjoy an exhilarating adventure, hitting speeds of up to 45 mph in top of the range karts. The multi-level track has a tunnel, hairpins and a 450ft bridge with cross over – the largest in Europe!



tel: +44 (0)1633 280808
email: info@supakart.co.uk
web: www.supakart.co.uk

Tiny Rebel Brewery Tours

One of the area's foremost micro breweries producing many award-winning real ales. Take a tour behind the scenes to discover the processes involved before sampling some of the finished product.



tel: +44 (0)1633 547378
email: theteam@tinyrebel.co.uk
web: www.tinyrebel.co.uk

Treetops Sporting Grounds

For a beginner or experienced shooter, Treetops is worth a visit. One of the best equipped clay pigeon shooting grounds in the area with a variety of targets and flight paths to test your skills.



tel: +44 (0)1633 681197
email: info@treetops-sporting.co.uk
web: www.treetops-sporting.co.uk



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I 
Tredegar
House

Great for groups

See another side of Tredegar House when you visit as a pre-booked group. Exclusive catering and tours available. Bookings taken for March - Oct 2015.

01633 815880 Newport, NP10 8YW
nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegarhouse

National Trust

Accommodation

Internationally renowned hotels, rural retreats and plush country houses mean that there is plenty of choice for you.

Brick House Guest House

A beautiful country guest house with a rich history. Situated on the edge of the peaceful village of Redwick, and only three miles from junction 23a of the M4, it's the perfect location for a relaxing break.



tel: +44 (0)1633 880230
web: www.brickhouseguesthouse.co.uk

Holiday Inn Express

Ideally situated just off junction 28 of the M4 motorway and just yards from Tredegar House. The Holiday Inn Express boasts 125 bedrooms, bar serving evening meals and free parking.



tel: +44 (0)1633 819850
email: info@expressnewport.co.uk
web: www.expressnewport.co.uk

Premier Inn, Junction 24

At Premier Inn Hotel Newport Wales (M4, J24) you'll have the best of the area's business, leisure and heritage hotspots right on your doorstep.



tel: +44 (0)8715 278814
web: www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/NEWCOL

Hilton Newport

The Hilton Newport is ideally located on junction 24 of the M4 and the A449, the main route into the region from the Midlands. The city of Newport is just minutes away. The hotel offers spacious rooms, a variety of dining options and extensive leisure facilities.



tel: +44 (0)1633 413737
web: www.hilton.com/newport

Holiday Inn

Located just off Junction 24 of the M4, the hotel provides a convenient base for business or leisure. The leafy Coldra Woods form an attractive backdrop to our welcoming hotel, 10 minutes' drive from Newport city centre.



tel: +44 (0)1633 412777
web: www.holidayinnnewport.co.uk

Priory Hotel

The Priory is nestled within the historic town of Caerleon on the River Usk. The Priory is the perfect setting to unwind, enjoy the best of locally sourced cuisine, and have a truly memorable stay in the historic town of Caerleon.



tel: +44 (0)1633 421241
email: enquiries@thepriorycaerleon.co.uk
web: www.thepriorycaerleon.co.uk

St Mellons Hotel

Beautiful country house hotel set in seven acres of landscaped grounds and orchard. The hotel has easy access to Newport and Cardiff as well as the local countryside and adjacent golf course.



tel: +44 (0)1633 680355
web: reservations@StMellonsHotel.com
web: www.stmellonshotel.com

Waterloo Hotel

This beautiful old building has been carefully restored and is now a 21 en-suite boutique hotel which sits in the shadows of the world famous Transporter Bridge.



tel: +44 (0)1633 264266
email: info@thewaterloohotel.co.uk
web: www.thewaterloohotel.co.uk

NEWPORT *Transporter Bridge*



One of just six Transporter Bridges left working worldwide.

Enjoy a tour with a knowledgeable local guide, take a ride across on the gondola, visit the engine house and walk the top walkway. An unforgettable experience!

Visitor centre and shop, toilet facilities, coach parking, refreshment and meal stops just opposite, open to pre-booked groups all year round.

www.newport.gov.uk/transporterbridge

tourism@newport.gov.uk

+44(0)1633 233663

#NPTBridge

Refreshment stops

Take time out from your tour to enjoy a spot of lunch or a refreshing tea or coffee at one of the many cafés, pubs or restaurants throughout the region.

Fourteen Locks Café



The Dadford Tearoom is named after the engineer of the Canal, Thomas Dadford. Serves a selection of light snacks in beautiful surroundings.

Newport, NP10 9GN
www.fourteenlocks.co.uk

Priory Hotel



Freshly prepared meals using a variety of local suppliers, expertly prepared for your enjoyment. The aim to serve food that is generous, relaxed and fun.

Caerleon, NP18 1AG
www.thepriorycaerleon.co.uk

Ridgeway Bar & Kitchen



The Ridgeway Bar and Kitchen at Newport offers delicious meals made from high quality, sustainable produce. The perfect retreat from the stresses of modern life.

Newport, NP20 5AJ
www.storyinns.com

Snug Restaurant, Ffwrwm



Hidden in the grounds of a truly unique sculpture garden. With a variety of fresh fish and meats to choose from there is always something to suit your palate.

Caerleon, NP18 1AG
www.thesnugcaerleon.co.uk

Six Bells



Free house, offering a pleasant range of beers and ales around an open fire, creating the perfect back drop. Traditional pub classics at their very best, with subtle gastronomic tweaks.

Wentloog, CF3 2TN
www.thesixbellsinn.co.uk

The Green on Goldroft Common



An old converted pub with years of history has been lovingly converted into a new relaxing, modern and shabby chic eating venue.

Caerleon, NP18 1NG
www.thegreencaeerleon.com

The Old Barn Inn



Dating from the 1750s and serving award winning food and a fine selection of local ales, beers and wine. A delightful home from home in beautiful peaceful surroundings.

Newport, NP18 2EB
www.theoldbarninn.com

The Wetlands Café



The café in the visitor centre has large, panoramic windows overlooking the reserve and surrounding countryside.

Newport, NP18 2BZ
www.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands

Waterloo Hotel & Bistro



Built in the 1870s, this stylish hotel and restaurant is housed in a refurbished Grade II listed building, close to the world-famous Transporter Bridge.

Newport, NP20 2JG
www.thewaterloohotel.co.uk

Explore Newport

1 day Itinerary

Take a tour around Newport. Visit ingenious bridges, Roman remains and stately homes, and enjoy an oasis of calm at a tranquil nature reserve.



Stop 1 – Newport Transporter Bridge

Ride across on the suspended gondola and, if you've got a head for heights, climb the tower and walk across the high level gantry – you'll be greeted by some spectacular views.

www.fontb.org.uk



Stop 2 – Newport Ship

Discovered beneath the muddy banks of the River Usk in 2002 and excavated piece by piece, the ship is in the process of being preserved and re-constructed. Visitors are welcome to view the work, learn the ship's story and hear of its plans for the future.

www.newport.gov.uk/heritage



Stop 3 – Newport Wetlands

On the banks of the Severn Estuary, Newport Wetlands Reserve is a haven for wildlife. The RSPB Visitor Centre is the ideal place to find out what you might see. It's also a great place to enjoy a cup of tea whilst taking in the stunning views.

www.rspb.org.uk/newportwetlands



Stop 4 – Caerleon Roman remains and museum

The National Roman Legion Museum houses a superb display of artefacts found in the region, as well as having demonstration rooms and the reconstruction of legionaries' quarters. www.cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/Caerleon-roman-fortress-baths



Stop 5 – Ffwrwm Arts and Crafts Centre

Ffwrwm Arts and Crafts Centre is set off the main street in Caerleon, nestling in the glories of an eighteenth century walled garden. It comprises several craft shops, a tea-room with open log fire in cold weather, and an art gallery which exhibits works by both local and national artists and craftsmen.

www.ffwrwm.co.uk



Stop 6 – Tredegar House

National Trust property set in 90 acres of beautiful grounds. For over 500 years it was the ancestral home of the Morgan family. Visitors can hear all about the house's history, eccentric owners or take a leisurely stroll through beautiful parkland.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house

Explore the Region - 2 Day Itinerary

With so much to do it can be challenging to know where to start. We've put together a sample two day itinerary for you, giving you the opportunity to visit some of the very best attractions in the region.

Day 1



Stop 1 – Caerphilly Castle, Caerphilly

Dominating the town of Caerphilly is one of the UK's largest castles. The south-east tower, damaged during a 17th century siege, leans at a greater angle than its more famous counterpart in Pisa.

www.cadw.wales.gov.uk



Stop 2 – Llancaiach Fawr Manor, Caerphilly

Llancaiach Fawr Manor near Caerphilly is a 17th century manor house. Take a tour of the house and meet the servants who will tell you tales of what life was like for them back in 1645.

www.llancaiachfawr.co.uk



Stop 3 – Rhondda Heritage Park

An ex-miner will be your guide as you embark on an underground experience tour that will give you a taste of what life was like for the men and boys who worked down the mines.

www.tourism.rctcbc.gov.uk



Stop 4 – Penderyn Whisky Distillery, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Take a journey through the history of the distillery, appreciating how it differs from any other in the world.

www.welsh-whisky.co.uk



Stop 5 - McArthur Glen Designer Outlet, Bridgend

Situated right on junction 36 of the M4 Motorway, the undercover mall has over 90 shops selling high street and designer brand names at discounted prices.

www.mcarthurglen.com/uk/bridgend-designer-outlet



Stop 6 - Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl

Built in 1932, the Grand Pavilion is an Art-Deco multipurpose venue offering live shows, conference and wedding facilities and private parties. The Theatre is situated on the seafront with panoramic views of the Heritage Coast.

www.grandpavilion.co.uk

Day 2



Stop 1 – Tredegar House, Newport

Set in 90 acres of beautiful parkland on the outskirts of Newport is this 17th century house. Now in the care of the National Trust, visitors can hear about the house's history, eccentric former owners and view the art collection.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house



Stop 2 – National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon

The National Roman Legion Museum tells the town's story, whilst nearby lies the remains of the most complete amphitheatre in Britain, the fortress baths and the only Roman Legionary barracks still on view anywhere in Europe.

www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

Day 2 (Continued)



Stop 3 – Shire Hall, Monmouthshire

Built in 1724, the elegant building has a remarkable past. Once a centre of commerce and governance for the town, it also served as a courthouse.

www.shirehallmonmouth.org.uk



Stop 4 – White Castle Vineyard, Abergavenny

Visitors are warmly invited to visit White Castle Vineyard to experience the beauty and tranquility of this rural setting.

www.whitecastlevineyard.com



Stop 5 - Guardian, Six Bells

Towering above the village of Six Bells is the Guardian Mining Memorial. Commemorating the 1960 Six Bells mining disaster, the monument was unveiled in 2010.

www.guardianwales.info



Stop 6 - Bedwelty House, Tredegar

Bedwelty House is a listed Regency villa in the town of Tredegar in South Wales. It is surrounded by a historic garden that was established in the early 19th century for the Master of Tredegar Iron Works, Mr Samuel Homfray of the famous Homfray Ironmaster Dynasty. www.bedweltyhouseandpark.co.uk

What's on in Southern Wales

Time your visit right and not only will you stay in some great accommodation, get to sample some great food and visit some top attractions, you'll also get to enjoy some fabulous events.

We've highlighted some of the most popular ones here, but there are hundreds more going on throughout the year.

For a full list of events in the region, please visit www.visitsouthernwales.org



The Big Cheese, Caerphilly



Wales Valleys Walking Festival, Valleys



Abergavenny Food Festival



Nôs Galan Road Races, Mountain Ash



Porthcawl Elvis Festival



The Big Splash, Newport

Coach Parking

Find out where to drop off your passengers or park your coach in some of our main towns and attractions.

Caerleon

There are plenty of things to do in this historic town. Visit the remains of the Roman amphitheatre, barracks or baths. Pay a visit to the museum or explore the Ffwrn Arts and Crafts Centre. All this is within easy walking distance of the town's coach park.

Coach Drop Off and Parking

Broadway, NP18 1AY

Newport Coach Drop Off Points

Bustling city, sitting on the banks of the River Usk. No visit is complete without seeing the Riverfront Theatre or the famous Transporter Bridge.

Newport Train Station

NP20 4AX

Newport Bus Station

Kingsway, Newport City Centre, NP20 1DD

Riverfront Theatre

NP20 1HG

Newport Coach Parking

Newport Lorry Park

Albany St, Newport, NP20 5NJ
(Onsite showers, toilets, food, overnight stops available, Sainsburys close by)
Tel: 07767 808083 or 07767 808082

Newport City Truck Stop

Unit 9, Maesglas Industrial Estate, NP20 2NS



Tour Guides

Make sure you get the most out of your visit to the region by hiring the services of a tour guide. Members of The Wales Official Tour Guide Association are the only guides officially recognised to be able to guide in Wales. They can provide highly trained, professional and experienced Blue Badge Guides, who will help bring your journey to life.

There are dozens of guides, each with their own specialisms, interests and language skills. Blue Badge Guides can take you all over the region, whilst Green Badge Guides offer a more specialist and localised expertise.



To find a guide to suit your needs please visit www.walesbestguides.com



Other GROUP VISITS IN NEWPORT



Newport has a selection of golf courses ranging from The Ryder Cup Twenty Ten Course to the 'pay as you go' course in ancient Caerleon.

Educational groups are especially catered for at Caerleon Roman Museum and Fortress Baths, Tredegar House and the Newport Wetlands, and for families, animal farm parks include Cefn Mably and Walnut Tree Farms.

Seasonal and sporting events throughout the year give yet more reasons to visit.

www.newport.gov.uk/visiting

tourism@newport.gov.uk

+44(0)1633 233663

[#VisitNP](https://twitter.com/VisitNP)

Maps and Travel Information

Easy to get to

We're a different country with our own language and culture, yet we're surprisingly easy to get to. We're only around two hours down the M4 from London whilst Birmingham and the West Midlands are only an hour or so from our borders.

So in next to no time you could be here, immersing yourself in our culture and traditions and who knows maybe even trying to get your tongue around our language. Croeso - or welcome in English.

We're not very big, but we certainly fit a lot in – and getting around the region couldn't be easier. A comprehensive road system links all the major towns, while many towns and villages are well served by the local train network which connects with the mainline stations.



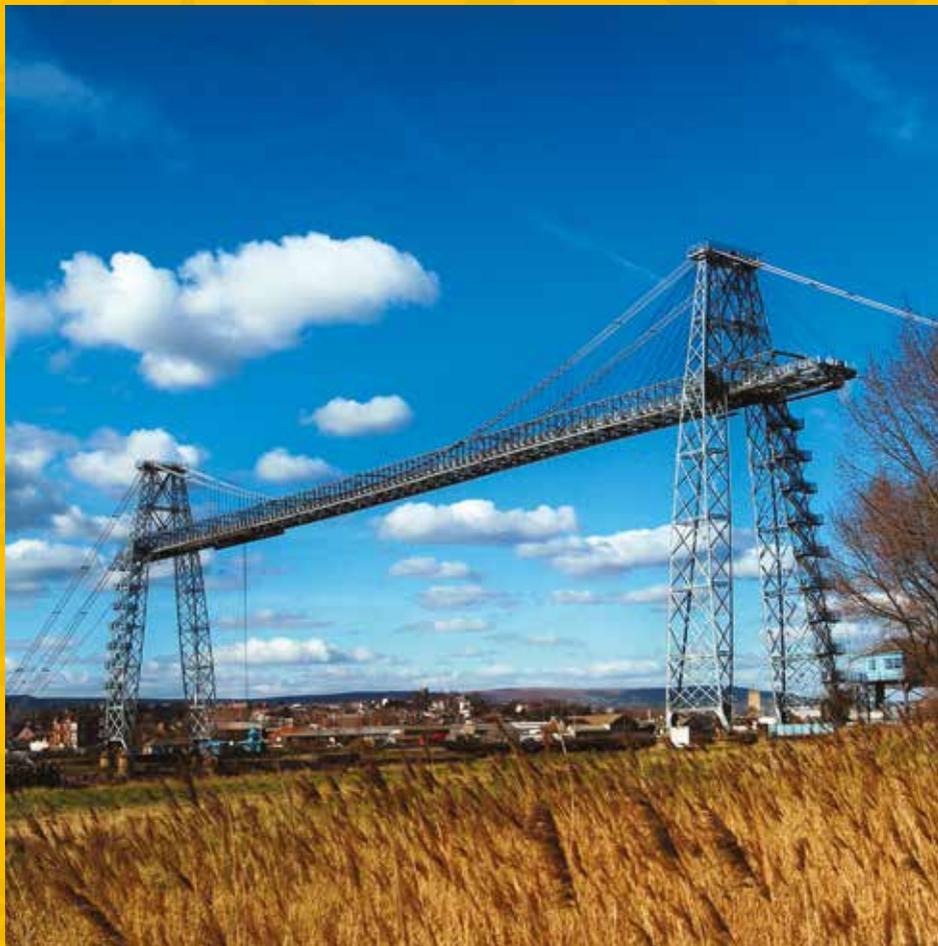
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Design: Mediadesign

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+44(0)1633 233663

 [#NPTBridge](https://twitter.com/NPTBridge)