

American Bridge

A railway bridge in Conwy has been honoured by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

It is one of three bridges in North Wales to be honoured in this way by the ASCE and includes the near-by Conwy Suspension Bridge and the Menai Suspension Bridge, both designed by Thomas Telford.

The Society and the UK-based Institution of Civil Engineers have enjoyed a long standing friendship and, following talks to formalise the relationship, the two organisations are party to an agreement known as the

Edinburgh Accord. They have agreed to work in partnership in appropriate parts of the world to promote best practice in the art and science of civil engineering.

Both groups provide mutually beneficial services to members such as use of local facilities, access to research and libraries and subsidised publications. The UK visit is being led by the President of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Tom Jackson who presented two identical plaques (one in Welsh, the other in English) to Jim Cornell, non-executive director of Network Rail, the current

owners of the bridge.

Speaking at the ceremony Mr. Cornell said: "Receiving the plaques on behalf of Network Rail is indeed an honour as I am also Chief Executive of the Railway Heritage Trust. Without this remarkable feat of engineering, and those of Telford and his colleagues, the rail and road network in North Wales may not have developed as it did. It is incumbent upon us to preserve it for another 150 years so that future generations may also reap the benefits of being able to freely travel along the beautiful North Wales coast."



Tom Jackson (left), president of the American Society of Civil Engineers; Prof Roland Paxton, chairman of the Panel for Historical Engineering Works, Institution for Civil Engineers

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