

Deborah Griffiths

The Meldon Viaduct today.

Well Meldon viaduct is pretty impressive in terms of its scale and form, it's actually 163 metres wide, or long depending on how you approach it, and at its tallest it's 46 metres above the river or, as the Victorians would have put it, it's 534 feet long or wide and it's 150 feet above the river, so that's a pretty dominant structure. It's a very good example of Victorian engineering and it's a rare example of two technically different structures being woven together, and for that reason it's considered to be nationally important and it's protected by being a scheduled monument. It no longer belongs to the railway authority, it actually now belongs to a company called the Meldon Viaduct Company and they are responsible for its protection and maintenance in the future; so there's a massive painting job at fairly regular intervals.