



Bridge of the Month No57, September 2015 Ditchford



There is also an archive [here](#).

Ditchford Bridge is at <https://goo.gl/maps/iVUP2>. Another from my Mediaeval tour providing a chance to knock off a few BoMs before I head for New Zealand.



I was going to crop this, but why not show a party of bridge nuts coming from different directions to converge on lovely arches. Once again, we have a bridge that is much modified, though perhaps not quite as much as some.

For example, what's going on here? Much more corbelling at the left than the right. Beautifully coursed stone to the right and in the parapet but a patch of rougher iron stone on the left hand parapet.



This scrap from GoogleMaps shows how the road widens to the north (left) and bends at the right. I suspect the corbel is the start of that widening.



On the East (downstream) side, there is considerable mixture of stone and mre variation of arch height than expected.



Getting here was more difficult than it looks and I failed to notice the water on the lens so this is the best I have from this corner.



The first thought about the weathering on that pale band of stone was chemical reaction with water running down from above. It doesn't look so bad to the right, but a closer look shows considerable patching there so perhaps chemical weathering is right.



Underneath is a real patchwork quilt.



Here is more chemical weathering and a small (but badly weathered) corbel under the parapet.



In the next span. The corbel is much bigger.



While the next to the left has no corbel but is the opposite side to the taper shown in the second picture. Again, a bit of detail lost through water on the lens. Long stones there in the ends of the upper arches.

There is a flood arch on the approach that is easier to see.



There is a break in the stonework above the wedge course. Is that a sign that the original load was much lower?



Underneath it was a bit wet to explore in the time available, but it looks as though there are several phases of construction.

But the thing about this visit that fascinated me. I would not have seen or properly understood without the historians

On the pier just vanishing under a tree in the first pic is a boundary marker indicating the two parishes north and south, St Peter and St Catherine.

