

Well, here I am, late again. Life seems to be unbelievably busy just now. Three whole day Archie seminars in two weeks, in Fife, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire have taken their toll. The coming two weeks are pretty wild too. To Hull on Tuesday for half a day at Humber Bridges on Wednesday then to Cambridge for the Henderson Colloquium on Historic Structures. From there to Prague for the International Bridges Group, Mediaeval Historians as bridge nuts or gephyrologists if you (as they) prefer.

In the meantime, a suitable bridge since I was able, in my great tour to dip aside, to Kirkby Lonsdale. It's here <https://goo.gl/maps/sEGDtssD5QH2>.



The stretch in this picture, taken with a 14mm lens on a full frame EOS5DMk2, is obvious but it is the only way I could get a full view, scrambling over the rocks in quite a steeply sloping bed.



Actually, this view from further away with my Sony HX400V works well. A prominent feature from here is the break in the parapets which looks almost like the sort of lip you get in Google earth stitched pictures.

The bridge is magnificent. The main spans around 17m and about a third of a circle. I didn't get chance to measure but that is perhaps a 32ft or 32ft6 radius.



The disjoint in the parapet and string course is even more prominent here. This is the downstream side. Cutwaters on the downstream side were not common in the south at this time but were clearly (rightly) seen as important here. The sharp edges taper away to a flat higher up but extends to the top to provide a pedestrian refuge. Only 12 feet wide and originally with a pronounced hump, two passing carts would have filled the bridge.



The foundations are slotted into the original stone bed.



This picture gives the lie to one idea about ribbed arches. Four ribs and three sockets for centring so the ribs weren't built consecutively on the same centre.



Looking even closer at the parapet disjoint, we see two elements of change. To the right, the parapet cope has been flattened considerably. The string course still follows the original slope of the approach. The left hand part is absolutely horizontal. It seems likely that the parapet originally rose on a continuous slope to some form of feature high above the river.



Looking up, under the arch, we can see that the arch is as well built as the ribs below. Looking at the coursing suggests that the barrel is continuous and the ribs do not have shoulders to support the stone above.



The damage visible here is presumably a hangover from the days when this was the main road, which means before 1932 when the bypass was opened. But what is that circular patch.



A closer look suggests it is something in the stone. The extent of the jostling and repointing here is considerable.

And there, I need to leave it. I have to get on with main stream work despite the fact that is Sunday morning. This ne trip yielded at least seven bridges worthy of a note and next week I will be in Prague and adding more.