

Bill Harvey Bill Harvey Associates Ltd and OBVIS Ltd

Hawick, in the Scottish Borders, is a town of bridges. I passed through there on 20th June and as well as a great Café (Damascus Drum), found this interesting structure (<http://goo.gl/maps/4s7X>). The Slitrig Water makes a right angle turn alongside the B6399 then dives under a carpark and mill building to emerge briefly and pass under another bridge on Tower Knowe before reaching the River Teviot.



Rock is exposed in the river bed so foundations were clearly not a problem. This skewed face has nicely dressed voussoirs of uneven thickness, with some thinner voussoirs near the springing.



Cropping this picture and pushing the light severely reveals a kink a few metres upstream of the arch face. The remainder of the structure is essentially square. This skew arch constructed from random rubble surely gives the lie to the idea that bedding of the stone or brick is structurally significant in skew bridges.



The skew is modest, but quite visible in this shot. The dressed stones are only in the face and the abutment walls. The arch proper is built from random stone straight from the quarry with correspondingly large mortar joints.



The upstream face is square. The extent of the structure is somewhat disguised by the very wide angle shot (14mm on a Canon EOOS5D) but the rocky bed is evident as is the extent of the drop in water level over this short distance.



To the left here you can see that there is a worthwhile waterfall in front of the arch as well as the drop beneath it. It seems that the mill was powered entirely by the local drop without the benefit of a weir and leat. The water is taken off just above this fall through the blocked sluice shown here. It emerged (presumably) from the partly collapsed tail race tunnel below.





The bridge downstream has its own interest. It is not easy to photograph but this shot shows the arch to have a varying radius without reaching the vertical at the springing. This view is severely foreshortened and yet the centre of the span still looks quite flat.

News and Events

Bill's Sutherland History Lecture from 16th Feb is now available to watch on the web at <http://www.istructe.org/resources-centre/webinars>

After a long struggle with the new protection software we think that the Demo, available from <http://www.obvis.com> is now stable and can be properly activated when paid for. It will work in standalone or network mode. If you are ready for an update or thinking of buying please download this version and then contact us for activation.

We are now ready to embark on the next phase of proper development.

Moire TellTales now available from www.moiretelltale.com