

Michaelmas Sessions 1873.  
Fryers Mill Bridge  
County Annsyow Report  
Highworth

A1/533/115

Devizes, Wilts. 1<sup>h</sup>

October 14 - 1873. -

To Her Majesties Justices of the  
Peace for the County of Wilts - at -  
Michaelmas Sessions - Marlborough. -

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My Lords & Gentlemen. -

I have to report that at the request of the Clerk to the Faringdon Highway Board - I attended on the 26<sup>th</sup> of last month - to meet 3 Magistrates of the County of Berks. (J. S. Goodlake Esq - W. Tucker, Esq - and - Rendas Esq -) at Fryars Mill Bridge - situate on the County boundary - the portion thereof in this County is in the Parish of Highworth the remainder and by far the greater part being in the County of Berks. - . -

The object of the meeting was to examine and consider the state of this Bridge and its approaches, which consist of a raised road or causeway 274 feet in length, with several arches under it, at varied distances apart, for the passage of stream and flood waters. . . . -

The roadway is barely 13 feet wide, and is fenced for its entire length, and on either side, with oak posts and rails, which present several objectionable curves and dangerous ends.

It was suggested by the above named Justices that the roadway should be widened and the arches extended about 5 feet, the sides and rail fences straightened and curved outwards (bellmouthed) at the ends, and that the passage of carts &c through the ford on the Northern side of the Bridge, should be discontinued.

It is evident that no such improvement can be effected unless joint and simultaneous action be taken by both Counties.

201. <sup>ft</sup> <sup>6<sup>in</sup></sup> of the entire length are in the County of Berks and only 72 <sup>ft</sup> <sup>6<sup>in</sup></sup> - or about  $\frac{1}{4}$  <sup>th</sup> of the whole, are in this County. - and the arch therein is in good repair.

The oak posts and rails have been several times repaired and renewed within the last 8 years, and

are now broken down at one end in  
consequence of having been driven against

This Bridge has been the scene of repeated  
accidents and I cannot therefore withhold  
my testimony as to the decided advantages,  
both in respect of public safety, and  
ultimate economy - which would result  
from the adoption of the proposed.....  
widening and improvement of this  
structure. ---

I have the honour to be

My Lords & Gentlemen.

Your faithful servant.

Amey W. Carr  
County Surveyor

10.1.1874

Work to Francis Berke  
with W & B Surveyor

Coast/142  
L

Deeds

West Mills

2424 | 252 21. 1. 1874 Agreement by  
Henry Crowdy Crowdy Gent on behalf of  
Co of Proprietors of WBC Navigation  
to rent Friars Mill Showenham

to George Hooker of the mill (Miller)

Hooker to rent 3 water Crick Mills in  
Worshfield known as West Mills + buildings  
stables, back sides + garden belonging to the Mills  
on condition that

- Henry C Crowdy or other Canal Co servant can  
access the premises to view state + conditions of  
them + to make necessary repairs
- George Hooker to take over premises on 1/1/1874  
at rent of 50 per annum payable by quarterly  
instalments on 1/4 1/7 1/10 1/1
- George to pay taxes, rates on premises

- Canal to have free + liberal use of the water  
running down the stream/streams supplying the mills  
as they may require for the Canal
- Canal Co to have liberty or privilege to erect  
weirs, banks, bolts drains, sluices across the said  
streams
- Canal Co to be able to cleanse, scour, deepen  
+ widen streams as required.
- As long as George Hooker holds premises  
Canal Co will repair + keep + repair the  
premises

Signed George Hooker

Wm Matthews Clerk to H C Crowdy sol  
Highworth

Tenancy ceased 5/8/1895

Letter dated 5/8/1895 from Colshill Est office (Hon<sup>DR</sup> Bouverie  
confirmed receipt from WBC Co of £110. 8-0  
= full discharge of Rent + claim for dilapidations  
up to June 24th last at which date the Co tenancy  
terminates. This settlement is without prejudice  
to the water rent. Cheque sent by Messrs Boxall  
Rent due from Co tenant - 24/6 £85. 8. 4 + claims against  
Co for £5 for loss of trade, owing to neglect of repairs property tax  
land Tax + Bill for thatching £24. 19. 8 TOTAL = £110. 8 0  
Receipt signed by TE Robertson for Hon D.R. Bouverie