

West Midlands and the English Marches - Tabulations

In the 1st Column of Tables WM1 & WM2, the letters signify the following;

CH ≡ Cheshire, SH ≡ Shrops, ST ≡ Staffs;

WA ≡ Warwicks, WM ≡ West Midlands;

HE ≡ Herefords, WO ≡ Worcesters;

GL ≡ Gloucesters, BR ≡ Bristol:

The red typescript means that a bridge has not been visited.

In all Tables any entry of ‘?’ alone means unknown, but added after another symbol or number it implies a high level of doubt. ‘c’ before any number means that it is an approximation.

Table WM1: Locations and Dimensions

KEY: Column Headings reading from the left

No. ≡ Unique identifying number for every bridge, made up from a 1-letter or 2-letter county identifier and a number based on alphabetical ordering of bridge names in the county.

Bridge ≡ Name of the bridge, if possible the most generally accepted one.

OS Location ≡ Standard 8-symbol position

River ≡ Name of the river crossed by the bridge, unless it is un-named.

Catchment, if the named river does not flow directly to the sea, the river which does carry its contents to the sea; exceptions are made for major rivers which flow into others, like the River Ure.

Arch No., shown as ‘River Arches + Flood Arches’, or ‘Arches Now (Original Number)’ where appropriate.

Arch Shape, symbols; G ≡ Gothic, or Pointed, (shaded, xxxx) S-C ≡ Semi-circular, 4-C ≡ 4-centred or Tudor, Se ≡ Segmental, R ≡ Rectangular including Square.

Arch Span ≡ the span of the largest original arch, prior to extension or rebuilding.

OW ≡ Bridge Width, the width of the original bridge, as built, prior to widening operations, normally measured between parapets, or rails.

Date, refers to the oldest surviving part of the bridge, and ‘Arch Span’ & ‘OW’ will normally relate to it.

The appropriate columns are shaded according to whether they have arches spanning more than 7.5m, xxxx; widths less than 2.2m, (effectively footbridges of all types including packhorse and clapper bridges), xxxx

No.	Bridge	OS Location	River	Catchment	No. of Arches	Arch Form	Arch Span	Width	Build Date
CH1	Chester Dee Bridge	SJ 407 657	R. Dee		7	G	18m	c4m	14 th C
CH2	Colley Mill Bridge	SJ 891 658	R. Dane	R. Weaver	2	Se	9.1m	3.9m	17 th C
CH3	Hockenhull PH Bridges (3)	SJ 476 657	R. Gowy	R. Mersey	1	Se	6.3m	1.5m	17/18 th C
CH1M	Chorley Hall Bridge	SJ 838 732	Wet		2	Se	c2.5m	c2.7m	17 th C
CH2M	Holford Hall Bridge	SJ 709 755	Wet		2	Se	c3.5m	3.5m	17 th C
CH3M	Hulme Hall Bridge	SJ 725 724	Wet		2	Se	c5.2m	3.5m	17 th C
CH4M	Little Moreton Hall Bridge	SJ 832 589	Wet		1	G	c4.8m	2m	15 th C
CH5M	Lower Huxley Hall Bridge	SJ 498 623	Wet		2	Se	c2.1m	c2.4m	15 th C
CH6M	Lymm Hall Moat Bridge	SJ 684 871	Dry		1	Se	?	4m	17 th C
SH1	Bridgnorth Severn Bridge	SO 719 930	R. Severn		7/8	Se	?	3.6m	14 th C?

No.	Bridge	OS Location	River	Catchment	No. of Arches	Arch Form	Arch Span	Width	Build Date
SH2	Clun Bridge	SO 301 809	R. Clun	R. Teme	4/5	Se/R	c4m	3.3m	15 th C
SH3	Harpwood Bridge	SO 691 916	Mor B.	R. Severn	2	Se	c3.8m	2.1m	17 th C
SH4	Ludford Bridge	SO 513 742	R. Teme	R. Severn	3	Se	c9m	3.6m	15 th C
SH5	Rushbury PH Bridge	SO 513 916	Eaton B.	R. Teme	1	Se	3.6m	1.5m	17 th C
SN6	Shrewsbury Old Welsh Bridge	SJ 489 128	R. Severn		6 + 1	G/S-C	?	c5m	13 th C
SH7	Stottesdon Prescott Bridge	SO 663 815	Rea B.	R. Teme	2	Se	c3.8m	c1.4m	16 th C
SH1M	Albright Hussey Bridge	SJ 502 176	Wet Moat		1	S-C	c0.5m	2.75m	16 th C
ST1	Elford Bridge, West	SK 199 091	oxbow	R. Tame	8	Se	?	4.8m	16 th C
ST2	Great Heywood PH Bridge	SJ 995 226	R. Trent		14	Se	c4.5m	1.5m	16 th C
ST3	Horton Brook Clapper Bridge	SJ 938 569	Horton B.	R. Dove	2	R	c1.8m	0.65m	17/18 th C
ST4	Somerford Bridge	SJ 895 092	R. Penk	R. Trent	4	Se	3.2m	?	17 th C
ST5	Walton Bridge	SJ 902 334	R. Trent		3 + 5	G	c4.5m	3.6m	15 th C
ST1M	Caverswall Castle Bridge	SJ 951 428	Wet		2	S-C	c3.7m	c3.2m	17 th C
ST2M	Eccleshall Castle Bridge	SJ 828 295	Dry		2	G	c2.4m	3m	14 th C
WA1	Bidford Bridge	SP 099 518	R. Avon	R. Severn	8	G/S-C	4m	3.6m	15 th C
WA2	Binton Bridge	SP 145 530	R. Avon	R. Severn	?	Se	?	?	17/18 th C
WA3	Blyth Bridge	SP 211 898	R. Blythe	R. Tame	5	G	?	?	14 th C?
WA4	Bretford Bridge	SP 430 770	R. Avon	R. Severn	5	G	5m	2.8m?	15 th C?
WA5	Clopton Bridge	SP 206 549	R. Avon	R. Severn	14	G	5.7m	4.8m	1480
WA6	Cole Bridge	SP 199 895	R. Cole	R. Tame	6	Se	c4.5m	c2.5m	16 th C
WA7	Dow Old Bridge	SP 543 779	R. Avon	R. Severn	6	Se	c6m	3m	17/18 th C
WA8	Furnace End Bridge	SP 248 912	R. Bourne	R. Tame	1	Se	1.2m	3.6m	15 th C
WA9	Grendon Bridge	SK 285 010	R. Anker	R. Teme	4	G	c4.3m	3.3m	15 th C
WA10	Halford Bridge	SP 259 453	R. Stour	R. Avon	4	G	2.7m	c4m	16 th C
WA11	Honington Bridge	SP 263 422	R. Stour	R. Avon	5	Se	c3m	c2.8m	17 th C
WA12	Hunningham Bridge	SP 373 685	R. Leam	R. Avon	3+2?	S-C/Se	c4.5m	3.3m	16 th C
WA13	Marton Bridge	SP 407 691	R. Leam	R. Avon	2+1?	G	4.3m	4.5m	1414
WA14	Oversley Bridge	SP 093 570	R. Arrow	R. Avon	4 + 3	Se	?	3.6m	1600
WA15	Shipston-on-Stour Bridge	SP 260 405	R. Stour	R. Avon	6	G	3.7m	2.4m	16 th C
WA16	Stare Bridge	SP 330 715	R. Avon	R. Severn	9	G/Se	c6m	3m	15 th C
WA17	Stoneleigh Bridge	SP 332 737	R. Sowe	R. Avon	8	3-C	c3.5m	c4m	16 th C
WA18	Stoneleigh Coach Bridge	SP 338 722	R. Avon	R. Severn	2	Se	c4.5m	3.3m	1679
WA19	Warwick Old Castle Bridge	SP 285 645	R. Avon	R. Severn	12?	G/4-C	c5m	c2.5m	14 th C
WA20	Water Orton Bridge	SP 174 914	R. Teme	R. Trent	6	S-C/Se	4.5m	>3m	16 th C
WA1M	Astley Castle Moat Bridge	SP 312 895	Dry		1	Se	c3m	2.5m	17/18 th C
WA2M	Shustoke Hall Bridge	SP 234 900	Wet		1	Se	1.4m	1.1m	17/18 th C
WM1	Bacons End Bridge	SP 183 874	R. Cole	R. Tame	3	Se/G?	?	?	17/18 th C
WM2	Hampton-in-Arden PH Bridge	SP 213 801	R. Blythe	R. Tame	5	G/Se	3.4m	1.9m	15 th C
HE1	Eaton Bridge	SO 507 585	R. Lugg	R. Wye	3	Se	4.7m	4.5m	16 th C
HE2	Hampton Bishop Footbridge	SO 559 389	R. Lugg	R. Wye	3	Se	c3.7m	2.8m	17 th C
HE3	Hereford Wye Bridge	SO 508 396	R. Wye		6	4-C/Se	c9m	c3.5m	15 th C
HE4	Leystone Bridge	SO 518 477	R. Lugg	R. Wye	4	Se	2.7m	3.6m	17 th C
HE5	Lugg Bridge	SO 532 418	R. Lugg	R. Wye	3	G/Se	>7.5m	4.9m	14 th C
HE6	Lugwardine Bridge	SO 546 407	R. Lugg	R. Wye	3	Se	c5.5m	3.9m	17 th C
HE7	Mordiford Bridge	SO 570 375	R. Lugg	R. Wye	2 + 7	G/Se	6.9m	5.1m	14 th C
HE8	Moreton-on-Lugg Bridge	SO 513 459	R. Lugg	R. Wye	3	S-C/Se	c7m	3.3m	16 th C
HE9	Risbury PH Bridge	SO 540 549	buried		2	Se	c2.5m	c2m	16 th C?
HE10	Stretton Sugwas Bridge	SO 474 434	un-named	R. Wye	1	G	2.5m	5.2m	14 th C
HE11	Wilton Bridge	SO 590 242	R. Wye		6	Se	9.5m	5.5m	1599
HE1M	Goodrich Castle Bridge	SO 577 200	Dry		2	G	c2m	3m	14 th C
WO1	Pershore Bridge	SO 953 451	R. Avon	R. Severn	6 + 3	Se	c8.5m	<3.5m	17 th C
WO2	Powick Bridge	SO 835 525	R. Teme	R. Severn	3 + 2	Se	c6.5m	c3m	15 th C
WO3	Shell PH Bridge	SO 951 597	Bow B.	R. Avon	2	S-C	c3m	<1m	17 th C
WO4	Tenbury Wells Teme Bridge	SO 596 686	R. Teme	R. Severn	6	Se	c6.7m	3.6m	15 th C
WO1M	Belbroughton Moor Hall Bridge	SO 935 784	Wet		1	Se	<4m	2m	17 th C

No.	Bridge	OS Location	River	Catchment	No. of Arches	Arch Form	Arch Span	Width	Build Date
WO2M	Harvington Hall Bridge	SO 878 744	Wet		1	Se	2.5m	2m	16 th C
GL1	Bibury Foot-bridge	SP 116 067	R. Coln	R. Thames	3	Se	c2m	1.9m	17 th C
GL2	Kebles Clapper Bridge	SP 201 052	R. Leach	R. Thames	5	R	c1.4m	c1.2m	17 th C?
GL3	King John's Bridge	SO 894 332	R. Avon (Mill)	R. Severn	5	Se	6.6m	5.6m	1190
GL4	Mickla Clapper Bridge	SP 608 999	Cone B.	R. Severn	2	R	0.7m?	2.5m?	17/18 th C
GL5	Naunton Clapper Bridge	SP 130 226	R. Windrush	R. Thames	3	R	?	c3m	17/18 th C
GL6	Sturt PH Bridge	ST 731 881	R. Little Avon	R. Severn	2	G/S-C	c2m	1.5m	15/16 th C
GL7	Tetbury Cutwell Bridge	ST 887 930	The Splash	R. Avon (Br.)	1 + 1	G/R	2m	2m	16/17 th C
GL8	Tetbury Waters Bridge	ST 889 929	The Splash	R. Avon (Br.)	1	Se	c1.5m	2m	1622
GL9	Tetbury Wiltshire Bridge	ST 893 930	R. Avon (Br.)		1	S-C	?	?	17/18 th C
GL10	Tewkesbury Swilgate Bridge	SO 889 332	R. Swilgate	R. Severn	1	S-C	?	>3m	1635
GL11	Todenham PH Bridge	SP 245 375	Knee B.	R. Avon	2	S-C	c4m	1.8m	17/18 th C
GL12	Upper Slaughter Clapper Bridge	SP 155 233	R. Eye	R. Windrush	2	R	?	?	17/18 th C
BR1	Wickham Bridge	ST 619 761	R. Frome	R. Avon (Br.)	2 + 1	S-C	c2.7m	4.2m	17 th C

Table WM2: Bridge Characteristics

KEY: Column Headings reading from the left

No. & Bridge as in Table S1

Fabric, the building material, A ≡ ashlar, CR ≡ Coursed Rubble, R ≡ Random Rubble, B ≡ Brick, W ≡ Wood; if two types are present in significant proportions, it is shown A/CR.

Profile, as seen from upstream or downstream, where possible referring to the original bridge, F ≡ Flat, P ≡ Rising to a central Peak, H ≡ Humped, C ≡ Gently curved.

Refuges, total number, referring if possible to the original bridge; NA entered for single-arch bridges

Arch Rings with nomenclature **W/X/Y/Z** where **W** ≡ number of arch rings, **X** is an indicator for chamfering ≡ C, or not ≡ U, **Y** describes the arrangement of the arch rings with categories F ≡ Flush, R ≡ Recessed, H ≡ Hood Mould, above, 2O ≡ Arch Rings in two orders, etc., and **Z** indicates the finish on the individual voussoirs in the arch rings with R ≡ Rough, unshaped, S ≡ Shaped, D ≡ Dressed, finely machined. 3 examples are given below.

3/C/2O/D



1/U/H/S



1/U/F/R



Soffits and Ribs Features, number of ribs, and whether they are chamfered ≡ C (as above, left), or not ≡ U

Pier Width, subjective estimate, B ≡ Broad, U ≡ Unexceptional, S ≡ Slender, C ≡ Pierced Causeway, & NA for a bridge with 1 arch

Parapet Features, entries only if non-standard, R ≡ Railings, C ≡ Corbelled Out, S ≡ Splayed Out at ends, Low, None.

W ← →, entries indicate whether the bridge has been widened, No, Yes (but how unknown), U ≡ Upstream Face, D ≡ Downstream Face, B ≡ Both Faces

Build Date as in Table WM1

Shading in the relevant columns means chamfered arch rings, xxxx, hood moulds, xxxx, and ribs, xxxx. In cases where chamfering and hood moulds are present, I have added ** to the former

No.	Bridge	Fabric	Profile	No. of Refuges	Arch Ring Features	Soffits & Ribs Features	Pier Width	Parapet Features	<--> W	Build Date
CH1	Chester Dee Bridge	CR	F	8	2/C/2O/D	0	B	R	U	14 th C
CH2	Colley Mill Bridge	A	F	2	2/U/2O/D	0	B		No	17/18 th C
CH3	Hockenhull PH Bridges	A	H	NA	2/U/2O/D	0	NA	Low	No	17 th C
CH1M	Chorley Hall Bridge	A	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B	None	No	17 th C
CH2M	Holford Hall Bridge	CR	F	2	1/U/H/D	0	B		No	17 th C
CH3M	Hulme Hall Bridge	A	F	2	1/U/H/D	0	B		No	17 th C
CH4M	Little Moreton Hall Bridge	A	F	NA	1/U/F/D	0	NA		No	15 th C
CH5M	Lower Huxley Hall Bridge	A	F	2	?	?	U		No	15 th C
CH6M	Lymm Hall Moat Bridge	A	F	NA	1/U/F/D	0	NA		No	17 th C
SH1	Bridgnorth Severn Bridge	A	F	6	?	5, 1 arch?	U	R	B	14 th C?
SH2	Clun Bridge	R	C	6	2/U/2O/S	3U	U		No	15 th C
SH3	Harpwood Bridge	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U?	17 th C
SH4	Ludford Bridge	CR	F	4	2/U/2O/S	3U	B	S	No	15 th C
SH5	Rushbury PH Bridge	R	C	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA	None	No	17 th C
SH6	Shrewsbury Old Welsh Br.	CR	C	6?	2/U/2O/D	3U	B		No?	13 th C
SH7	Stottesdon Prescott Bridge	CR	H	2	2/U/2O/S	3U	B	R	U	16 th C
SH1M	Albright Hussey Bridge	R	F	NA	1/U/F/S	0	NA	Low	No?	16 th C
ST1	Elford Bridge, West	A	F	4	1/U/H/D	0	U	R	No	16 th C
ST2	Great Heywood PH Bridge	A	F	26	2/U/2O/D	0	B	Low	No	16 th C
ST3	Horton Brook Clapper Bridge	A	F	NA	NA	0	U	R	No	17/18 th C
ST4	Somerford Bridge	A	F	6	1/U/F/D	0	B		D	17 th C
ST5	Walton Bridge	CR	F	0	1/C/F/D?	3U	B		B	15 th C
ST1M	Caverswall Castle Bridge	?	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U	B'strades	No	17 th C
ST2M	Eccleshall Castle Bridge	A	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	B		No	14 th C
WA1	Bidford Bridge	CR	F	7	2/U/F/S	0	B		No	15 th C
WA2	Binton Bridge	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	17/18 th C
WA3	Blyth Bridge	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	B	14 th C?
WA4	Bretford Bridge	A	F	0	?	0	U		B	15 th C?
WA5	Clopton Bridge	A	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	B	Low	U	1480
WA6	Cole Bridge	A	F	0	2/C/2O/D	0	U		D	16 th C
WA7	Dow Old Bridge	A	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	U	None	U	17/18 th C
WA8	Furnace End Bridge	CR/R	H	NA	1/U/F/D	2C + 2U	NA		U	15 th C
WA9	Grendon Bridge	A	H	2	1/U/H/D	0	U		No	15 th C
WA10	Halford Bridge	A	F	0	2/U/F/D	0	C		?	16 th C
WA11	Honington Bridge	A/CR	H	0	1/U/F/D	0	B		D	17 th C
WA12	Hunningham Bridge	CR	F	4	2/U/2O/D	0	B		No	16 th C
WA13	Marton Bridge	CR	F	0	2/C/2O/D	0	U		No	1414
WA14	Oversley Bridge	CR/B	C	1	1/U/F/S	0	B/C		U	1600
WA15	Shipston-on-Stour Bridge	CR	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		U	16 th C
WA16	Stare Bridge	CR	F	3	2/U/2O/S	0	B		No	15 th C
WA17	Stoneleigh Bridge	A	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		D	16 th C
WA18	Stoneleigh Coach Bridge	A	C	2	2/U/F/D	0	B		No	1679
WA19	Warwick Old Castle Bridge	A	F	?	3/C/2O/D	0	B	?	Yes	14 th C
WA20	Water Orton Bridge	CR	F	10	1/C/F/S	0	B		No	16 th C
WA1M	Astley Castle Moat Bridge.	R	F	NA	1/U/F/S	0	NA		No	17/18 th C

No.	Bridge	Fabric	Profile	No. of Refuges	Arch Ring Features	Soffits & Ribs Features	Pier Width	Parapet Features	<--> W	Build Date
WA2M	Shustoke Hall Bridge	B	F	NA	1/U/F/B	0	NA		No	17/18 th C
WM1	Bacons End Bridge	A	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	U	R	D	17/18 th C
WM2	Hampton-in-Arden PH Bridge	CR	F	4	1/C/F/S	0	B	R	No	15 th C
HE1	Eaton Bridge	R/A	F	4	1/U/F/D	3U	B		U	16 th C
HE2	Hampton Bishop Footbridge	A/B	P	0	1/U/F/S	0	B	R	No	17 th C
HE3	Hereford Wye Bridge	CR	F	10	2/U/2O/S	1 X 3U	B		B	15 th C
HE4	Leystone Bridge	CR	H	0	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	17 th C
HE5	Lugg Bridge	R	F	4	2/U/F/S	3U	B		D	14 th C
HE6	Lugwardine Bridge	CR	F	0	1/U/F/D	0	U	C	U	17 th C
HE7	Mordiford Bridge	CR	F	0	1/U/F/S	3U	B/C		No	14 th C
HE8	Moreton-on-Lugg Bridge	R	C	4	1/U/F/D	1 X 2U	B		No	16 th C
HE9	Risbury PH Bridge	R	H	0	1/U/F/R	0	U	None	No	16 th C?
HE10	Stretton Sugwas Bridge	R	H	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA	None	No?	14 th C
HE11	Wilton Bridge	CR	F	5	1/U/F/D	3C	B	R	U	1599
HE1M	Goodrich Castle Bridge	A	F	0	3/C/3O/D	¾C	B	R	No	14 th C
WO1	Pershore Bridge	R	F	5	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	17 th C
WO2	Powick Bridge	R	F	5	1/U/F/S	0	B		No	15 th C
WO3	Shell PH Bridge	CR	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	S	Low	No	17 th C
WO4	Tenbury Wells Teme Bridge	R	F	4	1/U/F/S	4U	B	R	B	15 th C
WO1M	Belbroughton Moor Hall Br.	B	F	NA	1/U/F/B	0	NA	Low	No	17 th C
WO2M	Harvington Hall Bridges	A/B	F	NA	1/U/F/S	0	NA	Low	No?	16 th C
GL1	Bibury Foot-bridge	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	B	R	No	17 th C
GL2	Kebles Clapper Bridge	R	F	NA	NA	NA	U	None	No	17 th C?
GL3	King John's Bridge	CR	F	8	1/C/F/S	4C	B		D	1190
GL4	Mickla Clapper Bridge	CR	F	NA	NA	NA	B	None	No	17/18 th C
GL5	Naunton Clapper Bridge	R	F	NA	NA	0	U	None	U?	17/18 th C
GL6	Sturt PH Bridge	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U	None	No	15/16 th C
GL7	Tetbury Cutwell Bridge	R	F	NA	1/U/F/R	0	C	R	No	16/17 th C
GL8	Tetbury Waters Bridge	CR	F	NA	1/U/F/R	0	NA	None	No	1622
GL9	Tetbury Wiltshire Bridge	R	F	NA	1/U/F/R?	0	C		U	17/18 th C
GL10	Tewkesbury Swilgate Bridge	CR	F	NA	?	0	NA		B	1635
GL11	Todenham PH Bridge	R	C	1	1/C/F/D	0	U	R	No	17/18 th C
GL12	Upper Slaughter Clapper Br.	R	F	NA	NA	0	U	None	No	17/18 th C
BR1	Wickham Bridge	R	F	0	1/U/F/S	0	U		No	17 th C

As compared with previous listings, the following 11 bridges have been omitted for the reasons given;

Oakamoor Bridge, Staffs has been discarded as an 18th century bridge

Sandon Bridge, Staffs which has been replaced by a modern bridge

Bransford Bridge, Worcs which has disappeared except for a few stone blocks on the banks

Worm Bridge, Herefords which has been demolished and replaced

Jury Bridge, Herefords has been replaced by a 19th century bridge

Ford Bridge, Herefords which has been replaced by a modern bridge

Astley Packhorse Bridge, Worcs, where the consensus is that it is an 18th or 19th century bridge

Charlecote Park Bridges, Warwicks, did not survive the 17th century reordering of the landscape

Tidmington Bridge, Warwicks, nothing visible from before 1700

Cassey Compton Bridge, Gloucesters, no pre-1700 bridge visible

Lower Slaughter Bridges, Gloucesters, all 18th century or later

Table WM3 Status of Bridge Visits, & Dating Summary – West Midlands & English Marches

COUNTIES	No. OF BRIDGES	17th C	16th C	15th C	14th C	PRE-1300	No. VISITED
Cheshire, Shropshire & Staffs	24	10	4	5	3	1	18
Warwickshire & W. Midlands	24	4½	7	8	2	0	23
Herefordshire & Worcestershire	18	6	5	3	4	0	18
Gloucestershire & Bristol	13	8	1	1	0	1	13
Totals	79	28½	17	17	9	2	72

Notes:

1. In Table WM3, it is assumed that 50% of the bridges dated 17th/18th century can be placed in the 17th C column. Obviously the specific bridges cannot be identified, but this assumption should give a better estimate of the number of 17th century bridges, than, as previously, putting them all in that column, even if the idea of half-bridges is somewhat bizarre.

2. I have identified 79 old bridges in the West Midlands and the English Marches on the basis that they incorporate significant parts, such as one or more arches, which date from before 1700. As can be seen from Table WM3, 28½ of the bridges had their origins in the 17th century, 17 in the 16th century, 17 in the 15th century, 9 in the 14th century, and 2 earlier than that.

3. From Table WM2, it can be seen that a majority of the bridges, 47 were built in large part of ashlar, coursed squared rubble, or a combination of the two, a similar proportion to that found in the other English regions. However there is something of a west/east divide in the region since the rubble built bridges are exclusively to be found in the marcher counties of Shropshire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. 5 bridges incorporate a significant amount of brick.

4. There are 22 bridges listed in Table WM1 which have one or more pointed (Gothic) arches, and 18 were built before 1500 and can fairly be called medieval. Only Hereford Wye Bridge and Warwick Old Castle Bridge have any 4-centred arches.

5. In Table WM1, it can be seen that 7 of the bridges have one or more arches spanning at least 7.5m, and 5 of them were built before 1500. There may be a few more for which relevant dimensions have not been recorded, but not enough to change the overall picture, which is that wide spans are rare in this region.

6. In Table WM2, I have highlighted two features most often associated with antiquity in bridges, namely chamfered arch rings, and chamfered ribs. In this region, only 10 bridges have chamfered arch rings and 8 were

built prior to 1500. Only 4 bridges have chamfered ribs, and 3 were built prior to 1500. Unchamfered ribs are more common than elsewhere, appearing on 12 bridges in total, and 9 of them were built pre-1500.

7. Only 2 bridges have hood moulds, and both were built prior to 1600.

8. I have visited 72 out of 79 bridges (91%) which I identified as likely, if not certain, to find a place in the compendium. I have not visited 6 of the 14 moat bridges, because many were closed to the public, permanently or at least when I have been in the area. I say more about the process of identification and assessment in the general text, but in essence the initial stage of identification of candidate bridges was a desk exercise based on the documents referenced, and study of photographs and other representations. The fact, that I eventually deselected 11 bridges in this division, after visits, emphasises the importance of the other part of the process, and there were many other adjustments of descriptions and build-dates at this stage. Thus any conclusions drawn about moat bridges in this division might be less firmly based than those in the general run.

9. I emphasise that the compendium deals with bridges which have left visible remains, rather than built bridges, so care must be taken with comparisons, especially if the numbers involved are relatively small.

Table WM4. Survival Rates for 16th Century Bridges

County	No. of Bridges on Saxton's 1575 map	No. of Survivals from those on Saxton 1575 map	%age of survivals of 'Saxton' bridges	No. of other pre-1600 survivals (ex. moat brs.)
Cheshire	23	1	4%	0
Shropshire	13	3	23%	2
Staffordshire	15	1	7%	2
Warwickshire & West Midlands	29	10	34%	7
Herefordshire	11	3	27%	3
Worcestershire	17	2	12%	1
Gloucestershire & Bristol	27	1	4%	1
TOTALS	135	21	16%	16

Notes on Table WM4, see over

1. The number of bridges marked by Saxton as standing in the West Midlands and Marches in the late 16th century, was 135. The maps, good as they undoubtedly are, do not show smaller streams on which bridges stood, and this accounts for some of those identified in the compendium, but not on Saxton's map (column 4). Allowing for disappearance of many of that population, it seems probable that over 200 bridges stood in West Midlands and Marches in the years before 1600, though some were certainly wooden.
2. As regards survival rates, I pay most attention to the total regional %age of 16% which allows me to stress

again that we view now, no more than a fairly large sample. As regards the large variations between counties, it is possible to put forward some explanations, such as an expectation that large increases in population, and heavy industrialisation might bias figures in favour of replacement of more bridges, but the numbers are easier to explain once known, than to predict. More than anything, the numbers reflect the fact that county boundaries are fairly arbitrary as a means of understanding bridge building and survivals, even although they do allow a large amount of data to be organised intelligibly.