

***An Archaeological Watching Brief at
The Old Roman Footbridge,
Stottesdon, Shropshire, 2009***

by
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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT
THE OLD ROMAN FOOTBRIDGE, STOTTESDON,
SHROPSHIRE, 2009**

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A Report for
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Old Roman Bridge, Stottesdon, Shropshire (NGR SO 6622 8152) is a fine stone bridge of 17th century or possibly earlier date (Shropshire Historic Environment Record No 01206). The bridge has two round-headed arches, with a cutwater on each side, and plain, low parapets. The bridge crosses the River Rea about 1.5km southwest of the village of Stottesdon in southeast Shropshire.

1.2 The bridge is a scheduled Ancient Monument (County Monument No 12, Stottesdon Bridge 1/3 mile N of Prescott Mill) and a Grade II listed structure (No. 254952).

1.3 In October 2009 work was undertaken to replace the timber handrails on the Old Roman Bridge. Scheduled Monument Consent had been granted for the repairs, and it was a requirement of the Scheduled Monument Consent for the works that the groundworks were to be carried out under archaeological supervision. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned to carry out this watching brief.

1.4 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that were encountered during the works.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 The groundworks for the repairs were carried out under archaeological supervision in October 2009. A total of 25 postholes were excavated for the new rails, utilising the holes from the replaced posts. The postholes were excavated to a maximum depth of c. 0.5m with a maximum diameter of 0.5m. The remaining depth for the new posts was provided by the holes for the old posts. The new posts were set in concrete.

2.2 At the abutments and approach to bridge, the posts were seen to have been cut through a topsoil of dark brown clay loam. A similar soil, though with some small stone fragments, covered the arch of the bridge. Over the apex of the arch, the decking or top of the arch of bridge was seen at a depth of 0.2m in one post-hole (Fig. 2 and 3; B). Excavation ceased at this point. The arch was seen to comprise similar red sandstone to the rest of the bridge.

2.3 Other than the top of the bridge arch, no significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered during these works.

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Photo 1: The Old Roman Bridge



Photo 2: An old post-hole re-excavated



Photo 3: A completed post hole

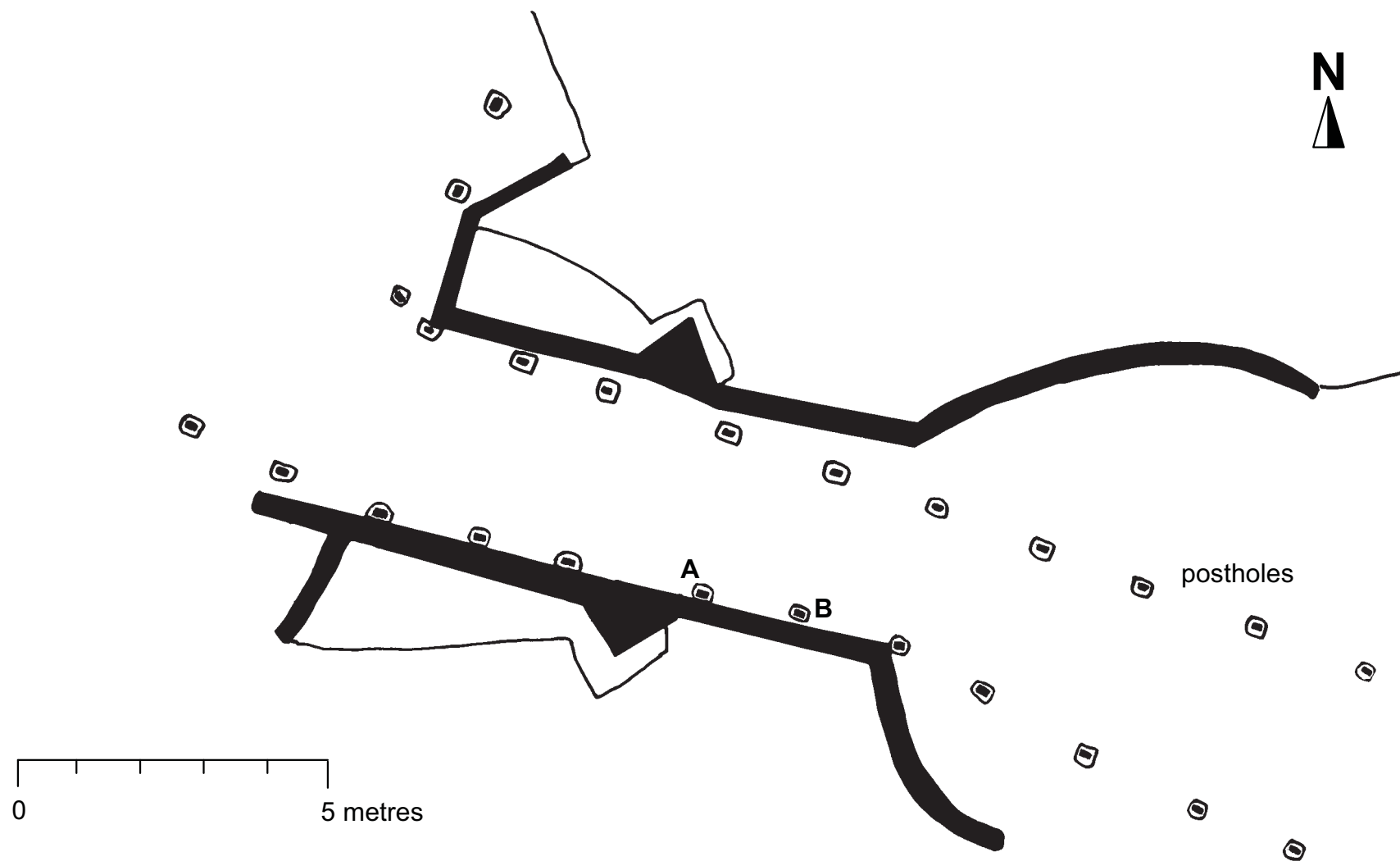


Photo 4: The new posts in place



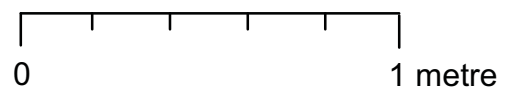
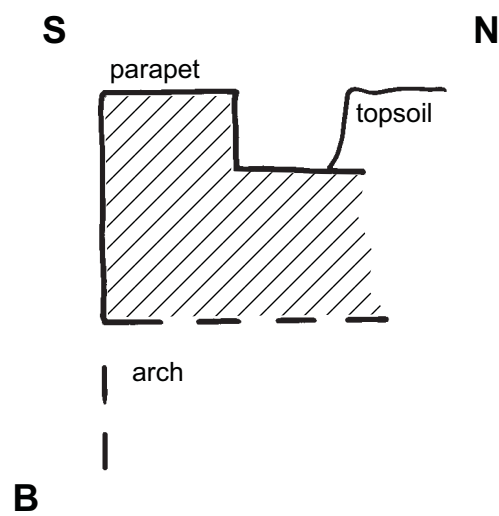
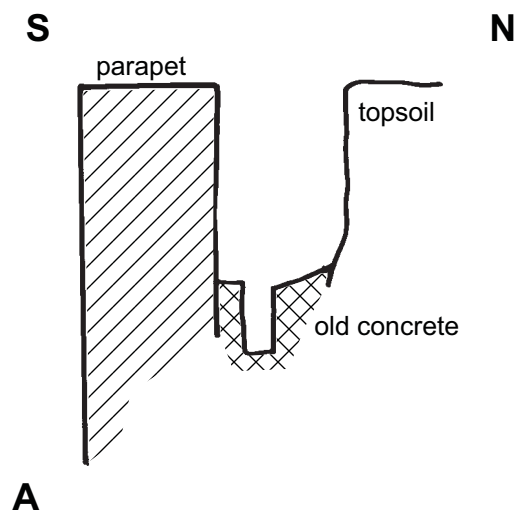
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Figure 1: Location of the site

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Scale: 1:20,000



THE OLD ROMAN FOOTBRIDGE, STODDESDON 2009

Figure 2: Plan view of the bridge, showing the location of the postholes; scale 1:100



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Figure 3: Section through postholes A and B (see Fig. 2); scale 1:20