

## Deepdale Bridge



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The old road bridge where Deepdale Beck meets the River Tees is a “listed building grade 2” and a “Scheduled Monument”, which means that it is considered to be an important part of our architectural heritage. It is on Lartington Lane and links the parishes of Lartington and Startforth. It’s not to be confused with the water main and footbridge over the Tees, which is properly named the “Deepdale Aqueduct”, though it’s usually called the “Silver Bridge”.

The Deepdale Bridge was probably built in the middle of the sixteenth century, in Tudor times, around the time that Henry the Eighth was on the throne of England. By 1605, it was said to be “in great decay”. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century or early 19<sup>th</sup> it was widened on the upstream side and the roadside walls were rebuilt.

It is a single segmental arch, triple stepped (three layers of arch stones) on the older, downstream side. The upstream extension was built differently, with a slightly wider arch, one layer of arch stones, and two broad flanking pilasters that support small pedestrian refuges. The bridge was built with squared sandstone with tooled dressings and arched parapet copings.



The older, downstream side on the left, newer upstream side on the right.



**The triple arch on the downstream side.**



**The single arch on the upstream side**



**The upstream arch, in the background, is slightly wider.**



**The narrow downstream pavement and the upstream pedestrian refuges.**

Nowadays the bridge has a narrow pavement on the downstream side, and the two pedestrian refuges on the upstream side. The bridge is in good condition but is rather inadequate for its current level of traffic, which includes large farm vehicles and cars towing caravans. The setting is adversely affected by the ugly but utilitarian water main pipe which crosses the beck just upstream.

The bridge has some interesting ecology, with an uncommon range of ferns on the parapets and a roost of Daubenton's Bats living in the join between the original bridge and the upstream extension, and in other gaps in the stonework.