

Restoration of Packhorse Bridge

Choice of Paving Stone

We are aware that there is disquiet about the use of grey paving stones for the footbridge. Some villagers were expecting the footpath to be in red sandstone slabs.

The stone we have used is the grey Lias limestone. This was chosen for two main reasons: it replicates the remnants of surface and edging paving that survives on the bridge; and is the traditional paving stone for the area, and much of Somerset.



The existing edging stones are in Lias, as are fragments of paving that can still be seen under the layer of bitumen macadam at the far south end of the footbridge. When we peeled back the bitumen macadam, we found further evidence of Lias slabbing (as shown in the picture).

This evidence is consistent with the historical pattern of paving in Somerset. Lias is a hard limestone with layers of varying quantities of silt deposits, making it easy to split into even slabs for paving. It is also a hard stone that does not deteriorate rapidly under wear or in the freezing damp conditions of winter. Lias was used extensively across the county for paving and can be seen as the main paving material in Cannington Church and in the kerbs and threshold stones to the Village Hall, as well as on the footbridge.

The dominant building stone in Cannington is the red Permo-Triassic sandstone but there is a significant element of grey limestone in the village. The majority of this will be the local Cannington Limestone, especially where used as a rubble stone such as in boundary walls. However, some of the grey limestone does appear to be Lias, such as in the two road bridges over Cannington Brook, and it is the predominant building stone a short distance to the north.

We have used Somerset red sandstone for all the new handrail-stanchion supporting blocks and a scattering of red sandstone setts in the margins to break up the grey surface.

Completion & North End Pathways

We estimate that the workers will need to be on site for a further 3 weeks. This will bring completion to Friday 4th October but does not include completing the two pathways on the north approach. We anticipate 3 weeks for the pathways.

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