



Fig 12. The completed wing wall

I concluded by adding “.. we [seem to be] good but exactly why is perhaps a little indefinable. Had any one of us not been there, the wing wall would have worked, it would have been good, maybe great, I doubt that it would have been as good as it is. This wall and our collaboration is far greater than the sum of its parts”²

Beyond the setting of the boulders and suggesting that the curves were defined by flatwork before attempting to curve the vertical stonework I only contributed a few stones towards the end of the wall and the back. As to the build, well it seemed to me that a group dynamic, was needed, the individuals would from my perspective just be adding to ‘too many variables, with curves and the like, it was difficult to see myself within this dynamic. Beyond the wing wall itself, there was just too much going on and just too many people. It was so busy at night I needed to get away during the day to relax, I needed to get my teeth into something, I retreated to the bridge. Grating. I needed to focus.



Fig.13. One bay of the wing wall

I was followed a day or two later by Patrick who took to his window carving.

Once the bridge was completed I did return to help with the finishing of the wing wall. It was built so that the face was good, but with a very rough back which was to have soil piled up against it. There were trees quite close to the wall which would need to be protected from the soil and I was designated the task of building a small wall along the length to protect the trees and further define the extent of the build, plus go over a drain pipe. This, in keeping with much else, I made up as I went along. It too could not be uniform so as it wound around the trees I employed subtle variations on the type of coping, and even the stonework with one herringbone section and corners and curves, plus more of Peter’s surplus boulders.



Fig.14. Back of the Wing wall (1)



Fig.15. Back of the Wing wall (2)

With so many people and so many projects the 'original' workforce had somewhat fragmented. Beyond Patrick and myself, young Sean was already working on a project just up the track from the bridge. Patrick had sketched a pediment arch, something to use up the last of the red sandstone sticks and Sean had fallen in with Kyle Schlagenhau in the construction of this

It is best I leave it to him to describe how this played out. *"This was my first time working with Kyle. It felt like a true collaboration, different than my role in other projects on the site. Kyle had grumbled a little on the first day because he wasn't working on the bridge rebuild or alongside the others. However after the first day he and I hit it off. In order to have collaboration there needs to be skill, varied, in all parties coupled with the ability to work together. Kyle and I struck that balance and worked well together. I learned much from him in those couple of weeks."*

Kyle explains the project thus..

"After a tutorial from Patrick and assessing the material available, I designed the project with these parameters:

- 1. Classic Roman Arch with 2 complete complete circles fitting from the top of the intrados to the ground.*
- 2. An odd number of voussoirs.(including keystone)*
- 3 Imposts would have corbels*
- 4 The entire project would be built out of Romero red sandstone.*
- 5 All stones bedding planes would be on the same main axis*
- 6 The voussoirs bedding planes would all point to the center of the circle.*
- 7 The front of the project would be completely natural patina (no tool marks or fresh splits. We did not quite pull this off as the keystone face had to be pitched!*
- 8 The back of the project would show off all of our plug and feather work.*
- 9 Erect the entire structure with aluminium tripod and chain hoist"*

Kyle points out that it is not a true pediment as it has gaps above the extrados, having run out if time and materials to complete it. This has remained as built, making a statement in its own right

Kyle adds *"It was a pleasure working with Sean(Jr)and Matt Harvey, who helped extensively with the more laborious/tedious chores which he takes on with unique integrity!"*



**Figs.16. (above) and 17 (below)
Setting and working
on the keystone
Photos © SeanSmyth**

