

Harlow 4 June 1765.

My good Lord,

I have sent yr Ldsp a copy of the carpenter's estimate for making a wooden top to Harlow Mill bridge. The bricklayer tells me he thinks it will be much better to have a wooden top to it than to be all brick for tho' the charge is more yet it will last much longer. He says carriages will be apt to run against and beat the bricks out at the corners if it is done with brick so that there will be a constant expense on that account. I have talked with the bricklayer and at last have got 1/- in a thousand abated in the price of the bricks so that they will now be at 24/- a thousand. He says he can't afford them at anything less and what yr Ldshp wants shall be good and well burnt. I have had the bridge examined and find there is wanting a piece of timber to be put down to strengthen one of the posts which I have ordered the carpenter to put down who tells me the bridge will then stand very well till next year. I told the bricklayer yr Ldshp thought his estimate high particularly in requiring the whole of the old bridge for Bond Timber. He tells me he can't afford the work at anything less and that all or the greatest part of the old bridge will be wanted but says if there are any pieces of timber to spare yr Ldshp shall have them. I see the bricklayer's second estimate (£15 being taken from the first on a supposition of a wooden top to be built) amounts to £120.10.0 which will now be something less on account of the fall in the bricks. The Turnpike Act expired the 12th of last month it having its commencement 1 May 1744 for 21 years so that I suppose next sessions of Parliament the Trustees will think of getting it renewed. I should have wrote to yr Ldshp sooner but could not settle before with the bricklayer. I shall be glad of the honour of a line from yr Ldshp as to your resolution about the whole construction of the bridge and I will then let the workmen know that the necessary preparations of brick &c. may be got in forwardness before the summer is too far advanced.

I remain etc  
Ed Wise Jnr.

An estimate of putting a wooden top on a new brick bridge proposed to be built over Harlow Mill River by the order of Rev Mr Wise. per John Smith.

	£	s	d
To 4 long posts at the corners of the brickwork 14ft long each & 12" by 10" at 2/6 per ft.	7	0	0
To 4 middle posts 6ft long & 10 x 8 at 1/8 per ft	2	0	0
To 2 pieces to lay in the brickwork to receive the short posts 25ft long & 10 x 6 at 1/3 per ft	3	2	6
To 3 pieces 16ft long each to keep the pieces that receive the short posts & keep them in place 8" x 7" at 1/2 per ft	2	16	0

To 4 pieces a. girders 16ft long each to tye the bridge in with to keep it in its proper place 8" x 8" at 1/4 per ft.	4	5	4
To 62ft of gravel pieces 10"x6" at 1/3 per ft	3	17	6
To 156ft of quarter to fill up the sides of the bridge above ground. 4x3 at 3d per ft	1	19	0
To 66ft of rails on the top of the work. 10 x 7 at 1/6 per ft.	4	19	0
To iron work required in the same.	1	10	0
To workman. ship, framing and putting up.	5	10	0
	<u>£36</u>	19	4.

This is to be done with good sound hearty oak. This is to build it 31ft long and 16ft wide. NB It is to be observed that this estimate is only to put up the new work here proposed. To pull down the old bridge is an article to be paid for itself and as to laying the stuff on the bridge when the work is finished is likewise the same to be accounted for.

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY      NORTH MS. d 3 f 66**

Harlow 29 May 1766

My good Lord

I met Mr Yeoman this morning at your Ldsp bridge with the other gentlemen. They hope yr Ldsp will be at half the expense of new building the bridge or else they purpose to cut a canal thro your mill mead occupied by Mr Barnard and even in that case they must build a bridge across the road at their own expense. Mr Yeoman thinks the bridge will stand yet some time and says the undertakers propose to do as little damage as can be to anybody. If they com quite thro Mill mead they must build a cowbridge for Mr Barnard and the same for Mr Bullman and the Bridge cross the road & that will, I suppose, be equal to the expense of building your Ldsp bridge so I hope yr Ldsp will consider this well before you consent to be at any expense. Mr Yeoman proposes to wait upon yr Ldsp to have some discourse with you upon this subject on Monday next

I am. Etc  
Ed Wise

**Letter from Thomas Yeoman to Rt Hon Earl of Guildford**

5 June 1766

My Lord,

Pursuant to an order of the Commrs of the Navigation of the R Stort at their first meeting at Hockerill the 27th ult. I have as near as I can marked out the new cutts and particularly those near the mills in the course of the intended navigation. I find great difficulty in passing Harlow mill. It is impracticable to make the lock cut on the Harlow side of the mill and therefore I shall be glad to do it on the other side so as to do your Lordship as little damage as possible. Two ways are obvious on that side: the one is to go between the bridges; this is the most eligible and will be attended with the least expense to the proprietors and be better for the navigation: the other way will be to go under the old bridge and so pass near the mill and drop into the mill tail at or near the bottom of your meadow; this will be by far the most expensive method to the proprietors because they must not only rebuild that large bridge but keep it in repair for ever. I pointed out both the methods to Mr Wise the Thursday after the meeting. I have been thinking that if in the first instance you was to allow something towards the building of the bridge or in the purchase of the land for the lock cut which ever you think proper it will be an inducement to the proprietors to take the greatest expense upon themselves and to clear your Lordship from a very expensive incumbrance not only at present but for ever. I have no instructions from the proprietors to write this to yr Lordship but as they from interest must be inclined to lessen your expenses as much as possible so likewise the making the most convenient navigation must never be lost sight of; it is therefore your real interest that induces me to suggest what I have mentioned above. I am to be upon the river again the latter end of the next week (and expect to be about Harlow Mill on the Friday) that I may be prepared for the next meeting at Eastwick on Monday the 16th. In the meantime if yr Lordship should like my proposition of giving the small quantity of land that may be cut off by the navigation and or allow something in any other way you shall think proper and favour me with a line I will not only persuade the proprietors to take the expenses of the bridge upon themselves but also to rebuild it before the next winter for really it is in a very weak and crazy condition at present.

I am Your Lordship's  
Most obliged and faithful humble servant  
Thos Yeoman.

Little Peter Street,  
Westminster 5 June 1766.

*Endorsed.* Computation of difference to the proprietors of the navigation between

carrying it under any bridge or not.

The New Bridge.	£150
One over the tail of the lock in your road.	£15
One of communication in the meadow	£25
An extra gate in the fence in the road	<u>£01</u>
	£41

Difference £109.

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY      NORTH MS. d 10 f 104**

**Letter from Thomas Yeoman to Rt Hon Earl of Guildford**

12 June 1766

My Lord,

I rec'd yr Ldsp's favour of the 8<sup>th</sup> in due time. Am setting out for the Stort this morning & will pay all the attention within my power to yr real interest in the business before so, being well assured that the Props do and will always think themselves extremely obliged to yr Ldsp for the honour and favour you have done them in the course of their application to parliament & instead of doing you any injury they are ready to do everything in their power to prevent it and what ever may be your Ldps mind to do or in whatsoever way you may think proper to allow anything towards the first expense of the building Harlow bridge they will themselves obliged & extremely happy

I am etc,  
Thomas Yeoman

Westminster, 12 June 1766

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY      NORTH MS. d 3 f 68**

Harlow 15 June 1766

My good Lord

I am much obliged to yr Ldsp for the letter.  
Mr Yeoman called here last Friday when I was from Home & told my father he had wrote to yr Ldsp about the Navigation. He says now everything shall be done as your Ldsp desires though he certainly said to me that as the proprietors wld be at a great expense in raising the bridge. If yr Ldsp would please to meet them halfway (these were the words) they would then come thru it otherwise eit would be less expense to the props to come across the road & down Mill mead. I hope Mr Yeoman has satisfied yr Ldsp of their intention of doing as little damage to yr Ldps estate as possible.

I am etc

Ed Wise

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY    NORTH MS. d 10 f 107**

**Letter from Charles Dingley, George Jackson, W Masterman to the Earl of Guildford**

London 19 June 1766

My Lord

We humbly beg leave to represent to yr Ldsp that at a meeting of the Commrs for carrying the Stort nav into execution held at Eastwick the 16 inst Mr Houblon, Mr Byde, Mr Calvert Mr Gardner & Mr Turvin Owners of lands on the sides of the river being of the number and all of the landowners that were at the mtg. They were pleased to offer such parts of their said lands as may be taken for the use of the navig at the rate of 30 years purchase according to the annual rent or value of the same. Mr Dingley and Mr Masterman two of the Props being present agreed to accept thereof and an entry was made by the Commrs accordingly. Upon this foundation we presume to offer the same to yr Ldsp for such part of yr Land as may be made use of for this purpose and hope to be favoured with yr Ldspd answer together with the rent or value per acre at which such land now stands that this matter be understood and finally concluded at the next mtg which will be the 21<sup>st</sup> of next month at B.S. We beg the favour of yr Ldspd answer directed to Mr Jackson at the Navy Office and are with profound respect  
my Lord yr Ldspd etc

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY    NORTH MS. d 3 f 73**

Westmr, 24 June 1766

My Lord

It is in obedience to yr Ldspd commands that I send you the difference of the expense to the Props be going under Harlow bridgew or between the two bridges and not that they would so desire to go between the bridges contrary to your instruction. In the first case the expenses will be rebuilding a new bridge & the purchase of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre of land which must necessarily be cut off from the meadow. In the second the cut would take up about the same quantity of land and one short carriage bridge over the tail of the lock which with great propriety might be made in the road & one cattle bridge of communication over the cut in the meadow. The difference of the expense as forthwith.

Harlow Bridge will cost £150

A bridge over the tail of the lock in the road	£15
A bridge of communication in the meadow	£25
An extra gate in the fence in the road	<u>£ 1</u>
	£41
Difference	£109

I find by Mr Wise's letter to me that he suggested to yr Ldsp that the props expected that you ought to be at half the expense of rebuilding Harlow Bridge. In this he certainly mistook the matter for there was no such thing mentioned

I am, etc

Thomas Yeoman

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY    NORTH MS. d3 f 75**

Harlow 3 July 1766

My good Lord

I have the honour of yr Ldspd's letter of the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst with one enclosed from the Props of the Stort Nav and another of the 29<sup>th</sup> with Mr Yeoman's letter to yr Ldspd. 30 yrs purchase for the land is what the principal Gentlemen in the neighbourhood agreed to take at the last mtg. The valuation per annum of yr Ldspd's as it is meadow ground, I think, **cant** be set out at less than 40/- per acre. This is what Mr ffeake proposes he **says** to ask for his and I look upon yr Ldspd's ground to be as good as Mr ffeake's & I may venture to say that Mr Gardner & other gentlemen in the neighbourhood will not set theirs at any thing less. My ffather and I have considered the difference Mr Yeoman makes with regard to the Bridge & think it a very extraordinary one. As to my own part I sho'd think the very materials for such a bridge must come to much more than the £15 and the Bridge of communication to more than £25. However as I don't know how far a lock would be of service to lessen the expenses of a bridge I will endeavour to get the best information I can from some person who is conversant in building locks and bridges of this sort to know if a bridge can be built at the tail of a lock for so small a sum as £15 & as soon as I get an answer yr Ldsp shall hear from me again upon this subject. Mr Y when he was down here seemed to **hint to** my ffather that if yr Ldsp would please to give the Props the ground that would be all they should desire.

Mr Barnard tells me if the cut is made thro Mill Mead it will do him a great deal of damage as that is the best piece of meadow he has belonging to the farm & that part of it as will then be between two pieces of water will become moory & of very little use to him. I can assure yr Ldsp when I talked with Mr Y he himself mentioned yr Ldspd's meeting the props halfway in the expense. I return yr Ldsp's Mr Y & the props letters.

I am etc,

Ed Wise

Admiralty Office, 23 July 1768

My Lord

Allow me to inform yr Ldsp that the works of the Stort Nav are adjacent to Harlow Mill, where if a repository for Corn etc was built it will be immediately made use of. And there is a piece of waste between the Mill and the Bridge belonging to yr Ldsps estate whereon such a building can be erected with all requisite convenience.

The charges incurr'd exceeding what was calculated upon for the proportion of the works performed the Props do not wish to add more by the building of repositories yet they must submit to this expense also where the landowners do not think fit to risque it on their own accounts such buildings being necessary, at all events, to the success of their undertaking. Under these circumstances they have desired me to take the liberty of begging to know whether it will be more agreeable to your Ldsp to build on this waste or permit us to use it upon paying the values. If the latter we would have it completed in the remains of this Summer.

According to the advice we have of the sort of building that is proper & the best estimate we can form, the cost will be at least £400. I **wsh** I could with equal probability assure your Lordship that it would **like** to advantage but that must depend wholly on the success of the navigation. It is not to be doubted if that takes effect but the bldg would be let at a rent sufficient to compensate the disburse

I am happy in having it in my power to inform your Lordship that a new substantial bridge is erected in the place of the old one which was found to be in a desperate state.

I have etc,

George Jackson

The proposed piece of waste ranges about 150 ft in length & about 45 in depth

Harlow 31 July 1768

My good Lord

I have th hon of yr Ldsp lr of 26 inst with Mr Jackson's which I have returned. The piece of ground Mr J calls waste is a piece of pasture enclosed & part of the Mill yard & included I suppose in the lease of Mr Elliott to whom Mr Bulman is successor. I don't find the Props of the Nav have yet made any purchases of land to erect repositories upon for corn or why they should think of beginning first upon this estate which lies in the middle of the Navig I can't tell. If yr Ldsps pleases you may inform Mr J that as the piece of ground he mentions is in lease to the tenant of Harlow Mill yr Ldsp can't at present come to a determination about it, till it is known whether he is willing to give it up & in the meantime I will inform myself as well I can of the affair to send yr Ldship word about it

I am, etc

Ed Wise

Admiralty 17 Aug 1768

My Lord

Meaning to give yr Ldsp no unnecessary trouble I would not reply to the letter you honoured me with of the 6<sup>th</sup> till I had been at Harlow & could say from whence the mistake has arose in respect to the piece of waste I troubled you upon, which yr Ldsp has understood is a meadow now in lease to a tenant

Yr Ldsp will do me the favour to recollect that I called it a piece of waste laying betwixt the Mill & the Bridge which is description plain to anyone on the spot that I wonder at the mistake. If yr Ldspd steward had informed himself of me who am frequently at Harlow or of the agent to the wks who resides there & to whom only I had explained myself, he would have had every information he could desire to possess you of but he has not asked one question of either.

I am fearfull yr Ldsp may entertain a notion of my having had an intention to mislead but permit me to assure you not only of the contrary but that the piece of ground is really a waste lying on the riverside useless, less than one acre adjoining to neither meadow pasture or arable & is mostly under water. It is indeed owing to this last circumstance that the expense of the proposed building is estimated so high from the necessity of raising the ground before anything can be erected on it. If IO have any bias in this business it is that yr Ldsp may do me the justice to believe me, sincerely & eagerly disposed to render it perfectly satisfactory to yr interest.

I do not wish the Props to build, yet that is proper, if you are pleased to decline it. At the same I must say that if yr Ldsp approves to do it I think that despatch will contribute to the probability of its answering the purpose by preventing others who talk of bldg in the neighbourhood from taking the start; and thereby occasion a competition which in my opinion is not likely to happen after the Trade is once accommodated.

Yr Ldshps observation that nothing is yet done with respect to repositories at the beginning of the now calls on me to mention that the Props never calculated on much advantage from **then** in situation lower than Harlow.

I have etc

George Jackson

Harlow 28 Aug 1768

My good Lord

I can't tell by what figure Mr Jackson calls this piece of ground in question Waste. He may as well call the land behind the Mill waste as **this -----** has before it for they are both enclosed a & have always fed by the tenants cattle alike. Mr Bulman understands it so & Mr Glynn who is agent for the Props have owned to me last night that he never thought it waste but part of Mr Bulman's land. We have seen Mr Jackson but once this year past. It was at Mr Feakes at dinner where we talked of the navigation but, as we



knew nothing of his attention to erect buildings here we could say nothing to him about it. This was just before he wrote you his first letter about it & when he had the design no doubt in his head. He came down again we hear yesterday fortnight in the night, went to the river next day & returned to town I suppose for we heard nothing of it till a few days ago. As soon as we rec'd yr Ldps Lt we employed Mr Bulman to speak with Mr Glynn whom it is no easy matter to see as he goes abroad very early in the morning to visit his workmen & returns not till late at night. We did not see him till last night. He computed the expense of erecting a repository to hold 1200 qtrs of grain £318 odd shillings. But Mr Bulman thinks it not advisable for yr Lordship to build for he understands that Mr Conyers Jocelyn at Swgsworth intends to erect granaries who is nearer by three miles to that part of the Country which produces the most malt & that he will get the trade to him. He does not seem willing to hire the granaries if you should erect them. He has one at the mill already that is over the stable that will hold 150 qtrs & has offered the use of it to Mr Jackson. Mr Bulman is of opinion it will be of more advantage to build a malting, but of that Mr Glynn can give no estimate not understanding that business. I felt it proper to explain this matter to you at present than save till my son can send you in fuller accounts.

I am  
Ed Wise Senr

The piece of land is at present useless to Mr Bulman as the proprietors have laid their timber upon it. It is no oftener under water than the adjacent meads that is in the winter and in floody times. MrBullman intended to have fenced it in from the yard & to have made a garden of it had not the props employed it for the forenamed purpose

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY    NORTH MS. d 3 f 116**

Harlow 30 Aug 1768

My good Lord

By all the information we can get at present we can't advise yr Ldsp to build any repositories as the expense will be certain & the prospect of advantage very doubtful. Mr Glyn the agent for the works thinks such a repository as he has calculated to be built will be let out at £16 p.a. tho he says if it is let out by the week it will fetch more. There is a little meadow on the right hand side of the road (The piece in question lies on the left hand) which Mr Glyn thinks will be better to build on than the other on account it will not want so much erecting. If buildings are erected in this mead it will be of no use to Mt Bulman farther than to have a passage through it to the mead adjoining so he will expect some recompense for it. Mr Bulman thinks the piece of ground in his lease called the Island Meadow is the very same piece of ground Mr J calls waste, as he has no other ground that can be properly called by that name. I have sent yr Ldsp Mr Bulman's letter & Mr Glyn's calculation. If by farther enquiry we can find it will be of advantage to yr Ldsp to build we will give yr Ldsp early notice of it. We hear Mr J is gone into Yorkshire and will not return till the latter end of next month

I am etc  
Ed Wise Jnr