LEVEL II SCOUR ANALYSIS FOR BRIDGE 54 (RANDTH00BR0054) on BROOK STREET, crossing THAYER BROOK, RANDOLPH, VERMONT

U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 96-308

Prepared in cooperation with VERMONT AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION and FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

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By SCOTT A. OLSON

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-3 1996Pembroke, New Hampshire

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OTHER ABBREVIATIONS

In this report, the words "right" and "left" refer to directions that would be reported by an observer facing downstream.

Sea level: In this report, "sea level" refers to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929-- a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of the first-order level nets of the United States and Canada, formerly called Sea Level Datum of 1929.

In the appendices, the above abbreviations may be combined. For example, USLB would represent upstream left bank.

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By **Scott A. Olson**

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF RESULTS

This report provides the results of a detailed Level II analysis of scour potential at structure RANDTH00BR0054 on Brook Street crossing Thayer Brook, Randolph, Vermont (figures 1–8). A Level II study is a basic engineering analysis of the site, including a quantitative analysis of stream stability and scour (U.S. Department of Transportation, 1993). A Level I study is included in Appendix E of this report. A Level I study provides a qualitative geomorphic characterization of the study site. Information on the bridge available from VTAOT files was compiled prior to conducting Level I and Level II analyses and can be found in Appendix D.

The site is in the Green Mountain physiographic division of central Vermont in the town of Randolph. The 5.39-mi² drainage area is in a predominantly rural basin. In the vicinity of the study site, the immediate banks are forested.

In the study area, Thayer Brook has an incised, sinuous channel with a slope of approximately 0.03 ft/ft, an average channel top width of 60 ft and an average channel depth of 3 ft. The predominant channel bed materials are gravel and cobble $(D_{50}$ is 42.4 mm or 0.139 ft). The geomorphic assessment at the time of the Level I and Level II site visits on August 3, 1994 and December 5, 1994, indicated that the reach was vertically and laterally unstable. This assessment was due to the extreme channel misalignment with the bridge opening and the presence of a drop structure downstream of the bridge protecting against channel degradation.

The Brook Street crossing of Thayer Brook is a 34-ft-long, two-lane bridge consisting of one 31-foot concrete span (Vermont Agency of Transportation, written communication, August 2, 1994). The bridge is supported by vertical, concrete abutments with wingwalls. Streamflow attacks the upstream right wingwall and has undermined the upstream end of the right abutment. Type-2 stone fill (less than 36 inches diameter) exists only on the upstream and downstream sides of the left road embankment. No other protection was noted. The bank full channel skew at the bridge face is approximately 20 degrees; the opening-skew-to-roadway is also 20 degrees. Additional details describing conditions at the site are included in the Level II Summary and Appendices D and E.

Scour depths and rock rip-rap sizes were computed using the general guidelines described in Hydraulic Engineering Circular 18 (Richardson and others, 1993). Total scour at a highway crossing is comprised of three components: 1) long-term streambed degradation; 2) contraction scour (due to accelerated flow caused by a reduction in flow area at a bridge) and; 3) local scour (caused by accelerated flow around piers and abutments). Total scour is the sum of the three components. Equations are available to compute depths for contraction and local scour and a summary of the results of these computations follows.

Contraction scour for all modelled flows ranged from 1.3 to 2.7 ft. The worst-case contraction scour occurred at the 500-year discharge. Abutment scour ranged from 5.3 to 15.1 ft. and the worst-case abutment scour also occurred at the 500-year discharge. Additional information on scour depths and depths to armoring are included in the section titled "Scour Results". Scoured-streambed elevations, based on the calculated scour depths, are presented in tables 1 and 2. A cross-section of the scour computed at the bridge is presented in figure 8. Scour depths were calculated assuming an infinite depth of erosive material and a homogeneous particle-size distribution.

 It is generally accepted that the Froehlich equation (abutment scour) gives "excessively conservative estimates of scour depths" (Richardson and others, 1993, p. 48). Many factors, including historical performance during flood events, the geomorphic assessment, scour protection measures, and the results of the hydraulic analyses, must be considered to properly assess the validity of abutment scour results. Therefore, scour depths adopted by VTAOT may differ from the computed values documented herein, based on the consideration of additional contributing factors and experienced engineering judgement.

Figure 1. Location of study area on USGS 1:24,000 scale map.

Figure 2. Location of study area on Vermont Agency of Transportation town highway map.

LEVEL II SUMMARY

Description of Bridge

Debris accumulation on bridge at time of Level I or Level II site visit:

 Describe any features near or at the bridge that may affect flow (include observation date). to poor alignment between the bridge and the channel. There is a drop structure 29 feet downstream of the bridge.

Description of the Geomorphic Setting

August 3, 1994 and

December 5, 1994. None.

Describe any obstructions in channel and date of observation.

Hydrology

Description of the Water-Surface Profile Model (WSPRO) Analysis

Cross-Sections Used in WSPRO Analysis

 1 For location of cross-sections see plan-view sketch included with Level I field form, Appendix E. For more detail on how cross-sections were developed see WSPRO input file.

Data and Assumptions Used in WSPRO Model

Hydraulic analyses of the reach were done by use of the Federal Highway Administration's WSPRO step-backwater computer program (Shearman and others, 1986, and Shearman, 1990). The analysis reported herein reflects conditions existing at the site at the time of the study. Furthermore, in the development of the model it was necessary to assume no accumulation of debris or ice at the site. Results of the hydraulic model are presented in the Bridge Hydraulic Summary, Appendix B, and figure 7.

Channel roughness factors (Manning's "n") used in the hydraulic model were estimated using field inspections at each cross section following the general guidelines described by Arcement, Jr. and Schneider (1989). Final adjustments to the values were made during the modelling of the reach. Channel "n" values for the reach ranged from 0.030 to 0.040 , and overbank "n" values ranged from 0.050 to 0.085 .

The starting water surface elevation for the bridge model was determined by a submerged sharpcrested weir computation since a drop structure existed downstream of the bridge. First, a tailwater elevation was necessary for the weir computation. A section surveyed 30 feet downstream of the drop structure was propagated to the downstream face of the drop structure and normal depth was assumed for this section. This depth was computed by use of the slope-conveyance method outlined in the User's manual for WSPRO (Shearman, 1990). The slope used was 0.03 ft/ft which is the slope of the thalweg downstream of the drop structure. The calculated tailwater elevations at the drop structure for the 100-year and 500-year events were 499.0 and 499.8 ft. The crest of the weir is 498.7 ft.

Submerged sharp-crested weir computations (Brater and King, 1982, pp **5**-4 to **5**-17) were then done to determine the headwater elevations at the drop structure. The headwater elevations for the 100-year and 500-year events were 502.0 and 503.5 ft, respectively. These elevations were then used as the starting watersurface elevation for the bridge model.

WSPRO's bridge routines were not used in this model. A simple step-backwater model was utilized with the bridge section modelled at the centerline of the bridge and unconstricted sections at each face of the bridge templated from the respective upstream or downstream section. For example, the surveyed approach section was adjusted for the approach channel slope and put at the upstream face of the bridge.

For the modelled discharges, WSPRO assumes critical depth at the bridge section. Supercritical models were developed. Analyzing both the supercritical and subcritical profiles for each discharge, it can be determined that the water surface profile does pass through critical depth within the bridge opening. Thus, the assumptions of critical depth at the bridge are satifactory solutions.

Bridge Hydraulics Summary

Average bridge embankment elevation Average low steel elevation ft 518.0 ft 515.7

> *100-year discharge* 1,080 $\frac{f t^3}{s}$ *Water-surface elevation in bridge opening Road overtopping?* ______ N *Discharge over road ________ fightysing Area of flow in bridge opening* 99.0 \textit{ft}^2 *Average velocity in bridge opening ft/s Maximum WSPRO tube velocity at bridge* 502.4 ft 99.0 10.9 12.8 $\frac{f}{s}$

Water-surface elevation at Approach section with bridge Water-surface elevation at Approach section without bridge Amount of backwater caused by bridge 506.5 N/A N/A

Scour Analysis Summary

Special Conditions or Assumptions Made in Scour Analysis

Scour depths were computed using the general guidelines described in Hydraulic Engineering Circular 18 (Richardson and others, 1993). Scour depths were calculated assuming an infinite depth of erosive material and a homogeneous particle-size distribution. The results of the scour analysis are presented in tables 1 and 2 and a graph of the scour depths is presented in figure 8.

Contraction scour was computed by use of the clear-water contraction scour equation (Richardson and others, 1993, p. 35, equation 18). For contraction scour computations, the average depth in the contracted section (AREA/TOPWIDTH) is subtracted from the depth of flow computed by the scour equation (Y2) to determine the actual amount of scour.

Abutment scour was computed by use of the Froehlich equation (Richardson and others, 1993, p. 49, equation 24). Variables for the Froehlich equation include the Froude number of the flow approaching the embankments, the length of the embankment blocking flow, and the depth of flow approaching the embankment less any roadway overtopping.

Scour Results

Rock Riprap Sizing

Figure 7. Water-surface profiles for the 100- and 500-yr discharges at structure RANDTH00BR0054 on Brook Street, crossing Thayer Brook, Randolph, Vermont.

Figure 8. Scour elevations for the 100-yr and 500-yr discharges at structure RANDTH00BR0054 on Brook Street, crossing Thayer Brook, Randolph, Vermont.

Table 1. Remaining footing/pile depth at abutments for the 100-year discharge at structure RANDTH00BR0054 on Brook Street, crossing Thayer Brook, Randolph, Vermont. [VTAOT, Vermont Agency of Transportation; --,no data]

^{1.} Measured along the face of the most constricting side of the bridge.

 2 . Arbitrary datum for this study.

17 Table 2. Remaining footing/pile depth at abutments for the 500-year discharge at structure RANDTH00BR0054 on Brook Street, crossing Thayer Brook, Randolph, Vermont. [VTAOT, Vermont Agency of Transportation; --, no data]

^{1.} Measured along the face of the most constricting side of the bridge.

² Arbitrary datum for this study.

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- U.S. Department of Transportation, 1993, Stream stability and scour at highway bridges, Participant Workbook: Federal Highway Administration Publication FHWA HI-91-011.
- U.S. Geological Survey, 1981, Randolph, Vermont 7.5 Minute Series quadrangle map: U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Maps, Scale 1:24,000.

APPENDIX A:

WSPRO INPUT FILE

WSPRO INPUT FILE

```
T1 HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS
T2 Randolph, VT BRIDGE #054
T3 USGS BOW,NH 03/16/95
*
Q 1080 1080 1840 1840
WS 502.0 500 503.5 501
SK -1 0.027 -1 0.027
*
XS Drop 35
GR 241., 506.14 250., 503.60 254., 498.73 271., 498.70<br>GR 287., 498.74 299., 498.72 303., 500.06 307., 501.53
GR 287., 498.74 299., 498.72 303., 500.06 307., 501.53
GR 319., 504.46 341., 504.19
N 0.060 0.030 0.085
SA 250. 319.
*
* The following bridge is not being modeled with bridge
* hydraulics low chord=515.74
*
XS FV 60
*
XS BR 73 20
GR 250., 510.08 250., 499.51 253., 499.37 253., 498.22
GR 261., 498.65 268., 498.46 276., 498.52 276., 498.95
GR 278., 498.75 279., 509.37 279., 515.73
N 0.040
*
XT APTEM 140
GR 224., 519.49 232., 515.67 250., 507.08 274., 501.75
GR 284., 500.60 296., 499.97 300., 499.20 305., 498.86
GR 308., 498.39 311., 498.97 312., 500.14 313., 501.41
GR 321., 505.81 361., 506.77 381., 522.01
*
XS UFACE 86
GT -0.37
N 0.050 0.035
SA 321.
*
XS APPR 140
GT 0
N 0.050 0.035
SA 321.
*
*
HP 1 BR 502.36 1 502.36
HP 2 BR 502.36 * * 1080
HP 1 APPR 504.31 1 504.31
HP 2 APPR 504.31 * * 1080
*
HP 1 BR 503.94 1 503.94
HP 2 BR 503.94 * * 1840
HP 1 APPR 506.48 1 506.48
HP 2 APPR 506.48 * * 1840
```
*

APPENDIX B: **WSPRO OUTPUT FILE**

WSPRO OUTPUT FILE

WSPRO OUTPUT FILE (continued)

WSPRO OUTPUT FILE (continued)

 HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS Randolph, VT BRIDGE #054 USGS BOW,NH 03/16/95 *** RUN DATE & TIME: 10-26-95 08:09

APPR :XS ******** 0.53 498.39 522.01 0.24 0.02 0.49 506.97 506.48

APPENDIX C:

BED-MATERIAL PARTICAL-SIZE DISTRIBUTION

APPENDIX D: **HISTORICAL DATA FORM**