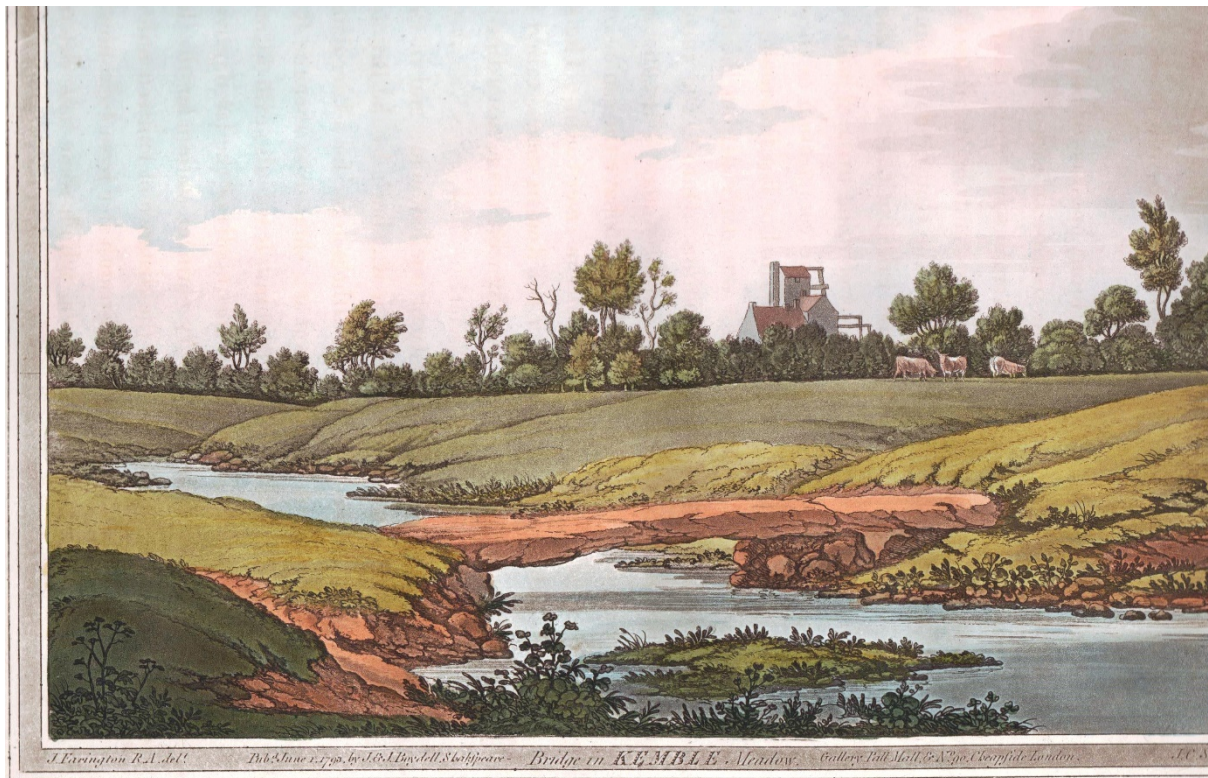


R A Farington's print of the Thames and Severn Pump House at Thames Head Kemble, 1793



This hand coloured plate is one of seventy six from *The History of the River Thames*, by William Combe with aquatints by J.C. Stadler after drawings by Joseph Farington, published in two volumes by John and Josiah Boydell in 1794. There is a picture of Thames Head, the attached picture and one of the mill at Ewen.

The pump shown had only been in place since 1792. It's a Boulton and Watt single-acting beam engine. This was replaced in 1854. The well beneath it was sixty three feet deep and was oval in cross-section, 15 ft by 10ft. Between 1,500,000 and 3,500,00 gallons of water were pumped a day.

The title of the picture, *Bridge in KEMBLE meadow*, oddly ignores the pump house in favour of a small stone bridge over the first clear channel of the Thames. There was a bridge like this here into the 1980's. The bridge has been 'improved' to make it more picturesque. There are small bridges on the first tributary of the Thames just a kilometre south east from this point which date from the 18th century and are much less 'rustic'.



Smerrill Aqueduct

The postcards of Smerrill Aqueduct and the Thames Head pump house belong to Mrs Pat Ayres. The pump house postcard picture was taken by Henry Taunt of Oxford. The print belongs to Mr L Napper.

References:

The Thames and Severn Canal; History and guide by David Viner, 2002

Wells and springs of Gloucestershire by L. Richardson published by HMSO, 1930