**Fletcher's Plan** approved by **Telford** and **Rennie's Plan** of 3 arches were submitted to Contractors, when the offers of the Contractor for the Canal were found to be the lowest, namely, £9816 for the 1 arch bridge and £8287 for the 3 arches. It was resolved to adopt the plan with **1 arch**. Before the Contract was signed the Contractor offered to enlarge the span to **142 feet** for £280 additional; but this offer was not accepted because it would have caused some delay in finishing the Bridge; and so anxious were the Trustees to have the job completed that they offered the Contractor £250 additional if he completed the bridge within the year **1803**. The delay caused by the failure of the 1st Contractor to complete his work and the loss of time in preparing new plans caused a serious outlay for interest on the money already expended, and the Trustees were anxious to have the Bridge completed as soon as possible. The contract was signed on December 2, **1802**, and the Bridge was completed August, **1805**. It had, however, been far enough advanced in February of that year to allow a gentleman on horseback going out of town to ride over the new Bridge; and it is reported in the "**Aberdeen Journal** " of the time that the bridge was opened to the public on the King's Birthday, **June 4**. The dimensions of the Bridge were:-

Central arch, **130 feet**; rise of the arch, **29 feet**; height from the ground to the carriageway, **46 feet**; width of the carriageway, **40 feet**. There are at both ends of the bridge, beyond the pilasters, **vaults or blind arches**, **2 at the east end** and **1 at the west**, which saved masonry; and in the **spandrels** there are 2 blind arches at both ends, each t**en feel** high, which reduce the weight upon the haunches of the arch. The total cost of the bridge with the vaults came to £13,000.

Enlarged - 43.2816m

Central arch 39.624m = ~40m

Rise of arch 8.8392m = ~9m

Height from ground to carriageway 14.0208m = ~14m

Width of carriageway 12.192m = ~12m