

# BSDMS Summary Report

35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

## Site Location:

---

**Site ID:** 35  
**Site Name:** Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY  
**County:** Cortland  
**Nearest City:** Cincinnatus  
**State:** NY  
**Latitude:** 423200  
**Longitude:** 755412  
**USGS Station ID:** 1510200  
**Route Number:** 23  
**Route Class:** State  
**Service Level:** Mainline  
**Route Direction:** NA  
**Highway Mile Point:**  
**Stream Name:** Otselic River  
**River Mile:**

**Contact:**  
Pete Riehlman, NYSDOT, Region 3  
hydraulic engineer (315) 428-4715.

**Publication:**

## Site Description:

---

This site is located at the State Route 23 bridge crossing the Otselic River at Cincinnatus, New York. The bridge, 187 ft long and 40 ft wide with one pier, is 0.5 mile downstream from a USGS streamflow gage. The pier footing has been undermined by scour, but the bridge is supported by pilings. A 30-degree angle between the pier and flow increases the tendency of the streambed to scour and has resulted in scour along the entire length of the pier. The deepest scour is 10 to 25 ft downstream from the pier nose.

Clear-water scour is common at this site. Multiple high flows have progressively deepened the local-scour hole. Each additional scour event is being analyzed separately for the New York study. However for the USGS national scour study, the "total" local scour is the depth of scour that the earlier high flows may have produced if the flow duration was sufficient to produce an equilibrium scour depth. The local-scour value listed in this data base for the 1990 high flow includes the previous local scour from earlier high flows.

General or contraction scour may have lowered the ambient bed 1-2 ft from the 1027 ft elevation listed in the bridge plans. The USGS stage-discharge relation can account for 0.3 ft. Contraction scour is insignificant based on approach, bridge, and exit cross sections.

The streambed is armored by gravel. Occasional mining in the stream about 0.5 mile upstream from the bridge at point bars does not appear to be degrading the thalweg. However, the thalweg may be migrating into the local-scour hole because the hole is now the lowest point in the channel.

# BSDMS Summary Report

## 35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

Bed-material samples were collected in a shallow area of the channel near the bridge. The D16, D50, and D84 were analyzed. The D90 or D95 were not analyzed because of the accuracy of the limited data set.

Debris and high flow in 1993 lowered the channel near station 120 to 1019 ft msl, but the debris prevented additional local scour at the nose of the pier.

The local-scour hole does not refill after each high flow.

Local-scour depth is based on USGS measurements, although New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) measurements are considered in the analysis. The 1988 NYSDOT ambient bed is questionable because it is 1.3 ft higher than the 1989 USGS measurement, and no significant high flow occurred. A USGS measurement in 1989 found scour hole at 1022.7 ft at the upstream side of the bridge (ussb). Because ambient bed is 1025.5 ft, 2.8 ft of local scour is calculated. The location of maximum scour was not measured in 1989, based on later data that show the deepest scour located 10-25 ft downstream from the pier nose. High flows in 1983, 1984, and 1986 are assumed to have contributed to the scour measured in 1989.

High flow in 1990 lowered the scour hole to 1020.6 at ussb and 1019.9 25 ft downstream. The ambient bed was lowered 0.4 ft, therefore, local scour is calculated to be 5.2 ft under the bridge (1025.1-1019.9).

In the New York study, each high flow is analyzed separately. Because the elevation of the scour hole under the bridge is unknown before the 1990 high flow, 1.7 ft of local scour is attributed to the 1990 high flow based on ussb data (scour hole was 2.1 ft deeper and ambient bed was 0.4 ft lower in 1991 than in 1990).

### Elevation Reference

---

**Datum:** MSL

**MSL (ft):**

#### Description of Reference Elevation:

USSB: RM = Chiseled X in top of upstream bolt at base of first guardrail at LE of bridge. ELEVATION = 50.00 ft (local).

RP = Chiseled X in top of guardrail post at station 49.

ELEVATION = 53.26 ft (local).

Bottom of pier footing = 1022.0 ft MSL (bridge plans)

RP = station 49

LE footing = station 93, LE pier at station 94

RE footing = station 99, RE pier at station 98

DSSB: RP = Chiseled X in top of guardrail post across from RP at USSB.

ELEVATION = 53.27 ft (local)

APPR: RP = Lag bolt in 6-inch elm tree 200 ft upstream, left bank.

ELEVATION = 41.19 ft.

EXIT: RP = Lag bolt in 8-inch willow tree 200 ft downstream, left bank.

ELEVATION = 40.70 ft (local)

### Stream Data

---

**Drainage Area** 153  
(sq mi):

**Floodplain Width:** Narrow

**Slope in** 0.0004  
**Vicinity(ft/ft):**

**Natural Levees:** Concave

**Flow Impact:** Straight

**Apparent Incision:** None

# BSDMS Summary Report

35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

Channel Evolution	Premodified	Channel Boundary:	Alluvial
Armoring:	High	Banks Tree Cover:	Low
Debris Frequency:	Occasional	Sinuosity:	Sinuuous
Debris Effect:	Local	Braiding:	None
Stream Size:	Medium	Anabranching:	None
Flow Habit:	Flashy	Bars:	Narrow
Bed Material:	Gravel	Stream Width Variability:	Unknown
Valley Setting:	Moderate		

## Roughness Data

---

### Manning's n Values

	Left Overbank	Channel	Right Overbank
High:			
Typical	0.05	0.033	0.07
Low:			

## Bed Material

---

Measurement Number	Yr	Mo	Dy	Sampler	D95 (mm)	D84 (mm)	D50 (mm)	D16 (mm)	SP	Shape	Cohesion
1	1989	10	24	GRID	76	55	32	18	2.65		Non-Cohesive
2	1989	10	24	SHOVEL		33	15	2	2.65		Non-Cohesive

## Bed Material Comments

---

Measurement No: 1

Bed-material samples were collected in a shallow area of the channel near the bridge. The sizes are based on 100 samples using the grid-sampling technique

# BSDMS Summary Report

## 35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

Measurement No: 2

Bed-material samples were collected in a shallow area of the channel near the bridge. The D16, D50, and D84 were analyzed. The D90 or D95 were not analyzed because of the accuracy of the limited data set.

### Bridge Data

---

Structure No: 3312170

Length(ft): 187

Width(ft): 40

Number of Spans: 2

Vertical Configuration: Horizontal

Low Chord Elev (ft): 1036

Upper Chord Elev (ft):

Overtopping Elev (ft): 1042

Skew (degrees): 30

Guide Banks: None

Waterway Classification: Main

Year Built: 1981

Avg Daily Traffic:

Plans on File: Yes

Parallel Bridges No

Upstream/Downstream: N/A

Continuous Abutment: No

Distance Between Centerlines:

Distance Between Pier Faces:

Bridge Description:

# BSDMS Summary Report

35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

## Abutment Data

---

Left Station: 0  
Right Station: 186  
Left Skew (deg): 0  
Right Skew (deg) 0  
Left Abutment Length (ft):  
Right Abutment Length (ft)  
Left Abutment to Channel Bank (ft): 20  
Right Abutment to Channel Bank (ft): 50  
Left Abutment Protection:  
Right Abutment Protection  
Contracted Opening Type: III  
Embankment Skew (deg): 0  
Embankment Slope (ft/ft):  
Abutment Slope (ft/ft)  
Wingwalls: Yes  
Wingwall Angle (deg): 0

## Pier Data

---

Pier ID	Bridge Station(ft)	Alignment	Highway Station	PierType	# Of Piles	Pile Spacing(ft)
1	96	0	96	Single	0	

  

Pier ID	Pier Width(ft)	Pier Shape	Shape Factor	Length(ft)	Protection	Foundation
1	3	Round		40	None	Piles

  

Pier ID	Top Elevation(ft)	Bottom Elevation(ft)	Foot or Pile Cap Width(ft)	Cap Shape	Pile Tip Elevation(ft)
1	1025.5	1022	6	Square	

## Pier Description

---

# BSDMS Summary Report

35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

Pier ID 1

The flow angle of 30 degrees results in scour along the entire length of the right side of the pier. The footing is undermined 2 ft. Flow aligns with the pier before reaching the downstream side.

## Pier Scour Data

---

Pier ID	Date	Time	USOrDS					
1	10/24/90	0:00	Upstream					
Pier ID	Scour Depth	Accuracy (ft)	Side Slope (ft/ft)	TopWidth (ft)	Apprch Vel (ft/s)	Apprch Depth(ft)	Effective Pier Width	Skew to Flow(deg)
1	5.2	0.2	6.6	52	6.8	10.3	3	30
PierID	Sediment Transport	Bed Material	BedForm	Trough (ft)	Crest (ft)	Sigma	Debris Effects	
1	Clear-water	Non-cohesive	Unknown			1.75	Insignificant	
PierID	D95 (mm)	D84 (mm)	D50 (mm)	D16 (mm)				
1	76	55	32	18				

## Pier Scour Comments

---

Pier ID 1 Time: 0:00 US/DS: Upstream

The sounding weight became lodged under the footing during measurement. Local scour at the upstream side of the bridge (ussb) is 4.5 ft. The maximum local scour is 5.2 ft 25 ft downstream from ussb, based on the 8-28-91 cross section. The ambient bed was lowered 0.4 ft.

## Abutment Scour

---

## Contraction Scour

---

# BSDMS Summary Report

35 Otselic River at S.R. 23 at Cincinnatus, NY

---

## Stage and Discharge Data

---

Peak Discharge					Flow (cfs)	Qacc	Peak Stage					Stage (ft)	Water Temp (C)	Return Period(yr)
year	mo	dy	hr	mi			year	mo	dy	hr	mi			
1993	4	11		0	7300	95	1993	4	11		0			15
1983	12	14		0	6600	95	1983	12	14		0			8
1984	2	15		0	5900	95	1984	2	15		0			5
1986	3	15		0	6200	95	1986	3	15		0			6
1990	10	24		0	6100	95	1990	10	24		0			6

## Hydrograph

---

Hydrograph Number	Year	Month	Day	Hr	Min	Sec	Stage(ft)	Discharge (cfs)
----------------------	------	-------	-----	----	-----	-----	-----------	--------------------

## Supporting Files

---