The bottom chords of de Burgh trusses were made of two parallel steel plates. This is different from the earlier timber truss bridges which had timber bottom chords and is also different from the later timber truss bridges which had rolled steel channel sections for the bottom chords.

The main difference between the de Burgh truss and all other timber truss types is that in the de Burgh truss, the metal tension rods are diagonal rather than vertical. Diagonal tension rods are significantly more complicated to connect than vertical tension rods, so de Burgh introduced a pinned connection at the base and an anchor block connection at the top, unique to this truss type.

There were two advantages to the diagonal tension rods. Firstly, the configuration gives greater stiffness than other truss types. Secondly, the timber lengths for the verticals were minimised.

**Details of the pin connection and bracing rods.**

*Source: Bridge over Murray River at Barham-Koondrook. Original Plans. Sheet 6 of 20*