

Tannery Bridge (Downton) Replacement Scheme

WCC Bridge Number C12/217

Progress Report: Week 0

This report details progress for the period between 1st - 16th March 2007. During this period enabling works have been undertaken prior to commencement of the main works next week.

Weather

Cool and dry all week

Meetings & Site Instructions

- Representatives from Mouchel Parkman (MP) and Wiltshire County Council (WCC) have visited local parish councils during this week to undertake a series of short briefings on the works and dates of key road closures. Briefings/presentations undertaken this week were:
 - New Forest Parish Councils (in conjunction with Hampshire County Council), 12th March 2007** – This meeting was arranged to enable discussion of the revised diversion route strategy for the scheme. Representatives from the New Forest Parish Councils generally supported the proposals however there were some concerns about possible additional rat-runs near Woodgreen.
 - Downton Parish Council, 12th March 2007** – This presentation was arranged to provide an update to members of the Parish Council (and interested parties) on the progress of works to date and dates of forthcoming road closures associated with the works.
 - Redlynch Parish Council, 13th March 2007** – This presentation was arranged to outline the approach to be adopted during the works, details of the traffic diversion route (which uses the C44 through Redlynch) and dates of road closures at Tannery Bridge. Concerns were raised by members of the Parish Council about several potholes and rutting of the soft verges which will require repair prior to additional traffic being sent along the route.
- Representatives from MP met with local householders on 16th March 2007 to discuss the programme regarding the reconstruction of their front garden wall and the aesthetics of MP's proposals for their new garden fence to be erected as part of the wall reconstruction.
- A project team meeting was held on 13th March 2007 involving representatives of Alun Griffiths (AG), MP and WCC. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the letter of intent covering the enabling works and outstanding issues associated with the Environment Agency.
- A site meeting was held between AG and Signway Supplies on 15th March 2007 to discuss the erection of the scheme signage within Downton and the surrounding area.

Summary of progress

- The vegetation on the upstream banks immediately adjacent to the bridge has been strimmed back and fenced off, using chestnut fencing to discourage birds from roosting on the embankments, prior to and during the works (works undertaken in February 2007). See photo 1.
- Following recent reports of Otter activity within Waterside (An otter and her cub were using the highway drainage pipe as a temporary holt), Wildlife Windows has undertaken a short period of motion activated surveillance monitoring on behalf of WCC and MP. Surveillance monitoring was undertaken for a period of two weeks in line with the Environment Agency/Natural England guidelines.
Following the conclusion of the surveillance period with no activity recorded, representatives from MP and Ringway Infrastructure Services (Ringway) attended the site on 16th March 2007 to undertake a remote CCTV survey of the highway drainage network. This survey was overseen by representatives from Chalkhill Environmental Consultants (Chalkhill) to confirm that the otter and her pup were no longer present in the pipe. Upon completion of this survey the entrances to the drainage pipes were covered with wire mesh to prevent the re-use of the pipes as a holt during the works. See photo 2.
- Representatives from Chalkhill attended the site with representatives from MP on 8th March 2007 to undertake a pre-works environmental survey, incorporating a bat survey, of the bridge. During this survey no in-use bat roosts were discovered, however several potential bat roosts were identified which were sealed by MP.
- Representatives from MP attended the site on 8th March 2007 to undertake routine inspections of the structure, however due to high river flows it was not possible to safely undertake this survey. This survey has been rescheduled for the week commencing 19th March 2007.
- Once the scheme commences two temporary single land vehicle bridges will be placed over the existing bridge. To ensure buses, and local authority vehicles will be able to negotiate these narrow bridges, a trial run was carried out in Salisbury Cattle Market on 7th March. The geometry and dimensions of the temporary bridges were accurately marked out using cones. A series of vehicles from Wilts & Dorset Bus Company, Salisbury Refuse Collection Services, Ringway (gritting trucks), Trafalgar Fish Farms and Wiltshire Fire Brigade then drive the coned off route. All vehicles present successfully negotiated the route. See photo 4.
- Representatives from MP and AG visited the site on 15th March 2007 to establish setting out points for use during the works.
- Information signs indicating the date of the first road closure have been erected on site. See photo 3.
- Information regarding the planned works, extent of possible traffic disruption, and dates of the road closures has been issued to the clerk of Downton Parish Council and a local district councillor for onward transmission to Downton Library.

- A condition survey was undertaken of the riverside flats within the Old Tannery. The survey was undertaken by surveyors acting for the property owners and a surveying company acting for WCC.

Planned works for week ahead

- To establish the site compound in Downton Business Park including all service connections.
- Representatives from MP and AG will meet with residents of the adjacent Mill Buildings on the evening of the 19th March to undertake a pre-works briefing and introduce the Party Wall Surveyor.
- To establish the single lane traffic system, managed by traffic lights through Tannery Bridge. Representatives of MP and AG will be on site to adjust timings throughout the week to ensure disruption to traffic flows is kept to a minimum.
- Signway Supplies will be on site on 20th March 2007 to begin erecting scheme signs. It is anticipated that scheme signs will be erected on temporary A-frames to ensure the first weekend closure will be met. It is currently anticipated that the installation of all the posts for the scheme will take 5 weeks to complete.
- Trial holes will be excavated in the footway on The Borough to confirm the position of the foul sewer located in the bed of the River Avon.
- Construction of the bank foundations for the temporary footbridge will commence. The centre pier of the footbridge will be installed during the road closure scheduled for 0001hrs – 2359hrs on Saturday 24th March.
- The removal of the EA access walkway is also scheduled to take place during the closure on Saturday 24th March.
- Ringway will undertake remedial works to the C44 through Redlynch overnight on the 19th and 20th March 2007, in advance of the implementation of the diversion route.

Other programming items or issues

- Dates of forthcoming road closures:
 - 0001hrs-2359hrs on Saturday 24th March 2007
 - 0001hrs-2359hrs on Saturday 31st March 2007
 - 0001hrs on Saturday 14th April to 2359hrs on Sunday 15th April (anticipated)
 - 0001hrs on Saturday 5th May to 2359hrs on Sunday 6th May
 - Two weekend closures in October 2007 – dates to be arranged.

The first weekend closure which had been scheduled for the 17/18th March was rescheduled due to the presence of Otters within Waterside, which prevented the commencement of works on time. The delay to the outline programme is one week.

- MP and AG are currently investigating the viability of revising the piling technique to be adopted on the scheme, this could yield possible savings on the construction programme. Details to follow.
- The relocation of plants from the highway verge outside of the Old Tannery has commenced. These works were undertaken prior to the condition survey.



Photo 1 – Chestnut fencing installed to upstream banks



Photo 2 – Highway drainage pipes in Waterside



Photo 3 – Road closure advance signage (Old Tannery End)



Photo 4 – Salisbury Cattlemarket Trial Days