

Tannery Bridge (Downton) Replacement Scheme

WCC Bridge Number C12/217

Progress Report: Week 1

This report details progress for the period between 17th - 25th March 2007. During this period works have commenced and the first weekend closure of the bridge has been completed.

Weather

Cool and dry all week

Meetings & Site Instructions

- Representatives from Mouchel Parkman (MP), Alun Griffiths (AG) and Ridge Property Consultants (RP) visited residents in The Corn Mill, Waterside Mill and The Old Mill on Monday 17th March 2007. The purpose of these meetings was:
 - 1) To brief the residents on the works which will be undertaken during the next few weeks, (installation of temporary bridges) and how their vehicle accesses will be disrupted during the planned road closures.
 - 2) To discuss the party wall notices associated with the works. These notices will shortly be issued by RP on behalf of Wiltshire County Council. During the discussions representatives from RP outlined the resident's legal rights under the party wall act and the purpose of the schedule of condition to be prepared for their properties in advance of the commencement of works in the river.

During these discussions the residents of The Corn Mill and Waterside Mill raised concerns about the proposals to use the access along the front of The Corn Mill as a private pedestrian access once vehicle access is disrupted. MP and AG will look into possible alternative accesses during next week.

- Representatives from SEC attended the site to confirm that the disused electrical cables running between the Old Tannery and Waterside Mill were redundant prior to removal.
- Representatives from Chalkhill Environmental Consultants attended the site on Friday 23rd March 2007 to undertake further environmental surveys prior to the commencement of works in the river.

Summary of progress

- Trial holes have been dug by hand to investigate the removal of the lighting column on the corner of the Old Tannery (see problems encountered below).
- Single lane working, managed by traffic lights, has been established at the bridge site. The traffic lights have been set with a short cycle to reduce the length of queues forming. Outside of peak times queues have generally been 5-7 vehicles long, however during peak times queues have been much larger. Representatives from AG will continue to monitor the traffic lights at peak times and over-ride timings as necessary to manage flows.

- The site cabins have been placed within the lane closure. The establishment of the main site compound has been delayed until next week due to problems with the leasing agreement which were resolved late this week.
- The hand demolition of the river headwall around the access to the Environment Agency walkway has been partially completed. The river headwall was demolished down to verge level to enable removal of the walkway during this weekend's closure.
- Signway have been on site to commence the erection of signs within Downton and the surrounding road network. Where it has not been possible to install posts at this stage, signs have been erected on temporary A-frames. See photograph 1. The installation of signs on posts will be ongoing for the next few weeks.
- BT Openreach has been on site undertaking preparations for the service diversions. As part of these works service trenches have been excavated in the footways of The High Street outside of the Old Tannery and on The Borough. See photograph 2. The installation of ducts beneath the road was undertaken during this weekend's road closure.
- Trial holes in the footway adjacent to the west abutment have been excavated to confirm the location of services. These works have been co-ordinated with BT Openreach operations to make the best use of the temporary footpath closure arranged for the works.
- Representatives from Chalkhill Environmental Consultants have been on site to complete outstanding surveys as part of the pre-works environmental survey.
- Land Drainage Consent has been granted for the works by the Environment Agency this week following final consultations. A second application will be prepared shortly covering modifications to the Environment Agency walkway and provision of otter ledges through the new structure.
- Ringway Infrastructure Services have been working overnight on the C44 through Redlynch undertaking repairs to the roads highlighted during last week's Redlynch Parish Council meeting.
- During this weekend's road closure the Environmental Agency walkway was removed and the footbridge centre pier installed. The centre pier will be left to settle under its own weight during the next week prior to the installation of the footbridges during the next road closure. See photographs 3 to 6.

Problems Encountered During This Week

- During the removal of the lighting post on the corner of the Old Tannery it has not been possible to clearly identify the location of the electrical feed to the post. AG will liaise with Beechcroft's electricians early next week to resolve this issue. Failure to remove this column has impacted on the provision of a cut through around the side of the Old Tannery.
- Due to construction issues associated with the temporary footbridge foundations it will now be necessary to change the details of the temporary bridges from one 12m and one 24m span bridges to two 24m span bridges. This change has been necessary to ensure the west embankment foundation can be constructed whilst maintaining the stability of the river embankment.

This change has increased the amount of work to be completed during next weekend's road closure. As such it will be necessary to increase the duration of the planned closure to 31st March (0001hrs) – 1st April (2359).

- During the installation of the second culvert unit (which will form the centre pier of the footbridge) a soft spot was identified in the river bed leading to changes to the planned position of the culvert unit in the river. Representatives from MP were on site to advise on the repositioning of the unit to avoid the soft point. MP will redesign the capping unit on Monday 26th March 2007 to accommodate this change.
- During the first road closure several pedestrians trespassed through the Old Tannery/Church Leat development to avoid the narrow pedestrian access through the works. MP/AG will investigate the provision of additional signs during future closures to discourage a re-occurrence during future road closures.
- The road closure notice board located at the Barford Lane / Moot Lane junction was stolen overnight on the 23rd March 2007. MP/AG will investigate the sourcing of a replacement during next week. Until a replacement can be sourced a smaller temporary road closure notice will be placed in its position.

Planned works for week ahead

- Establish the site compound in Downton Business Park including all service connections following the finalisation of the rental agreement.
- Embankment foundations for the footbridge will be cast. The capping piece for the centre pier will be cast prior to installation during the next road closure scheduled for 0001hrs on 31st March to 2359hrs on 1st April 2007.
- The temporary footbridges will be installed during the next road closure scheduled for 0001hrs on 31st March to 2359hrs on 1st April.
- Signway Supplies will be on site to continue the erection of the scheme signs.
- BT Openreach will be working in Downton to continue the preparations for the diversion of services.
- Representatives from Mouchel Parkman will attend the site to measure the Environment Agency walkway removed this weekend. Following these works MP will prepare the details for the modifications required to the existing walkway to enable its fitting on the new bridge.

Other programming items or issues

- Dates of upcoming road closures:
 - 0001hrs on 31st March - 2359hrs on 1st April 2007
 - 0001hrs on Saturday 14th April to 2359hrs on Sunday 15th April (anticipated)
 - Two weekend closures October 2007 – dates TBA
- MP and AG are currently investigating the viability of revising the piling technique to be adopted on the scheme, which could yield possible savings on the construction programme. Details to follow.



Photo 1 – Scheme signs at Moot Lane / Barford Lane junction



Photo 2 – BT trenches in The High Street



Photo 3 – Removal of Environment Agency walkway



Photo 4 – Tannery Bridge following removal of Environment Agency walkway



Photo 5 – Installation of footbridge centre pier (culvert units)



Photo 6 – Footbridge centre pier in place