
Our Ref: 11346647

13 December

Dear Resident and Local Businesses,

On behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, working in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, I'm writing to provide an update on our plans to refurbish Tintern Wireworks Bridge.

The bridge is currently open to pedestrians and cyclists but following the results of an assessment undertaken earlier in 2021, the difficult decision was made to close the bridge to vehicle access in August.

We are now designing a full refurbishment and strengthening scheme which is currently programmed to begin in Spring 2022.

Due to its deteriorating condition, it will not be possible to keep the bridge open until October 2022 for pedestrians and cyclists, as has been suggested, without spending additional taxpayer money on temporary abortive work in advance of the full strengthening and refurbishment. Until then we will be regularly monitoring the bridge and will restrict use and access as required to maintain public safety.

We are nearing completion of the design phase for the works and are in early consultation with potential contractors with regards to construction phases.

We can confirm that the works will include:

- Removal of the existing timber deck and replacement with a new steel deck to meet the required capacity. In line with heritage requirements this will be finished with a timber deck appearance.
- Strengthening of the structure, including the installation of new box beams to replace the existing corroding steel infrastructure
- Grit blasting and painting (requiring full encapsulation)
- Repointing of the masonry abutments/piers to ensure longevity

Some of these activities make any access impossible across the bridge, as the deck will be fully removed for a significant period of the construction phase. This means that the bridge will need to be fully closed for the duration of the work.

We appreciate the inconvenience that this closure will cause and the current plan to start in Spring was not a decision that was made lightly in view of this knowledge. However, undertaking the work over winter would present additional risks in relation to flooding events, high water levels, safe working environment, poor weather, significant risk of increased works duration and limited working hours of daylight.

We are planning to hold public events from early 2022 to share the proposals for the planned work and answer

any additional questions you may have. Details of the events will be published online and through another letter drop.

We have got a dedicated website, which we will update when new information is available to share:
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tintern-bridge

I apologise for the disruption and inconvenience caused by these essential repairs, but we must keep the safety of the public, and all bridge users, at the forefront of our considerations. If you have any queries, please contact us at Highways@gloucestershire.gov.uk

This letter is available in Welsh on Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire Council's websites.

Mae'r llythyr hwn ar gael yn Gymraeg ar wefannau Cyngor Sir Fynwy a Chyngor Swydd Gaerloyw.

Yours faithfully,



Jen Williamson
Project Manager
Major Infrastructure Projects
Gloucestershire County Council