

Blackbrook Bridge

Blackbrook Bridge is a 4.2m single span brickwork structure carrying the Culworth Road between Eydon and Culworth

On the 2nd April 2018 the bridge was struck by an errant vehicle causing significant damage to both parapets. The impact damage has also affected the headwalls the repair of which will need to be addressed as part of the scheme

Immediate Action

Following notification of the incident Northamptonshire Highways assessed the possibility of installing barriers and traffic lights to keep the road open.

In order to protect the damaged area on both sides of the bridge and to prevent any other errant vehicles from entering into the river the barriers would need to be of a high containment.

Due to the size of these barriers we would not be able to provide sufficient carriageway width to enable the road to open to even cars only.



FIGURE 1 EAST PARAPET

Therefore, unfortunately it is technically not possible to open the road and to maintain the safety of the travelling public.

Scheme preparation work has commenced to address all issues caused by the impact damage

- The project will consist of the complete replacement of the west parapet and partial replacement of the east parapet and headwall with scour repairs east of the structure
- Additional works to the approach railings/fence will also be completed alongside vegetation removal
- Debris retrieval from the watercourse



FIGURE 2 WEST PARAPET

As part of the scheme preparation works there are a number of consents / surveys / approvals that are required

- An Environmental assessment including ecological constraints appraisal and survey is required before any works can commence. Depending on the time of year, the survey can take 1-2 months and will look for evidence of protected species within the vicinity of the bridge. Should evidence be found then further studies/mitigation works could be required
- Environment Agency Consent is required for the structure, as we are working over main river, the EA have 2 months from receipt of our application to approve our proposals

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- Temporary works design and approval

Subject to the consents/approvals process going smoothly the estimated start on site date is November 2018

Traffic Management / diversion

The operational area team will inspect the diversion route and keep it safe for the duration of the closure.

Women's Cycle Tour

The Women's Cycle Tour will be utilising part of the diversion route as part of Stage 2 Rushden to Daventry on 14th June

There will be an alternative diversion route in place for 14th June and on 21st May for carriageway patching works in preparation of the Cycle Tour

General

Damage caused by poor/careless driving is having a significant impact on bridges within Northamptonshire

At present we have 10 (including Blackbrook Bridge) major vehicular impact damage schemes, plus 16 minor guardrail repairs, damage again caused by vehicular impact.

Added to which we have the ongoing bridge maintenance programme to help to prevent the bridges deteriorating further.

Whilst the impact damage is prioritised over the bridge maintenance programme it is still important to carry on with maintenance work.

All of which is being undertaken with very limited resources.

We are expediting the works as much as is possible.

We will keep all affected parties informed as the scheme progresses.



FIGURE 3 ROAD CLOSURE

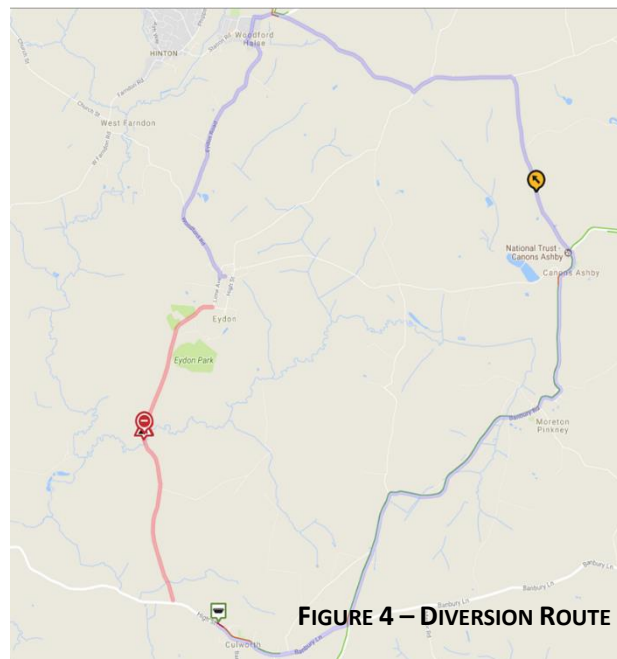


FIGURE 4 – DIVERSION ROUTE

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