

Holt Fleet Bridge Refurbishment Progressing

Contractors are progressing well with the refurbishment of the historic Holt Fleet Bridge.

Strengthening of the bridge is being achieved by the introduction of new reinforcement to the struts between the arch and the deck slabs that carry the A4133 across the river.

In order to achieve this the encapsulating concrete to the struts, installed as part of the strengthening in 1928/29, is being hydro-demolished back to the original cast iron cruciform core of the 1828 Thomas Telford Bridge.

New reinforcement is introduced around the struts which are then shuttered ready to receive the new encapsulating concrete.

This work is being undertaken to a strict sequential programme with only a few of the struts being work on at any one time.

As well as work to the struts, concrete repairs are being carried out on other parts of the structure, and masonry repairs are also being undertaken to the bridge's approaches.

Richard Attwood the County Council's Engineering Project Manager said: "I am delighted with progress on the work to this historic monument.

"The temporary traffic management, essential to reduce loading and vibration on key elements of the structure under repair, is also working well and the contractor is keeping morning and evening peak flows under control.

"We have found the original cast iron from 1828 and the reinforcement from the 1928 strengthening in very good condition.

"Modern design codes however have required us to increase the size and frequency of the reinforcement to sustain modern day loading experienced on this strategic county road.

"Once the refurbishment and strengthening is complete the 7.5 tonne weight limit will be removed.

We appreciate that some minor inconvenience will be experienced by commuters and we apologise for this whilst these essential measures are deployed."

The temporary traffic management will be removed on the 21st April to cover the Easter and the immediate forthcoming bank holidays.

The traffic management will be re-installed to cover the next phase of the works from the 3rd May and is expected to last until the middle of July.

Traffic will effectively be switched to other side of the bridge to allow the next phase of the refurbishment to commence.

-ends-