

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Moreton on Lugg Bridge Repairs

1. What is the status of the bridge repairs?

We are progressing four key work areas to deliver the repairs:

Environmental submissions and consents: The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been submitted, and we can now advise that the County Ecologist has signed off the Habitat Regulations Site Assessment (HRSA) and concurred with the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) assent not being required. Similarly, a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP) was submitted to the Environment Agency on 13th December. Approval may take up to 60 days.

Listed building approvals: Herefordshire Council has confirmed that listed building consent is not required, provided we adhere to their methodology for maintaining the integrity of the structure.

Temporary works (scaffold) designs: A specialist double cantilever scaffold design has been commissioned to avoid impacting the watercourse. This design has been received and passed to Balfour Beatty's temporary works for approval.

Works contractor appointment: A contractor has been appointed, but the start date depends on environmental consents being approved.

2. How long do you expect the work to take?

At present we anticipate the duration of the work once started will be 4 weeks but this will depend on site conditions found when the damaged parapet is taken down.

3. In the best-case scenario, how soon can the work begin?

The work can begin as soon as all necessary consents are received. If the Environment Agency approves the FRAP within their 60-day period, work could potentially start as early as mid February. Delays to these approvals or additional requirements from the EA would push the start date further.

4. What might hold up the work?

The key factors that could cause delays are:

- Awaiting approval of the FRAP from the Environment Agency (up to 60 days).
- Any design changes needed for the temporary works scaffold.
- More significant damage found when the parapet is taken down extending the construction period.

5. Are you considering measures to prevent this situation happening again?

Yes, we are reviewing options with Herefordshire Council to reduce the risk of similar damage occurring in the future. This could include protective bollards or other preventative measures such as traffic calming schemes to better safeguard the structure.

6. Are you pursuing the driver who damaged the bridge for costs?

Yes, we are taking steps to recover the costs associated with the damage caused by the driver.

7. Why can't the work be classed as 'emergency works'?

The works do not qualify as emergency repairs because there is no imminent risk to life or property, and no obstruction or issue currently affecting the watercourse.

8. What surveys have been done to protect wildlife and the environment?

Our ecologists have confirmed that the bridge is unsuitable for bat hibernation, so no further bat surveys are required. Additionally, we are ensuring no works will disturb the watercourse, which reduces environmental impact and simplifies the approval process.

9. Why is a specialist scaffold design needed?

A double cantilever scaffold is being designed to avoid placing scaffold in the watercourse. This approach minimises environmental impact and simplifies the consent process.