

FAQs

4036 Whites Bridge

FP2776 Upper Beeding

15 September 2023 v4



Scheme: 4036 Whites Bridge
Type: Structure Replacement
Footpath: FP 2776
Parishes: Steyning and Upper Beeding
WSCC Local Member: Cllr Paul Linehan
Cabinet Member: Cllr Joy Dennis

Summary

Date: September 2023

Description of Work: In August 2023 an inspection was carried out on Whites Bridge and identified a number of significant defects to the main steelwork of the bridge.

The bridge was closed to foot traffic immediately. We plan to replace the structure.



Above image shows a screenshot from Earthlight with the blue and white marker showing the location of the structure.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why is the bridge closed?

A. A recent inspection of the structure identified a number of defects to the structure and the decision was taken to close the bridge on grounds of safety.

Q. What are the safety issues with the structure?

A. There are large areas of corrosion across the structure affecting its strength and ability to support the weight of people using the bridge.

Q. How regularly is this structure inspected?

A. All structures within West Sussex are inspected in line with the current code of practice. This usually means they have a General Inspection (GI) every two years and a Principal Inspection (PI) every 6 years. Whites Bridge last had a GI in 2020 and a Special Inspection was carried out in 2023.

Q. How long will the bridge be closed?

A. It is not currently thought appropriate to repair the bridge, therefore it needs replacing. This is a high priority for West Sussex County Council (WSCC), however it is not yet possible to give a timeline for the closure.

The matter is further complicated by the existence of a number of utilities. We are actively engaging with the owners of these utilities in order to proceed as quickly as possible.

The initial Rights of Way closure was for 21 days whilst we undertook the necessary process to enact a long-term closure for a further 6 months (up until March 2024). It is likely that a further long-term closure will be required beyond March 2024 whilst replacement works continue but at this time we cannot say how long this closure will be for. Whilst there is a temporary path closure in place on this bridge we would require people to respect the closure for the purposes of protecting public safety

Q. What works are being done?

A. It is likely we will be replacing the structure to ensure the Public Right of Way is fully accessible as previously.

Q. When will the replacement works take place?

A. We do not currently have a date scheduled for replacement but are working to undertake this work as soon as possible.

Q. I have not seen any activity on site, what is happening now?

A. There may be no work occurring on site at this point but please rest assured work is continuing in order to progress this project as swiftly as possible. The structure will be routinely inspected during its closure.

Q. Is there a diversion route in place?

A. WSCC does not provide a diversion route option. The map in this document shows a number of alternative routes that can be taken whilst this closure is in place.

Q. What environmental protection measures do you have in place during this work to ensure no detrimental effects on the wildlife, pond, and watercourse?

A. Before any construction works are undertaken, specialists will visit site and advise us of any necessary measures to protect flora and fauna and prevent pollution of the watercourse. Whilst works are ongoing all necessary precautions will be taken; this will include the use of emergency equipment such as Spill Kits.

Q. Is the landowner responsible happy with the works?

A. WSCC has fully engaged with the affected landowners and kept them fully informed regarding the proposed works and way of working. The landowners have been supportive, and we are grateful for their help and understanding.

Q. How do I report a fault or problem on the highway?

A. The most effective way to report a fault or problem on the highway is to use our reporting application with multiple options. For further information, please visit - [Make an enquiry or report a problem with a road or pavement.](#)

