

Thorp Arch Bridge: Scour Protection Works

Thorp Arch Bridge is an historic Grade 2 listed structure, spanning the River Wharfe and linking Boston Spa and Thorp Arch. The bridge provides a road connection and forms part of the Ebor Way Long Distance Path.

An ongoing programme of work to assess and monitor the risk of scour damage to highway structures has highlighted the need for scour protection to ensure the long-term performance and resilience of the structure.

In order to manage the on-going risks, annual underwater inspections are carried out to check for bed scour, as well as post-flood inspections to check for trapped debris and structural damage. Trapped debris is removed as a priority, and localised scour damage is repaired.

It is now proposed to install scour protection works to make the bridge less vulnerable to failure or damage by river scour and thereby reduce the risk to the structure. The scheme comprises installing grout-filled mattresses and rock armour within the depth of the river bed. The mattress will be installed in sections below the bed of the river and will not be visible when fully installed.

We are in the process of finalising the scheme with a contractor and are aiming for a start date of on or around the 10th of August 2020 subject to approval from the Environment Agency. Crayfish and bats have not been identified on site and none of the trees surrounding the bridge will be removed, so as not to significantly affect the biodiversity of the surrounding area. However, advance works to clear vegetation from the area for the site compound will take place late June / early July.

It is anticipated that the construction will take up to four months, but it is not expected that the bridge will need to be closed during construction. Should any short term road closures be required, pedestrian access will be maintained across the bridge at all times.



Location Plan



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