

**Bridges Section**

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Dear Councillor,

**Scour Protection Works to Thorp Arch Bridge**

Further to the installation of temporary rock armour in January 2020, I write to update you concerning the planned engineering works at Thorp Arch Bridge between Boston Spa and Thorp Arch, over the River Wharfe, which are now programmed for this summer.

The works at the structure involve installing a concrete mattress across the river bed to protect the bridge piers from scour during and after periods of heavy rainfall and flooding. In addition, rock armour will be placed on the bed of the river at various locations around the bridge to improve resilience to erosion and protect the structure. The majority of the finished work will be beneath the river bed level and will not be visible once the works have been completed. However, the rock armour will be visible, depending on prevailing water levels.

The works are planned to start in the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> August and will take around 4 months to complete. The works will be contained to the River Wharfe and no road closures are currently planned. However, should any short term road closures be required, pedestrian access will be maintained across the bridge at all times.

Surveys have been carried out to check for the presence of nesting birds, crayfish and bats and none of these have been identified on the bridge or within the works area. None of the trees around the bridge will be removed as part of the works. However, advance works to clear vegetation from the area for the site compound will take place early July. I appreciate this is very soon, and short notice, but it needs to be carried out well in advance of the main works starting.

I will soon be writing to the Parish Councils and local residents and also sending out a Press Release.



I apologise in advance for any inconvenience these works may cause and will do all possible to minimise disruption. If you have any concerns or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact myself on the number or email address above.

Yours faithfully,

**Adam Neve**  
Senior Engineer