

## ***Tannery Bridge (Downton) Replacement Scheme***

WCC Bridge Number C12/217

### **Progress Report: Week 6**

This report details progress for the period 23<sup>rd</sup> April – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007. During this week works have concentrated on the completion of the temporary vehicle bridges. A short night time closure took place to undertake emergency works to the vehicle bridge ramps.

### **Weather**

Warm and dry

### **Meetings & Site Instructions**

- Representatives from Mouchel Parkman (MP), Wiltshire County Council (WCC) and the Wilts and Dorset Bus Company met on site on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 to investigate the viability of restoring large buses along Downton bus routes, following the installation of the temporary vehicle bridges. See problems below.
- Representatives from MP, Alun Griffiths (AG) and WCC met on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2007 to discuss staff resourcing issues. Following this meeting AG will appoint Bob Wyman as the part time public liaison officer to improve local community liaison throughout the remainder of the scheme.
- Instructions issued this week:
  - a) MP issued an instruction to Ringway Infrastructure Services (Ringway) to source and replace the diversion route signs that were stolen last weekend.
  - b) AG has commenced contract negotiations with Ringway regarding the maintenance of the scheme signage. Ringway will be tasked to maintain and replace the signs on the diversion routes.

### **Summary of progress**

- No works were undertaken on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2007. This day had been allocated as a rest day for the operatives who had worked over the previous weekends.
- The utility companies have been on site diverting their services across the temporary footbridge. BT Openreach has been diverting their fibre optic cables; Scotia Gas Networks have been preparing for the diversion of their mains.
- Following concerns raised by residents, AG have substituted the flood lighting generators with silenced generators in order to reduce the noise whilst lighting the temporary vehicle bridges overnight.
- Further concrete barriers have been installed on the approach ramps to the temporary bridges in The Borough. These barriers will improve the protection to the adjoining properties, following instances when vehicles have been speeding across the temporary vehicle bridges.

- Griffiths Scaffolding has been on site constructing further temporary accesses. These included a temporary pedestrian access between 144 The Borough and The Old Mill, and an emergency/delivery access from the centre of the vehicle bridges to The Corn Mill/Waterside Mill. See photograph 1.
- Emergency surfacing works to the temporary bridge approach ramps (High Street end) were undertaken during the late evening on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007. See problems below.
- The surplus material arising from last weekend's vehicle bridge foundation construction has been removed from site. Some of this surplus material has been used to form a hardstanding within the Downton Business Park site compound.
- Ringway have undertaken further remedial works to the verges of the Redlynch to Landford road this week following recent damage from additional traffic flows. The works comprised of filling in potholes at various locations, and relaying areas which have suffered further damage.

### **Problems Encountered During This Week**

- Following the opening of the temporary vehicle bridges on Monday a problem was identified with the passage of Wilts and Dorset Buses. The camber incorporated in the High Street approach ramp (to aid drainage of the ramp into existing gullies and away from Waterside) caused some buses, when fully laden, to catch on the lip of the vehicle bridge. See photograph 2. Due to the potential for damage to the fuel tank of the buses (and the subsequent risk of pollution to the river as a result of spilt fuel), emergency works were undertaken late on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007 to re-grade the approach ramps with additional surfacing material.

Because this work had to be undertaken at short notice, it was not possible to notify local residents in advance. The need to work at a time when traffic flows were low meant that the additional material was laid late at night. Regrettably, there were reports of verbal abuse from staff of the surfacing sub-contractor when local residents complained about the noise. WCC, MP and AG have asked for an explanation and apology to the residents concerned. The sub-contractor will not be employed again on the scheme.

- After concerns expressed by the operating company regarding limited clearances for large buses, adjustments were made to the safety barriers late on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Further trials with the Wilts and Dorset buses were conducted and it has not been possible to re-establish large buses on public transport services through Downton. The smaller buses currently operating through the village will therefore be retained until the new bridge is opened later this year.
- During the afternoon of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007 Alun Griffiths' electrical sub-contractor connected the vehicle bridge flood lighting into the Old Tannery lighting bollards circuit instead of the street lighting circuit as planned. As a result the circuit breakers for the Old Tannery lighting columns tripped out. The flood lighting was disconnected early on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and re-connected into a silenced generator positioned at The Borough end of the site.

The electrician then revisited the site to reset the circuit breakers within the Old Tannery.

- There have been three instances during the week of oversized vehicles becoming stuck on the temporary vehicle bridges, the drivers having ignored the advanced warning signs. The occurrences were reported to a representative from Wiltshire Police for further action on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

### **Planned works for week ahead**

- The utility companies will be on site during the next week to continue the diversion of services located in/suspended from the bridge.
- Following recent failures of the temporary traffic signals, the existing signals will be replaced with a set hard-wired into the mains supply.
- The construction of the temporary dams within the river will commence on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007. The dams will be initially constructed in front of The Corn Mill and The Waterside Mill to enable the first stage of the demolition and the reconstruction of Tannery Bridge to be undertaken. Whilst these dams are in place large diameter pipes will be used to channel the river flow through the site to ensure that the flow is maintained.
- Representatives from MP will meet with Chalkhill Environmental Consultants on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007 to discuss the designs for the new Otter ledge to be incorporated into the new bridge.
- The refurbishment works to the salmon leap sluice (the small sluice adjacent to The Corn Mill) will commence on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007. A pre-works inspection of the sluice will be undertaken by representatives from the Environment Agency (Fisheries Department) after which the hatch will be removed and replaced. The remaining works to this sluice, replacement of the rotten cover boards and the reconstruction of the dwarf headwall adjacent to the sluice, will commence the following week.
- Chris Pitman (Mouchel Parkman) will join the project on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2007. Chris will support Kevin Drain (Mouchel Parkman – project manager) with the day-to-day supervision as the works move into the next phase – the demolition and the reconstruction of Tannery Bridge. Chris will primarily be involved with maintaining the ongoing public liaison, (in conjunction with AG's publicity officer) between the Contractor and the local community, together with the management of the scheme signage. Kevin will focus on the management and the administration of the contract, and the day-to-day engineering issues associated with the new bridge.

### **Other programming items or issues**

- Dates of the forthcoming road closures:  
0500hrs to 2000hrs on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2007 for the Cuckoo Fair  
Two weekend closures October 2007 – dates TBA

### **Other information**

Tannery Bridge Helpline – 07890 517350



Photo 1 – Temporary pedestrian access to The Old Mill



Photo 2 – Temporary vehicle bridge approach ramp (High Street end) ground clearance of buses.