

RECONSTRUCTION OF BELL BRIDGE AND BELL LONNING

Progress Report at 12/09/2017

Following establishment of our site compound, and diversion of the 11kv overhead electric cables on 23 July, reconstruction work is now progressing well and remains on programme. An ecological survey was undertaken before work commenced and a temporary footbridge erected to allow safe access by the workforce.

Following installation of the sheet pile walling to the abutments, excavation was completed into the mudstone bedrock to allow construction of the reinforced concrete abutment bases and walls. In total 92m³ of concrete was placed in four pours.

Precast concrete units have been delivered from the casting yard in Northern Ireland with the East abutment training wall being installed to allow the stone masons to commence the masonry cladding. Sufficient units have also been placed behind each abutment to allow access for the deck installation.

Following erection of the underslung scaffold and permanent formwork to the weathered steel beams, a milestone was reached on Tuesday 12 September when the deck assembly was successfully lifted into position by a 350t crane. Once again, the river has been spanned and will allow us to fix the reinforcement for the reinforced concrete deck slab. Thereafter the reinforced concrete parapets will be cast and deck waterproofing applied. Meanwhile we will continue to install the remaining precast concrete wingwall units and backfill to construct the approach carriageway. We remain on target to complete the works in November.

Following consultation with the Parish Council and local residents, the County Planners would prefer the use of reclaimed masonry from the old bridge throughout with a fallback position of allowing new masonry parapet walls above the steel beams should there not be enough reclaimed masonry. An interpretive feature and seat on the west bank will provide a record of the various bridges on this site along with some re-planting of trees and landscaping.

A dive inspection has been ordered for Bell Lonning, the results of which are due back in October. The results of the dive inspection will inform and enable a temporary repair (to be implemented this year) and a permanent solution for the Lonning (to be implemented in summer 2018). The temporary repair will consist of the verge being hardened (using highways land only) to allow Bell Lonning to be re-opened to light traffic to coincide with the re-opening of Bell bridge.



Lifting the deck into position
John Slee



Project Manager Story Contracting 12/09/17



Masonry cladding to East training walls



View from the East Abutment