

ZOUCH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT NEWS

Welcome to our latest newsletter November 2024

Leicestershire County Council has appointed Eric Wright Civil Engineering to construct the replacement bridge over the River Soar and, when this is complete, will remove the existing bridge.

Further information from:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/zouch-bridge-replacement-scheme>

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Progress to date

Starting on site in July this year, to date our work has included the removal of vegetation, construction of the initial layers of the east approach road and the commencement of the new Environment Agency access track on the west side of the river. The main aim of the works this year was to carry out the initial “in river” works, with a target to complete by the 8th October. This was to install the sheet pile cofferdams on each side of the River Soar, to enable the piers and abutments to be constructed on our return in the new year. This work was all achieved successfully.

Seasonal pause

This planned seasonal pause is due to the Environment Agency “in river” working restrictions and to de-risk the works programme due to the anticipated adverse winter weather and hence reduce the potential for increased costs. Design of the temporary works shall continue in the background over the winter months, to enable Eric Wright to hit the ground running in March 2025, with all designs agreed.

About Eric Wright

Eric Wright Civil Engineering have vast experience of the design, construction and installation of river span bridges, and our projects of note include the Pooley Bridge scheme in Cumbria, with a unique stainless-steel construction, the recent Clyde Bridge replacement in Pettinain, and the current replacement of the historic Old Tram Bridge in Preston.

Plans for next year

The new bridge will be a composite construction of steel beams and a concrete deck. The steel beams for each of the 3 bridge spans will be transported to site, where they will be launched into position using temporary roller bearings and jacking system. This complex process will be managed by our Contracts Manager Jez Riseley, supported by Project Manager Dave Bagley and a team of specialist engineers and contractors.

When we return in the spring, we will organise a ‘Meet the Contractor’ event, where you can ask any questions, view drone footage and aerial images and chat to us about your memories of the old bridge and hopes for the new if you wish. Eric Wright Civil Engineering are very proud to be part of the Eric Wright Group and the unique way we are owned and operate. We look forward to sharing information around our social values and how we aim to contribute to the communities we serve.

Photos of work done between August and October



Sheet Piling on the east side of the river to create a cofferdam for the east pier base.



View of the east pier base, looking from the west side of the river across to the east side.



Zouch Bridge looking towards the A6 from Zouch village. Aerial view shows the route of the east approach road in the foreground

Installing pier and abutment cofferdams. The aerial view of Zouch Bridge is taken looking from the A6 side of the bridge towards Zouch village. It shows the new alignment of the bridge alongside the current bridge.



The brown metal structures are the cofferdams which will enable the construction of the new bridge piers and abutments. The bridge piers will be built in the cofferdams nearest the river edge with the abutments furthest away from the river. These will provide the supports to the new three span bridge.

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