**Repair of Tilford East Bridge on Tilford Street**

**The construction on** **the temporary footbridge (over the River Wey)** **are proposed to start WC 17th June 2019**. The footpath over the bridge will remain open for pedestrians while these works take place.

We have compiled some information below which should answer your questions about the scheme

**What does the scheme involve?**

Refurbishment of Tilford East Bridge, which will include improving the durability of the structure's parapet, replacing all of the hidden oak beams with steel beams and repairing the stonework.

**Will the structure look different after the work is completed?**

No, this is a scheduled monument and all work carried out by Surrey County Council has to conform to Historic England guidelines. A scheduled monument is an historic building or site that is included in the Schedule of Monuments kept by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Please see the Historic England website for [**more information about the bridge**](https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005938).

**When will the works start?**

**We propose to start work on the temporary footbridge over the River Wey WC 17th June 2019. This will be operational once works start on the main bridge. The construction of the temporary footbridge will take approximately 5-6 weeks.**

**Tilford Street /East Bridge will remain open until the temporary footbridge is completed and will close to traffic and pedestrians late July (exact date to be advised)**

**How long will the works take?**

The scheme will be intricate requiring specialist and skilled contractors to repair the stone work as existing. We have strict conditions set out by Historic England under the schedule of monuments consents concerning dismantlement of the existing bridge and construction of the new one.

Therefore we anticipate the duration will be approximately 9 months long. **Where time savings can be made we will endeavor to do so.**

**Will there be a temporary footbridge for pedestrians to cross over the river during the works?**

**Yes, the temporary footbridge will be open for pedestrians and dismounted cyclists.**

**How will equestrians cross the river during the works?**

There will be no access through the river for equestrians**. Access for equestrians will be maintained via a separate diversion route along BOAT 525 (Byway open to all traffic) or bridleway 7. Maps of these diversions routes will be published on our website when works are underway**

**What permits are required for the scheme?**

Permits **have been obtained** from both the Environment Agency and Historic England.

**What will the diversion be for vehicles?**

Following consultation with Tilford Parish, a diversion route has been agreed, as detailed below:

Vehicular traffic will be diverted via Tilford Road, Thursley Road, Farnham Road and Tilford Street or this route in reverse order.

Access for equestrians will be maintained via a separate diversion route along BOAT 525 (Byway open to all traffic) or bridleway 7.

Maps of these diversions routes will be published on our website when works are underway.

**Will the parish car park be open for all to use during the works?**

**The parish have kindly allowed us to use the carpark as the site compound for the duration of the scheme. There will be no access for other vehicle’s during the project.**

**Will there be advanced warning notices and letters sent out in advance of the scheme?**

Yes we will provide as much advanced notice as possible **when we close the bridge to vehicles.**

**Will the river be available for paddling during the works?**

Unfortunately the river will be closed during the scheme. This is for the safety of all.

**I have a business, can I get a business rate reduction?**

To be granted a business rate reduction there has to be a Material Change Circumstance (MCC) for the duration of a scheme.

As a general rule MCC would need to last at least 6 months before it is considered having an impact on the rateable value. This period can be shorter if the impact of the specific MCC is very severe.

For information about reduced business rates please contact the Valuation Office (part of the Inland Revenue) number on 0300 501 501 and then press option 2 and hold to speak to someone.

They will then advise you to [**register on their website**](https://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates) where the application will be assessed for eligibility.