

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 26927

The Little Ouse Path behind the Maltings at Brandon

1. Under freedom of Information Act I should like to request the last six years' bridge inspection reports, maintenance reports and also risk assessments that resulted in the closure.

Site inspections undertaken:

- 2015 – bridge installed
- 2022-01-24 – Bridge inspected – temporarily closed due to multiple deck board failures
- 2023-03-30 – Bridge inspected – deckboards failing and patching, not undertaken by SCC, failing
- 2023-10-17 – Bridge inspected - deckboards failing
- 2024-01-04 – Bridge inspected with contractor
- 2025-05-30 – Bridge inspected – poor performance in all timbers noted
- 2025-07-10 – Bridge inspected – poor performance in all timbers noted
- 2025-08-28 – Bridge inspected – worsened performance in all timbers (including supporting beams) and hole in deck
- 2025-Sep – bridge legally closed
- 2025-11-04 Bridge boarded off for safety

Repairs undertaken:

- 2022-Jan deckboard replacements
- 2023- April deckboard replacements
- 2023 – Oct deckboard replacements

2. I would like to see the procurement programme and progress to get this bridge repaired.

Initial replacement options were explored in 2024. Following site surveys and consultation with structural engineers, it became clear that a like-for-like or similarly styled structure would not be feasible due to particular limitations and changes in standards. Discussions have since continued with specialist suppliers, as the works cannot be undertaken by standard contractors using a timber construction. At this stage, it is believed that the most suitable replacement option has now been identified. Suffolk County Council (SCC) require specific loading information for key structural elements. Once this information is provided, SCC expect to proceed with the purchase of the replacement bridge. The intention is for this purchase to be completed within the current financial year.