

Dear clerks,

I spoke recently with each of you to advise of important maintenance works on the White's Bridge, the footbridge across the River Adur north of Bramber. Works on this popular crossing were to replace the decking timbers and improve accessibility on the bridge approaches, and I was grateful to receive your support.

Regrettably, having started these works, concerns for the integrity of the structure have arisen due to corrosion of some of the steel elements; these have been found beneath the lifted decking timbers. I have had an engineer visit site this week to assess the situation. He reports that, with some additional works over and above that previously planned, it will be possible to retain the bridge for walkers, which I trust is a relief to yourselves and the many people who enjoy this crossing.

Sadly however it will not be possible in these circumstances to re-open the bridge for use this weekend as originally intended or until all works have been completed; a provisional indication of closure is five – six weeks. There will be many people disappointed with this news and I extend apologies of the County Council for the inconvenience caused, however there is no alternative route available in the short-term and no alternative to undertaking these works.

I have arranged for revised information notices to be put out on display later today at the bridge and on nearby public footpaths to provide advance notice. As and when I can provide further information I will contact you again.

Regards,

Jon Perks
Principal Rights of Way Officer