

Current situation:-

Update 10/06/16

The road bridge still remains closed to vehicles and pedestrians while works are progressing.

- **Pier Tie Bracing** – Following structural surveys of the piers in April 2016, Repairs to the damaged pier cross bracing is almost complete. This bracing was cracked and distorted during the flood event on 05/12/2015. Works have included safe removal of the damaged elements, fabrication of the new elements, localised preparation before installation, and torqueing of the new bracing to ensure it does not affect the original (unrepaired) sections of the piers. This repair has been undertaken at five locations

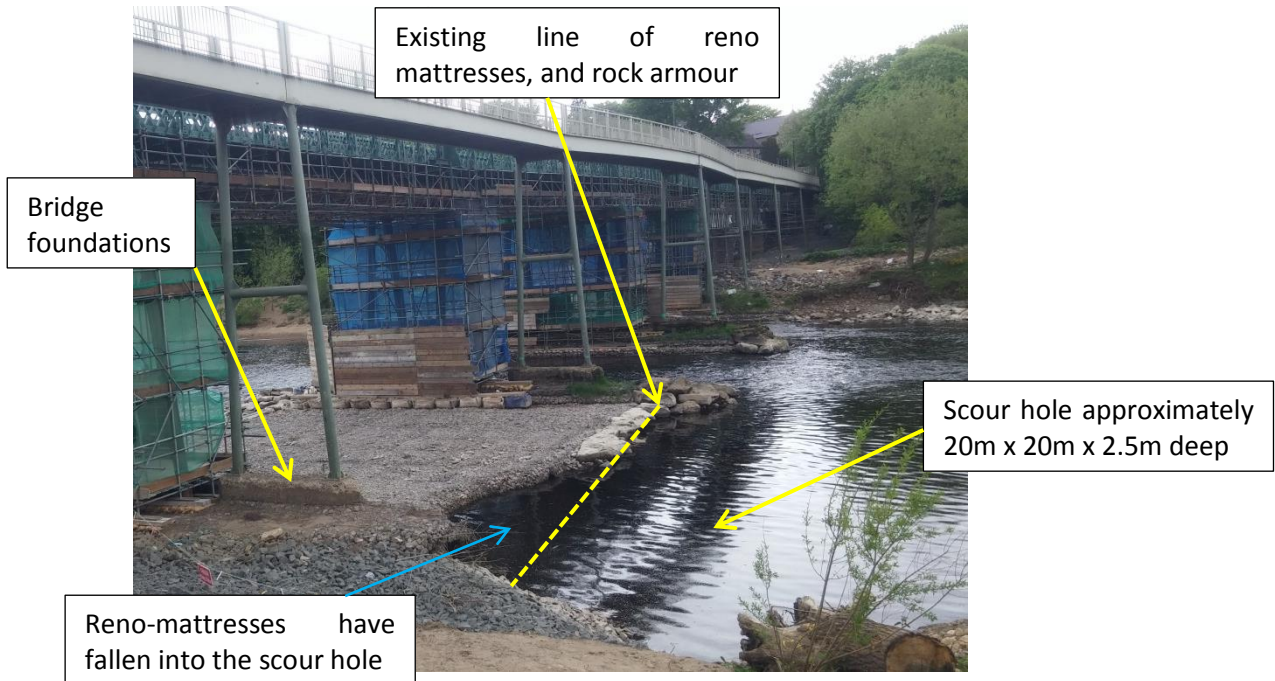


Existing & New Diagonal Tie Bracing



Existing & New Horizontal Cross Bracing

- **Scour Hole** - During the flood event on 05/12/2015, a large scour hole was created downstream of the footbridge nearest the Prudhoe river bank. Works are required to infill this hole. The risk is this scour hole may extend upstream during another flood event. This would undermine the footbridge and road bridge foundations. Work cannot progress until Environment Agency Consent has been given.



- **Reno-Mattresses** – In addition to the scour hole, a number of reno-mattresses have been damaged during the flood, the intention is to repair this mesh and replace the missing stone. Reno-mattresses reduce the risk of scour.



- **BT Cables** – the existing bridge supported three BT cables; they were temporarily diverted onto the scaffold during the works, with the intention of returning them back onto the bridge once the initial phase of works had been completed. The new ducts are now installed underneath the bridge, ready for BT to divert the cables.



- **Why is the bridge still closed to vehicles?** - As the underslung scaffold is supported off the main load carrying members of the bridge, the bridge cannot accommodate the combined loading from the scaffold and traffic. Therefore the bridge will remain closed until the works are completed and the underslung scaffold platform has been removed.
- **Pier Painting Works** – the original intention of the scheme was to refurbish the bridge superstructure (deck, trusses, kerbs, and cross girders) first and reopen the bridge. With the bridge re-open work could have progressed on the piers, with the scaffold in place.

However the flood on 05/12/16 destroyed this scaffold, and damaged the pier bracing. The scaffold and bracing has been repaired and work can recommence on the painting of the piers. This section of work is anticipated to last until late summer 2016.



Trial of mechanical surface preparation for the application of the new paint system. picture on the left shows the surface after the existing lead based paint has been removed, the picture of the right shows the required standard for painting.