

Current situation:-

Update 4/8/16

The road bridge still remains closed to vehicles and pedestrians while works are progressing. The footbridge remains open to pedestrians and dismounted cyclists.

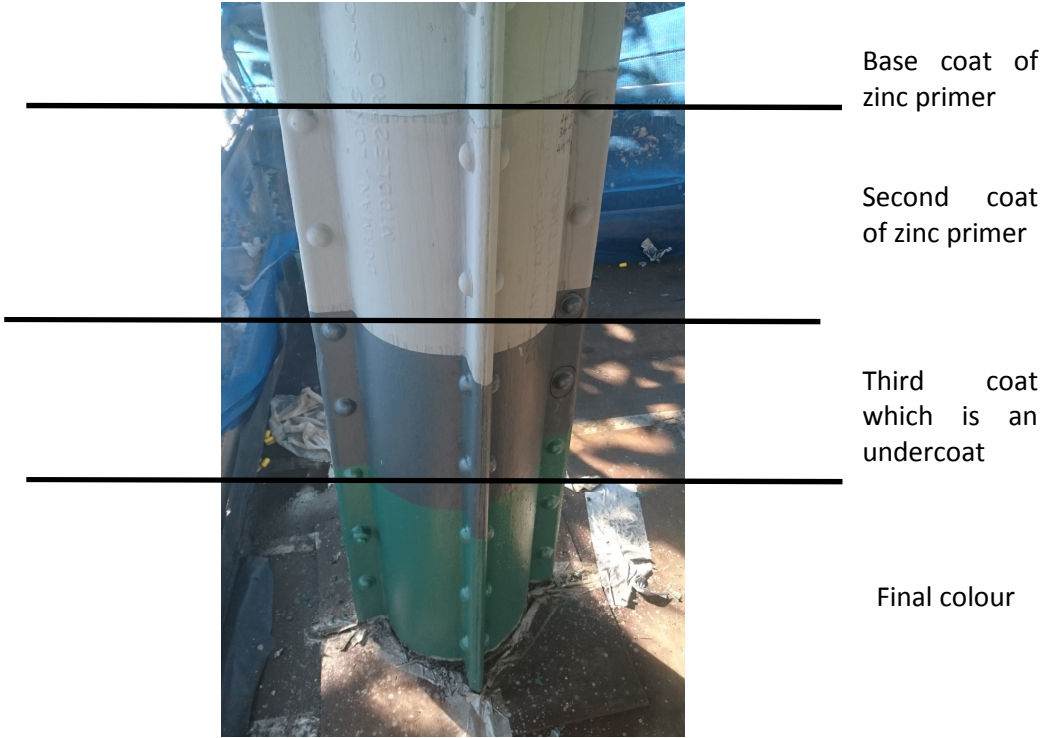
The road is expected to reopen in September. However the pier painting works are weather and river level dependent. Future periods of prolonged rain both at the bridge and within the River Tyne’s large catchment could cause the river level to rise, resulting in a delay to the painting.

Why is the bridge still closed to vehicles?

The original intention of the scheme was to refurbish the bridge superstructure (deck, trusses, kerbs and cross girders) first and re-open the bridge. With the bridge reopen works could have progressed on the piers.

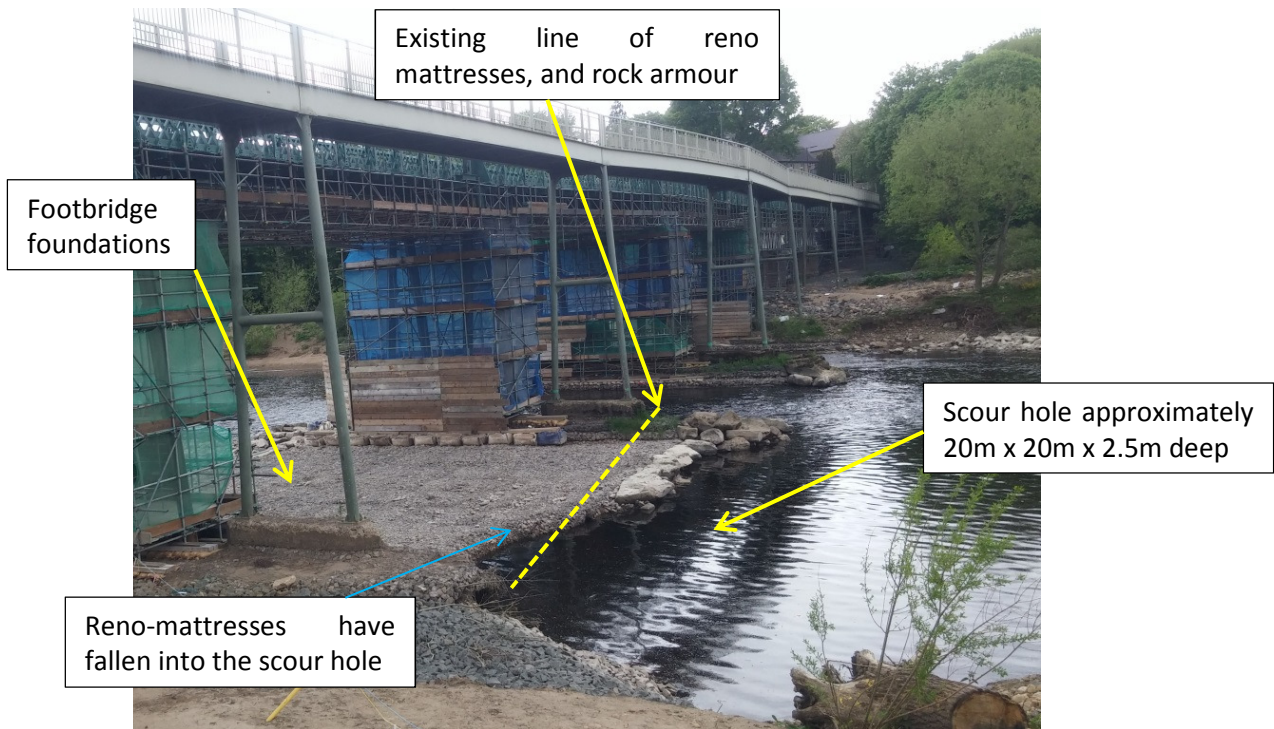
The original scaffolding that was used to carry out the works was badly damaged during the floods on 05/12/2015, resulting in the need to remove and replace it in order to continue the works. The only way to do this safely was to utilise an underslung scaffold which is supported off the main load carrying members of the bridge. The underslung scaffold runs from the Prudhoe end to the middle of the bridge. The bridge is unable to carry the combined load of the scaffold and the traffic. It will need to remain closed until this section of the works is complete. Upon removal of the underslung scaffolding the bridge will be reopened to vehicular traffic whilst the remaining painting works are completed.

As the original scaffold was fully independent of the structure combined loading would not have been an issue.



**Paint trial at pier nearest Prudhoe
The final colour matches the British Racing Green on the truss**

- **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.



Environment Agency Consent was granted on 14/07/16. Work began to fill the scour hole on 20/7/16.

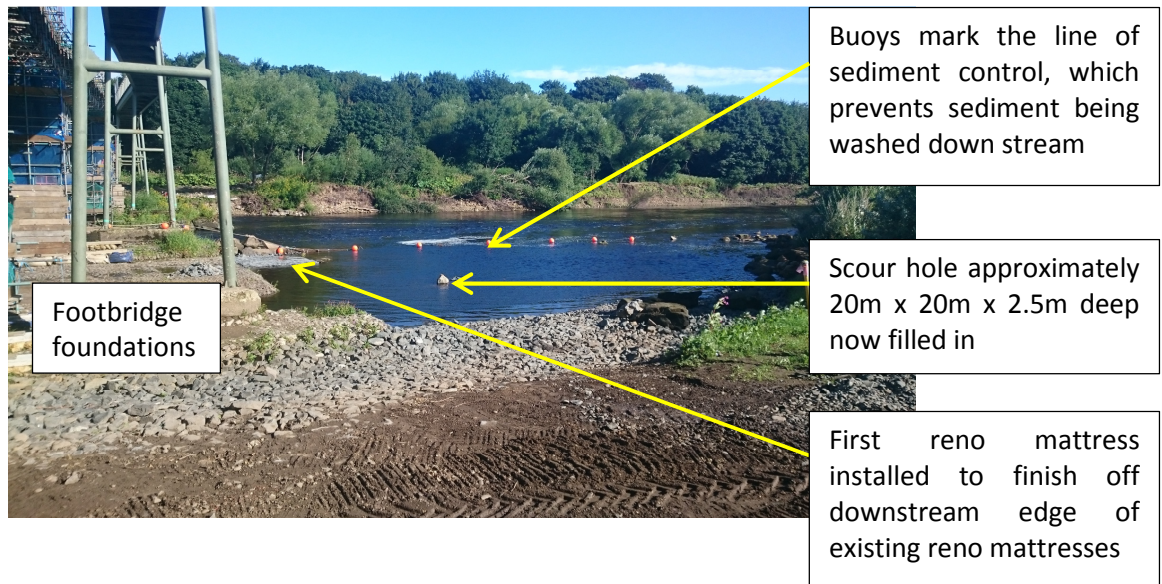


Photo taken 3/8/16, scour hole infill is complete. The reno mattresses will be extended, for one row, over the scour hole infill.