

Report to	Southern Wiltshire Area Board
Date of Meeting	26 July 2012
Title of Report	A338 Broken Cross Bridge Replacement

Purpose of Report

Provide detail to the Area Board regarding the Network Rail work at A338 Broken Cross Bridge.

This bridge is at the Ford junction on the A338 south of Winterbourne.

Network Rail intend to reuse the existing bridge abutments and place new precast concrete arch units to increase the height. The existing parapet railings will be replaced with high containment parapets to reduce the risk of vehicle incursion on to the railway line. I have attached photos below of the existing structure and an example of where the precast units have been used elsewhere.

Existing structure:



Example of completed structure:



The construction work is programmed to commence on 29 October 2012 and is part of the wider Network Rail project to raise the height of bridges along the route. The replacement of the bridge and its associated road construction works will take some fifteen weeks to complete. This will conclude in the middle of February 2013. The work will require the full closure of the A338, Malthouse Lane and the Ford Junction for all of the 15 weeks. The project, as well as replacing the bridge structure, will also introduce highway improvements in the form of roundabouts either side of the bridge, new direction and warning signs.

It is recognised by Network Rail that road closure associated with the works will be a cause for concern for many. Network Rail and their contractors wish to work with Wiltshire Council and its communities as well as other concerned parties to ensure that the consequences of the closure are kept to the absolute minimum.

As always there will be an extensive signing scheme implemented during the work to give advance warning of the closure and to direct traffic along suitable routes: this information will be provided some distance from the actual closure so that through traffic can re-route earlier in its journey. Wiltshire Council officers are working with Network Rail, Bus companies and school travel services etc. to accommodate as much as possible into this planning. The signed diversion for through traffic avoiding the closure will be via the A36 Churchill Way and A360 Devizes Road from the South: from the North the A303 and A360. High Vehicles, unable to pass under the rail bridge at London Road (St. Thomas's bridge) which would usually be diverted along the A338 will be routed at strategic points: other diversions will be implemented to deal with local traffic, cyclists etc.

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