

# Zouch Bridge Replacement News

March / April 2026



Newsletter No. 6



## Welcome to our latest Zouch bridge update

We've made strong progress towards the opening of the new bridge. This edition covers recent works, the March road closure, key challenges, and what's coming next.

### What's inside:

- April site update
- Community liaison
- Ecology update
- Progress photos
- Road closure update
- Upcoming works

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**Leicestershire  
County Council**

## Update April 2026

### Update – January to April 2026

The start of 2026 has been a busy and productive period on site, with strong visible progress despite challenging winter conditions.

### Key highlights (January-February)

- Bridge deck works progressed rapidly, including reinforcement, formwork and concrete pours
- By the end of February, the new bridge structure was fully formed – a major project milestone
- Earthworks and drainage continued on both approaches to shape the final road alignment

### March-April 2026: Moving into the final phase

On 2 March 2026, the full road closure was installed. With the road closure in place, the focus has shifted to completing utilities diversions and finishing works.

### Key highlights (March-April)

- Waterproofing the new bridge deck completed
- Existing road planed out
- Bird netting installed beneath the existing bridge
- New bridge parapet installed
- Foul water main diversion completed
- BT service diversion ongoing
- Gas service diversion ongoing



- For more information on Eric Wright Civil engineering please visit [ericwright.co.uk](http://ericwright.co.uk)

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## Community Liaison

Thank you for the continued support shown by residents during this stage of the works.

Our Public Liaison Officer continues to work closely with residents, local councils and service providers to help manage access and delivery issues during the road closure.

For any queries, please email: [ZouchBridgeEnquiries@ericwright.co.uk](mailto:ZouchBridgeEnquiries@ericwright.co.uk)

## Ecology update

We continue to work closely with the Environment Agency to protect the river and surrounding habitats.

**Nesting birds** - The underside of the existing bridge has been netted ahead of demolition to discourage nesting.

After floodwaters receded earlier this year, a small **trout** was found stranded beneath the new bridge and was safely returned to the river by site operatives.

More recently, operatives also observed a **grass snake** swimming through the river near the works — a positive sign of the healthy local habitat that has been maintained.



# Zouch Bridge in pictures: Dec 25 – Apr 26



## April 2026

We know there has been a lot of interest — and concern — about what has been happening on site during the road closure. Below is an overview of the key issues and how they have been managed.

### **Road closure and flooding**

The full road closure began as planned on 2 March 2026. Unfortunately, this coincided with flooding across the area.

Ahead of the closure, all approved diversion routes were checked and confirmed as open, allowing the works to proceed safely. We recognise that the combination of flooding and the closure caused additional disruption, and we thank residents for their patience.

### **Access and deliveries**

Throughout the closure, traffic management teams have been in place at hard closure points to support residents requiring access, alongside site traffic. Early issues with refuse collection and postal deliveries were addressed through direct engagement with councils, service providers and residents and solutions were put in place.

### **Bus service update**

On behalf of our clients Leicestershire County Council, we are pleased to advise of the following update:

Anyone on the Leicestershire side of Zouch Bridge needing to access public transport to or from the Mobile Home Park bus stop, should contact the Choose How You Move email address or phone number to discuss their travel requirements.

In advance of your journey, call Leicestershire County Council Customer Services on: 0116 305 0002 or email [choosehowyoumove@leics.gov.uk](mailto:choosehowyoumove@leics.gov.uk)

From Friday 1 May Nottbus On Demand will be able to pick up and set down passengers at the Rose and Crown Pub bus stop in Zouch. For more information see their webpage <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/travel-notts/travelling-by-bus/nottsbusondemand/nottsbus-on-demand-zones/west-rushcliffe-zone>

### **Public Rights of Way – Access Update**

Access across the new bridge and Bridleway No.5 remains closed with ongoing utilities diversion works across the site. The conditions required to provide safe access are not yet in place and opening the route at this stage would introduce avoidable risks to the public.

### **Working Safely with the Community**

Keeping residents, road users and our workforce safe remains our priority. While works are ongoing, there is currently no safe public access through the site and these arrangements are in place to protect everyone involved until conditions allow.

Our site operatives are working hard to deliver the project safely and efficiently. We ask that they are treated with courtesy and respect at all times, and we thank the community for their continued understanding and cooperation while the works progress.

# What's happening early 2026?

## Upcoming works – Spring 2026

As the project moves into its final phase, a range of activities will continue across the site to complete the new bridge and surrounding highway works.

Planned activities include:

- Utility diversions for BT, Cadent and Severn Trent Water
- Completion of drainage works
- Kerbing, footways and fencing
- Road surfacing and lining
- Landscaping and seeding

Once these works are complete, traffic will switch onto the new bridge, providing a safer and more resilient crossing for all users.

## What happens next?

Following the traffic switch, the existing bridge will be demolished, with final landscaping carried out to complete the scheme.



## Thank you

**Thank you to residents, stakeholders and road users for their continued patience and cooperation during this complex stage of works. We welcome feedback and remain committed to keeping the community informed.**

For all project-related enquiries, please contact:

- [ZouchBridgeEnquiries@ericwright.co.uk](mailto:ZouchBridgeEnquiries@ericwright.co.uk)
- 01772 229553

## Social value update – April 2026

Alongside construction activity, social value work has continued throughout early 2026:

- Four STEM and careers workshops delivered at Normanton-on-Soar Primary, Hathern Primary and Kegworth Primary schools.
- Activities included assemblies, a 'Bridge the Gap' activity, and assembling a giant tetrahedron. Hopefully, we have inspired the next generation of builders and engineers
- A second T Level student from Loughborough College joined the team in February
- The project remains on track to exceed its agreed social value targets

