

Dear Anne

I have been asked to provide you with an update regarding Adcote Bridge.

Shropshire Council on two occasions has had to take the difficult decision to suspend work to replace Adcote Mill Bridge, a footbridge carrying a Right of Way over the River Perry, due to ongoing site access issues beyond its control.

As would be expected, the council had all the right permissions in place to work in the river, which was scheduled to take place by an appointed contractor.

Unfortunately, the landowner, as they have on a number of occasions, refused entry to the council's contractors and their vehicles, making work to remove the remains of the existing 3-span masonry arch structure and install new concrete foundations impossible.

The council has done everything it can to resolve this access issue, including applying for an injunction as soon as the problem arose. However, this initial injunction was refused, leaving the council no choice but to try again. The council's Outdoor Partnerships team will seek once more to get an injunction in place, but this will take time and it's expected that work will now not start on the bridge until, at the earliest, June 2026 when the council will once more have permission to carry out work in the river.

I appreciate that this is causing frustration for members of the public. As the Manager responsible for this work I must ensure that all permissions are in place and that we can, if needed, take appropriate legal action against anyone attempting to obstruct our workforce carrying their lawful duties. This will ensure that the work is completed and that public money is protected and not used on abortive works.

Should you have any further questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Pete

Peter Banford
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Place Directorate