

Via Email

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Dear All

I wanted to provide you with a further update on progress to reinstate the footbridge on Sandon and Burston Footpath No. 36.

Over the last month, our engineers have completed all the final preparations needed before the installation can begin, including wildlife surveys and other site investigations and agreeing a programme of works with landowners and contractors.

Engineers are now hopeful that installation can go ahead in July, subject to suitable weather and ground conditions.

As previously communicated, we had hoped to begin installation in June. However, the heavy rainfall experienced at the end of May and beginning of June left the site too soft and unstable for the specialist machinery required to safely access the area. Dry and stable ground conditions are essential because of the weight of the bridge sections, construction materials and lifting equipment needed to carry out the installation safely.

Fortunately, our teams have used the time to review the construction method and identify a more resilient approach.

Rather than relying on a temporary structure during installation, the bridge will now be lifted into place using a crane. This will reduce the number of vehicle movements required on site, minimise disruption to the surrounding area and provide greater flexibility should ground conditions become less favourable during the construction period.

I appreciate that local residents and regular users of the route will be frustrated by the delay. However, it is important that we do not compromise on safety. Our priority is to ensure the bridge is installed safely, correctly and in a way that provides a reliable crossing for many years to come.

Thank you for your continued patience and support. I will share a further update in the next two weeks.

Kind regards



**Hayley Coles**  
**Deputy Leader**  
**Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture**