

Drypool Bridge FAQ

Why is Drypool Bridge being closed?

A routine investigation on Wednesday 10 April uncovered that several load bearing columns under the bridge were in a significant state of deterioration.

To address this, the bridge will be closed for two months, to allow the next phase of a major repair and strengthening programme to take place.

When will Drypool Bridge be closed?

Drypool Bridge will be fully closed to all vehicles and pedestrians from **Monday 15 September** to **late-November 2025**, with additional limited closures expected in 2026.

What works are being carried out?

The repair and strengthen programme includes -

- **concrete repairs** of the lower reinforced supporting beams and columns to the east-fixed span
- **bearing replacement** on the east-fixed span of the bridge
- **a new cathodic protection system** to resist future corrosion to the existing beams and columns
- **waterproofing of the deck** to ensure the long-term resilience of the structure
- **de-silting** the area below the east-fixed span of the bridge, behind and around the timber fenders and support columns

Why does the bridge need to be fully closed for these works?

A full closure is necessary because the bridge will be in the raised position at times to allow safe access for inspections and repairs to the timber fenders beneath.

These works can't be carried out while the bridge is in use and keeping it in the raised position ensures the contractors can work efficiently and safely.

What works have already been completed?

Initial construction activity - which started on 14 July - concentrated on the south side of the bridge, involving the removal of footpath railings, surfacing, and partial carriageway and kerb sections. To enable these works, and to manage traffic flow and minimise disruption, a contraflow system was implemented allowing two-way traffic to continue during the first phase of works.

The site compound was also established on the former Rank Hovis site.

Will there be any traffic management during the closure?

We fully recognise that the closure will have an impact on the city's highway network and have been planning a series of mitigation measures to help alleviate the situation while the essential works are undertaken.

These will include -

- the creation of a FREE car park on Holderness Road for over 300 vehicles, with access to 17 bus services running to the city centre, on average, every two minutes – with a discounted £2 return fare on both Stagecoach East Midlands and East Yorkshire bus services for those boarding from this temporary park & ride facility
- the use of AI technology for traffic signals at key junctions along diversionary routes, following a successful trial in the city in 2024 that saw traffic flows improve in locations where the technology was used
- a temporary extension of the city centre Bus Gate to ensure the continued reliability of services for the 42,000 people who use Hull's buses each day to get in and out of the city

What is the Bus Gate and how does it affect me?

A bus gate is a short section of road that only authorised vehicles, such as buses, taxis, and emergency services, can use.

To support bus services during the temporary closure of Drypool Bridge, we're extending the operating area of the existing city centre Bus Gate. It will now run 24/7 from Guildhall Road to Dock Street, eastbound only.

This change is designed to reduce delays, encourage bus use, and ensure reliable journey times for passengers.

General traffic must divert via Wilberforce Drive / George Street, depending on the direction of travel.

Is there a diversion route for motorists?

Signed diversion routes will be in place for motorists via North Bridge and Myton Bridge.

Motorists are urged to take notice of the signed diversion routes and plan their journeys in advance or use alternative modes of transport, such as public transport or cycling.

Will pedestrians be able to cross the bridge?

No. The bridge will be fully closed to pedestrians during the works. North Bridge is the nearest alternative crossing point.

Will the bridge open to river traffic?

There will be times when the waterway is closed to river traffic. This will be communicated in advance to affected river users.

When will the repair programme be complete?

Full completion of the programme is scheduled for **Summer 2026**.

Who is carrying out the works?

The project is being delivered in partnership with our contractors Esh Construction Limited and designers Mason Clark Associates.

Is a replacement bridge an option?

A new bridge would take years to develop from design concept to a start on site and years to build. A new bridge would likely be in the region of £80m plus to build.

Can Chapman Street Bridge be opened to mitigate traffic?

Our five-year infrastructure plan includes exploring options for the reopening of Chapman Street Bridge as soon as possible. Unfortunately, Chapman Street Bridge is an aged and listed structure that, at present, is not able to cope with the volume or weight of modern-day traffic.

Why couldn't the council wait until other major works in the city were completed before closing Drypool Bridge?

We understand the timing is challenging, but by acting now, we can carry out the necessary repairs in a controlled and planned way, ensuring the bridge remains safe and operational.

If we were to postpone this work, the bridge is likely to require more frequent unplanned closures over the coming years, causing even greater disruption.

This programme of repairs is designed to extend the life of the bridge by around 60 years. Once complete, we don't anticipate needing to close the bridge again for major works for at least the next 20 years.

Although emergency utilities works and the delayed National Highways A63 scheme have priority and cannot be rescheduled, we have sought to coordinate and defer other council highways works in the city to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Why is the section in-front of the bridge on Alfred Gelder Street, between Lowgate and High Street, closed too?

Whilst Drypool Bridge is closed for major repair and strengthening works we have taken the opportunity to carry out some intrusive works relating to the District Heating project. By coordinating these works during the bridge closure, we're helping to reduce future disruption and ensure the bridge isn't closed for longer than necessary.

Does Hull need new bridges? Is the infrastructure too old?

New bridges are not only expensive, but they also take many years to design and build. Further, they do not necessarily address capacity as the highways network is constrained on both sides of the river but *admittedly do help resilience when a bridge must be closed*.

Our city's bridge infrastructure is old and has suffered from decades of underinvestment from central government. However, we now have a five-year infrastructure investment programme, aimed at maintaining our city's bridges, statues, monuments, and fountains.

How can I stay updated?

For more information about the programme and the mitigation measures in place, visit [Drypool Bridge | Programmes – Bridges | Hull](#)

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