



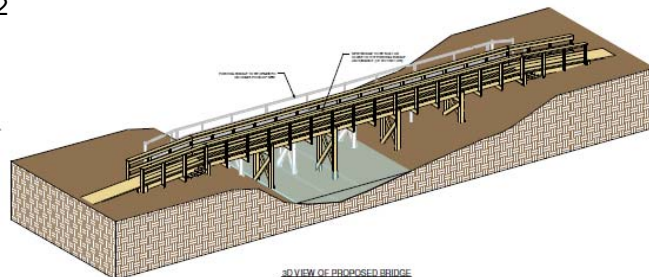
## Morston Bridge Replacement Project Frequently Asked Questions



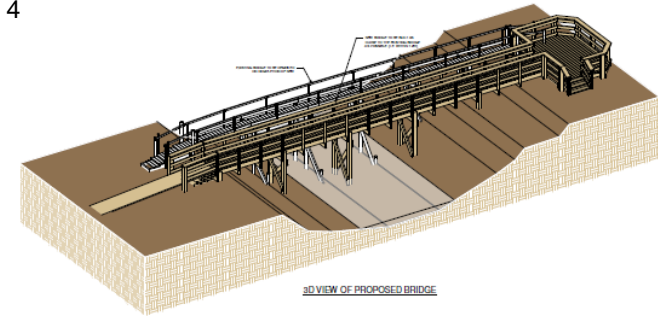
### What are the contractors doing to Morston Bridges and why are the contractors doing it?

- Over the last two years the National Trust has been assessing the condition of the two large footbridges at Morston Quay. During this time we have undertaken some minor repairs, however following the recent tidal surge one of the bridges was destroyed. We now need to replace the bridges for the long term.
- We are designing the bridges to fit naturally within the environment; although they will look different to the previous structures. The resulting bridge design will be of timber construction on timber piling. We have to comply with certain regulations regarding the bridge design, mainly to do with the structural aspects and the effects of the harsh environmental conditions they sit in. The designs need to comply with British Standards relating to their structural performance for pedestrian use and to ensure they are safe to use

Bridge 2



Bridge 4



### How long will the bridge replacement project take?

- Our contractor is preparing a full programme for the work to replace the bridges; this can be obtained from the National Trust Norfolk Coast office at Blakeney; however we are envisaging that the contractor works will start on 31<sup>st</sup> March and will take between 13 to 16 weeks to complete.
- The contractor has planned the work to mitigate any potential disruption during Bank Holidays and school holidays.

### Will access be restricted to the existing bridges or footpaths? Will the path and bridges be closed?

- Where reasonably possible, we will endeavour to maintain access, however there may be times when we have to limit access or stop people using the areas at certain times. This will be mainly relating to making sure people are safe when we are moving heavy machinery or equipment and / or installing materials which could pose a health and safety risk.
- The intention is to maintain access and if there is a need to close certain areas, prior notification will be given with site notices at Morston Quay Information Centre and adjacent to contractors working areas. We will obviously try to limit impact to harbour users and maintain access to the harbour wherever possible.

### **How else can I walk the path? How do I get to my boat?**

- We would like to preserve the beauty of the area and minimise damage to these fragile areas; therefore we would ask that the public stay only to designated and signposted footpath areas and do not attempt to cross the marshes or creeks at alternative points.
- The path and access across the bridges do not sit on a public right of way, therefore there is no statutory requirement for the National Trust to maintain access at all times, although it is our intention to do so.

### **I'm booked on a ferry trip where do I go if the bridges are closed?**

- Alternative arrangements for access will be made by your ferry operator, please seek guidance from them or see the notice boards in the car park which will detail the alternative access. It is envisaged that all ferry operation will be maintained and will operate from the lower quay jetties.

### **Why are they doing the work now?**

- Works are planned to avoid the peak visitor season and to reduce the impact on wildlife.
- By commencing the works during this time, we will be avoiding the busy visitor season and minimising disturbance to the public and local businesses that operate within the area. At the same time we will be reducing the impact to the environment and wildlife. Over wintering birds are now migrating and by careful mitigation we will reduce the impact to breeding and nesting birds at this time of year
- We have prepared an Ecological Risk Appraisal, which details the works and the mitigation we need to put in place to limit the impact to the environment.

### **Where else can I walk?**

- The Norfolk Coast Path from Morston in both directions to Wells and to Blakeney is open and accessible. The path from Blakeney to Cley is closed for the path repair works to be completed by 18<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Are you repairing the path between the bridges?**

- This is a project which we would love to do in the near future, we are aware that due to the vast number of visitors walking these footpaths and accessing the National Nature Reserve the footfall is having an adverse impact on the areas either side of the paths where visitors are walking off the designated footpath. This is causing irreparable damage to the mud flats, plants and causing large areas of erosion. The works in the future are hoped to enable us to reinstate the paths.

### **What are you doing about the exit into the mud at the end of the last bridge?**

- We are aware that a large number of visitors to the area want to access these beautiful places but have limited mobility or desire to walk too far. There are areas therefore towards the end of the last bridge which have become very eroded and damaged by pedestrian footfall.
- We are therefore providing a small area to the end of the last bridge to act as a viewing area which will be an extension of the bridge structure.
- From this point we can provide a bench and present information about the landscape and the National Nature Reserve.

Looking after our amazing places is an expensive task. If you would like to help us protect Morston Marshes, continue to maintain the bridges and care for the wider National Nature Reserve for ever, for everyone a donation from you will make a real difference. If you can, then please donate by contacting our Norfolk Coast property office.

**If you require any further information please find our contact details below;**  
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