Zouch Bridge Newsletter

October 2026

Eric Wright Civil Engineering

Newsletter edition 8



Welcome to the Zouch Bridge Newsletter

Inside this edition find new aerial photographs of the new bridge and the demolition. As well as new updates and insider information into the project.

Working in partnership with…

Leicestershire County Council

What's inside:

- Social value
- Key milestones
- Old bridge demolition
- Thank you

Social value

The Zouch Bridge Replacement Project has delivered a range of benefits for the local community alongside the bridge construction works. Throughout the project, the team has worked with local schools, colleges and universities to provide educational opportunities, including student placements, STEM activities and site visits, helping young people gain an insight into careers in engineering and construction.

The project has also supported the local community through charitable donations to local organisations, helping them continue the valuable work they do for residents. In addition, local employment opportunities have been created, and local businesses have been engaged throughout the project, helping to support the regional economy.

Environmental sustainability has been an important focus, with energy-efficient site facilities and the use of some solar-powered welfare units helping to reduce the project's carbon footprint during construction. The project has also maintained regular communication with residents and stakeholders through newsletters, meetings and engagement events, ensuring the community remains informed as works progress.

Alongside these achievements, the project has prioritised the wellbeing of its workforce by promoting health, wellbeing and mental health support throughout construction. The project has aimed to deliver benefits beyond the bridge construction itself, supporting local people, community organisations and future skills development.

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Key milestones

- A brand-new bridge successfully installed and opened, providing a long-term improvement for the local community.
- Works completed within the summer construction window, helping to avoid periods of higher flood risk.
- Bridge reopened after just 8 weeks work of demolition, keeping disruption to a minimum and reconnecting local journeys sooner than expected.
- Major lifting operations delivered safely, including the removal of the existing bridge and installation of the new structure.
- Sustainable Grasscrete surfacing installed, enhancing drainage while maintaining the area's natural character.
- New approach roads and footways completed, restoring connections for pedestrians and road users.
- Landscaping and reinstatement works completed, leaving the area refreshed and enhanced for the future.
- For more information on Eric Wright Civil Engineering please visit ericwright.co.uk

Zouch Bridge

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Leicestershire County Council

Social value

£2.8 million
Local spend

4
New Jobs created locally with Eric Wright Civil Engineering

£2,000
Donated to local charities

Carl Martin, Development Officer at the Peter Le Marchant, *"All donations and grants that we receive are hugely beneficial to the continued running of our charity. All charities are currently dealing with increased costs, and we are no exception e.g. all running costs for our boats continue to increase year on year. The donation to the charity has enabled us to keep our costs as low as possible for our primary beneficiaries, who are people living with physical and mental health disabilities and lifelong conditions."*

Education information

5 Schools, colleges and universities engaged

406 Students engaged in construction industry STEM ambassador workshops and site visits

23 Staff hours supporting student engagement

Environmental benefit

28,265 tonnes
Waste diverted from landfill

99%
Waste recycling rate

20 tonnes
reduction of CO2 emissions

Employment and skills

1
Year in industry placement

5
T Level students

Year in industry student "Through this role, I've built a much better understanding of how site operates and the engineering process involved – things that I fully didn't grasp at university. Being part of a supportive team made a huge difference, as I felt comfortable asking question and learning from others, which helped me pick things up much quicker."

Old bridge demolition

This summer, the Zouch Bridge Replacement Project reached another significant milestone with the successful demolition and removal of the old bridge structure.

Completed over an eight-week programme and finishing on 21st August, the operation marked the final step in transitioning from the former bridge to the brand-new crossing now serving the community.

The demolition works only began once the new bridge had been safely opened to traffic, ensuring residents, businesses and visitors could continue their journeys without interruption. Through careful planning and close collaboration between project teams, the entire operation was completed without the need for any road closures, a major achievement for a project of this scale.

Over the eight-week period, the old bridge was carefully demolished and removed piece by piece, with safety remaining the top priority throughout. The only temporary restriction required was the closure of the adjacent northern footway, helping to protect pedestrians while works were underway and keeping disruption to an absolute minimum.

The successful completion of the demolition represents more than just the removal of the old structure. It highlights the tremendous progress made throughout the project and reflects the dedication, expertise and teamwork that have helped deliver a safer, stronger and more resilient bridge for future generations. With the old bridge now removed, the project leaves behind a modern crossing that will serve the local community for many years to come.

Taken in October 2026, the photograph below shows what remains of the old bridge following its demolition, marking an important stage in the project's progress.



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Thank you

As the Zouch Bridge Replacement Project reaches completion, we would like to thank residents, businesses, stakeholders and road users for their patience, understanding and support throughout the works.

We recognise that projects of this scale can cause disruption, and we are grateful for the cooperation shown by the community during the bridge closure and construction period.

We would also like to thank our project partners, site teams and supply chain for their hard work and commitment in delivering this important improvement.

Through a collaborative approach, the project has not only provided a new bridge for the area but has also delivered lasting benefits for the local community, environment and economy.

We are proud of what has been achieved together and look forward to the positive impact the completed bridge will have for years to come.

If you would like to receive electronic versions of this newsletter, please contact the email address above.

For all project-related enquiries, please contact: ZouchBridgeEnquiries@ericwright.co.uk

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