

What is National Highways doing?

We have a duty of care to ensure our bridges are safe for all users. We need to demolish the two footbridges crossing the A36 between Castle Roundabout and St Mark's Roundabout - Victoria Road Footbridge and Wyndham Road Footbridge. This is due to an issue with the height of the bridges, along with their age and condition. We are replacing them with a new Victoria Road Footbridge which will be upgraded to allow access for pedestrians, wheelchair users and cyclists. We are also proposing a new footbridge at Wyndham Road but due to the available space, it cannot fully meet current design standards. The proposal is to install a new bridge which will be broadly the same as the existing bridge but we want to understand concerns from users before proceeding.

Why do these footbridges need to be demolished?

The main reason for removing the bridges is the substandard headroom. If either of the bridges were struck by an over-height vehicle, there is a risk they could collapse. In addition, the age of the bridges and their components, means they have deteriorated to the point that major refurbishment works are required. A study undertaken by National Highways and our supply chain have concluded that refurbishment alone would not be cost effective, regardless of the substandard height issues. The safety risks mean we need to demolish both bridges.

Will you replace the footbridges?

We will be replacing Victoria Road Footbridge with a new, upgraded combined pedestrian/cycleway footbridge.

At Wyndham Road Footbridge there is a lack of available space for a new crossing that meets current design standards. We initially proposed an option to demolish the bridge and permanently divert pedestrians via the subway at St Marks Roundabout. Following discussions with bridge users and local stakeholders we have an alternative proposal to build a new footbridge in the same location as the existing bridge.

As the site is constrained by the highways and residential properties, the proposed new footbridge would need to have ramps that are steeper than current design standards, although this would be no steeper than the existing bridge.

For us to be able to build the proposed new bridge we need to have support from bridge users, stakeholders and disability group representatives. A stakeholder group and communications event will allow the stakeholders to understand the details and be able to comment on the proposals.

What parts of the new Wyndham Road Footbridge do not meet current design standards?

The steepness of the approach ramps and the number of landings on the ramps would not meet current design standards. Despite this the ramps would have the same steepness and number of landings as the existing bridge.

The curvature of the main bridge span would also be slightly greater than current design standards allow.

When will the footbridges be demolished?

Demolition will be in 2028/29 at the same time as the construction of the new Footbridges. We hope to keep the existing bridges open for as long as possible during this construction phase to minimise the disruption.

When will you build the new footbridges?

Construction is due to begin in 2028/29 and last for nine months.

What traffic management will be needed for the demolition and rebuild?

To safely demolish the footbridges and construct the new Victoria Road footbridge we will need full weekend closures of the A36 in both directions between Castle Roundabout and St Mark's Roundabout to remove the two existing bridges and to erect the new bridge at Victoria Road.

We will also need lane closures on the A36 in both directions on the same stretch of carriageway for nine months during construction for the safety of the site workers and road users. These will be in place 24 hours a day, 7-days a week.

How long will the work take?

We expect the work will take approximately nine months in total.

What will the pedestrian and cycling diversion be during the work?

Both pedestrians and cyclists will be diverted to the subways at Castle Roundabout and St Mark's Roundabout

How much will this work cost?

We are currently pricing the scheme but it is anticipated the work will cost approximately £20m.

Will this work involve removing trees? If so, why and where?

To meet current standards and accommodate pedestrians and cyclists, the ramps for the new bridge at Victoria Road will be considerably longer than those of the existing bridge. These ramps will be supported by discreet piers, which will each have their own foundations. In some cases, they will affect the root system of some trees. This means some trees near the existing Victoria Road Footbridge, on both the northern and southern side of the A36, need to be removed. Following consultations with Wiltshire Council, we have modified our initial proposal and halved the number of mature trees affected.

At Wyndham Road we will need to remove the trees immediately adjacent the structure where the root systems are affected. The full extent of tree removal will be determined once our bridge replacement options are confirmed.

Will you replant trees to replace the ones you remove?

Our intention is to replace as many trees as possible. There is a limited amount of space available for new trees in the immediate area, but we will ensure the replacement trees are suitable species for their purpose and location.

Are the footbridges safe to use until they are demolished?

We regularly inspect all our bridges to ensure they remain safe to use and we expect the existing footbridges will remain open until the demolition work begins.

Are you consulting on these changes?

We have a duty of care to ensure our bridges are safe for all users. The risk associated with the substandard height, combined with their age and condition, is too high so we need to act. We will build a new, safer and improved structure at Victoria Road that provides a shared use facility for cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users. We have a proposal to replace the footbridge on Wyndham Road and have set up a working group where we are consulting with the local authority, council representatives and stakeholders to come up with the best solution. We plan to liaise with the wider local community at our communications event on the 15th and 16th May at Wyndham Road and outside the Salisbury Guildhall respectively.