

Community Development Team
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SEATHWAITE BRIDGE - DUDDON VALLEY

20th July 2020

Dear Resident,

I am writing to inform you that CCC Highways have implemented a 13 tonne weight limit on Seathwaite Bridge in the Duddon valley.

A recent structural assessment review concluded that the bridge is only capable of carrying vehicle of a maximum 13 tonnes gross weight. It had previously been assessed at 40 tonnes, and hence the bridge was unrestricted.

There is an ongoing scheme to widen the bridge, and this will now be expanded to include a strengthening. This will require designing, as well as listed building consent; the project will also need to be tendered to suitable Contractors. There will therefore be a significant lead-in time to the site works. Works will need to be undertaken in good weather due to the heritage requirement to use lime mortar in the stonework.

It is therefore most likely that the strengthening works will not be completed until Summer 2021. The weight limit will therefore be in place until then.

There will be several advance signs, including at Duddon Bridge and Cockley Beck.

We realise these temporary restrictions will cause local disruption but this emergency measure is necessary to ensure the safety of local residents and all road users. We have taken the decision to exempt emergency services from this weight restriction, so that they are not hindered in blue-light response situation.

To assist in the planning of these works, I would like to consult with you on the closure of the bridge works to be undertaken, to establish when might be the best time to undertake these works from your perspective and the possibility of the reschedule of deliveries. So we are able to start planning these works to help minimise the impact on the local communities.

The current restrictions at Shop Bridge and our plans for repairing the bridge, we do not believe that the respective diversion routes, associated with bridge closures, will clash.

Should you have any comments regarding this matter please contact me using the details above.

Yours Faithfully

Carol Last

Community Development Officer