

Llannerch Bridge Newsletter



Figure 1 - A 3D visualisation of the proposed design for a replacement Llannerch Bridge, as seen from the air from the southern (Trefnant/Bodfari) side of the bridge, looking north

The purpose of this newsletter

This newsletter is published by Denbighshire County Council. It's aim is to ensure that local residents, businesses and other interested parties are kept up-to-date on the progress with our project to replace Llannerch Bridge. Our intention is to publish a newsletter when we have updates to share, so that you know what we have done, what we are aiming to do next, and opportunities for you to get involved in the development of this project.

In this edition, we will be letting you know what has happened since the last newsletter we sent in Spring 2023.

Project update: what's been happening?

Since we issued our last newsletter:

Design options have been explored :

The team looked at a variety of possibilities but in the end it was narrowed down to a design which is shown in the artists impression at the top of the newsletter and the image below. This initial design does look different to the previous bridge, however we must comply with modern design standards and ensure that the bridge will be safe in the years to come. It also needs to meet the requirements of Natural Resources Wales and to this end the new embankment approach from the Tremeirchion side will incorporate flood relief culverts. It was always recognised that this would be a complicated project but the reality has shown that this may have been an understatement, and it has taken a lot of work to get the project to this point.

Please note that these artist impressions are intended to show the design of the bridge only. The final outcome would include more vegetation and should blend in with the local landscape.



Figure 2 - a 3D visualisation of the proposed design for a replacement Llannerch Bridge, as seen from the ground at the Tremeirchion side of the bridge, looking towards the Trefnant side

Welsh Government are funding the project for 2024-2025

The scheme is supported by Welsh Government Grant under their Resilient Roads initiative. This means that they have funded the detailed design phase of the work and will be supporting us for the current financial year too. All in all this means around £1 million will have come via this income. Denbighshire County Council can therefore continue to work with partners including Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales and the Council's own planning department to complete the design stage of a replacement bridge.

Ground work investigations have begun.

The old Llannerch bridge was sited above a freshwater aquifer that sits between 12 and 36 metres below ground level and extends almost as far upstream as Ruthin. Using the modern bridge standards it is likely that the foundations of the new bridge may well extend down and get pretty close to the top of the aquifer.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water have a freshwater abstraction site directly next to where the old Llannerch Bridge was sited. Clearly this is a concern for them and us, as the water is used to serve thousands of households across north Wales.

Much of the discussion which has taken place over the last 12 months has been on ensuring that any potential works to replace the bridge meet both modern safety standards, and do not pose any risk to the local freshwater drinking supply. Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water have been doing their best to work with us on this and we now have agreement to work in the vicinity to do investigation work. Hopefully the results of this will reassure all parties that the future construction will be possible.

This work will include Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys, which use electromagnetic waves to image different layers/depths of the ground, as well as more traditional ground-penetration surveys which will involve using poles to take core samples or make measurements. We also hope to agree that trial holes will also be feasible for further investigation, so that as much information can be obtained as possible.

What's happening next?

Applying for construction consent

Provided that the groundwork surveys do not cause any additional unforeseen issues, it is the Council's intention to then follow the process of getting consent to build the new bridge

Applying for funding to replace the bridge

Assuming that consent for a replacement bridge can be sought and granted, the Council will then be in a position to explore and apply for funding options for capital works in order to complete the replacement bridge. Again, given the current financial climate, this is by no means a certainty but we will be working closely with all concerned to put forward a robust business case.

Could this newsletter have been an email?

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