

Happy New Year and welcome to the first Rewley Road Swing Bridge update of 2021!

The site itself may be quiet at the moment due to wet weather, but there is still plenty of restoration work going on behind the scenes – and we look forward to activity at Rewley Road ramping up again in early February.

Before signing off for Christmas, the project team removed defective metalwork and installed timber hoarding around the site. We are now thinking about how best to use this space to tell the story of the Swing Bridge and its restoration.

While offsite, monitoring flood alerts and the water table, the team are reviewing their plans to jack the bridge up by one metre. This will enable work on the mechanisms beneath. Samples have also been taken to Lisa Oestreicher at [Historic Paint](#) for a colour match.

Perhaps one of the most exciting developments has been the discovery of two of the missing windlass handles, which were reputedly thrown into the Sheepwash Channel after their last use!

They were found through magnet fishing by Tom Davies, an archaeology student at Southampton University, under the guidance of OPT Trustee Tom Hassall. The discovery will allow the remaining two handles to be faithfully reproduced.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank [Historic England](#), [Railway Heritage Trust](#), [Network Rail](#) and our other funders, without whom this restoration would not be possible. If you would like to help support this project, please consider [donating](#) or [joining us](#).

We look forward to updating you again next month,

Best wishes from the OPT team

With thanks to [The Morton Partnership](#), [Avon Construction](#) and [Oxford Archaeology](#).

You can always find out more about the Bridge and Oxford's part in the construction of railways across Britain by visiting the [OPT website](#).