

Work to bring the bridge back together has begun!

With the metalwork repairs completed and new pieces cut, the job of putting the bridge deck back together has started. Like the most complicated of jigsaws, it has required great skill and dedication from our expert team to put together the deck plates, edge beams, and now the new parapet posts and linking mesh. And remember those 5000 rivets that were removed back at the beginning, when the bridge was taken apart? Well, they are now back in place too – essential in holding the whole structure together.



Now that the top of the bridge is complete, the blasters can return to do their final surface clean before the painters come to tidy up the undercoat and start the painting in earnest. Each of the elements has to be painted to create a safe surface to help prevent against future corrosion and, with so many different elements, including all those rivets, it will take four to five weeks to complete this work.

Looking ahead, the longitudinal timbers, reclaimed running rails and newly forged gear head will soon be delivered to site. We also hope that works will start on the north abutment, to complete the work on this side of the stream.

There will be no newsletter in August, as we prepare for **Oxford Open Doors** – when there will be a chance to find out more about our work to the bridge, so do make sure to put Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th September in your diary.

As always, thanks go to [Historic England](#), [Network Rail](#), the [Railway Heritage Trust](#) and our other sponsors for helping to save this rare piece of Oxford's industrial past.

You too can be a part of the Rewley Road Swing Bridge story by [donating](#) or [joining us](#). We would love for you to get involved!

Thanks also go to [The Morton Partnership](#), [Avon Construction](#) and [Oxford Archaeology](#) for their fantastic work.

We look forward to updating you again soon.

Best wishes from the OPT Team.