

# A View from the Bridge

**for the Friends of the Union Chain Bridge**

**Restoration Progress Supplement – No 5 – February 2021**

View the latest drone footage on: <https://vimeo.com/512514370>

**A Talk by Stephen K Jones**

**Tuesday February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm by Zoom**

Berwick Museum and Art Gallery - part of the Union Bridge Project - start their new series of Union Chain Bridge-linked online talks with a virtual visit from Stephen K. Jones (Institution of Civil Engineers) our South Wales-based Trustee. He is an expert on the iron used in the Bridge, and in particular, on the innovative manufacturing Captain Samuel Brown pioneered through his Brown Lenox & Co chainworks.

This event is free, but please register your interest by booking a free online ticket, which will automatically send you a Zoom link. Book here: [www.wegottickets.com/UnionChainBridge](http://www.wegottickets.com/UnionChainBridge)

## **JANUARY to APRIL 2021**

### **Phase 2 - Dismantling**

The following work will be undertaken during the second phase:

English abutment access platform – **first three levels complete, to assist in chain removal**

Removing the 1903 cables and their hangers **completed week-ending 22 Jan**

Removing the entire handrailing and balustrades **75% completed on 19 Feb**

Removing the entire timber bridge deck **75% completed on 19 Feb**

Removing all the hanger rods **75% completed on 19 Feb**

Removing all the suspension chains **Programmed to start on 1 Mar**

All the removed components will be taken to the Honey Farm hub where the items which will be reused will be logged and stored ready for refurbishment.



**27<sup>th</sup> January.** The articulated deck flap, 5ft in length at the English end of the Bridge decking, is removed to the depot. This flap was installed during the major works of 1974 to take up the deflection created when vehicles moved on or off the Bridge, resulting from the suspended platform ending at the riverbank abutment, while the chain cables continued for another 65ft to their point of contact with the abutment pier. In 1975 the road approach was lowered in relation to the hinged joint sections and now provided a level situation before loading. The deck flap will be replaced during reconstruction.

Photo: © Jim Gibson



Above: *left and right* : **27<sup>th</sup> January** Deck timbers being removed to the English side by Woodliner cable crane.

Photos above: © Jim Gibson



**29<sup>th</sup> Jan.** *Left:* Deck removal, with hangers and railings being dismantled using underslung platform and deck-level personnel cradles; and, *right, 7<sup>th</sup> Feb;* decking, hanger and railing removal almost 50% complete; the River Tweed is in spate



Photos above, below and right: Friends



**12<sup>th</sup> Feb:** The snow was late in arriving at the Union Bridge but the need to clear the decking of snow accumulations delayed progress slightly at the beginning of the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> February. But by Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, the half-way stage was reached. It is expected that the removal of the remaining decking, hangers and railings will be completed by early March leaving only the chains in place, to be removed during March.

**The Project Team**

The Spencer Group Northumberland County Council Scottish Borders Council Museums Northumberland  
The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge The National Lottery Heritage Fund

**Supported by**

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The Friends of the Union Chain Bridge- registered as a Charity 1162867 (England) SC046208 (Scotland) – A Charitable Incorporated Organisation under the Charities Act 2011 – Chain Bridge House, Horncliffe, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2XT – 01289 382541