



Forth Bridge Management Programme Update – 9th July 2026

Wind Fence Works (continue Saturday nights only)

Span 14

- All works completed.

Span 11

- All preparation to steel and timber capping completed.
- All steel repairs to wind fence posts completed.
- Coatings completed to East side and ongoing on the West side with 7 panels left to complete. This will be concluded in 4 nightshifts, weather permitting.
- Planned completion by end of July 2026.

Span 15

- Preparation ongoing on the East side with 3 panels left to complete. This will be concluded in 2 nightshifts, weather permitting.
- 4 steel repairs to the East side wind posts to be completed, which should take the one shift to complete.
- Coatings will follow above noted works to the East.
- Preparation to West side will follow on from completion to West side with preparations West and coatings to the East ongoing at the same time.
- Steel repairs to the West wind fence posts will be completed as the preparation exposes them further and we anticipate 10 steel repairs that will take three shifts to complete. Coating to West will follow on.
- Planned completion for all works end November 2026.

Mitigation

- Acoustic barriers being positioned on external face of wind fence before works commenced.
- Exclusion controller on the ground during works and noise readings being taken before and during works.
- End of shift ground check being undertaken.



Water Management

- Application of coating option pending outcome of slip resistance testing. Both products to be applied to determine final selection. Progress slower than expected. Initial information on both products not sufficient to allow selection without insitu testing.

Programme

- The programme for the water management project will need to be adjusted if it proceeds following review and discussion with the community.

Bridge Inspections

- The last Detailed (tactile / abseil) Examination was in December 2020. The next will be in May 2029.
- The piers are examined by Visual Examination every year with the latest exam being 08/12.2025.
- There were no significant defects identified during the last examination and no recommendations for work raised.
- Balfour Beatty continues to inspect around the publicly accessible areas on a daily basis, including looking for any evidence of debris from the bridge.
- Nothing has been brought to NR Structures attention to my knowledge.
- We also continue a daily inspection from the internal walkway across the North Approach Viaduct which includes checking the pierheads for any debris – nothing other than bird guano has been identified.
- NR Structures receive and review each of these reports.

Fallen item incident 18 January 2026

- No update on investigation.
- We will report the outcome of the investigation when complete.

Reporting Incidents

- Should anyone have concerns around debris from the bridge whilst flagging to Dave Boyce it is important that it is reported to the Network Rail helpline - so it is recorded and can be acted on timeously – inspection from bridge team.

Picnic Area Maintenance



- In discussions with Maintenance team to see if they will include in their programme of works.

Notice Board

- Request into see if bridge team can open and replace lock and provide a number of keys.

Complaints

- One recent (Saturday night - 4 July) through EHO. Not related to bridge works but appears to be as emergency rail repair at the north portal, located at the start of the north approach span 11. The works involved rail maintenance activities and the use of associated plant and equipment during the shift, which would have generated additional noise in the area.

Barnardo's Your View

Dates: Friday 18th until Sunday 20th September 2026

Venue: Network Rail Forth Bridge site in North Queensferry

Event:

- Your View is a charity fundraiser on behalf of Barnardo's, inviting participants to go to the top of the Forth Rail Bridge in an external hoist to the viewing platform, 361ft high on the north cantilever.
- 14 participants travel in the hoist along with Balfour Beatty hoist operator and an additional qualified Guide and photographer.
- Trips run every 30 minutes starting at 6.30am finishing at 6.30pm (with set breaks).
- There are 28 participants on site every hour (this avoids having very busy times or congestion throughout the weekend).
- Clear briefing instructions are provided to participants prior to the event and all participants are asked to be mindful and respectful of residents living in North Queensferry in particular to parking.
- We will have Network Rail & Balfour Beatty staff at the site entrance to assist the public coming on site.
- **It would be very helpful if the Battery Road car park could be opened earlier (7 am) to accommodate those people coming to the early morning sessions and ease any congestion. *If so, how do we go about doing that?***
- Letters will be hand delivered to residents living close to the bridge on Battery Road, one week prior to the event to remind them of the event.
- Approx. 25 staff and volunteers are on-site throughout the event to assist participants.
- North Queensferry Heritage Trust are invited to provide a stand on-site at the event (and invited to go to the top of the bridge during our volunteer day on Thursday 17th September).



- To date the event has raised in excess of £449K for Barnardo's Scotland, providing support and assistance to young people and families across Scotland.
- The event is run in conjunction with Network Rail and Balfour Beatty.