



# WHORLTON BRIDGE - REFURBISHMENT WORKS

APRIL 2024

Since our last update at the end of February, the VolkerLaser team has been making progress where possible on works to the Whorlton Suspension Bridge.

Whilst progress has slowed due to the presence of bats in the Toll House requiring sign off in the form of Bat Mitigation Licence, the team has been progressing with the erection of the scaffolding, and began with masonry removal this week.

Access scaffolding has been erected to the north and south approach of the bridge, allowing us to carefully dismantle the existing masonry tower tops. Each capping stone and block has been carefully removed, inspected and catalogued for later reinstatement. This has allowed us access to inspect the ironwork saddles supporting the suspension chains, in advance of the bridge dismantling. The next stage will see both scaffolds removed to allow for construction of the bridge catenary system.



During the course of the project, the whole suspension and deck structure will be removed, refurbished and re-erected.

Each element will be removed from site, and refurbished in our secure workshop. Racking and shelving is currently being installed, which will allow for the safe storage of each element.





On Monday 15 April, representatives from VolkerLaser and Durham County Council met up at Whorlton Village Hall to donate a brand new projector.

Senior project manager for VolkerLaser, Chris McHutchison was joined by Anthea Smith, Highways Services Manager for the council, to present the projector to the Whorlton community association. Last year, VolkerLaser hired the Whorlton Village Hall to host a community event ahead of the works to the Whorlton Suspension Bridge, and discovered the hall did not have its own projector.

The projector, together with a new screen purchased by the association, will now make possible various presentations, film projections, courses, meetings and more, to the benefit and entertainment of the wider village community.



Our project team has also reached out to a local primary school, and will be working with students and staff on a community project at the side of the workshop. This will include making and filling some planters, as well as some art displays and murals.

Watch this space...



To keep up to date with the project progress, please visit: [Whorlton Bridge](#)  
For any enquiries, please email: [enquiries@volkerlaser.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@volkerlaser.co.uk)