

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

**THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (COTON BRIDGE, COTON ROAD,
PARISH OF NETHER WHITACRE) (PROHIBITION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES
OF OVER 18 TONNES) ORDER 2020**

Background

Coton Bridge, on Coton Road between Marston and Whitacre Heath, is a post-tensioned structure which puts it at greater risk of sudden failure than other bridge types and because of this, it is subject to an enhanced regime of routine inspections. During the last inspection, concerning defects were found with the tendons within the bridge's concrete beams. Most notable of these defects was several the tendons were found to have become loose instead of being under tension as intended in its original design. As a result, a structural assessment has been carried out by the consultants on WCC's Professional Services Framework and this concluded that the bridge is no longer able to safely carry unrestricted vehicle loads.

An earlier assessment found that the bridge's edges are understrength which led to the installation of the traffic signals and vehicle barriers that are currently in place to protect the weak footways from accidental loading. This latest assessment has found that the bridge's main beams, beneath the carriageway, are also under strength and a permanent 18 tonne weight restriction is required to minimise the risk of structural damage or failure.

Coton Road is already within the area covered by an environmental weight limit of 7.5T under the provisions of The Warwickshire County Council (Various Roads, Lea Marston, Nether Whitacre and Shustoke) (Prohibition of Commercial Vehicles of over 7.5 Tonnes) Order 1987. This allows specific exemptions, including for loading/unloading access to properties within the restricted area; as a structural weight limit for reasons of road safety, the proposed 18 Tonne restriction would NOT be subject to access exemptions.

Statement of Reasons

18 Tonne Weight Restriction

To avoid danger to persons or other traffic using Coton Bridge or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, an 18 Tonne structural weight limit is proposed for Coton Bridge.

Schedule

18 Tonne Weight Restriction

Coton Bridge over the River Tame, Coton Road, between Marston and Whitacre Heath.

Alternative route for vehicles over 18 Tonnes

A4097 Kingsbury Road – A446 Lichfield Road – B4114 Birmingham Road / Blythe Road – Station Road – Coton Road (see plan ref. TR/11220)

Existing orders to be varied

None

Priority

High