

## **Thetford Foot Bridge Pre Tender Information**

**Client** Thetford Town Council

**Address**

Thetford Town Council office,

The Carnegie, Cage Lane,

Thetford

IP24 2DS

24.02.2026

**Project** Nuns Bridge Thetford IP24 2PZ

Thetford Town Council are intending to install a new footbridge over a small tributary leading to the River Thet. The location plan is attached with the documents. The current bridge is a small historic stone constructed bridge that takes traffic in and out of the town, traffic volume has increased over the last few years due to increased development within the town. From a safety prospectus another access needs to be created for pedestrians. Thetford Town Council are looking for a suitably experienced contractor to take on the role of design and installation of a new footbridge delivered under CDM regulations. The contractor will have the relevant experience of this process from design to installation in past projects and will give two examples of previous projects.

This tender pack has several pre-prepared documents that must be read as part of your application.

It should be noted all suitably qualified companies must have had a site visit to be familiar with the site.

**The following has been listed and must form part of your application to enable the contract to meet standard requirements within your own design.**

- Bridge to have Gabion basket put underneath at the edge of the water course to look if the bridge is sitting on gabion baskets.
- Concrete foundation into the bank to act as bridge support.
- Bridge to sit slightly lower than the nuns bridge to suit Breckland historic planning officer's needs, and to not impede the flow.
- (Steel frame and composite decking on top and handrails)

## **Key Requirements of the Project**

- The project will operate under CDM Regulations.
- TTC to arrange the footpath closure commencing Monday 29th May 2026.
- Contractor insurance requirements:
  - Public Liability – £5 million
  - Employers' Liability – £5 million
  - Professional Indemnity – £5 million
- The bridge must carry a minimum 5-year guarantee.
- Tender will be for contractors to design and built a foot bridge.

## **Information to be returned with Tender**

- Company Information (Details of company information)
- Insurance
- Bill of Quantities
- Bridge design
- Method Statement of Approach and installation.
- Availability for delivery.
- Two examples of similar schemes delivered as part of the tender application.
- Two references to support your tender application.

## **Key Requirements & Actions Identified from the Environment Report**

### **1. Flood Risk and Development Safety**

- The footbridge is a lightweight, open structure with slender supports, allowing unimpeded floodwater flow.
- Structural design includes reinforced concrete footings with steel supports, ensuring resilience during extreme events.
- Residual flood risk will be actively managed through routine inspections, debris clearance, and provision of warning signage, consistent with best practice guidance.
- The footbridge is crucial for public safety, as pedestrians currently share a narrow vehicle access bridge with fast-moving traffic. Traffic volumes have increased due to recent housing developments, heightening the risk. The proposed footbridge provides a safe, segregated route for pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable users, substantially reducing the risk of serious injury or fatality.
- Raising the deck significantly would require long, steep ramps, reducing accessibility for wheelchair users, cyclists, and pushchairs. The current deck height has been agreed with the Conservation Officer to minimise visual impact within the conservation area and preserve the nearby heritage assets.

## **2. Floodplain Storage and Flood Risk Elsewhere**

- The bridge's minimal footprint ensures any loss of floodplain storage is negligible.
- Analysis of the local floodplain and historical records from nearby bridges shows no evidence of increased flood risk.
- River water levels feeding the chalk stream channel beneath the footbridge are actively managed by the nearby fish pass, and the Environment Agency via the nearby Coffee Mill sluice on the River Thet, providing additional control during extreme events and further protecting downstream communities.
- Existing floodplain capacity is sufficient to accommodate extreme events without impacting neighbouring areas.

## **3. Sequential Approach**

- The bridge is located at the narrowest and highest practicable crossing, minimising exposure to flood risk.
- Alternative locations are constrained by land ownership, connectivity, and heritage considerations. The current site represents the lowest overall flood risk solution.

## **4. Conclusion**

The proposed footbridge:

- Is designed to remain safe throughout its lifetime, with operational measures in place to manage residual risk.
- Will not increase flood risk elsewhere.
- Provides a critical improvement to public safety while achieving an appropriate balance between flood risk, accessibility, and heritage considerations.
- Complies with NPPF and PPG guidance.

## **Site Visits**

- To obtain a site visit you must arrange this through
- Site visits are a must and are to be carried out in person by the contractor. These are to be arranged Nick Thompson at Thetford Town Council.
- Contact details are [NickThompson@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:NickThompson@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk) mobile 07760629223.
- Site visits to be completed by the 28/03/26.

