

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Further Deaths at North Bridge Halifax

This response is being sent to:

Mr M.D. Fleming Senior Coroner, West Yorkshire (Western District), City Courts, The Tyrls, Bradford, BD1 1LA.

In response to a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Further Deaths following an inquest hearing into the death of George Terence at North Bridge Halifax that concluded on 29th May 2018.

1. Calderdale Council

I am Mr Richard Mills Highway Asset Manager, Calderdale Council, Ainley's Depot, Huddersfield Road, Elland, HX5 9JR.

2. Coroners Matter of Concern

The Matters of Concern were identified as;

- 2.1 To urgently review and consider the appropriateness of protective safety measures on the bridge in order to prevent further like fatalities.
- 2.2 To urgently consider the implementation of immediate measures.

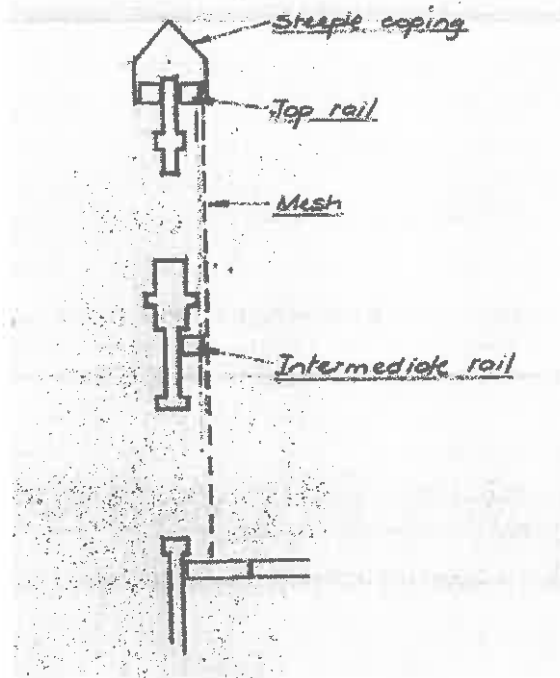
3. Action Taken

- 3.1 **To urgently review and consider the appropriateness of protective safety measures on the bridge in order to prevent further like fatalities**
- 3.2 Calderdale Council began a feasibility study to identify options to prevent further suicides at North Bridge in February 2018 and was completed in July 2018. This identified 2 possible options:
 - a) **The installation of 3.35m high parapets as installed at Valley Road, Scarborough with curvature and end profiles to deter climbing.**



Unfortunately, the existing parapets are cast iron and there are no as built drawings which show the connection and details. Recent trial holes have failed to provide further information and therefore we cannot determine the overall strength at any one point. There is a risk of failure under loading which has meant this option has been disregarded.

- b) **The installation of anti-climb mesh affixed to horizontal rails to cover the cut outs in the parapet and a steep coping to cover the castellated top of the existing parapet providing a 1.45m unclimbable parapet (which would comply with current Design Manual for Roads and Bridges standards). A similar methodology was implemented on Hebble Viaduct which carries the A58 over North Bridge as a suicide prevention measure in 2010.**



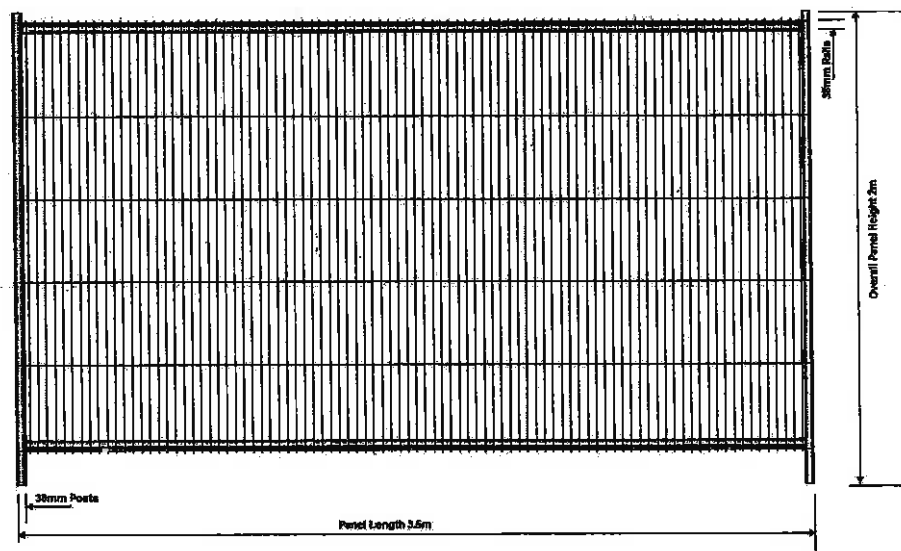
Anti-Climb Mesh and Steeple Coping

A report was submitted to Calderdale Council's Cabinet on 30th July 2018 outlining these options and the following resolutions were passed:

- That an application for listed building consent and an application for planning permission for the preferred option described at paragraph 5.3 (anti climb mesh and steeple coping) is submitted to the Local Planning Authority;
- That finance required, currently estimated at £200,000, be made available from budgets as appropriate.

3.4 To urgently consider the implementation of immediate measures

3.5 It may be possible to use Heras fencing fixed directly to the existing parapet as a temporary measure this fencing is 2.0m high and has anti climb mesh. Further advice will now be obtained from the Planning Department to confirm the regulatory regime.



Typical Heras Fencing Panel

4. Timetable for Implementation

Action	Timescale	Comments
Feasibility Study	Feb 18 to July 18	Complete
Review of CCTV coverage	Feb 18 – July 18	Completed
Approval By Cabinet	30-7-18	Complete
Finalise Drawings	Aug 2018	Ongoing
Temporary Fencing	Sept 2018	Ongoing
Feasibility study for installation of additional CCTV.	Aug 2018 – Sept 2018	Ongoing
Listed Building Consent	Oct 18 – Dec 18	
Contract Preparation	Oct 18 – Nov 18	
Tender Period	Jan 18 to Feb 18	
Site Works	Mar19 to May 19	
Works Complete	31-May-19	

5 Details of Further Action to be Taken

5.1 Provision of CCTV.

5.2 Identifying potential suicides from pedestrians via CCTV is difficult due to the fact that the bridge has pedestrian footways along both sides. A review of the feasibility and effectiveness of the CCTV cameras covering the bridge has been undertaken and has identified a blind spot on the bridge which would require an additional camera to be installed. Further work is ongoing to check feasibility of installing additional CCTV.

6 Calderdale Suicide Prevention Group

6.1 A Calderdale wide multi-agency group was established in 2016 following the completion of a Calderdale suicide audit. A target of reducing suicides to zero in Calderdale has been set; more challenging than the national ambition to reduce suicides by 10% by 2020.

6.2 The Government's Strategy, Preventing Suicide in England 2012 - A cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives identifies 6 key areas of action which will reduce suicides. They are:

- reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
- tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
- reduce access to the means of suicide
- provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
- support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
- support research, data collection and monitoring

6.3 Calderdale's prevention strategy and action plan is based on these key areas of action. The plan is led by public health and partners regularly undertake reviews and provide updates to the plan. There is widespread agreement to implement our suicide prevention plan and deliver prevention initiatives both across the Council and with other partners, e.g. their plan to undertake a follow-up suicide audit in January 2019.

6.4 The proposed works at North Bridge have been discussed and agreed with our Public Health colleagues who lead the Suicide Prevention Group.

7 Copies

7.1 I respectfully ask that a copy of my response be forwarded to the Interested Persons to the inquest and your regulation 28 report dated 29th May 2018 and the Calderdale Suicide Prevention Group.

Dated: 9th August 2018



Signed:

██████████ Highway Asset Manager

Calderdale Council