



HISTORIC SPAN: Repairs to Banff Bridge will see heavy rocks placed round the structure's supporting piers

Work to bolster old bridge welcomed

SCHEME COSTING £260,000 WILL STRENGTHEN PIERS AND SAFEGUARD ITS FUTURE

A £260,000 SCHEME to repair an 18th-century north-east bridge has been welcomed as an indication of the structure's importance.

Contractors have started a six-week schedule of work at Banff Bridge which was put under strain last year by spates on the River Deveron.

The job will involve repairs to the bridge piers and the reinstatement of the riverbed

around pier bases with rocks.

Temporary repairs were carried out last winter, but the current scheme which began this week will be followed by more repairs in summer.

Banff councillor John Cox yesterday welcomed the protection work as vital to safeguard the bridge's future.

He said: "It highlights how important the bridge is to

traffic and I hope the work is successful and will not inconvenience the public."

Aberdeenshire Council's north roads boss Philip McKay said a spate on the Deveron last November had a significant effect on the bridge piers.

He said: "The result was the removal of a large proportion of rock material at the base of the piers.

"Emergency repairs were carried out in December to reinstate some protection, but these were only temporary measures."

The contract for the current work has been won by Miller Plant Ltd, of Midmar.

The seven-span bridge, designed by engineer John Smeaton, dates from 1780 and is an A-listed heritage structure.

