

Queensferry Harbour

Progress Update 1

17/03/2021



Introduction

Queensferry Harbour is owned by the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC). It is a Category B listed structure with Common Good status. This current structure dates to the early 1800's. The Harbour is used by Queensferry Boat Club and is accessible by foot to members of the public. The overall harbour structure consists of two separate structures: the east pier and the north and west piers.

In 2019, following previous concerns about the structure's condition, engineering consultants Fairhurst carried out an inspection of the piers on behalf of CEC. During this visual inspection several defects were found affecting both. Typical defects included, but were not limited to voids, loose stones, open joints and subsidence. The most urgent repairs were found to be needed at the ends of the north and east piers. While the most severe defects were found on the north and east piers, several defects were found in other areas within the harbour structures, including the steps.



Figure 1 The defects identified in 2019.



Figure 2 End of East Pier



Figure 3 North pier surface

Figures 2 and 3 show the areas of the east and west piers that are of most concern. These will require the most immediate attention.

Project

Limited funding has now been made available from the Council's Common Good fund to undertake urgent repairs to the structure, to address the priority damaged areas before the use of the harbour is affected. The project will be progressed by CEC Structures and Flood Prevention team, drawing on the knowledge and experience of both teams. The design of the repairs will be carried out by CEC, with the construction phase of the project being completed by an external contractor. The project will focus on the most significant damage to the ends of both piers as there is insufficient budget to refurbish the entire harbour. The method for these repairs will be determined after further site investigation work is carried out.

Next Steps

The next step in the project is to carry out more extensive investigation work on the piers to build on the knowledge we have from previous investigations and fully inform the repair strategy.

Later this month we will remove built-up seaweed from the piers in order to obtain better access to the damaged areas. At the end of the month we will carry out visual inspections during the spring tide period. This will allow us to more accurately diagnose the structural problems and allow us to find the best solution to them. We will work closely with contractors who are experienced in marine structure repairs during the investigation period. We cannot specify at this stage when the main works are going to start until we complete investigations and decide on the best solutions.

Following these initial investigations, we will begin to engage with Queensferry residents, pier users and other stakeholders to ensure the works are prioritised and programmed to align with everyone's needs, bearing in mind the limited budget available for repairs. We will ensure that the works align as best as possible with any other construction in the area. We will make a contact with the relevant groups during April.

We will continue to provide regular updates on progress throughout the project and engage with all stakeholders.

We look forward to working with you as the project progresses.