



Doran
CONSULTING
DELIVERING ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Electronic Copy

REPORT ON INSPECTION

OF

FOOTBRIDGE ON ROUTE

OF

CAVEHILL PATHWAY

IN

VICINITY OF BELFAST ZOO,

HAZELWOOD

JULY 2014

REPORT ON INSPECTION

OF

FOOTBRIDGE ON ROUTE

OF

CAVEHILL PATHWAY

IN

VICINITY OF BELFAST ZOO,

HAZELWOOD

JULY 2014

141065	RBL	DPW	DPW	FINAL	Ian Bowden, BCC	1 x electronic	22/08/14
141065	RBL	DPW	DPW	FINAL	Ian Bowden, BCC	3 x hard copies	23/07/14
Job No	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by	Status	Issued to	No of copies	Date

REPORT ON INSPECTION OF FOOTBRIDGE ON ROUTE OF CAVEHILL PATHWAY IN VICINITY OF BELFAST ZOO, HAZELWOOD

Following a request from Mr I Bowden of Belfast City Council our Mr B Lavery carried out a visual inspection of the existing footbridge on the Cavehill pathway in the vicinity of Belfast Zoo at Hazelwood. Our findings and recommendations are noted below.

The existing footbridge is a two span structure over a small ravine on the Cavehill pathway and situated in the vicinity of Belfast Zoo.

The bridge consists of timber beams spanning between concrete abutments and a pier situated off centre to create an unequal two span structure. Timber planks spanning across the beams form the surface of the bridge deck.

A visual inspection indicated that the bridge surface is in poor condition with parts of the surface already rotted away. See Photo No 1

The deck support beams are in poor condition with significant sag. There are vertical cracks in the beams which would indicate that they are close to failure. These beams would also appear to be rotting in places. See photos 2, 3 and 4.

The bridge handrails would not comply with current standards

Overall we would advise that the bridge is unsafe for use and recommend that it is removed from the site. Removal will avoid unauthorised use and the attendant risks associated with such use. At present the ends of the bridge are blocked with low level barriers which we would consider as inadequate to prevent unauthorised usage. See Photos 5 and 6.

Following removal of the bridge the remaining ends of the path should be securely fenced and advance notification signs should be erected on the path to warn users that the path is no longer usable over its full length.

Ultimately the bridge could be replaced if there is a requirement to maintain the pathway along its overall length.

David P Walker
Director

Doran Consulting

Our ref: rbl/141065/rt



Figure 1 Rotting Deck Timber



Figure 2 Bridge Beams

Inspection of footbridge on route of
Cavehill Pathway in Vicinity of Belfast Zoo, Hazelwood



Figure 3 Bridge Beams



Figure 4 View of underside of bridge



Figure 5 Overview of Bridge



Figure 6 overview of Bridge

Inspection of footbridge on route of
Cavehill Pathway in Vicinity of Belfast Zoo, Hazelwood