

Collapse of retaining wall on main road into Arkengarthdale at Foregill bridge 2 January 2024

The retaining wall that holds up the main Arkengarthdale Road collapsed on the Reeth side of Foregill Bridge (near Arkle Town) on New Year's Eve.



The surveyors are looking at the bridge today (Tuesday 2 January 2024) and will be back again tomorrow to decide if it is safe enough to keep the road open until the better weather comes in the summer. There will be a decision made tomorrow that will go one of two ways:

1. If the road is safe enough it will be temporarily stabilised until the summer and there will be a **single** lane with traffic lights until the summer. The road may be closed for a few days from tomorrow in order to stabilise it. In the summer, the road will then be fully closed for 3-4 months in order to rebuild the walls on both sides of the road. The bridge itself is sound, but the walls retaining the road on the Reeth side need serious attention. The side that hasn't collapsed (the west side) is bowing inwards and so it makes sense to do this whilst the road is closed.
2. If the road is subsiding and too dangerous to use, it will be closed with immediate effect and the rebuilding work will start now. This will be prioritised over the bridge wall at Whaw, which is due to be fixed in January but will have to be delayed, if work starts on Foregill Bridge.

When the road is fully closed for 3-4 months, we will be re-directed by Bouldershaw Lane over to Low Row, through the watersplash. This is another reason why it would be better if the work were done in the summer, but the decision is dependent on the stability of the road.

Highways are going to let us know what is happening when they have made a decision. The damage is in Reeth Parish, but Arkengarthdale Parish Council is liaising with Reeth, Fremington and Healaugh Parish Council because of the huge impact this road closure will have on the residents of Arkengarthdale.