

BC. 07.
Report No. 284.
General report.

Following a request by management to inspect the structures main cable band bolt nuts after contractors carrying out calibration of the main cable de-humidification sensors reported finding a defective nut on the north east side span. The opportunity was taken was take to inspect the structures main cable from the south side tower to the north side tower both east & west sides between the above dates., general findings were as follows. :

Cable bands. : Cable bands were found to be in a satisfactory condition with no defects apparent. Paintwork on suspender rope bitumastic protective covering on cable bands beginning to show signs of breakdown throughout structure. Main cable dehumidification cable wrapping at connection to cable bands have air pockets evident.

Cable band bolts. : All cable band bolts remain in a satisfactory condition. Defective nut found on bolt “B” at PP. 32 north east side span Evidence of the cadmium plating breaking down, on nuts & bolt protective end caps. Areas of pitting & corrosion evident .

Handstrands/Stanchions. All remain in a satisfactory condition.

Handstrand cable casting clamp/post connections. : Remain as inspection carried out in 2007. Following request from Advitam, temporary hardwood wedges were installed at various locations throughout the structure to reduce the noises levels being transmitted to the acoustic monitoring sensors. This method of noise reduction was only supposed to be a **temporary measure** and that consultants (Fairhurst) would be carrying out an investigation & installing a programme of works with regards to possible replacement of all the phosphor bronze sleeve & washers throughout the structure. All temporary hardwood wedges now showing signs of element weathering / shrinkage /wear-down & all cable tie fixings beginning to become brittle & breakdown.

Sleeves. : All sleeves refurbished during cable de-humidification contract programme of works.

Backstays. : Backstays not included this inspection .

All information recorded & entered on structure report programme.

Bridge Inspectors. :