



Following the public announcement regarding the temporary closure of Walmsley Bridge between 12:00 and 18:00 on matchdays at The Brick Community Stadium, including the New Year's Day fixture between Wigan Athletic and Barnsley FC, I request the following recorded information held by Wigan Council:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. All risk assessments, safety assessments, structural reports, or engineering reports relating to Walmsley Bridge that informed or contributed to the decision to close the bridge on matchdays. | The Council holds information relating to the request, in the form of third-party Structural Engineering Reports commissioned by the Council. The information is withheld pursuant to the exception at Regulation 12(5)(a) (Public Safety) of the Environmental Impact Regulations (the Regulation). Pursuant to the Regulation a local authority may refuse disclosure if releasing the reports would adversely affect public safety. Under the EIR, this exception is qualified, meaning it is subject to a public interest test. The public interest in protecting public safety outweighs the public interest in full disclosure. |
| 2. Any correspondence (including emails, letters, or meeting minutes) between Wigan Council and: - Wigan Athletic Football Club - Stadium management of The Brick Community Stadium relating to the closure of Walmsley Bridge. | Please see attached emails. |
| 3. Details of the specific public safety concerns cited as justification for the closure. | See response to Q1 above |
| 4. Any temporary traffic regulation orders, public safety notices, or legal instruments authorising or supporting the closure. | N/A |
| 5. Any documents outlining proposed long-term solutions, remediation plans, or timelines discussed in relation to Walmsley Bridge access. | See response to Q1 above |
| 6. The date on which the decision to implement the matchday closure was made and the officer or department responsible for that decision. | 23 rd December 2025 |

From:
Sent: 30 December 2025 19:30
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: Bridge

No worries, and thanks 😊

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 7:25 pm
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: Bridge

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The structural survey part was removed.

Sorry, copied this from previous email.

On 30 Dec 2025, at 7:22 pm

Hi,

Has this gone out yet because I asked that we remove reference to the structural survey and add the word precautionary to the bold part where we say it's an interim measure etc etc?

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 7:13 pm

To:

Cc:

Subject: Re: Bridge

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WALMSLEY BRIDGE CLOSURE

- **Walmsley Bridge to be closed on matchdays for a period of time.**
- **Wigan Sports Group and Wigan Council working to find a solution as quickly as possible.**
- **Supporters are urged to plan alternative routes during this period of closure.**

Important update on access to The Brick Community Stadium via Walmsley Bridge.

Please be aware that following a recent structural survey, Walmsley Bridge which connects Springfield to the stadium across the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, will be closed for the Wigan Athletic v Barnsley game on 1 January 2026 between 12.00pm and 6.00pm.

This is an important interim measure and is in the interests of public safety.

Stadium management and Wigan Council will be working together to find a long-term solution, but the closure will likely remain in place for a number of upcoming matches.

Wigan Athletic and The Brick Community Stadium fully appreciate that this will be an inconvenience to our supporters who use this route for their journey to and from the stadium on matchdays. It is important that supporters respect the closure and we thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding.

Please make alternative arrangements so you can get to the match in plenty of time. Access to the stadium will be possible via Stadium Way and also from the Western routes around Robin Park and Loire Drive. The map below shows the area map illustrating the alternative routes.

On 30 Dec 2025, at 7:11 pm

Hi guys

Encase doesn't pick this up can one of you please forward the bridge statement to

Regards

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 6:32:52 PM
To:
Subject: Bridge

Hi

Can you send the press release ref the bridge ASAP

Regards

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

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This footnote also confirms that this email has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

From:
Sent: 29 December 2025 14:08
To:
Subject: Re: WAFC v BWFc 2nd Silver

Hi,

Can you confirm that the proposed statement we sent through can be released please, as we said we ideally wanted to get it out today?

Thanks

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From:
Sent: Monday, December 29, 2025 12:43 pm
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: WAFC v BWFc 2nd Silver

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Morning

Have any Comms been sent out as yet regarding the closure ?

I'm just conscious that we are 72hrs from kick-off and it may be prudent to give enough notice so that Barnsley fans have sufficient warning to make alternative arrangements in getting to the ground – especially those arriving at the stadium from the town centre.

There will undoubtedly be a kick-back from the Brickmakers Arms and PH's around the Springfield area so it may be better sooner rather than later.

not for further dissemination until officially announced.

Any club correspondence will need Barnsley copying in so that it appears on their social media platforms.

Regards

From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 11:43

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: WAFC v BWFc 2nd Silver

Caution: This email came from outside GMP. Do not open attachments, click on links or scan QR codes in this email unless you recognise the sender's e-mail address and know the content is safe.

Morning all,

and I have just returned from a site meeting at the bridge with (Assistant Director-Infrastructure and Regulatory Services).

During the meeting we discussed exactly where to close off the bridge and how to achieve it.

The plan is for council operatives, on the Miry Lane side to attach fencing right and left of the entrance to the alley way prior to getting to the bridge, they will also attach fencing to the steps on the stadium side of the bridge, with regards to the stadium side the fencing will wrap around the steps to prevent anyone scaling the railings.

Signs will be placed by the council on the fencing advising of the closure, further signage will be placed on the north and south Douglas Bridges along with areas on Miry Lane.

The club usually have car park stewards in proximity to the bridge, they will also be briefed to advise fans / redirect fans with regards to the closure, to be clear they won't intervene if the fence is tampered with or if anyone decides to breach the fence.

Obviously, there is quite a bit more to discuss with regards to alternative routes, times we are closing the bridge

No problem facilitating a meeting at the stadium, can you provide date, time, and numbers.

I suggest that and her team are also present.

I agree with, we need to be calling a SAG, I'm not sure who is chairing the SAG in absence, copying in and perhaps they can provide clarity on this, I'm happy to take a call if you are not up to speed with this situation

Regards

From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 17:25

To:

Subject: Walmsley Bridge

Hi All,

Hopefully we have things covered for the NY Day match, but I haven't yet had confirmation from GMP re the manning of the Miry Lane entrance.

Whilst we will have Highways staff in the vicinity of this entrance, they will not be able to deal with any individuals that may look to remove the fencing etc, but will look to reinstate the fencing if it doesn't present any risks to them. [REDACTED] has also sorted some temp signage which we will place in key locations to try and forewarn people that the bridge is closed, and they will all be removed when we remove the fencing .

Whilst I am not in the office until the 2nd Jan, please feel free to call me on my mobile if you need to discuss anything, or there are any issues that arise.

Thanks

Assistant Director-Infrastructure and Regulatory Services

Wigan Council-Resident Services

Wigan Life Centre (South Site), College Avenue, Wigan WN1 1NJ

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From:

Sent: 30 December 2025 15:22

To:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Hi ,

I don't think we should be referring to the "structural survey" and have just made a suggested amend below to take this bit out. The report isn't yet conclusive and I think that it just opens us up to more questions that we can't yet answer with any certainty.

Also, could we add the word precautionary, as we don't want to panic people who are using it once it reopens.

Thanks

Assistant Director-Infrastructure and Regulatory Services

Wigan Council-Resident Services

Wigan Life Centre (South Site), College Avenue, Wigan WN1 1NJ

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From:
Sent: 30 December 2025 15:04
To:
Subject: FW: Walmsley Bridge

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See the below

From:
Sent: 30 December 2025 3:03 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Re: Walmsley Bridge

Hi All,

Please see below the release we intend to publish at 7pm this evening.

Everyone is happy with this from a stadium and WAFC perspective.

Please can you confirm on behalf of Wigan Council?

Thanks

WALMSLEY BRIDGE CLOSURE

- **Walmsley Bridge to be closed on matchdays for a period of time.**

- **Wigan Sports Group and Wigan Council working to find a solution as quickly as possible.**
- **Supporters are urged to plan alternative routes during this period of closure.**

Important update on access to The Brick Community Stadium via Walmsley Bridge.

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This is an important interim and precautionary measure and in the interests of public safety.

Stadium management and Wigan Council will be working together to find a long-term solution, but the closure will likely remain in place for a number of upcoming matches.

Wigan Athletic and The Brick Community Stadium fully appreciate that this will be an inconvenience to our supporters who use this route for their journey to and from the stadium on matchdays. It is important that supporters respect the closure and we thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding.

Please make alternative arrangements so you can get to the match in plenty of time. Access to the stadium will be possible via Stadium Way and also from the Western routes around Robin Park and Loire Drive. The map below shows the area map illustrating the alternative routes.



From:
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2025 11:45 AM
To: Subject: FW: Walmsley Bridge

From:
Sent: 24 December 2025 9:50 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Thanks for sending through, I have spoken to my Ch Supt and we would not want GMP to be in the press release. We understand about the partnership element, but this is about the safety of the bridge which is not a policing point it is a structural concern.

If you need to speak, I am on the below mobile number

Thanks

Specialist Operational Planning unit

Greater Manchester Police

From: Sent: 23 December 2025 16:02

To:

Cc:

Subject: Walmsley Bridge

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Hi All,

Thanks so much for joining the meeting earlier and just waiting for some idea as to how long it will take to install the Heras fencing on the day, so we can agree times etc for the closing and re-opening .

I can get my teams to install but would be good if the Stadium and GMP could agree to protect the fencing from any criminal damage that may then enable access to the bridge (, I think you said you could cover the Stadium end. , could you cover the Miry Lane end?)

I've attached the interim report FYI, which has an Exec Summary on page 4.

Please see draft release below for your consideration-we've kept it very brief, so hopefully it will be ok from GMP's perspective

 *Important update on access to The Brick Community Stadium via Walmsley Bridge*



Please be aware that Walmsley Bridge, which connects Springfield to the stadium across the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, will be closed for the Wigan Athletic v Barnsley game on 1 January 2026 between xxxx and xxxx.

This is an interim measure and is in the interests of public safety.

Stadium management, Wigan Council and Greater Manchester Police will be working together to find a long-term solution.

Please make alternative arrangements so you can get to the match in plenty of time. Access to the stadium will be possible via Stadium Way.

My Ops team are visiting tomorrow to work up the logistics, so will drop you an email update after that.

Thanks

Assistant Director-Infrastructure and Regulatory Services

Wigan Council-Resident Services

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For emergencies only call 999, or 101 if it's a less urgent matter.

You can also connect with us on:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/GtrManchesterPolice
Twitter: www.twitter.com/gmpolice
Instagram: www.instagram.com/gtrmanchesterpolice
Flickr: www.flickr.com/gmpolice1
YouTube: www.youtube.com/gmpolice
Pinterest: www.pinterest.co.uk/gmpolice

To find out what is happening in your area, visit www.gmp.police.uk/a/your-area where you will be able to follow local social media accounts.

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Thank you for your co-operation.

From:
Sent: 30 December 2025 13:52
To:
Cc: Subject: Re: Walmsley Bridge

Hi

Thanks, and yes that's right re GMP. And thanks for letting me know re the call, though it will be out there shortly anyway.

What are they wanting to "tweak"?

Thanks

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From:
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 12:44 pm
To:
Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

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Hi ,

Our press officer is just tweaking the press release, bear with me I will get it to you ASAP. We have taken out the reference to GMP as im pretty sure they don't want to be included ?

On the same note we received a call via our stadium reception yesterday, the caller was making enquires with regards to the bridge, apparently the callers son works for the council and had told them the bridge was to be closed. I don't have any further details; just thought I should make you aware.

Regards

From:

Sent: 29 December 2025 3:37 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Hi All,

Hope you've all had a lovely Christmas 😊 .

Just an update ahead of the match on New Years Day:

- I've spoken to [redacted] today who has confirmed that the club only want to put the message out tomorrow re the bridge closure, and that he will share this with me (and I will then share with our press office- [redacted])
- GMP are unable to police the Miry Lane end of the bridge, and so [redacted] , if our highways team witness any fans trying to remove the fencing, can they contact please.

Thanks

Assistant Director-Infrastructure and Regulatory Services

Wigan Council-Resident Services

Wigan Life Centre (South Site), College Avenue, Wigan WN1 1NJ

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From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 11:59

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

Thanks for sharing and for meeting with us earlier. As agreed:

- We will instal the Heras fencing at 12:00 on 1 Jan, and remove it at 6:00
- you will have a steward at the stadium side of the bridge, and hopefully you can have somebody at the Miry Lane end (can you confirm this asap please)
- Comms to go our next week from the Stadium and the Council-ideally Monday, so , if you could confirm asap that the Board are happy.
- Signage to advise of the footbridge closure at key locations (on the 2 exits from the stadium and under the bridge at Beresford Street). Also, at Robin Retail Park and on Woodhouse Lane. These will also all need removing when we remove the fencing at 6.
- I will put another meeting in ahead of the Bolton fixture on 17th Jan.

Thanks all for the great team effort 😊

Assistant Director-Infrastructure and Regulatory Services

Wigan Council-Resident Services

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From:

Sent: 24 December 2025 11:08

To:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

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Hi ,

As promised, please find as per the below a list of the upcoming matches at the Brick Community Stadium.

Wigan Athletic

Date 2026	Kick off	WAFC v :
1 st Jan	15.00	Barnsley
17 th Jan	12.30	Bolton
31 st Jan	15.00	Lincoln
10 th Feb	19.45	Reading
14 th Feb	15.00	Rotherham
17 th Feb	19.45	Luton
28 th Feb	15.00	Huddersfield

Wigan Warriors

Date 2026	Kick off
1 st Feb	15.00
21 st Feb	20.00
26 th Feb	20.00

From:

Sent: 23 December 2025 5:45 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: Re: Walmsley Bridge

Thanks and I'll sort a time out tomorrow when hopefully we can meet on site to sort the detail.

Thanks

Sent from [Outlook for iOS](#)

From:

Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 4:53:58 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: Walmsley Bridge

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Hi ,

Thank you for today, I am on site tomorrow until 12.30 if your team want to meet at the bridge.

I have shared with the first draft of the press release as per the below with our press office, they will get back shortly.

has my mobile if needed.

Regards

From:

Sent: 23 December 2025 4:02 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: Walmsley Bridge

Hi All,

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Wigan Council-Resident Services

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