

BRIDGE OWNERS FORUM

Summary of BOF 34, held on 24 May 2011

The 34th meeting of the Bridge Owners' Forum (BOF) was held on 24th May 2011 at King's College, Cambridge. Representatives of major bridge owners across the United Kingdom were in attendance and discussed a full agenda of pertinent issues to ensure the safe and effective management of bridges across the countries of the UK.

Key points covered at the meeting are summarised below:

M1 Bridge Fire

The meeting received a detailed presentation from the Highways Agency on the issues arising from the fire under the Dean's Brook Bridge carrying the M1 north of London which resulted in the complete closure of the motorway for a number of days. The presentation not only covered the immediate structural concerns but also the implications for other sites where materials or buildings were stored under bridges. After discussion, it was agreed that the frequency of such incidents should not overly concern bridge owners but that policies should be reviewed and risk assessments undertaken for bridges where there was a potential problem.

Scour

The meeting received a presentation from the Highways Agency on progress that had been made in dealing with scour since the Cumbria floods in November 2009, including the rewriting of the scour Advice Note BA74. Discussions extended into the interest in scour from SCOSS (Standing Committee on Structural Safety) and the use and effectiveness of remote monitoring of high risk bridges.

Canadian Concrete Bridge Research

The meeting received a presentation from Professor Neill Hoult of Queen's University, Ontario on recent developments in Canada on ways of enhancing the life of concrete bridges.

UK Bridge Research

BOF has been facilitating and promoting bridge based research for the last 10 years. A comprehensive update on current research projects was given by BOF members who chaired relevant project steering groups. The meeting also received progress reports from bridge owners who had their own in-house research programmes.

For more details and additional information on the above, either contact the BOF Chairman, Dr Cam Middleton at Cambridge University Engineering Department (*Tel:* + 44-1223-332814 or *Email:* crm11@cam.ac.uk) or visit the BOF website at www.bridgeforum.org.

Richard Fish,

BOF Technical Secretary

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