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Interviews, photos and photo/filming opportunities are available on request. Contact 01522 873384.

White Bridge to reopen in time for the weekend

Visitors to Hartsholme Country Park will be able to enjoy the new White Bridge when it opens in time for the weekend.

Contractors worked through last weekend to complete the work and finishing touches to prepare the bridge have been taking place this week.

One of the last tasks was to coat the deck of the new bridge, which meant finding a 15-hour window of dry weather during one of the wettest winters on record.

Alan Brookfield, Project Manager at the city council, said: *"We're delighted to finally be able to announce the opening of the new White Bridge. The previous bridge was an iconic feature of the park and we know it has been much missed.*

"I hope people can appreciate the ambitious nature of this project to replace a 100-year-old bridge over the lake in the middle of this beautiful country park.

"The rural nature of many of the footpaths presented us with challenges due to access for heavy plant and machinery. Much of the work had to be carried out from a boat, and considering the momentous task involved we are really pleased with the end result.

"It's fantastic to see the bridge back where it belongs and we are looking forward to seeing it being enjoyed by visitors to the park for years to come."

The contractor is expected to hand the bridge back to the council within the next 48 hours, once all works have been finalised and inspected. At this point the bridge will be opened to the public.

The bridge has been built by Lincoln-based firm John Martin Hoyes Ltd. Its design takes in elements of the old bridge following consultation with park users and members of Hartsholme Country Park Advisory Group.

The previous bridge, which was more than 100 years old, was found to be unsafe for public use and was closed in July 2012, with the timber deck and upper steel work being completely removed.

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Photo: The new White Bridge at Hartsholme Country Park.

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