

BRUNEL SWIVEL BRIDGE NEWS

APRIL 2026

LICENSE SIGNED

The Brunel Swivel Bridge Group CIO and Bristol City Council have jointly taken a big step forward by signing a license agreement. This allows the Group to progress fund-raising, carry out structural engineering development work, and continue practical repairs.

Nick Carter from the Corporate Landlord team handed over the first draft license to BSBG Trustees Bob Watkins and Geoff Wallis on 2nd February, see photo left. After negotiating practical details, the Brunel Swivel Bridge Group Trustees approved it on 25th March and the Council countersigned it a few days later.



The process was fairly involved so we thank Councillors, Senior Officers, the Dock Engineer, Operations and Legal teams for making this a priority at a busy time when they are also dealing with the financial year-end.

£7m to be spent preserving historic harbour



New Cut wall near Gaol Ferry Bridge – photo: Martin Booth

A multi-million pound package of essential works has been approved to preserve the historic infrastructure of the Floating Harbour.

- Harbour structural assessment inspection – £1.8m
- Pero's Bridge – £1.35m
- Underfall Yard sluice gates – £1.29m ((Environment Agency grant-in-aid)
- Cascade Steps landing & viewing platform – £900,000
- Underfall Yard culvert repair – £900,000
- Netham Lock – £600,000
- Harbour entrance lock gates – £580,000
- Prince Street Bridge – £225,000

Councillor Andrew Brown, chair of the Harbour Committee who visited the Swivel Bridge on March 5th said: 'Investing millions of pounds into our harbour is an investment in one of Bristol's greatest assets'.

The Brunel Swivel Bridge Group whole-heartedly supports the City Council's efforts to maintain its heritage assets and congratulates senior officers in securing this significant funding. We share your aims, and look forward to working with you to return Brunel's Bridge to public service.

LET'S GET TECHNICAL -- BRUNEL'S PINTLE



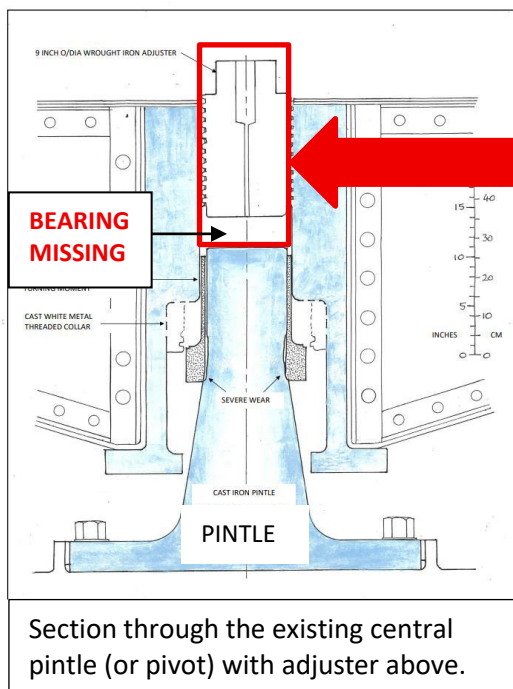
ADJUSTER



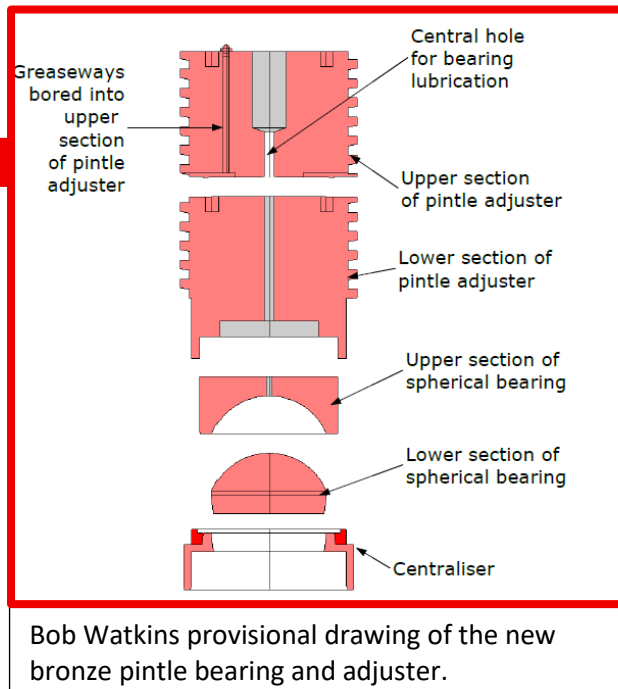
Climb onto the Bridge deck and at the centre of rotation you will see a large square iron block. This is an adjuster that Brunel designed to carry part of the weight of the Bridge, and provide a centre for it to rotate around.

We know what it is like inside from an early drawing, and our volunteers' past inspection work. We discovered that an all-important bearing is missing, probably left out when the Bridge was relocated in 1872 because the adjuster could no longer work, having rusted up.

Engineers' calculations last year showed that this bearing is vital to the effective operation of the Bridge, so this year our aim is to renew it, subject to approvals and funding.



Section through the existing central pintle (or pivot) with adjuster above.



Bob Watkins provisional drawing of the new bronze pintle bearing and adjuster.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TOWARDS THE COST, SO PLEASE DONATE ONLINE TO:

Metrobank Sort: 23-05-80 Account name: Brunel Swivel Bridge Group. No: 56433724

THANK YOU, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT ! Geoff, Secretary.

www.BrunelSwivelBridge.org.uk

www.BrunelsOtherBridge.org.uk

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