



Ref: SEPT/st/200

20 August 2026

The Brunel Swivel Bridge Group,
c/o 14 Broncksea Road,
Bristol,
BS7 0SE

Brunel Swivel Bridge, Bristol

On behalf of the Rochester Bridge Trust I am writing to express support for the project to renovate the Swivel Bridge at the entrance to Bristol City Dock that was designed and built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1849. Its loss through decay and neglect would represent a significant and irreversible loss to England's historic fabric. The Rochester Bridge Trust is a medieval charity that has among its various charitable objectives the advancement education in the history of bridges and bridge engineering, and the preservation of heritage structures. Although Bristol falls outside the Trust's geographical limits for funding, the charity is very supportive of the Brunel Swivel Bridge Group's efforts to preserve this important structure.

From a personal perspective as one of the two elected Bridgemasters of London, Chair of the national Bridge Owners Forum and Chairman of the Institution of Civil Engineers' Archives Panel, I have a particular interest in the history of bridges and preservation of heritage structures. I have been following the project with interest for a number of years and recognise the importance of preserving the oldest rotating bridge in the world and the only moving wrought iron bridge to survive intact. Its Grade II* Listing places it amongst the top 4% of most important heritage structures in England.

The objective of restoring the Bridge and providing a much-needed low-level crossing for active travel connections around the Harbourside and Cumberland Basin area is highly laudable in this area of high public use and regeneration interest. I understand that it is expected to become a draw for visitors and a source of pride for local residents as it will provide a new low-carbon crossing for pedestrians and cyclists around the harbourside.

I strongly support the Brunel Swivel Bridge Group's initiative to restore this important piece of infrastructure to working order, and encourage funders, the public and public bodies to support and facilitate this important project.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Threader".

Sue Threader (Mrs)
Bridge Clerk (Chief Executive)



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