

*North Bridge*  
*puts on a bad act for the 2002*  
*Edinburgh Fringe Festival.*



*A pictorial report by Steve Copeland.*  
Member of Living Streets.      19th August 2002.

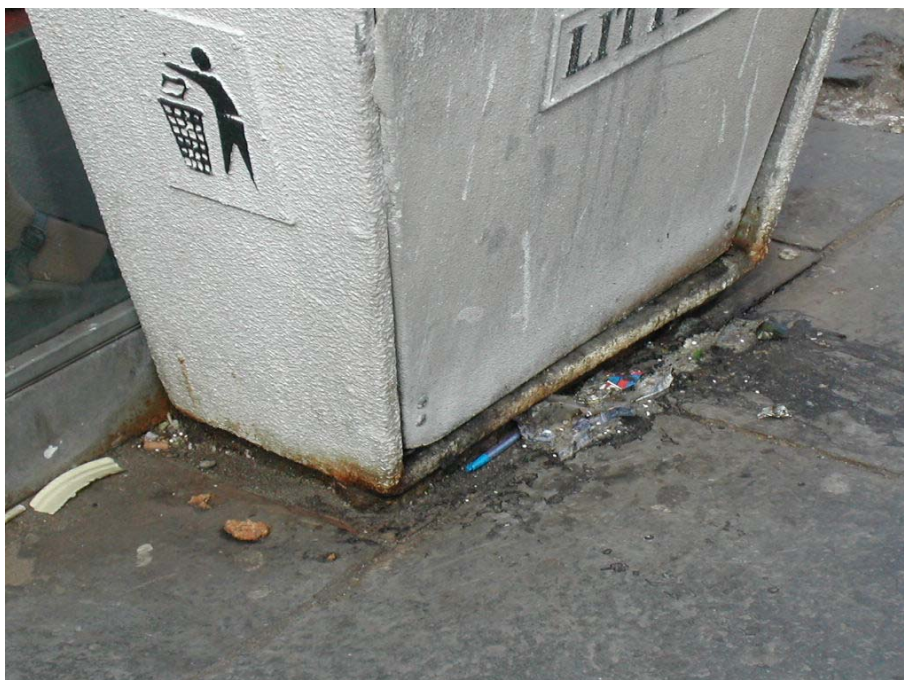
**A walk up North Bridge for visitors and residents is not a pleasant experience, and does nothing for the image of Edinburgh.**

These first five pages show pictures taken within a single five minute walk along North Bridge at 3.15pm 15th August 2002.

The bin seen below is on the lower part of North Bridge right near a bus stop.



These bins are very old, ugly, shabby, rusting and unhygienic. They are difficult to keep clean and as seen here are not always kept clean.







This rubbish is very close by,  
- just behind the bus stop.

Walking up to the shops, this  
rubbish is seen.





At the top of North Bridge, two points of view of the same pile of rubbish.  
Another bin which is filthy.







Further up again is even more rubbish. This was smelling quite bad. The scaffolding which seems to have been there for years is another awful sight and a true obstacle course for pedestrians. More on this later.



A view from the other side.



Two more angles of the same rubbish.

The picture below shows how people have been using this to dump their rubbish too. - Rubbish attracts rubbish.

The council have also failed by not providing enough bins for the amount of people passing through here.





**Other problems of neglect which add to the shabby image of North Bridge.** The following pictures were taken on 19th August.



It appears there are three bodies responsible for the condition of this area:

- 1 The council for not keeping the ground clean and the removal of the posters and stickers etc. Plus bad maintenance of street poles and signing.
- 2 The local shops and businesses for not keeping their door ways clean.
- 3 The Scaffolding company for the shabby image of their poles.

And who will take responsibility for removing the traffic cone and wooden board?





Local business are not taking responsibility for their own doorways.







The council must be responsible for the condition of these signs and poles.



## North Bridge held up by scaffolding.



**Above picture. Taken mid February 2001, yet the scaffolding is still there at the time of producing this report.**

This scaffolding on North Bridge which seems to have been there forever. But worse still never seems to have a purpose. No work ever seems to be done there.

It's an eyesore and a great obstruction to pedestrians as they have to walk through the maze of poles. Never mind an embarrassment with regards wanting to give a good impression to tourists of our beautiful city. Does anyone know why the scaffolding is there, - and when it will come down?

**Picture below. Taken on 19th August 2002, - and still there.**







Looking down North Bridge where thousands of tourists pass every day. Regular visitors would have seen this sight last year and the year before.

Advertising boards can also obstruct pedestrians and really should not be allowed in an area where there are already such obstacles as scaffolding and regular rubbish dumping.



**Scaffolding which is also on North Bridge (near Argos).**

At least work is seen to be done in relation to this scaffolding.

Also note the nearby pole also covered in stickers, string and zip ties,

Near the top of North Bridge, Argos side.



Building material lying around adds to the dirty and unkept state of North Bridge.



Nearby another doorway who no one claims responsibility for.





How can this be allowed to exist in modern Edinburgh.







The height of the tourist season and this and other high profile buildings are covered in scaffolding and sheeting.

This is near Argos.

With reference to the picture below, why is this totally covered in scaffolding and netting when surely they can only work on one bit at a time?







Even Register House at the bottom of North Bridge.

## Conclusion and Recommendations:

- The question is why has this area got to this condition?
- No one appears to be responsible for the cleanliness, health and safety and image of North Bridge. (otherwise these problems would not exist).
- It is evident this results in this area being the worst sight in Edinburgh.
- It is time the council ordered the businesses here on North Bridge, and of course the rest of the city, to keep their own access areas clean.
- The council needs to clean up their own act, - cleaning the pavements and signs and poles. Including replacement of old/ worn signs. Plus the removal of posters and graffiti.
- The ground on the west side of the street is especially filthy. Apparently because the council cannot use machines to clean the ground or even effectively sweep it because the poles have been there so long. This should not be left to accumulate, and some method of cleaning should be applied.
- There needs to be legislation to prevent blanket covering of buildings of scaffolding when it seems apparent only parts of the building can be worked on at a time. ie scaffolding should be erected only where work is being carried out, and also removed as soon as the work is complete.
- Limits need to be set when and for long scaffolding can be erected. The council can apply financial penalties, as with road works if this is exceeded.
- There needs to be tight restrictions on when and where rubbish can be put out on the streets before collection. Maybe rubbish should be collected from the premises and not from high profile and busy pathways.
- A council task force is needed to tackle areas like this, rather than allow such deterioration into a slum image.
- Free standing advertising boards (A Boards etc), can also obstruct pedestrians and really should not be allowed in an area where there are already such obstacles as scaffolding and regular rubbish dumping.

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## **Destinations for the report:**

### **The City of Edinburgh Council.**

Director of City Development Andrew Holmes.

Director of Corporate Services, David Hume City Strategy.

Environmental and Consumer Services Gillian Taylor and William Gibb. (Environmental Wardens).

Cllr. Andrew Burns. Executive Member for Transport.

Cllr. Brian Fallon. Executive Member for Env. Services.

Sarah Boyack MSP. The Scottish Parliament.

Cllr. Lezley Cameron. Executive Member for Economic Devt.

Rt Hon Alastair Darling MP. House of Commons. Palace of Westminster.

Living Streets Headquarters, London. The Cockburn Association.

The Cockburn Association. Martin Hulse. Director.

Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

Chief Executive. Edinburgh International Festival.

Philip Riddle. Chief Executive. Visit Scotland.

Scottish Tourist Board.

Chief Executive. Edinburgh City Centre. Management Company.

Manager of Scotsman Hotel North Bridge.

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*Transform* Scotland. Colin Howden.

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The Bus and Coach Watchdog

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Friends Of The Earth Derwentside (local group in England)

Friends of the Earth Scotland

Gateshead Access Panel

Gateshead Transport Advisory Committee, (as a member of NECTAR)

Living Streets Scotland

NEAT (North East Action on Transport)

Newcastle Healthy Cities Project

North East (of England) Combined Activists Round Table (NECTAR)

Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance

*TRANSform* Scotland

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Further colour copies of this report can be obtained from Living Streets Edinburgh.