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natural stone products



Bann Bridge at Portadown
Case Study 2006

Portadown

Bann Bridge at Portadown

What do you do when you have a fully functioning bridge, that has been a landmark for over one hundred years in Portadown town centre but is now suffering from inadequate load capacity? A structural assessment carried out showed that a part of the bridge that had been extended in 1992 exasperated the problem of capacity, with its findings that extensive corrosion throughout the steel beams in this section were evident.



The solution was to remodel the structure of the bridge, to bring it in to line with modern load capacity, yet retain the austere character of the natural stone and strengthen both the bridge and its beauty. There are many advantages to using a natural stone like granite supplied by Stonepave UK. Not only is it an everlasting piece of beauty, that like a fine wine grows in stature but it is structurally sound and one of the strongest materials in the world. It retains an enigma and colour that man made products find hard to replicate and certainly lasts a lot longer, with very few, if any maintenance issues.



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The resulting brand new bridge retains both the character and beauty of the old bridge. The remodelled structure carries in the region of 21,000 vehicles on a daily basis. This landmark bridge has been widened from 16.1m to 22.2m, which has led to the creation of two lanes of traffic and a cycle track in both directions. The project also resulted in an unexpected bonus; in the excavation of a 1940's air raid shelter close to the Pleasure Gardens area. This was then retained and a time capsule containing information about the structure itself and relating to its discovery, was placed within the air raid shelter for future generations to come.



Farrans Construction Limited completed the project in Spring 2006, with a project value of £3.4 million. The design, procurement and supervision of this complex bridge widening and strengthening contract was carried out by Roads Service Consultancy – Highway Structures Unit, for the Southern Roads Service Client. Stonepave UK, experts in natural stone supply, were chosen to source the stone for the project. This was sourced and imported from China, allowing a close blend and match to the existing stone of 100 years vintage. This has added new visual appearance and cemented its standing as one of Portadown's most treasured landmarks and opened up the River Bann to other bridge users.



