NEW HUNGERFORD FOOTBRIDGE KEEPING PEDESTRIANS SAFE

A new bespoke footbridge over the Kennet and Avon Canal in Hungerford, West Berkshire was completed by CTS Bridges in March 2012. The 37.5m long x 2.5m wide footbridge was designed to follow the curve of the existing Grade II listed road bridge to make it easier for pedestrians, especially those using buggies or wheelchairs, to get across. The new footbridge provides a safe link between the north and south sides of Hungerford and benefits locals, visitors and traders alike.

The bridge was designed in accordance with the wishes of local people to provide a dedicated pedestrian route adjacent to the existing road bridge that complemented the picturesque setting. The new structure could not touch the listed brick arch bridge and instead sits immediately adjacent to it on cantilevering columns. The geometry required beams bent to shape in two directions both on plan and elevation in order to hug the wall of the existing bridge. CTS used 3D modelling software to progress the design into fabrication. When CTS installed the steelwork on site it was a perfect fit. CTS joiners completed the final timber work in-situ to create a seamless transition between new and old structures.

The bridge was installed during a night time road closure but still attracted a crowd on onlookers who burst into spontaneous applause as the crane lifted in the bridge in sections.

The bridge will be officially opened later in the year and linked to the Queen’s diamond Jubilee celebrations.

CTS worked on this scheme with main contractor Alun Griffiths Contractors who were pleased to deliver the bridge on time, on budget and with minimum disruption.

Photograph attached: New footbridge over the Kennet & Avon Canal, Hungerford by CTS Bridges