

TAFF VALE FOOTBRIDGE, PONTYPRIDD



CLIENT

Rhondda Cynon Taff County
Borough Council



START DATE

May 2019



COMPLETION DATE

August 2020



VALUE

£1.4m



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFTADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR



The technical design, cost, stakeholder engagement and construction including ancillary works, services diversions required for the construction of the new pedestrian footbridge over the River Taff between the Taff Vale Redevelopment Site and Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in Pontypridd.

Key elements of the works included:

- Development of Stage 3 design to RIBA Stage 4, 5 and 6 – provision of technical and co-ordination detailing for all elements of the works including full bridge design and connections, reinforcement, piling
- Discharge of all planning conditions and confirmation from the Planners of their discharge
- Construction of temporary earthworks to allow access and working platforms
- Construction of Bridge Abutment and Bridge Base including associated formwork, temp access and protection of bank and waterway.
- Construction of a single mast cable stayed bridge to achieve over 3m wide pedestrian and (future cycleway use) deck in line with specification and maintenance requirements
- Construction of associated groundworks where bridge lands

on Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and connections to landing area at Taff Vale Redevelopment site.

The bridge was prefabricated in sections and constructed sequentially across the river from the mast section; the diagram on the right shows the construction sequence. Initially the first section, comprising the back span and mast was lifted into place, with temporary props and platforms used to support it, and the cables installed. The second section was then placed with the aid of temporary platforms and the cables attached and tensioned. This process was then repeated for the third and final section, whereupon all temporary works were removed.





COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The project is located in the centre of Pontypridd and has required extensive public liaison throughout. Our Public Liaison Officer Cath met with the local Business Improvement District representatives to discuss works and ensure that the works did not cause disruption; she also held regular drop-in sessions where any member of the public could meet her and ask questions about the scheme.

Deliveries to site posed a potential issue for local businesses and residents; we produced a Traffic Management Plan that ensured deliveries were timed to minimise impacts on neighbours. We provided site notice boards and regular newsletters in both English and Welsh.

A key challenge was that the project is located adjacent to Ynysangharad Park, which is home to the historic and very popular Pontypridd Lido, which attracted over 7,500 visitors in the summer months during the project. The pedestrian route to the Lido was adjacent to our site compound and delivery route, so we had to implement additional measures to ensure the safety of park users. As well as timing deliveries to avoid the peak Lido times, we also provided marshals to guide delivery vehicles into site safely.

We participated in several schemes to support the local community. We donated money to provide new commemorative benches in the park and supported the Friends of Ynysangharad War Memorial Park by providing volunteers to construct a new memorial garden to mark 100 years since their foundation. We also held ICE Bridge Building Events in local schools.

Relationships with the local community have been very successful on this project and the team has not received a single complaint while working on the scheme.



We met Targeted Recruitment and Training (TR&T) requirements on the project in line with Rhondda Cynon Taf's requirements. Our PLO Cath was responsible for reporting progress against targets to the client monthly. Benefits we delivered on the scheme included:

- Recruiting an apprentice groundworker through the Y Prentis shared apprenticeship scheme
- Provided two placements (one year in industry, one summer) for engineering students
- Held a Meet the Buyer Event in collaboration with RCTCBC to engage with the local supply chain
- Worked with the University of South Wales to provide a recruitment day for 15 students, where we arranged placement opportunities on our sites. We also attended the University's careers fair