

Project Case Study



River Taff Central Link, Merthyr Tydfil

A new road system has been completed in Merthyr Tydfil and connects Merthyr's Learning Quarter to the Town Centre via a new iconic road bridge.

The new Central Link is a designated one way system limited to a speed of 20mph and provides improved links to the town centre. All existing traffic lights have been removed which ensures a constant flow of traffic around the new 1km road system.

The most visible symbol of the £24 million Town Centre Regeneration Programme is the Central Link Bridge spanning the River Taff. The skewed, bow string arch bridge weighs 136 tonnes and measures 40.9 metres across its base and is 18.5 metres in height. The new bridge stands as a testament to the steel engineering and manufacturing heritage of South Wales and is the country's first skewed arch bridge.

Works also included the provision of priority lanes for bikes and buses, the refurbishment of two car parks and the creation of a public realm area and feature entrance to The College. This space included the laying of 10,000m² of granite and concrete paving, installation of new LED lighting and trees.

The project was also one of the first to measure the economic benefit of the construction works through the use of the Welsh Government's Economic Foot Printing Tool. Through the use of directly employed local labour, the creation of nine new fulltime employment opportunities, utilisation of a local supply chain and the implementation of a Community Benefits Plan, we were able to demonstrate £1.95 reinvested in the Welsh economy for each £1 of construction spend.

Project Details:

Client

Merthyr Tydfil County
Borough Council

Location

Merthyr Tydfil

Completion Date

December 2014

Value

£7m

Contract

NEC3 Option C

Key Project Aspects

- Highway Construction
- Public Realm Works
- Bridge Construction
- Car Park Refurbishment
- Significant Traffic Management
- Community Benefits Plan