



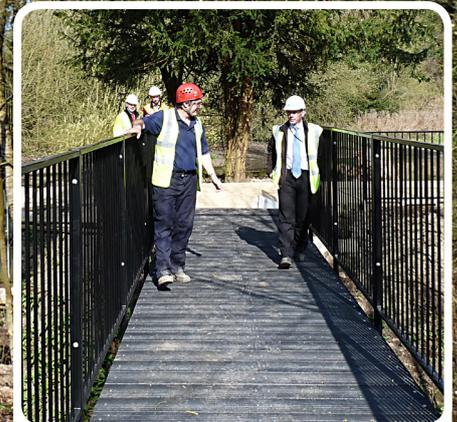
ECS Engineering Services has delivered a turnkey project for a footbridge that will provide much improved access to an outdoor activity centre. Using in-house design and fabrication expertise, ECS constructed the new bridge off-site and completed the installation in just a few hours, minimising any disruption at the activity centre.

The project was instigated by a local council proposal to improve both the access and the boating facilities at the activity centre. The proposal included the construction of a new jetty and slipway as well as a pedestrian / disabled access bridge and paths that would link the car park with the main building.

New footbridge improves activity centre access



Case Study 038 New footbridge improves activity centre access



An anti-slip surface ensures the bridge can be used throughout the year.

As an experienced engineering services provider, ECS was approached to design, fabricate and install the footbridge, which would be located on the site of a former wooden bridge that had all but disappeared. The design, although simple in engineering terms, used handrailing that matched the footpath guard rails and deckboards manufactured from recycled plastic.

The original suggestion from the council was to use wooden deckboards but the designers at ECS proposed an alternative manufactured from KLP recycled plastic. This innovative material does not absorb moisture, offering exceptional durability as well as improved anti-slip properties in damp, shady conditions such as those in this application.

The design of the bridge had to account for the day-to-day use of the structure as well as

the requirements for lifting it into position. Strengthened lifting points that provide a balanced lift were essential to ensure the installation process was completed safely.

With the design finalised, the ECS site engineers constructed the concrete foundations that would support the footbridge. These reinforced structures were designed to allow the completed bridge to be lowered into position and fixed in place efficiently, minimising the time required on site.

The bridge deck measured 12m long and 1.8m wide, with the handrailing 1.4m in height to match the adjoining footpath railings. The entire structure, including the deckboards was assembled and painted prior to transportation to site, where it was craned into position. The installation process took only a few hours and the finished bridge was in full use the same day.

Steve Crapper, Business Development Manager at ECS, comments: "This is a great example of a turnkey bridge solution that blends in with the surroundings and delivers the required durability to ensure a long service life. Experienced designers and project planners have ensured that our time on site is kept to a minimum and the activity centre can continue to operate throughout our build and installation process.

"The new footbridge provides access for both pedestrian and disabled visitors to the activity centre and is surrounded by trees which can cause slippery conditions under foot. The use of machined KLP recycled plastic deckboards will certainly improve the durability and safety of the crossing."



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