



# Commercial Street Active Travel Footbridge

## Case Study



### Background

To reduce congestion along the A4059 and improve pedestrian links between Aberdare Town Centre and the surrounding amenities, a new pedestrian route and Active Travel Bridge was proposed. The structure crosses the Afon Cynon between the Michael Sobell Sports Centre and the A4059.

The primary reason for this new crossing was to alleviate congestion on the A4059, specifically that resulting from the at-grade toucan crossing which provides access to the sports centre and school from the town centre. The crossing was relocated to increase the available queuing capacity for vehicles on the carriageway, thus mitigating the congestion at the roundabout.

The works involved construction of a new active travel compliant footbridge, controlled pedestrian crossing (Toucan), and footways.

### Delivery

Works consisted of;

- Design, check and fabrication of footbridge superstructure, bearings and expansion joints
- Construction of new reinforced concrete bank-seat and abutment on piled foundations
- Localised adjustment to gabion baskets/river training walls
- Construction of adjoining footway/pedestrian routes between town centre and proposed toucan crossing
- Construction of adjoining footway/pedestrian route between Sobell Centre access and existing NCN route.
- Widening of NCN route

- Installation of proposed Steel Warren Truss superstructure and 1.4m high parapets
- Installation of new pedestrian approach parapets and guardrails
- Installation of toucan crossing, including associated apparatus, connections, road marking etc.
- Decommissioning existing toucan crossing and removing apparatus



### Outcome

Due to the requirement of maintaining DDA compliant access for the residents of Aberdare, the existing Toucan crossing could



not be closed and de-commissioned until the new pedestrian access across the new footbridge was open. This required careful logistical planning to ensure the seamless transition from the existing footway to the new one. Works could then be completed, de-commissioning the old footway.



Programme success was also achieved through close collaboration between Centregreat Limited who carried out the Civils Works and Centregreat Engineering who carried out the fabrication and installation of the bridge. Having this in-house capability and established lines of internal communications ensures works are effectively coordinated from the outset, eliminating clashes and supporting our right-first-time delivery philosophy. Value is added through avoidance of re-work and removal of additional cost uplift associated with engaging external organisations to deliver critical works packages.

With the proximity of the local stakeholders playing a crucial role in the successful delivery of this scheme, letters were delivered to local residents and stakeholders periodically throughout the scheme to keep everyone informed of the works progress.



The water environment was successfully managed through working closely with the designers to change the permanent design of the east abutment to reduce the impact on the River Cynon. The original design showed the abutment below river level, which would have required extensive temporary works and pumping of water from the excavation during construction. This would have required Siltbusers or similar to clean the water prior to discharge back into the river. A straightforward proposal from Centregreat of lifting the height of the abutments removed all of these risks, minimising impact on the river and mitigating the impact of disturbance of the river ecosystem.

A health and safety focus on working around services was addressed through delivery of a Toolbox Talk carried out by Centregreat HV Manager (Glyn Boxer) at the beginning of the scheme. This achieved heightened awareness for all operatives, making them aware of the correct procedures to work around buried services, avoiding strikes.



**Client:** Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC

**Value:** Circa £950k

**Delivery Period:** Jul 2021 – Mar 2022 (incl. additional awarded street lighting works)