

The Peace Bridge, Derry/Londonderry

GRAHAM brings peace of mind to symbolic project

£11.5m

/ Project value

March 2009

/ The build commenced

June 2011

/ The build was completed

The multi-award winning Peace Bridge, with its 120 design lifespan, stands as a lasting symbol of integration and community engagement. The innovatively designed bridge connects the Ebrington regeneration zone with the heart of the city. Separate foot and cycle paths have been incorporated into the state-of-the-art infrastructure, which spans the fast-flowing River Foyle using a reverse curved, nautically inspired design. The Peace Bridge is already established as an iconic addition to the already rich built heritage of Derry-Londonderry.

The Brief

A structurally stunning self-anchored bridge was needed to complement the spectacular landscape in which it would be set. Our multi-disciplinary expertise would be required as the aesthetic needed to balance harmoniously with the bridge's functionality – to create accessibility and connect two parts of the city.



“The Peace Bridge has become a much-loved, much-used route for the people of Derry-Londonderry, reaching out symbolically and physically to connect communities across the city. Its impact is immense, not least economically. The growing number of visitors to the city has made the bridge a must-see destination and it was in the top four tourist attractions in Northern Ireland last year”

Aideen McGinley
Chief Executive of client Ilex

The Challenges

Due to the striking but complex ‘S’ shape of the bridge deck each section was constructed and connected to the next in sequence at the factory in Newport, Wales. The bridge then had to be transported to Derry-Londonderry as one complete structure to be fitted into location. The ground required piling of up to 20m to reach bedrock. There were additional constraints in the form of headroom for road, rail and marine traffic. The logistics of the bridge needed carefully considered to be able to accommodate large crowd movements and heavy weight.

GRAHAM’s added value solution

This is the first bridge of its type to be built in the UK. The state-of-the-art design saw the bridge built in a single operation, rather than over a number of stages. The innovative technique for constructing the entire bridge off-site was a complex one that required our superior level of knowledge to ensure the project remained on time and on budget. Over one million pedestrians and cyclists used the bridge in its first 14 months, which geographically, and metaphorically, links communities on both sides of the River Foyle while widening access to the Ebrington development site. Garnering widespread industry recognition, the bridge’s construction was also notable for our commitment to minimising the environmental impact and improvement of ecological conditions around the site. For example, in 2010 piling in the river was suspended to respect the salmon season (early April to end of July) while specially designed LEDs help to reduce light pollution, improve visibility and reduce energy consumption.

Outputs & Benefits

- / **Award Winning:** Wide-ranging recognition through commendation and awards for Partnering, Considerate Constructors, Structural Steel Design Awards, Civic Trust Awards, Irish Planning Institute, RICS Overall Winner Regeneration Award
- / **Problem Identification:** We identified major problems with the ground conditions underpinning the bridge and changed the engineering solution accordingly
- / **Waste To Landfill:** Our environmental programme was assessed as CEEQUAL Excellent, with 88% of waste diverted from landfill
- / **Generating Employment:** 12 people were employed by GRAHAM after the project was complete
- / **Respecting Nature:** In 2010 piling in the river was suspended to respect the salmon season (early April to end of July)



For more information on how we’re delivering lasting impact:

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