

Clifton Bridge – Ongoing Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EKSPAN partnered with SKANSKA to prepare essential bearing replacement works on Clifton Bridge, a vital structure located in Penrith.

This project forms part of an ongoing program to maintain and enhance the long-term performance of key infrastructure assets.

Our scope included the design, supply, installation, and all associated temporary works required for the safe and precise. Delivery of the new 4200t structure Ekspan temporary works are set awaiting the installation of the new steel structure which is due to be slid in place this coming weekend. Along with the temporary works the bearings have been placed such that once the structure is in position they can be engaged and cast in.

PROJECT SCOPE

- **Design**, manufacture, and installation of new bridge bearings
- **Design** and installation of temporary works to support the new structure
- **Implementation** of systems to facilitate safe bearing installation following bridge positioning
- **Temporary works** installed to receive the new structure prior to bearing installation
- **Bearing installation** to be completed once the new Network Rail structure is landed



PROJECT CHALLENGES

The project presents significant logistical and engineering challenges. The original bridge, over 60 years old, had reached the end of its operational life and required full replacement to improve reliability and capacity, moving from a single-track limitation to supporting a more efficient rail service.

In addition to the bridge replacement, approximately 80km of overhead lines were scheduled for renewal, adding complexity to the programme. Careful planning is critical, as the 4,200-tonne structure needed to be driven into position and landed on EKSPAN's temporary works within a single weekend. This operation has to be completed in time for the M6 motorway to reopen to traffic by 5:00 a.m. on 12th January 2026, leaving no margin for delay.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Successful collaboration with SKANSKA and Network Rail to deliver critical EN1337 complaint bearings to the new Clifton Bridge, a key Network Rail infrastructure asset in Penrith.
- Bespoke temporary works and precision jacking systems implemented to ensure safe and controlled bearing installation during the bridge replacement.
- Rapid mobilisation and meticulous planning for the structure to be driven into position and landed within a single weekend, preparing to meet the strict deadline for reopening the M6 motorway by 5:00 a.m. on 12th January 2026.
- Contribution to a wider infrastructure upgrade, including renewal of approximately 80km of overhead lines, improving rail reliability and regional connectivity.

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PROJECT IMPACT

Clifton Bridge is a critical component of the regional rail network and motorway infrastructure. Working in partnership with Network Rail and SKANSKA, EKSPAN has:

- Preparing for the safe and precise installation of a 4,200-tonne bridge structure within a tightly controlled weekend programme
- Designed, manufactured, and installed new bearings to secure the long-term performance of the replacement structure
- Delivered temporary works to support the bridge during installation and ensure operational safety
- Supported the transition from a life-expired, single-track bridge to a modern structure that improves rail reliability and capacity
- Contributed to a wider infrastructure upgrade, including the renewal of approximately 80km of overhead lines, enhancing connectivity across the network



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