

Newport Bridge Bearing Replacement, Stockton-on-Tees

EKSPAN was appointed by Balfour Beatty to deliver the design, manufacture, and installation of new rocker bearings at the historic Newport Bridge in Stockton-on-Tees. Originally opened in 1934, Newport Bridge is widely regarded as the world's first vertical lift bridge. Although decommissioned as a lift structure in 1990, the bridge remains a critical crossing and landmark. To safeguard its future, EKSPAN replaced the life-expired rocker bearings, ensuring the bridge remains structurally sound and capable of serving the community for decades to come.



WHAT WE DELIVERED

Our scope of works included:

- Design, manufacture, and installation of permanent bearings
- Temporary works design and installation
- Removal of existing bearings and replacement over two consecutive summer periods to minimise disruption

PROJECT CHALLENGES

The project required meticulous planning and sequencing. The bearing replacement had to be delivered within tight summer windows to avoid disrupting traffic and local stakeholders. The heritage and complexity of the structure demanded a high-precision approach, with robust temporary works supporting the bridge during the installation phases.

THE PLAN IN ACTION

- The project was successfully completed over two summers, balancing programme demands with community needs.
- EKSPAN's engineering extended the life of a globally significant structure that continues to define the Stockton on Tees ton skyline.
- Collaboration with Balfour Beatty and project stakeholders ensured delivery on time and with zero compromise to safety or quality.

PROJECT IMPACT

The Newport Bridge is more than infrastructure – it's part of Teesside's heritage. By delivering new rocker bearings and structural works, EKSPAN has:

Extended the lifespan of the bridge for future generations, ensured continued safe use for road traffic, and preserved a unique example of early 20th-century engineering innovation.

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