

Three Arches Footbridge

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EKSPAN successfully collaborated with Story Contracting to deliver a major milestone with the installation of a new 140 tonne asymmetrical steel arch bridge at Three Arches in rural Leicestershire, on behalf of Network Rail and alongside SPL Powerlines.

Installed during a planned weekend railway closure, the new bridge spans the Midland Main Line and forms a key part of ongoing upgrade works to support electrification of the route from Kettering to Wigston.

The previous bridge at the location had been removed in 2024 after it was identified as incompatible with future electrification requirements.

EKSPAN were responsible for delivering ECI and bearing installations, to improve the access for land owners and the wider community.



PROJECT IMPACT

The Arches Footbridge is vital in providing a secure connection between the land on either side of the railway, and improving the access for land owners and the wider community.

We're proud to have contributed to such an important structure, which will serve as a permanent landmark for future generations to use. However, it couldn't have been achieved without the careful precision, efficiency and commitment our EKSPAN team demonstrated throughout the entire project.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

From start to finish, everything was executed according to plan, with no delays or defects. Our team successfully delivered quality management of temporary and permanent works, and accomplished all the work on budget, on programme and with no defects in sight.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

One of the biggest challenges the project faced was its strict timescale, due to the bridges critical positioning across the Midland Main Line.

Yet we overcame this challenge through our close collaboration with the client and the main contractor. Our efficient and direct communication with others was responsible for the timely installation of the new bridge.

Head Office, UK & Export Sales

EKSPAN Limited Unit 3, Arundel Business Park, Clay Wheels Lane, Sheffield, S6 1LZ, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 114 2611126 Fax: +44 (0) 114 2611165

Email: enquiry@ekspan.co.uk Website: www.ekspan.com



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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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