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BREATHING LIFE INTO AN URBAN CONNECTION BY REUSING FOUNDATIONS AND DERELICT LAND IN KINGSTON, LONDON

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The Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK) is improving its cycling connectivity and one critical connection is between the train station and the town center. The existing link was uninviting, constrained and almost unusable by cyclists. BuroHappold was commissioned by RBK to redesign the link and along with Sarah Wigglesworth Architects they developed the design of a new green route including the replacement of the existing footbridge.

The existing concrete footbridge did not provide adequate width to allow for easy access for both pedestrians and cyclists. Furthermore, the approaches to and from the footbridge were uninviting. BuroHappold designed an efficient steel truss replacement bridge which reused the existing foundations. In addition, the adjacent derelict land, owned by Network Rail, was unlocked to widen and improve the approaches.

The new bridge, in conjunction with the new landscaped approaches provided an inviting and appealing pedestrian and cycle route from the station. The success of this project was achieved by identifying the reuse of the foundations and the adjacent land, as a sustainable and cost-effective solution. The design team worked hard to deliver this solution, and through extensive consultation with a number of stakeholders managed to bring the design to fruition. This solution is a good example of sustainable reuse of infrastructure that unlocks new connections and dramatically improves the user experience.

The full paper will also discuss the architectural design, Network Rail approvals, construction methodology and durability.



Fig. 1. Existing footbridge (left) and replacement cycle bridge (right)