

INNOVATION IN DESIGN

Shortlisted: Network Rail

A beautiful, modular, lower costing fully composite railway footbridge.

The Flow bridge is an innovative structure in so many ways, providing an update to the dated steel standard footbridge design using modern composite materials. Led by Network Rail with expert support from Knights Architects and Jacobs, the project shows how UK based specialist companies, collaborating through the difficult times of lockdown, created this unique bridge in less than a year. Network Rail are the designers and contractors, owning the risks allowing the specialist companies to do what they do best.

KS Composites and Sui Generis manufactured the different components that came together perfectly the first time the structure was built. Neither have bridge or railway experience, yet working with the design team, were able to devise a beautiful, modular, lower costing solution that incorporates so many firsts of a kind.

This is the first fully composite railway footbridge - it doesn't use any concrete - employing hand-driven foundations from JT Consulting, it has integrated monitoring designed by Epsilon Optics and incorporates a pioneering form of construction. All this was achieved at an incredible pace, concept to build took only 11 months yet happened during lockdown by a team that had never worked together.

The trialling of new management and collaboration methods, developed by FoFlo, showed what is possible when you remove restrictions, build strong relationships and have clear objectives.

Website: www.networkrail.co.uk



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