



## Ashton Avenue Swing Bridge

VolkerLaser have delivered essential refurbishment works at Bristol's Grade II-listed Ashton Avenue Swing Bridge, which showed clear signs of structural instability. The bridge forms part of a local access cycle route over the river Avon.

VolkerLaser repaired ironwork and removed concrete slabs to expose the bridge's corroded structural beams. A new steel deck was installed to accommodate a new guided busway, offering greater structural stability, and all graffiti and vegetation was removed to upgrade the bridge's aesthetic qualities. Due to the high lead content of blasting and painting works, the bridge was fully encapsulated in an innovative scaffolding solution to provide a safe area of work.

The renovated bridge features a new single guided Metrobus bus lane as well as a wider, smoother and safer 3.5m pedestrian and cycle track.

Environmental considerations had to be planned for given the high tides of the fast-flowing Avon, which has the second fastest current in the world.

VolkerLaser ensured channels of communication with the local community were maintained throughout the contract. Monthly posters were created detailing the progress of the works on site, as well as the temporary diversion route which was set up in order for cyclists and pedestrians to cross the River Avon safely. During April half-term, the community centre adjacent to the site was utilised to showcase an exhibition featuring information panels providing a history of the bridge and the works undertaken. As part of the exhibition, a free children's activity afternoon was also held, where VolkerLaser hosted fun games and competitions for the local community.

Despite bad weather causing initial delays to the scheme, thanks to a combination of expertise and forward-thinking contract management, VolkerLaser were able to deliver the works to programme and within budget.

