

Carcaddon Bridge, Trelissick Garden, near Truro



Carcaddon Bridge links two areas of the National Trust's Trelissick Garden which are separated by a road leading down to the King Harry Ferry. The 30 year old footbridge, with a height clearance of 12' 3" (3.73m) above the road, needed to be replaced.

A scheme was developed with Tom Beer who specialises in green oak structures. The structural design of the bridge by James Lockyer Associates needed to show that the bridge could withstand vehicle impact due to the low headroom.

There are very few privately owned footbridges spanning across roads in the UK that do not meet the minimum height requirements of 16'6" (5.03m). There are even fewer of these low headroom bridges that are constructed from hardwood timber. It is unusual to design a timber footbridge for vehicle impact loading.

The structure was fabricated by Tom in his workshop, then transported to Trelissick as individual pieces before being assembled at ground level into three sections. The contractor Evolution arranged the demolition of the old bridge and constructed new concrete foundations. The three sections were lifted into position using a crane with an overnight road closure for minimum disruption.

The previous bridge had been in place for 30 years and was well known for the entwined wisteria covering it. The new green oak bridge blends into the woodland setting on both sides of the road and is an attractive structure to both walk across and drive underneath. The elegant curve of the hardwood structure is visually appealing from both above and below to provide a bespoke bridge engineered for the requirements of this rural location. The curve is also functional to prevent water ponding and allows easy wheelchair use.



A successful fundraising campaign was launched 'Bridging the Gap' to raise money through public donations which was successful. During the construction works, explanatory notices were displayed for visitors to the garden and a viewing area was set up so anyone interested in watching the works could do so safely. National Trust posted regular updates on their website and social media.

All of the project team are local to Cornwall.