

## Metrobus, Bathurst Basin Bridge

Bathurst Basin Bridge is a key component within the West of England's £230 million MetroBus project. Not only does the new bridge remove a key pinch point on the new bus route it also encapsulates all the wider community aspirations of the MetroBus project such as, faster and better bus services, highway improvement, cycling and pedestrian route enhancement, safety improvements, and local amenity enhancement. The concept of the design was to greatly improve the highway arrangement by the construction of a second parallel bridge at the site thus enabling uni-direction traffic flow, but with vastly improved pedestrian and cyclist provision giving better connectivity to the city's networks. The 4m wide footway/cycleway also provides a continuous riverside walkway up to 1km in length, a significant amenity enhancement. In addition, flood protection has been enhanced with the raising of the Avon New Cut river wall using recycled pennant stone.

The bridge was purposely designed as simple unobtrusive structure so as to minimize impact on the surrounding historic dockside area and adjacent Avon New Cut river.

The bridge crosses the Grade II listed former lock, and also sits within the wider City Docks Conservation Area. The bridge has a slender deck with open parapets on each side which gives the structure a lightweight appearance, whilst the imaginative foundation design avoids any loading being transferred to the listed lock walls. This modest design is deliberately sympathetic to its surroundings, and does not affect any of the key panoramas, particularly southwards to the river and beyond. Heritage features have also been incorporated, such as the use of local pennant stone and refurbished handrailing.

The achievement of this scheme is that its merits go largely unnoticed, which was precisely the design intent.