

Press Information

METALOCK EXPERTISE HELPS REFURBISH GRADE II LISTED OLD WEST BRIDGE IN LEICESTER

Metallock Engineering has been using its cast iron metal stitching expertise to repair and refurbish parapet panels, copings and cornices on the Old West Bridge that carries three lanes of traffic out of the centre of Leicester. The Grade II listed wrought and cast iron bridge is one half of a dual carriageway, another bridge having been constructed alongside some 25 years ago.

The Old West Bridge, on the A47, was surveyed four years ago and found to be in need of extensive repair and refurbishment. Vibration from levels of traffic that it was never designed to carry had caused damage to the wrought iron support beams and the cast iron decorative arches, parapets and copings. In some places sections of cast iron were missing.

Dew Construction was contracted by Leicester City Council to undertake the repairs and refurbishment of the main structural elements. Dew brought in Metallock Engineering, with whom they had worked on two other bridges in Leicester, to carry out the cast iron repairs, a task in which Metallock has specialist expertise.

The Metallock process is accepted as a method of repairing cracked and broken castings across a wide range of industries. One of the main advantages of the process is that it is heat free and can be carried out in-situ or one of the company's workshops. Apertures are jig drilled across the crack to accept multi-dumbbell shaped keys manufactured from a ductile high tensile nickel alloy. The keys are peened into the apertures to become integral with the parent metal. Holes are then drilled and tapped along the line of the fracture and filled with studs, each one positioned to overlap its neighbour. This combination of keys and studs produces a rigid and pressure tight repair and final peening and hand dressing completes the operation. Once the repair has been dressed, a primer applied and finish painted it is practically undetectable.

Where pieces of cast iron section were missing from decorative plaques and panels on the bridge, Metallock machined replacements from cast iron blanks and stitched them into place to restore the original design.



Metallock used its cast iron stitching expertise to repair and refurbish parapet panels, copings and cornices on Leicester's Old West Bridge which carries three lanes of traffic out of the city centre.

Metallock Engineering UK

Unit H 5
Pilgrims Walk
Prologis Park
Coventry
CV6 4QG
England
Phone: +44 (0) 24 7636 0084
Fax: +44 (0) 24 7636 0190
E-mail: sales@metallock.co.uk
www.metallock.co.uk

