

# Riversdale Swing Bridge

**Client:** Cheshire West and Chester Council

**Location:** Northwich, Cheshire

**Value:** £1.1m

**Duration:** 7 Months



## In Brief...

Barhale were awarded this £1.1 million contract to replace a pedestrian footbridge. The project saw the replacement of a dilapidated non-functioning timber swing bridge across the River Weaver with a 28 tonne steel bridge, incorporating a rotating 32.5 metre section. The bridge is restricted to pedestrian and cycle traffic only and was manufactured by BCS, Barhale's in house fabrication workshop in Walsall.

## Customer Benefits...

- Barhale provided an innovative logistical solution to the client due to the restricted access on site through the use of pontoons. All necessary plant, equipment, materials and bridge equipment was moved by a tug before arriving on site and being lifted into position
- Barhale worked collaboratively with the British Waterway's Board (now Canal and Rivers Trust) by sharing a co-located office. This proved to be useful when co-ordinating river movements across the River Weaver
- Barhale consulted with the local school, ensuring works wouldn't disrupt school exams and as a gesture of goodwill, refurbished the school wharf as thanks for their co-operation throughout the project
- An otter holt was built in the river bank and bat boxes installed in nearby trees to protect local wildlife
- Barhale assisted BBC's Springwatch team, by providing a cherry picker for their cameraman to film a group of sparrowhawks that had nested adjacent to the site
- The site was recognised by the Considerate Constructors scheme as an "exceptionally good site" and was awarded the Silver Considerate Constructor's Award

## Technical Features...

The manufacture of the bridge superstructure by BCS, Barhale's in-house fabrication workshop in Walsall, included the 32.5 metre rotating bridge and a fixed jetty for the last 12m of the span. This fixed section of bridge sits on top of piles and reinforced concrete beams.

Due to the extremely restricted access to the site the only means of bringing in plant, equipment, materials and the bridge components was down the river on pontoons. The bridge sections were delivered to the wharf at Hartford Bridge (1.5 miles upstream of the site), lifted by crane onto the pontoon and moved down river by a tug before arriving at the site and being lifted into position.

Additional works carried out by Barhale included fencing, the construction of 100m of footpath leading to the bridge and soft landscaping works.