

Diglis Bridge, Worcester



A strategic new bridge encourages walking and cycling around the city

A new bridge for walkers and cyclists has helped open up the riverside in Worcester whilst providing a true option for sustainable travel as an alternative to the car. The city's new landmark stands just south of Diglis Island, linking with both local routes and the long distance Severn Way trail. New footways and improved towpaths connect to the bridge and direct and convenient access has seen more than 1,500 crossings made each day since the bridge opened in July 2010.

The impressive structure is a painted steel single cable stay bridge incorporating an 'A' frame pylon which rises more than 28 metres above the west bank of the Severn with an incline towards the river of 22.5°. The pylon is anchored by four pairs of solid steel cable stays and the deck, which spans 66 metres over the river, has a minimum width of 3.5 metres between the wooden handrails. The bridge weighs approximately 70 tonnes.

The work was supported by Connect 2, a Lottery funded scheme led by Sustrans, which was awarded £50 million to create important new links in the National Cycle Network. In addition to the £850,000 awarded from Sustrans, Worcestershire County Council contributed a further £1.5 million, plus an extra £450,000 to improve connecting routes.

The scheme was also boosted by the resurfacing of the canal towpath which links to the rugby stadium on the outskirts of the city. Other improvements all proved essential in enabling residents to make everyday journeys and many local people now use the towpath on a daily basis to get to work and school and for local recreational activity.

The Leader of Worcester City Council explained: "The opening of the Diglis Bridge marks the completion of a key part of the overall riverside enhancement project being undertaken by the City and County Councils. We recognised some years ago that the riverside was one of Worcester's under-utilised assets and our renaissance plans are now coming to fruition. Not only does this bridge make walking and cycling a realistic option, but it will really open up both sides of the riverbank for tourists and residents alike."

A spokesman from Sustrans said: "This project helps to improve public health, people's quality of life, and the environment. Making walking and cycling easier is a crucial element in encouraging people to living a healthier lifestyle and our waterways have a key role to play."