

TEMPORARY BRIDGE FIRM WINS CONTRACT TO BUILD NEW WORKINGTON CROSSING

By Pam McClounie

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The team that delivered a temporary road bridge for Workington in record time after the November 2009 floods has now been appointed to build a new foot and cycle bridge for the town.

Morgan Sindall, formerly Morgan Est, has been appointed following a tendering exercise by Cumbria County Council to be the contractors to build the new Navvies footbridge in Workington.

The new steel bow-arch bridge will span 68 metres over the River Derwent and carry both pedestrians and cyclists, offering a connection between Northside and Workington town centre.

The former Navvies bridge was damaged beyond repair in last year's floods. The new structure will be more resistant to any future flooding as it will span the river without any supporting piers, which can be damaged by rapids and floating debris during floods.

It will also be more than twice as wide as the old bridge, making it more cycle-friendly and able to form part of the Hadrian's Cycleway network, which runs from Ravensglass to Wallsend.

Building the bridge and making adjoining footpaths cycle-friendly will cost £1.7m.

Cumbria County Council will pay £1,065,000 with £160,000 coming from a grant for land reclamation and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority will contribute £100,000 as part of its support for the flood recovery programme.

A further £375,000 is coming from sustainable transport charity Sustrans. The new bridge will be part of Sustrans' Connect2 project, developing new walking and cycling links across the UK.

Although construction work is expected to begin on site in January 2011, work is already well underway so that the bridge can be built in the shortest time possible. Consultation events have already taken place and opinions and ideas of local people have helped shape how the new structure looks and how it will be used.

About three quarters of the design and planning work has been completed for the county council by Capita Symonds, and the procurement process to appoint a contractor has been done in the swiftest possible time.

Morgan Sindall will work with Cumbria County Council to complete the design and begin creating the arch within weeks.

Work on site will start at the beginning of the new year with the demolition of the remains of the old flood-damaged footbridge, followed by the construction of new foundations and a crane lift to install the arch.

New approach footways and landscaping works will complete the crossing, which is expected to be finished by May.

County councillor Tony Markley, for highways and economic development, said: "Morgan Sindall has a track record of delivery and has gained national and international recognition for its work on Workington's temporary road bridge.

"We got Barker Crossing open under emergency conditions, and then scrambled to open the temporary road bridge; we've also been working flat out to get the Navvies project built as soon as possible.

"It will be a landmark for Workington of which locals will be justifiably proud."

Jag Paddam, Morgan Sindall's managing director, infrastructure, said: "Following our successful early completion of Workington's temporary road bridge in April we are delighted to be working with Cumbria County Council again on the next stage in reconnecting the people and town."



Impression of how Navvies Bridge could look

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