

10 August 2009

Kings Cross Green Link Opens to the Public

Camden residents can now enjoy a safer, quicker and car-free journey from the north of the borough into King's Cross thanks to the new Camley Street bridge which was officially opened on Friday 7 August. Camden Consultancy Service (CCS) completed all design work and project management for this scheme which was commissioned by the London Borough of Camden and funded by Transport for London.

■ Background

Prior to construction Camley Street was a cul-de-sac with high walls posing a significant transport barrier to the area. As a result pedestrians and cyclist had to use busy, indirect routes to travel between Camley Street and Kings Cross.

■ Objective

As part of Camden Council's Green Transport Strategy, the objective was to create a link providing a quicker and car-free journey from Camley Street in the north of the borough into King's Cross.

■ Solution

The solution was to build a 150m x 5m cantilever bridge made from reinforced concrete for pedestrian and cyclist use. Much of the material from the demolished wall was recycled and incorporated into a new retaining wall to support the new structure. CCS designed and supervised the bridge construction, including the preparation of contract documents and the appointment of the successful contractor. Local residents and cycling groups were consulted extensively over plans for the new route and the Police also advised on safety features such as street lighting.

■ Result

The new route now provides a direct link from Camley Street to the canal, stations, shops and leisure facilities in the King's Cross area and points further south. Councillor Chris Knight, Executive Member for Environment, Camden Council, said: "This link is a tremendous boost for cyclists and pedestrians in Camden and will provide a safer and more environmentally friendly way to get around the borough".



■ CCS Senior Engineer, Shane Greig (left), stands beside the Camley Street Bridge which will offer cyclists and pedestrians improved access to King's Cross and the surrounding area.