



In 2008 Flint & Neill won an international competition for a new urban highway bridge across the River Oise in Compiègne, north east of Paris. Working together with French architects Explorations Architecture, the team also includes French engineers Terrell International and landscape architects Agence Ter.

The bridge is part of an important re-development scheme involving urban and landscape design of the surrounding areas. The bridge will carry a 3-lane highway, 2 cycle tracks and footways over the river.

The bridge is a steel structure with two box girders along the edges of the carriageway stiffened by a shallow arch over the main river span and an underslung catenary in the side span. The resulting form is a smooth and sinuous curve which responds to the topography of the site, keeping the top of the arch below adjacent building levels. The footways are cantilevered on the sides of the structure to maximise enjoyment of the river and open views for pedestrians and to physically separate them from the busy roadway.

During on site construction after assembling each span on the adjacent river bank, the spans were moved onto barges during river closures. Multi axle SPMT's were used to move the 700tonne and 400tonnes loads which required careful ballasting of the barges to maintain stability throughout. Site restrictions called for delicate manoeuvring of these massive loads including turning one of the spans through 90° once loaded on to the barge.

The bridge is due to open towards the end of 2011.

Client:

Agglomération de la Région de Compiègne

Location:

River Oise in Compiègne

Service Dates:

2008 - 2010

Services:

Conceptual and fully detailed design

