

# An Introduction To CBDG

## What is the Concrete Bridge Development Group (CBDG)?

CBDG is an association of member companies and organisations, dedicated to the task of improving efficiency of the design, construction and maintenance of concrete bridges.

## Members of CBDG

Our members are actively involved in the concrete and/or bridge industries, and consist of:

- Bridge owners
- Consulting engineers
- Architects
- Contractors
- Academic and research institutions
- Suppliers
- Associated industry groups

Close ties and relationships are also maintained with associated UK institutions and overseas bodies.

## History

A group of bridge enthusiasts, met in 1991, which led to the Concrete Bridge Development Group (CBDG) being incorporated on 3 March 1992 (Inaugural Meeting 27 March 1992). Bridge-owners were subsequently invited into membership in 1993.

Membership increased rapidly and CBDG is now recognised as the voice of the concrete bridge industry.

## Aims and Objectives of CBDG

- To address the challenges of the national bridge programme and to maximise opportunities to develop the wider and better use of concrete
- To provide a focus for all those involved in concrete bridge design, construction and management
- To promote an integrated approach and the use of best practice in design and construction
- To encourage the development of innovative ideas and concepts
- To support and encourage education and training initiatives
- To identify and support future research and development needs

## How does CBDG Work?

- Dedicated Task Groups/Forums and Committees, made up of members and selected specialists, to study specific issues and provide a co-ordinated industry view
- Publications in the form of technical guides, project reports, educational brochures and newsletters
- Conferences and seminars to disseminate information by Task Groups, Committees and external sources
- Study visits



## Benefits of Membership

- To be able to be involved with a Group that has close ties and relationships with associated UK institutions and overseas bodies, and whose member companies and organisations, are dedicated to the task of improving efficiency of the design, construction and maintenance of concrete bridges. These include Bridge owners, Consulting Engineers, Architects, Contractors, Academic and research institutions, Suppliers and Associated industry groups
- To input to the challenges of the national bridge programme and to maximise opportunities to develop the wider and better use of concrete, and with others to promote an integrated approach and the use of best practice in design and construction
- To have the opportunity to be involved with, or receive the output from, or propose: dedicated task groups to study specific issues related to concrete bridges; innovative ideas and concepts
- The opportunity to be involved with study visits
- To receive a free copy of selected new CBDG publications and reduced member costs for existing and additional copies of CBDG publications
- Reduced rates for attending CBDG Conferences and seminars used to disseminate information by Task Groups, Committees and external sources
- Access to the special Members Area of the website, which aims to provide:
  - Calendar of past and future AGMs and Committee Meetings with downloadable past Meeting Minutes and future Agendas
  - Copies of Presentations given at our Annual Conference and other selected events
  - Design Guides
  - Reports and Papers from Task Groups
  - Photographs from CBDG publications, other sources for personal use and presentations
  - On-line Forums offering the opportunity to raise questions, and to discuss and contribute to CBDG publications and task Groups



## Benefits of Concrete

Concrete is one of the oldest and most widely used of construction materials and possesses many inherent qualities which can be used to benefit the client, designer and contractor.

**Variety of Specification** - Concrete can be manufactured to an inexhaustible range of specifications to suit all applications. This is possible by using different proportions of the natural ingredients or by the use of different materials.

**Variety of Surface Finish** - Building in concrete provides an extraordinary range of surface finishes that can be applied either when the concrete is still wet or once it has hardened, providing the opportunity for architectural expression to go hand in hand with structural integrity.

**Flexibility of Shape and Form** - Concrete can be moulded into any shape by using appropriate formwork. This capability can be used to provide bespoke design solutions to specific problems and also aesthetically pleasing finishes.

**Durability** - Well designed and placed concrete offers exceptional durability and long life with a minimum level of maintenance. It does not require preservatives and is not subject to any significant level of chemical leaching which makes it suitable for use in sensitive areas.

**Environmental** - Concrete is produced using predominantly locally sourced raw materials which are in abundant supply in the UK. For further details see "The Concrete Industry Sustainability Performance Report".

**Fire Resistance** - Concrete is naturally and inherently fire resistant and needs no additional application of fire protection.