

Principal Designer Support Phase

Managing pre-construction design risk on a high-profile bridge refurbishment.

APPROVED

WITHOUT AMENDMENT

Seamless CDM coordination supported a robust Construction Phase Plan.

● THE CHALLENGE

A high-profile bridge refurbishment had a demanding programme, multiple design interfaces and limited time to resolve pre-construction safety risks before work began.

● OUR SUPPORT

We coordinated design-risk information, clarified responsibilities, challenged residual risks and helped turn complex pre-construction information into practical site controls.

● THE OUTCOME

The project moved into delivery with a robust Construction Phase Plan that was accepted without amendment, supporting a smoother mobilisation and clearer risk ownership.

This case study has been anonymised to protect client confidentiality.

Design risk coordination under programme pressure

The focus was to keep the project moving while making safety-critical design decisions visible and manageable.

THE CHALLENGE

Complex interfaces, residual risks and a tight mobilisation window

The bridge refurbishment involved a high-profile public asset, multiple technical interfaces and a compressed pre-construction period. Design hazards needed to be identified, communicated and reduced wherever practicable, while the delivery team also needed clear information to plan temporary works, access, sequencing and safe construction methods.

KEY PRIORITY Maintain momentum without allowing programme pressure to weaken design-risk coordination.

Our approach

A focused pre-construction process built around risk visibility, coordination and practical handover.

01

Design risk review

Key design assumptions, foreseeable construction hazards and residual risks were reviewed so important issues were identified early.

02

CDM coordination

Designers and project stakeholders were brought together around a consistent flow of safety information, decisions and responsibilities.

03

Pre-construction information

Relevant risk information was organised so the construction team could understand site constraints, interfaces and control requirements.

04

Construction planning support

We helped translate design-risk information into practical planning inputs for access, sequencing, temporary works and site controls.

05

Readiness review

The project information and Construction Phase Plan were checked for clarity, completeness and alignment before mobilisation.

Clearer design-risk ownership and a smoother project start

The project entered construction with stronger coordination and an agreed route for managing residual risk.

Before and after

BEFORE

High-pressure pre-construction phase

- Multiple design interfaces and stakeholders
- Residual risks requiring clearer coordination
- Limited time before mobilisation
- Potential for late changes or approval delays

AFTER

Coordinated and construction-ready

- Design risks clearly captured and communicated
- Responsibilities and interfaces made clearer
- Construction planning aligned with known risks
- Construction Phase Plan approved without amendment

Approved without amendment

A strong indicator that the pre-construction coordination had produced clear, usable project information.

Business value delivered

- **Programme confidence**
Early coordination reduced the likelihood of late safety queries delaying mobilisation or forcing avoidable design changes.
- **Risk ownership**
Design and construction teams had a clearer understanding of the hazards that remained and who needed to manage them.
- **Better handover**
Pre-construction information was translated into practical inputs that the delivery team could use during planning and mobilisation.
- **Stronger assurance**
The accepted Construction Phase Plan demonstrated that the project had entered the construction phase with a well-coordinated safety framework.

Need Principal Designer or CDM support?

Lloyd Health & Safety helps clients and project teams coordinate pre-construction risk, improve design safety information and move into construction with clearer, more practical controls.