

Dr Kevin Moore, Chief Executive, Humber Bridge Board

The Humber Bridge: engineering triumph and cultural icon

The Humber Bridge is an engineering triumph, an important piece of transport infrastructure, and a cultural icon. This paper will explore: why the Bridge was built, in the context of the history of crossing the Humber Estuary; how the Bridge was built; and how it pushed forward bridge engineering and design. It will consider how the Bridge is a cultural icon of the region and will outline plans to develop the Bridge and the surrounding land as a visitor attraction and cultural centre. What are the challenges in interpreting a relatively modern Bridge and how will we meet the expectations of visitors?

The Humber Bridge, UK, opened in 1981 and until 1998 was the longest single span suspension bridge in the world. It remains the longest in the world that can be used by cyclists and pedestrians.