



Rural bridge replacement designed to improve safety and durability while maintaining a simple aesthetic appropriate to its natural surroundings

Location: Exmoor, Somerset

Client: Exmoor National Park Authority



Rural / Bridge / Replacement / Oak

Project Overview

Slate Quarry Bridge was commissioned by Exmoor National Park Authority to replace an existing farm access crossing in a sensitive rural setting. The original structure comprised steel beams — believed to be repurposed from a truck chassis — with a transverse timber deck spanning approximately 4.4 metres between mass concrete abutments. With a narrow width of 2.5 metres, the bridge reflected a historic approach to agricultural access but required replacement to meet modern safety and durability expectations.

Design and Approach

The replacement bridge was designed to retain the existing width while providing a robust solution capable of supporting vehicles up to 7.5 tonne gross vehicle weight in accordance with CS 454. A key project driver was to achieve a simple, unobtrusive structure that complemented the surrounding Exmoor landscape, known for its protected moorland and traditional character. To support this aim, locally sourced oak provided by the client was incorporated into the deck and parapets, reinforcing both sustainability and visual integration.

Delivery and Outcome

AWA provided a focused scope of services including detailed design sketches, structural calculations, and a site visit to inform and validate the proposals. The resulting structure delivers improved safety and reliability while respecting the rural context, ensuring continued agricultural access with minimal visual impact on the landscape.

