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THE MOTORWAY FOOTBRIDGE AS HERITAGE; A TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC CELEBRATION OF THOUGHTFUL DESIGN

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This paper introduces a footbridge on the M11 motorway in the context of the concrete structures that were designed and built during the expansion of the network from the late 1960s onwards. It includes information about the history of this section of the motorway and the technical and architectural details of the footbridge, and will seek to communicate two unique responses to this structure in its contemporary context.

We will bring together the differing viewpoints of the two groups – road users and pedestrians – who experience the structure as part of the landscape, and invite the audience to reflect on the connected but contrasting ways in which they encounter the footbridge.

The footbridge is one of a number of structures built as part of Contract 3, which opened to traffic in 1975; it is particularly distinctive in its structural form, which is unique on the M11. It is notable that the design of all the structures on this section of the motorway had architectural input, and many have interesting forms and features.

The paper seeks to convey two personal responses; an engineering and an artistic perspective. In particular it examines how interest can be sparked from a chance encounter, and the paths this curiosity subsequently follows.



The paper is relevant to the following themes of the conference:

- Footbridges as an important part of a system: the context as an experience
- User experience on the bridge: staying, marketing, feeling vibrations, etc.