



M6 Toll Road Bridges

Midlands, United Kingdom



Project

The M6 toll road was opened in 2002 to allow traffic an alternative route to the busiest and most congested section of the M6, Junctions 3A to 11A.

The toll road is a 27 mile long stretch of a standard three lane motorway which incorporates ten junctions and as part of its construction required a total of 58 bridges to be fabricated to support the project. Forty six of these overbridges utilised structural steel elements that required the application of anti-corrosive protective coatings.

The majority of the bridges span the toll road and were constructed from large I-section girders and cross beams. The use of de-icing salt/grit on the roads during winter and the associated wet spray, creates an aggressive marine type micro-climate. Sherwin-Williams recommended a non-standard Highway Agency paint system based on glass flake epoxy, which has an excellent track record in the offshore industry, to protect the structures.

All steelwork was fabricated and painted at the Mabey Bridge facilities in Chepstow, South Wales and was then transported to site in the Midlands for erection. Minor transport and erection damage was repaired on site using the shop applied system.

Sherwin-Williams was asked to supply anti-corrosion coatings system for the project that would protect the structures for a minimum period of 25 years to first maintenance.

Substrate: Steel blast cleaned to Sa2½.

Requirements: 25 years external corrosion protection.

Specification: Transgard™ TG110, Transgard™ TG123, Acrolon™ C137V2.

Area Coated: 46 bridges in total.

Customer: Mabey Bridge (applicator), Atkins (Main Contractor), Arup (Design Engineers).

System

Sherwin-Williams worked with Mabey Bridge to provide a paint system that could be applied in-shop to help maintain productivity whilst providing the long-term anti-corrosive properties that are essential for this type of project.

Sherwin-Williams offered full specification/technical and practical advice from the early project stages and carried out regular shop and site visits throughout the project to ensure completion on time to the satisfaction of all interested parties.

Product	Highways Agency item number	Product type
Transgard™ TG110	HA Item No. 110	Blast primer/sealer
Transgard™ TG123	HA Item No. 123	Glass flake epoxy
Acrolon™ C137V2	HA Item No. 168	Gloss acrylic urethane finish

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