



Low carbon bridge engineering: from life extension
of existing structures to new stone arch bridges

ERMABI workshop, September 2023

Brian Duguid, Chair, Net Zero Bridges Group

AECOM
Amey
ARCADIS
Arup
Atkins
BEAM Architects
BG&E
Buro Happold
Cage Industries
Cass Hayward
COWI
Expedition
Format Engineers
GHD
Hewson
Jacobs

Kier Consulting
Knight Architects
Mott MacDonald
Moxon Architects
Nuttall Bowser
Ramboll
Robert Bird Group
RPS
SWECO
Tony Gee
Useful Studio
Waterman
Weston Williamson
Wilkinson Eyre
WSP



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www.netzerobridges.org

UK Architects
Declare Climate
and
Biodiversity
Emergency

UK Civil
Engineers
Declare Climate
& Biodiversity
Emergency

UK Structural
Engineers
Declare Climate
& Biodiversity
Emergency



To accelerate progress towards Net Zero
carbon bridges by sharing knowledge
and ideas, and shaping best practice

Our objective

Just Bridges

Just Net Zero

What about climate resilience?



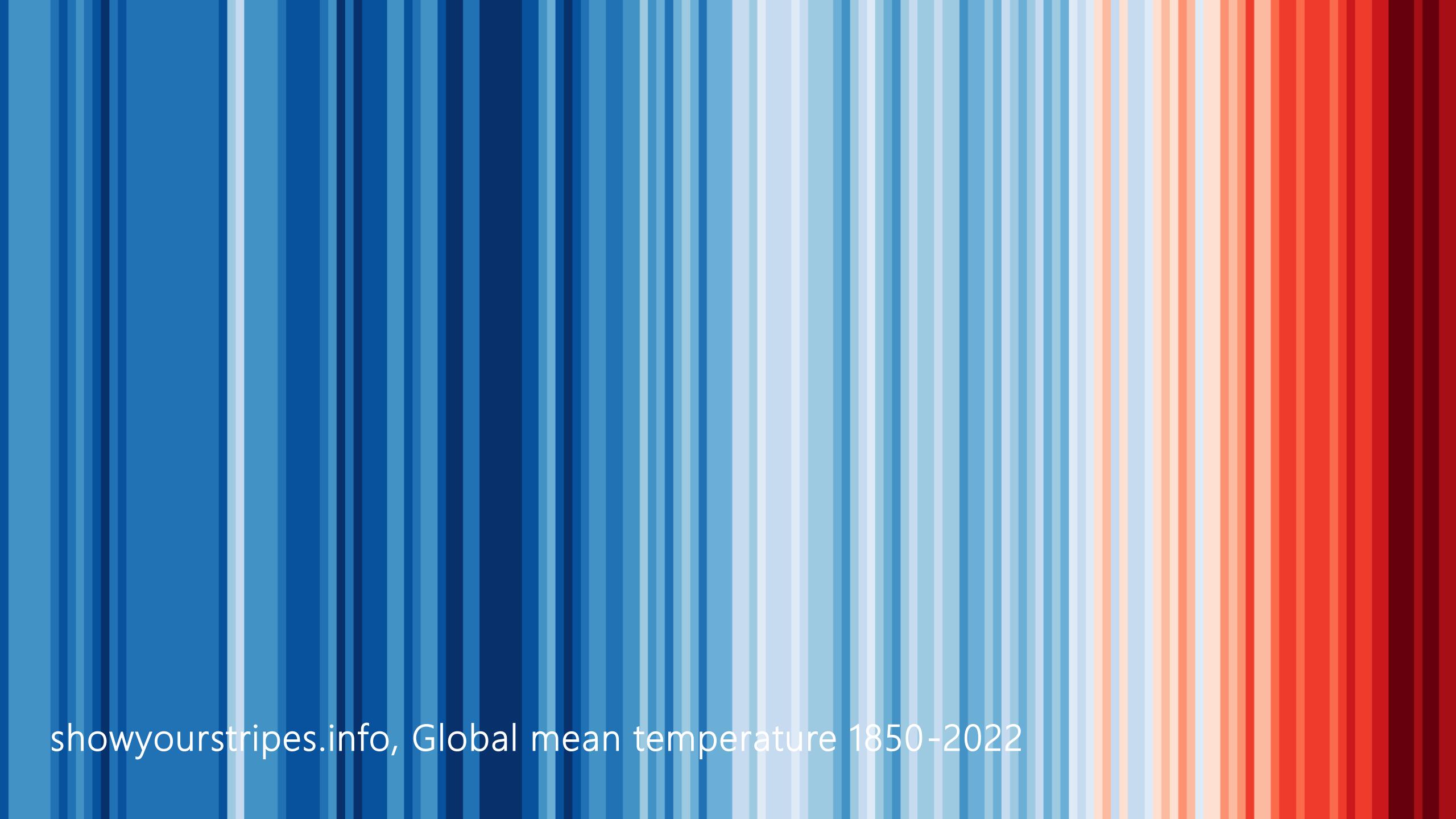


1. Climate context
2. What about construction?
3. Climate action
4. Masonry arch bridges
5. A future for stone?



Net Zero
Bridges
Group

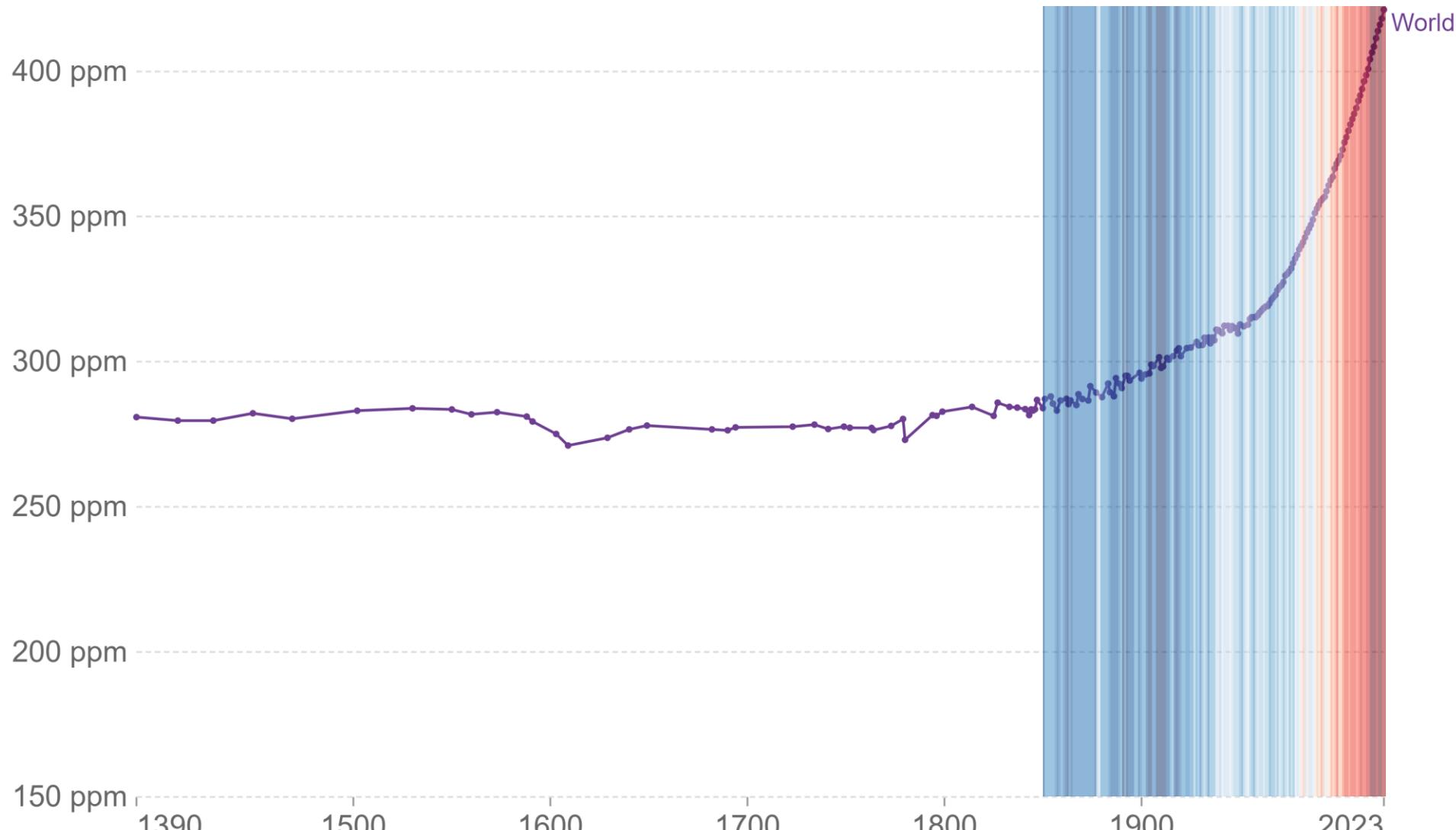
1. Climate context



showyourstripes.info, Global mean temperature 1850-2022

Global atmospheric CO₂ concentration

Atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) concentration is measured in parts per million (ppm). Long-term trends in CO₂ concentrations can be measured at high-resolution using preserved air samples from ice cores.

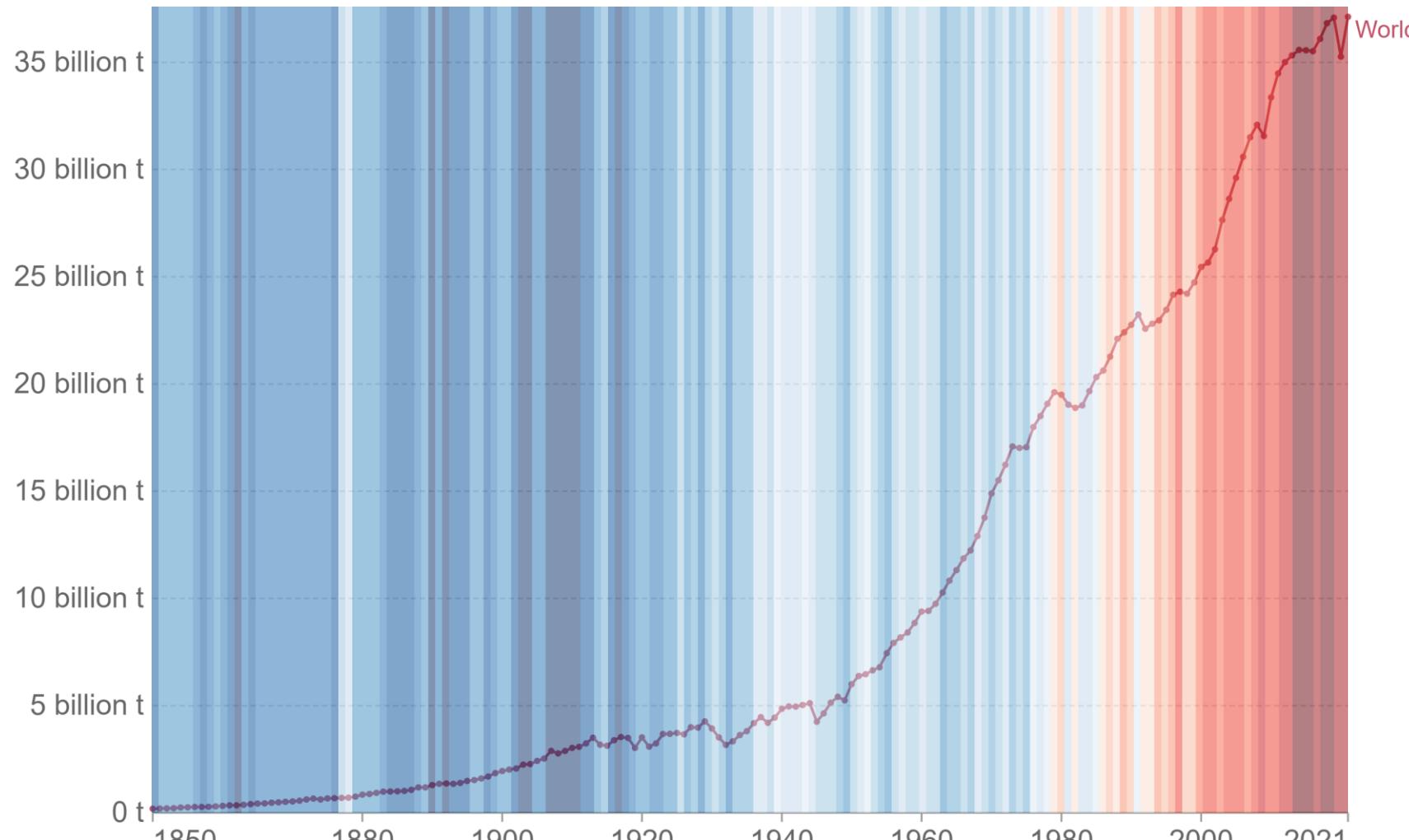






Annual CO₂ emissions

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels and industry¹. Land use change is not included.



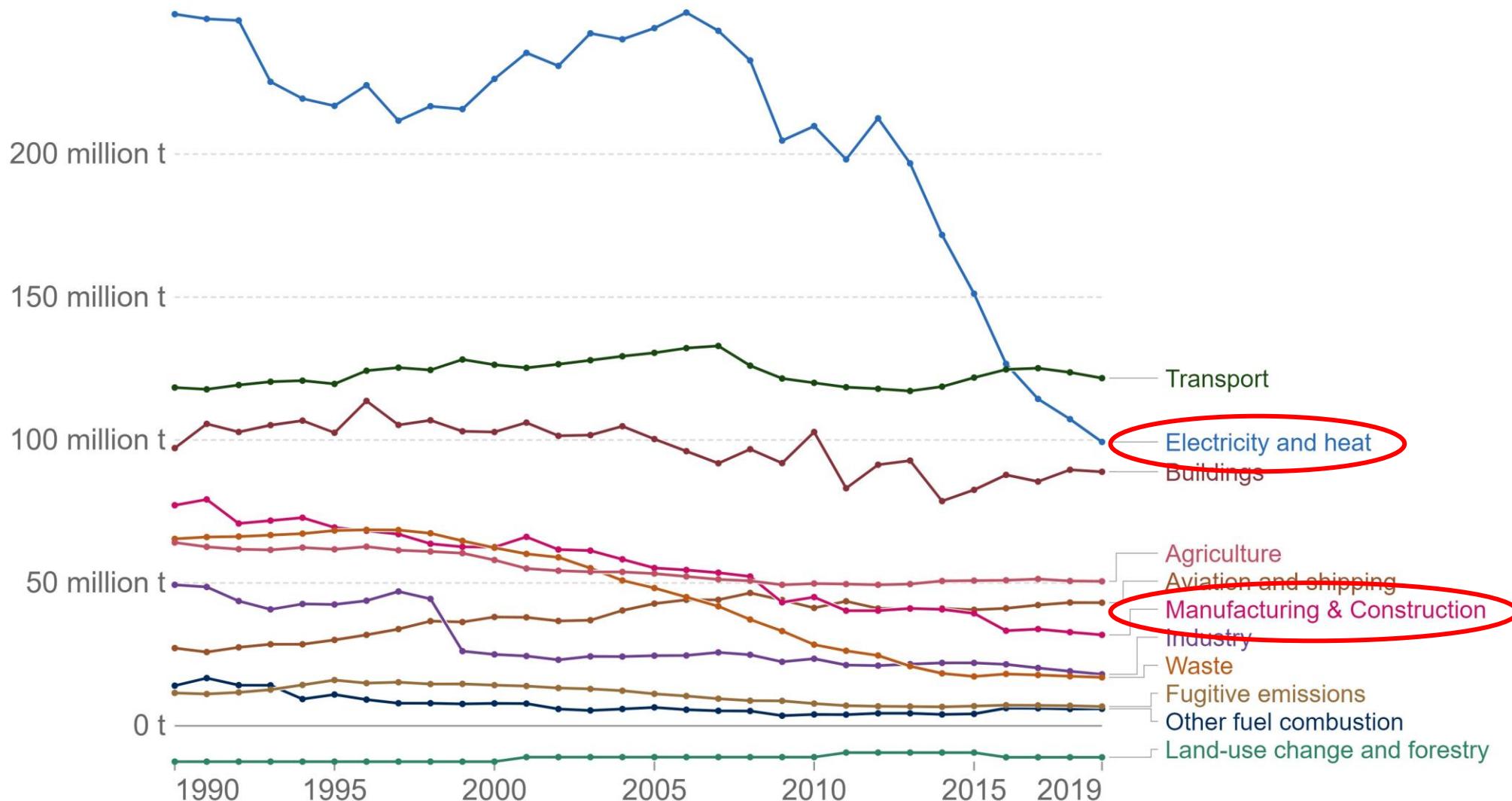
Source: Global Carbon Budget (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

1. Fossil emissions: Fossil emissions measure the quantity of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emitted from the burning of fossil fuels, and directly from industrial processes such as cement and steel production. Fossil CO₂ includes emissions from coal, oil, gas, flaring, cement, steel, and other industrial processes. Fossil emissions do not include land use change, deforestation, soils, or vegetation.

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector, United Kingdom

Emissions are measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂eq). This means non-CO₂ gases are weighted by the amount of warming they cause over a 100-year timescale.



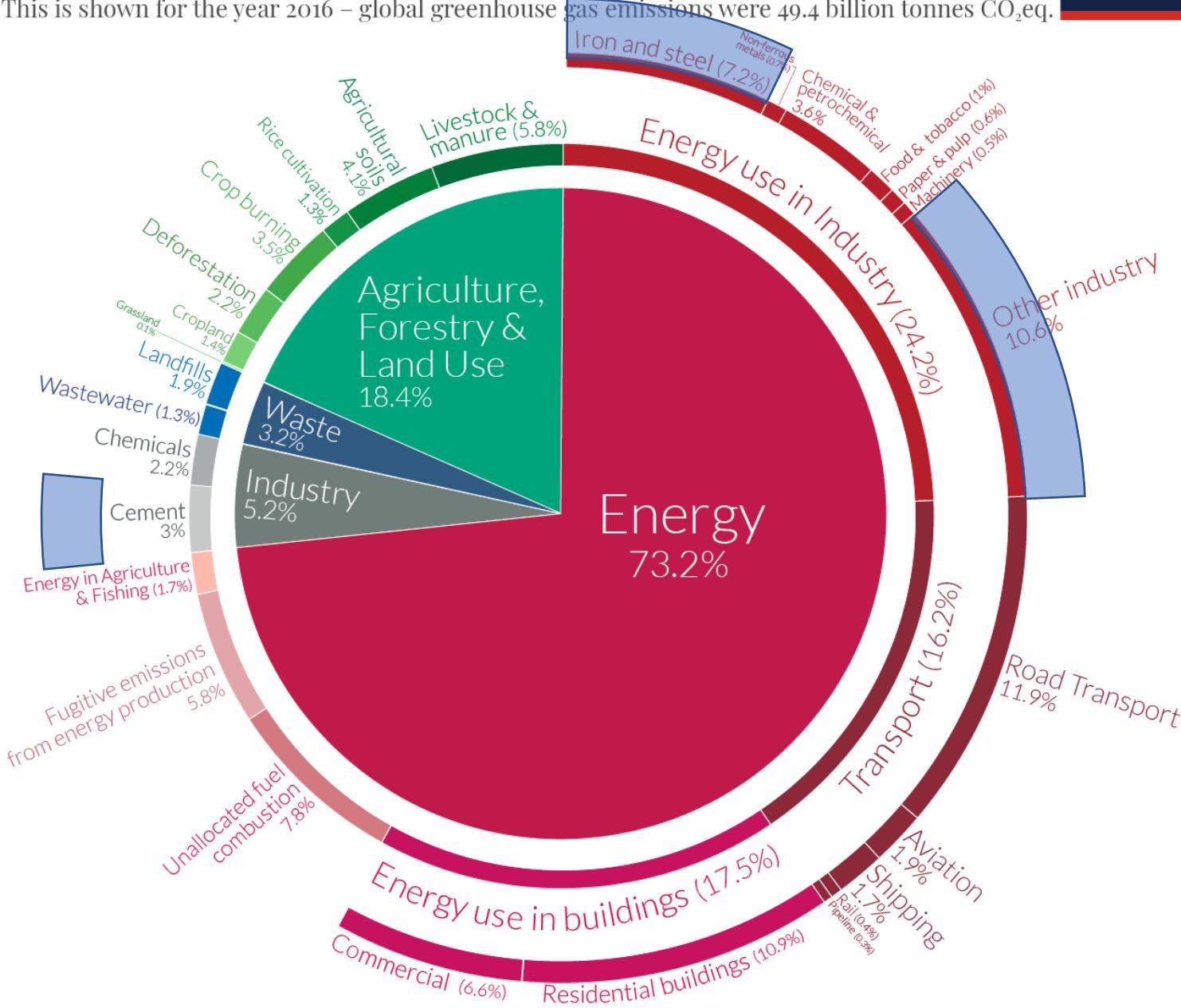


2. What about construction?

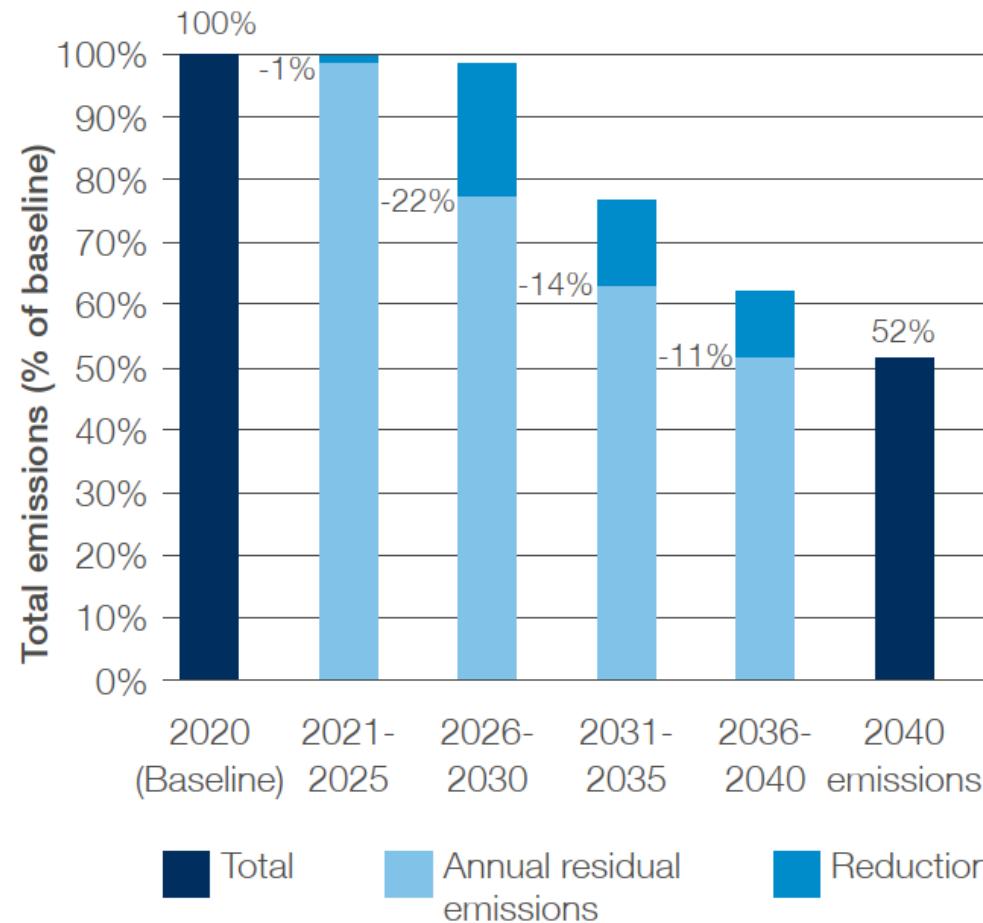
Global greenhouse gas emissions by sector

Our World in Data

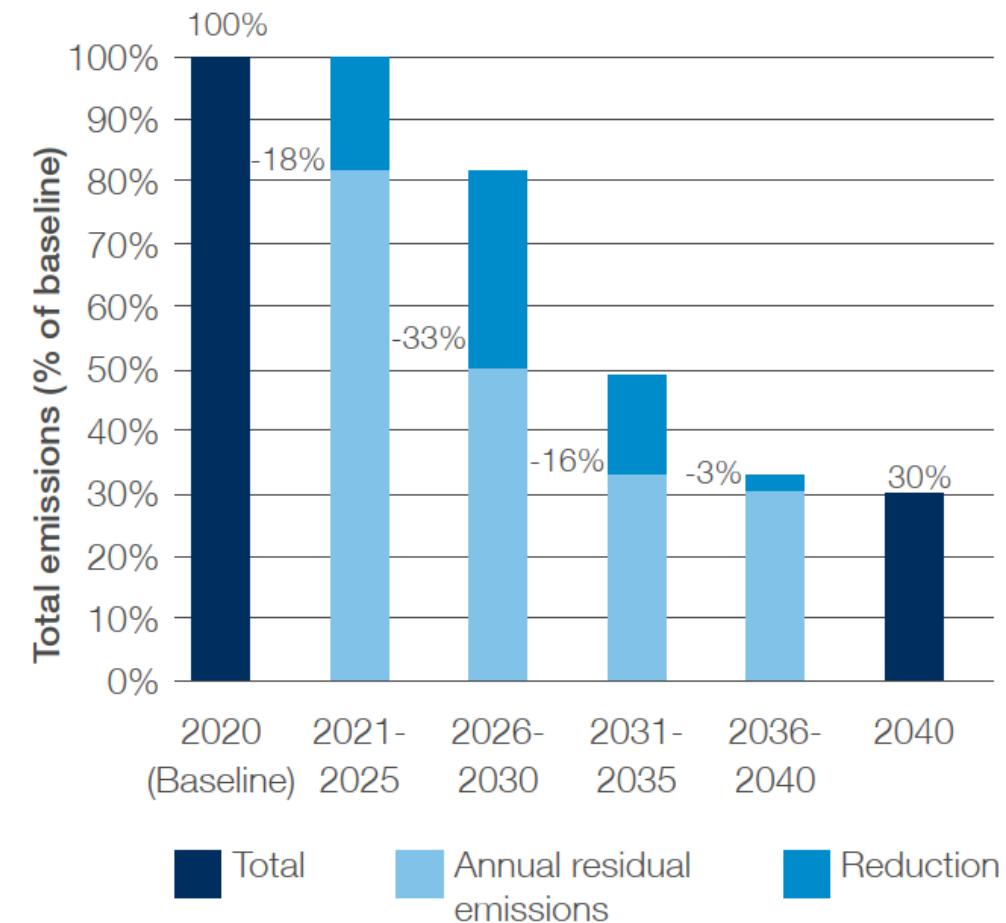
This is shown for the year 2016 – global greenhouse gas emissions were 49.4 billion tonnes CO₂eq.



Embodied carbon = Quantity x Carbon factor



Current concrete decarbonisation trajectory



Current steel decarbonisation trajectory



3. Climate action

PAS 2080:2023

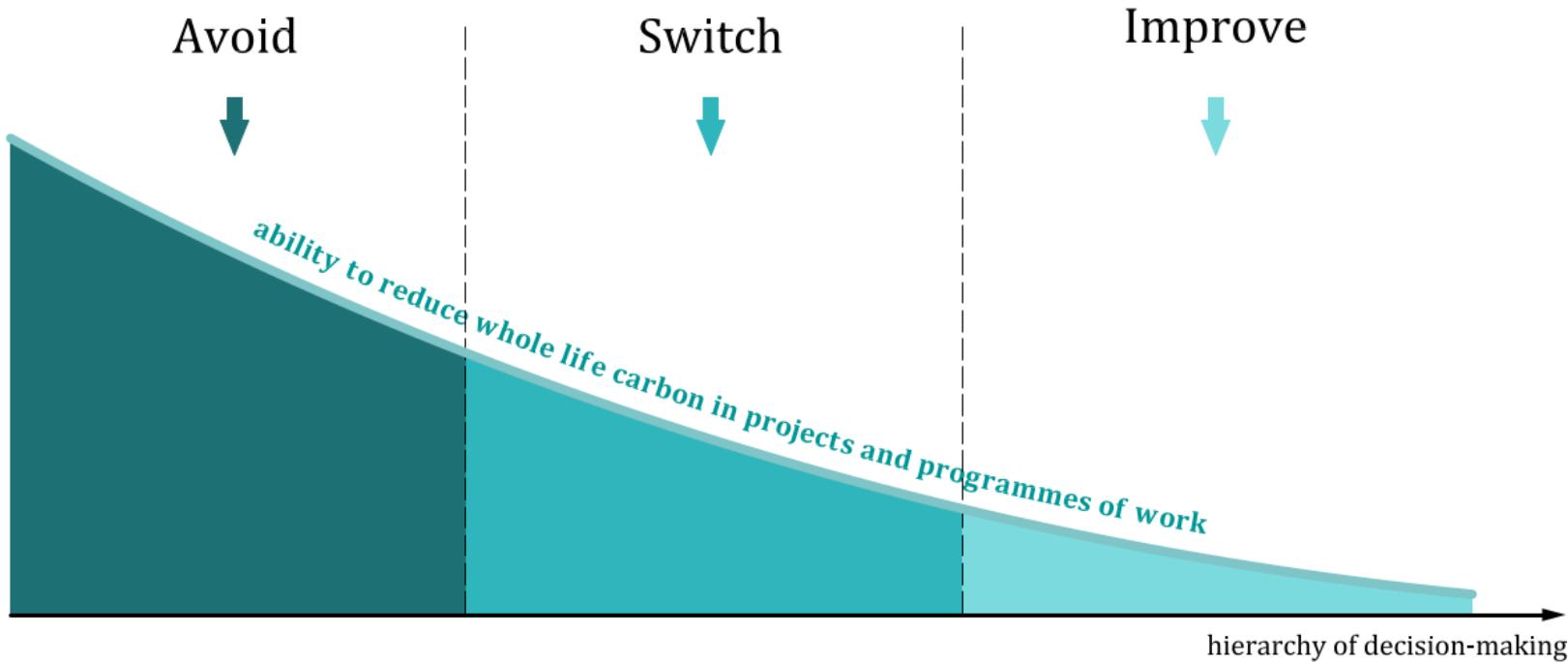
Carbon management in buildings
and infrastructure

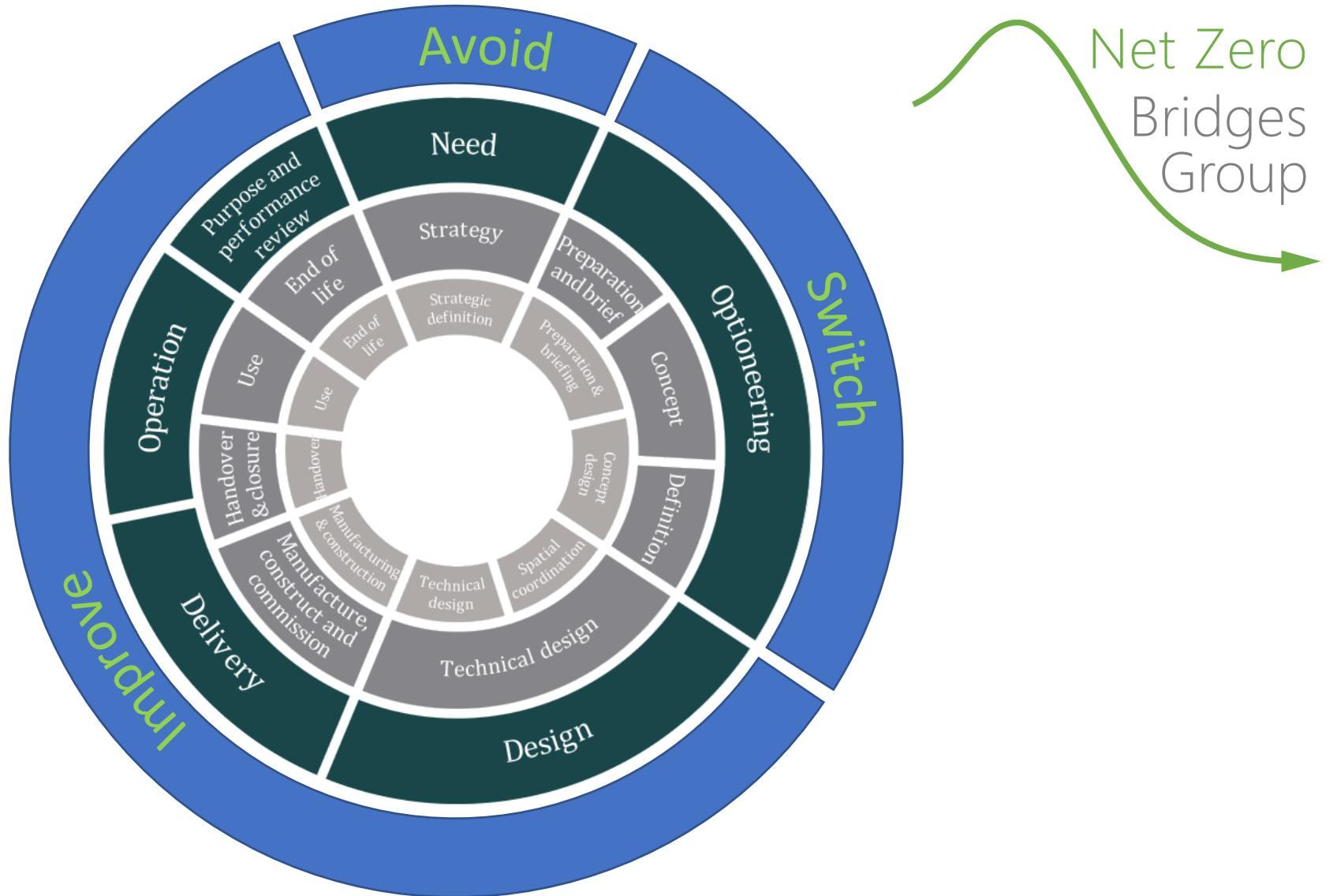


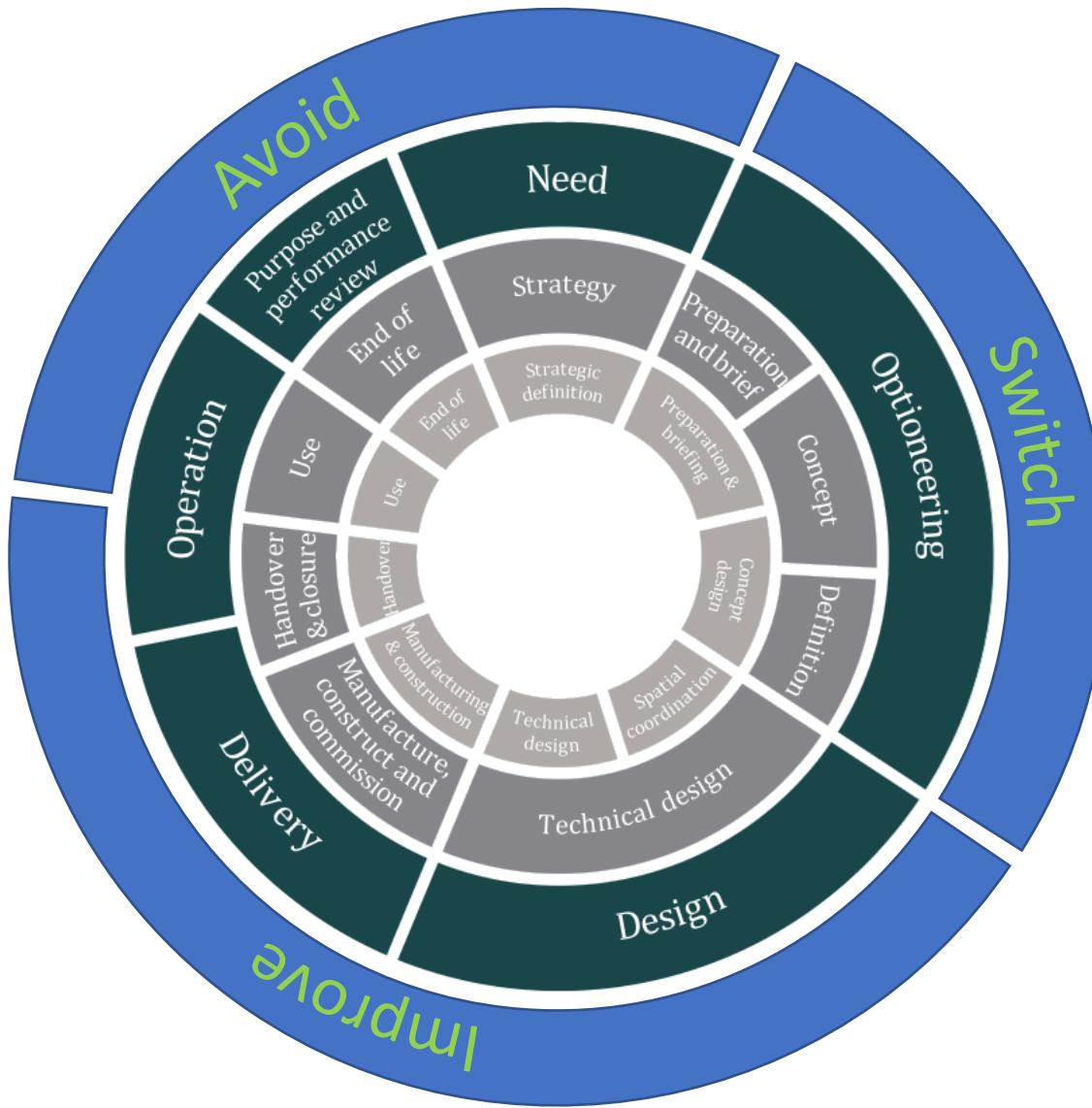
The Green Construction Board



bsi.







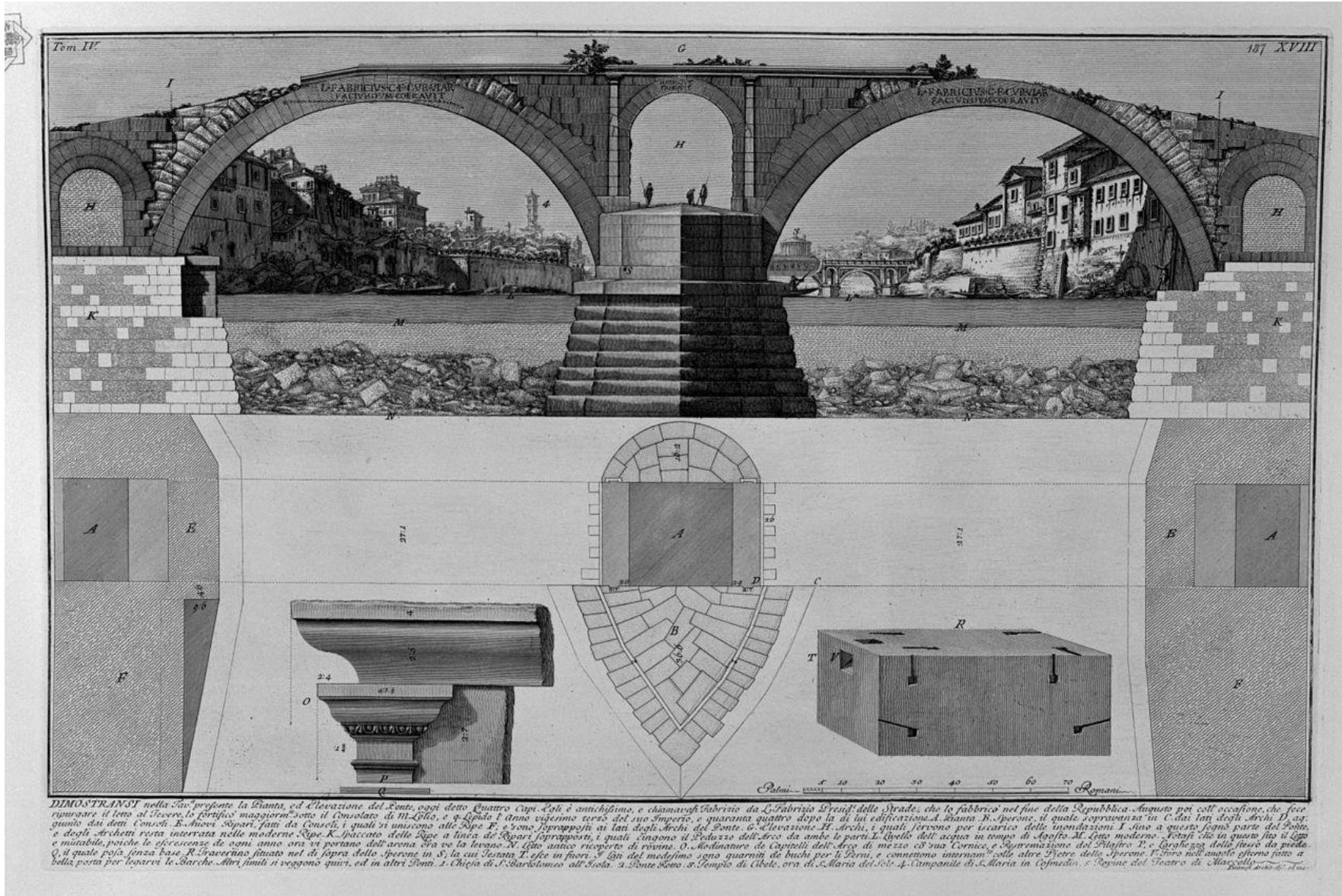
Net Zero Bridges Group



4. Masonry arch bridges



Arkadiko Bridge, circa 1300 BCE, source: Wikipedia



Pons Fabricius, 62 BCE, source: Wikipedia

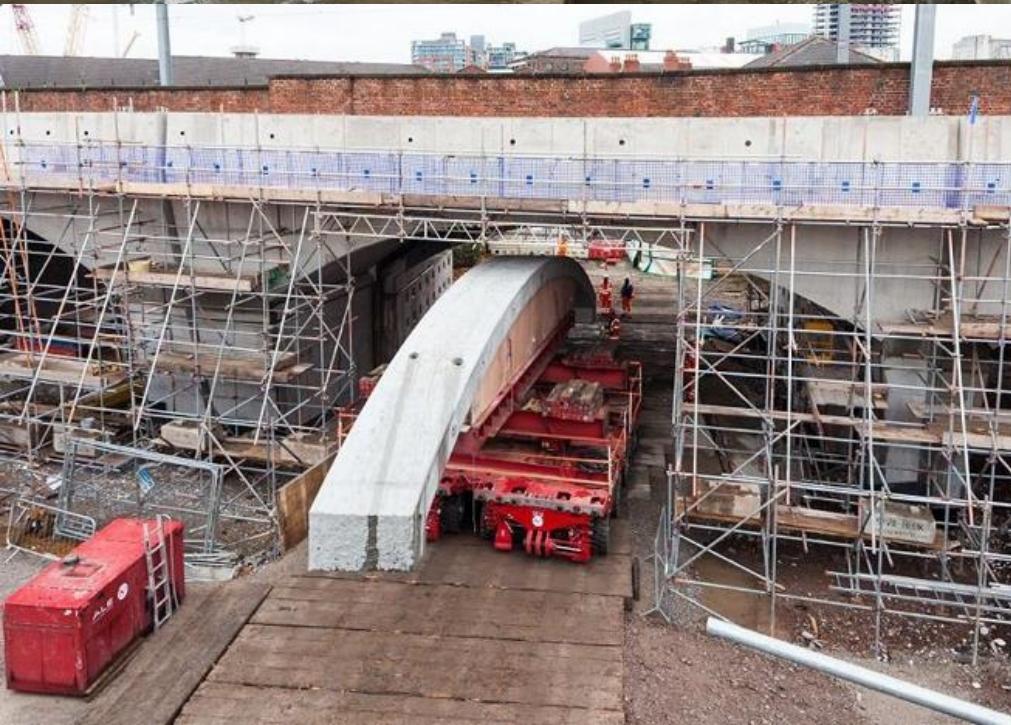


Anji / Zhaozhou Bridge, 605 CE, source: Wikipedia



Stephenson's Bridge, AECOM Mott
MacDonald JV / BB Heritage Studio / BDP







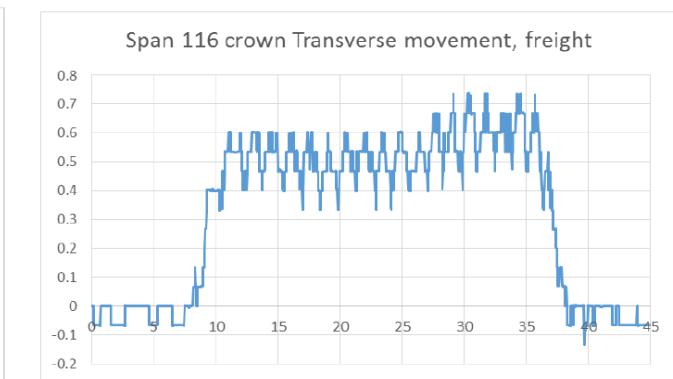
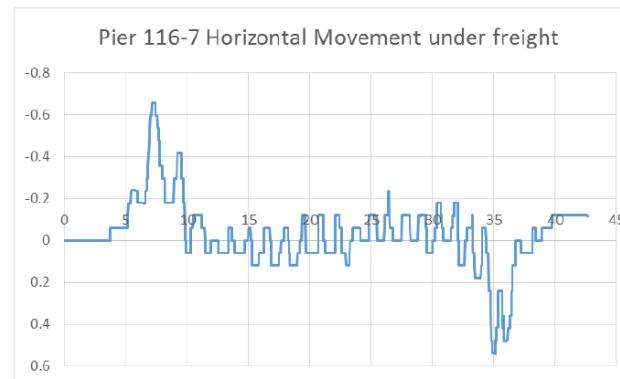
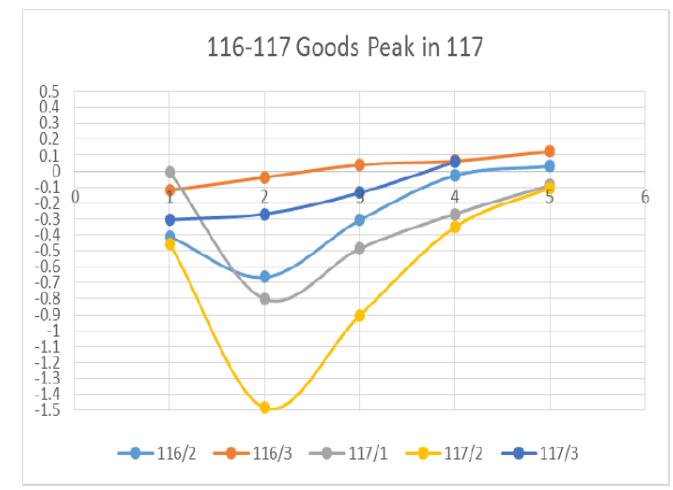
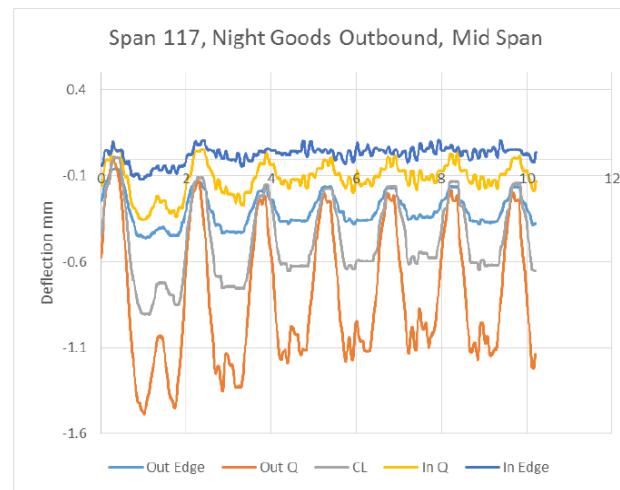
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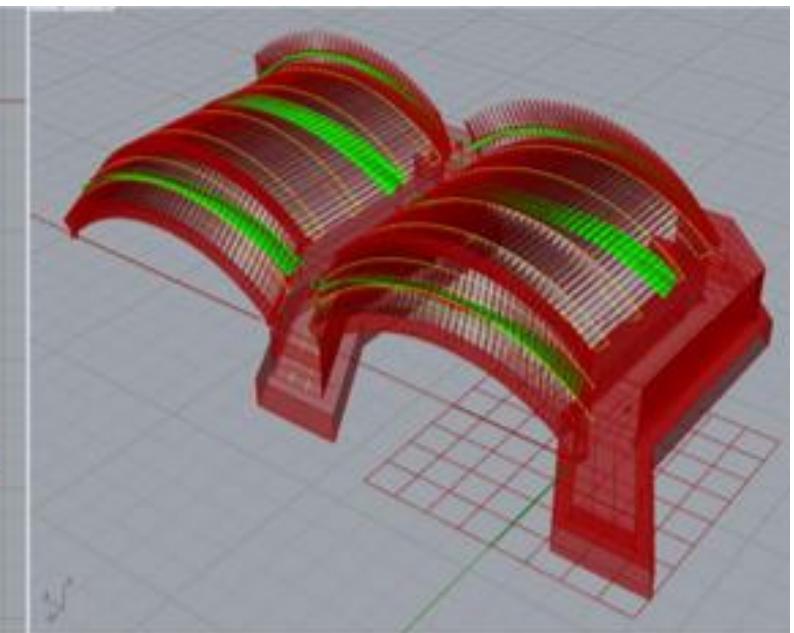
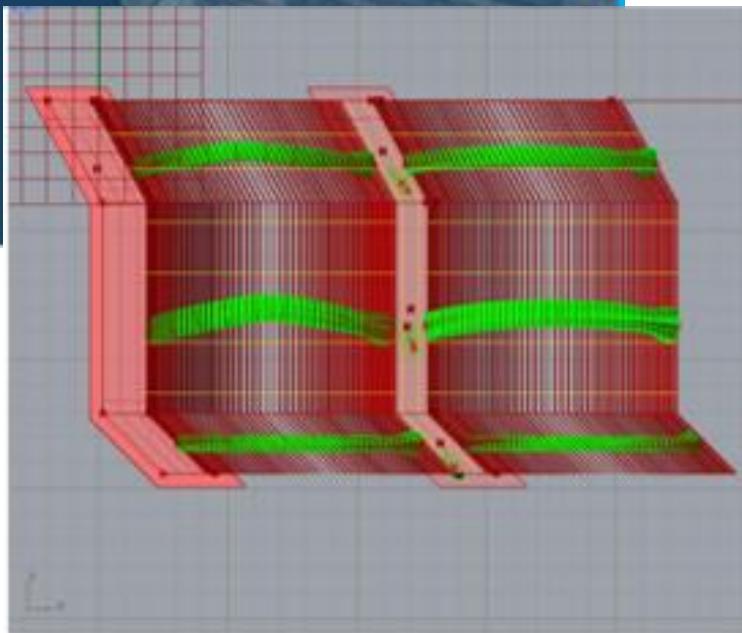
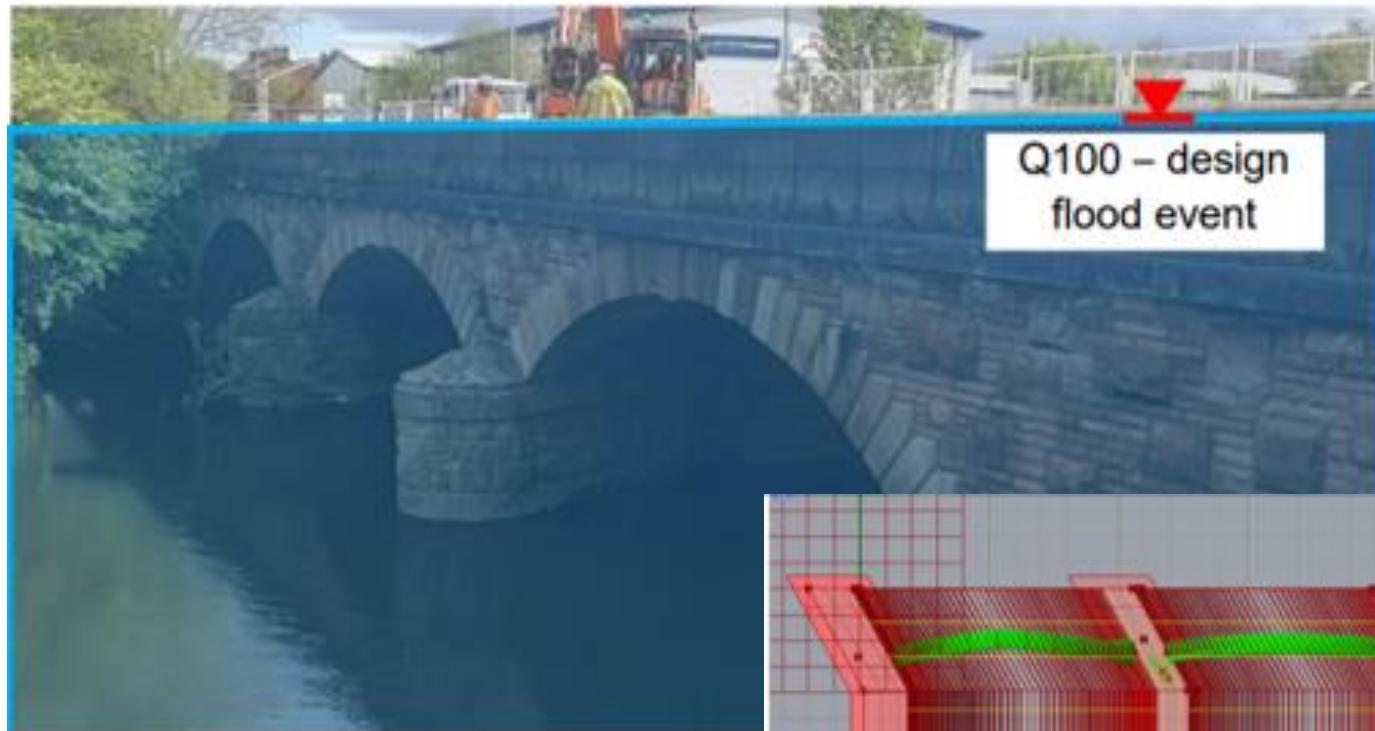


COL viaduct monitoring, AECOM Mott MacDonald JV / Bill Harvey Associates





Linton Bridge stabilisation and
strengthening, Mott MacDonald



Hardys Gate Bridge, Mott MacDonald



5. A future for stone?

New stone bridges – why?

For
Durability?
Low maintenance?
Whole-life cost?
Whole-life carbon???
Design standards?

Against
Capital cost?
Design competence?
Material availability?
Construction competence?
Construction programme?

Design Manual for Roads and Bridges

highways england

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND COMHDHAIL ALBA

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

Department for Infrastructure An Rinn Bonnaig

Highway Structures & Bridges Design

CD 376
Unreinforced masonry arch bridges
(formerly BD 91/04)

Revision 0

Summary
This document covers the design of new unreinforced masonry arch bridges.

Application by Overseeing Organisations
Any specific requirements for Overseeing Organisations alternative or supplementary to those given in this document are given in National Application Annexes to this document.

Feedback and Enquiries
Users of this document are encouraged to raise any enquiries and/or provide feedback on the content and usage of this document to the dedicated Highways England team. The email address for all enquiries and feedback is: Standards_Enquiries@highwaysengland.co.uk

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Tan y Manod, 2004



Abergeirw, 2003



Abergeirw, 2003

Masonry bridge
widening, north
Wales, source:
Osian Richards,
YGC



Stone arch bridges

A strong & cost effective technology for rural roads

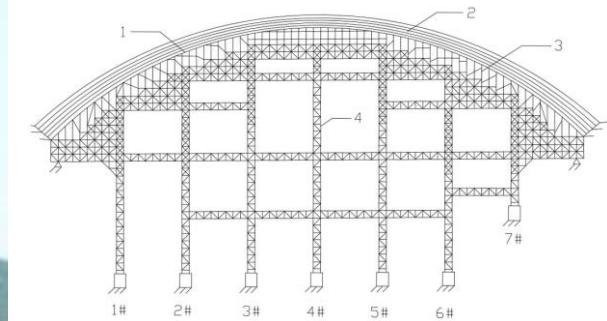


A practical manual for Local Governments

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New stone bridge
construction,
Tanzania, 2018 –
to date, [Enabel](#)
and partners



Danhe Bridge,
China, 2008,
source:
highestbridges.
com



Digital stone bridges – Adrienn Tomor

Source: ["Feasibility of new masonry arch bridges in the 21st century"](#), 12th North American Masonry Conference, Adrienn Tomor



Suransuns
Bridge,
Switzerland,
1999, source:
author's photo



Waterfall Bridge, Switzerland, 2013,
Jürg Conzett, source: arcdog.com



Waterfall Bridge, Switzerland, 2013,
Jürg Conzett, source: arcdog.com



Dorfbrücke Vals, Switzerland, 2009,
Jürg Conzett, source: arcdog.com

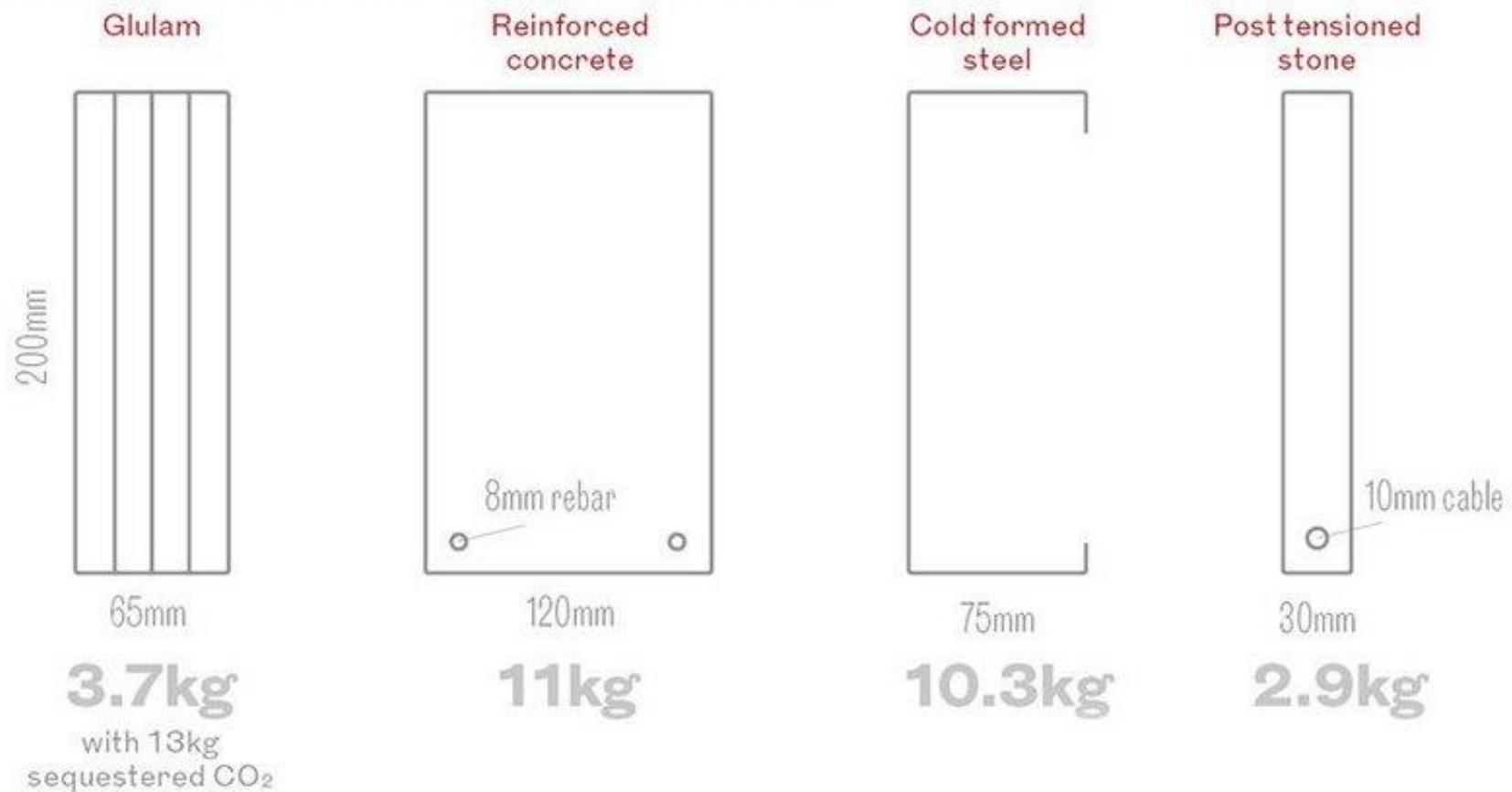


ReCrete Bridge, EPFL, Switzerland



ReCrete Bridge, EPFL, Switzerland

Carbon cost of structural members in different materials



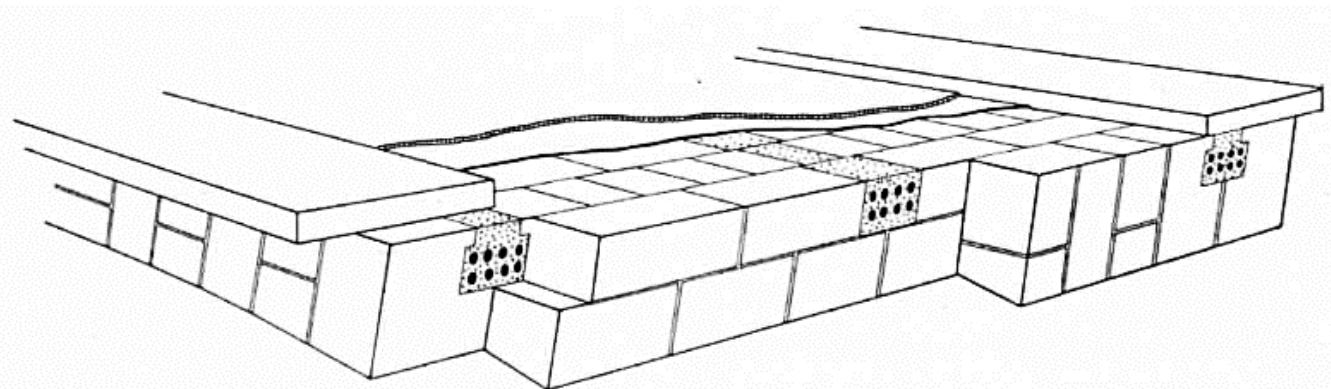


Bild 2. Querschnitt in der Nähe der Mittelpfeiler mit prinzipieller Anordnung des Mauerwerkes und der Spannkabel

Teufelsbrücke, Heinz Hossdorf, source:
Schweizerische Bauzeitung (1954)

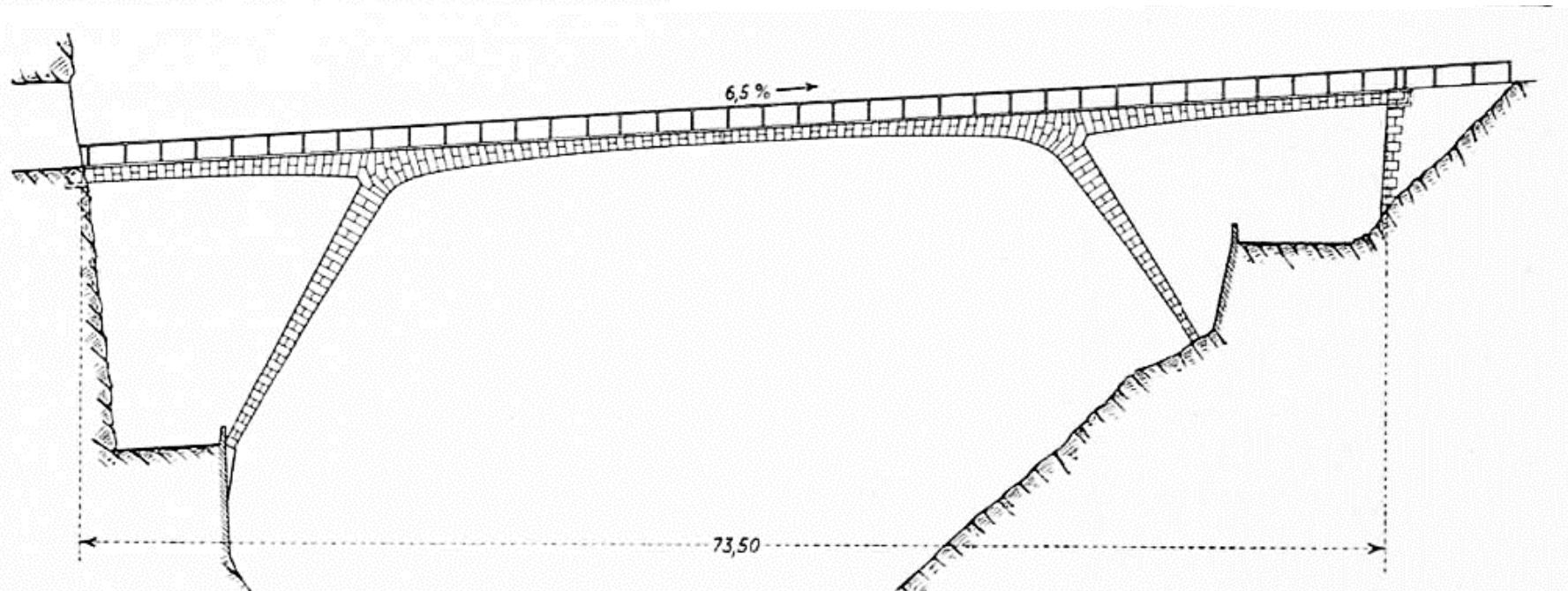
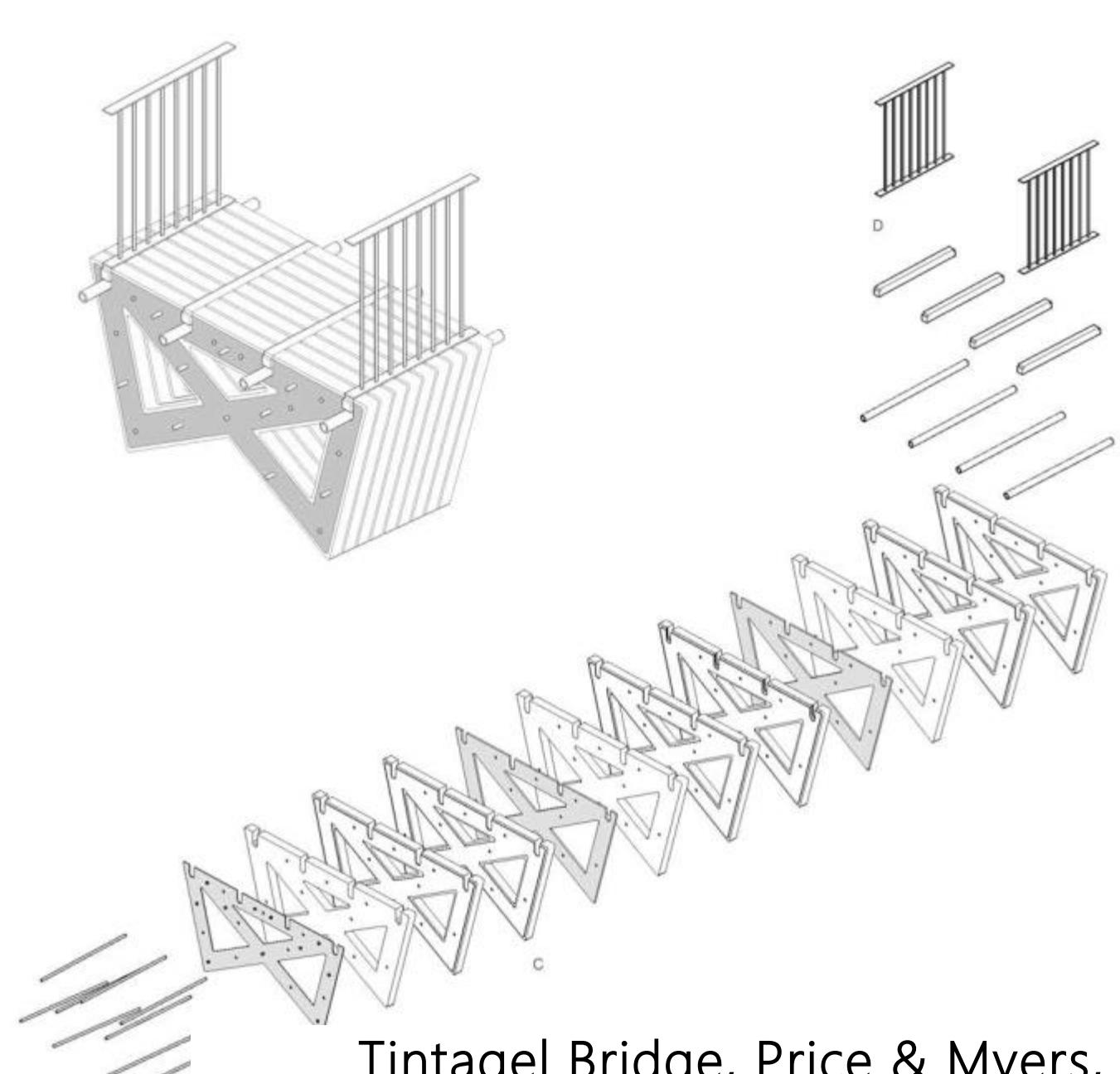


Bild 1. Teufelsbrücke in vorgespanntem Granit. Maßstab 1:750



Town Centre Gardens, 14.35m span, Stevenage, Kusser, 2011



Tintagel Bridge, Price & Myers,
source: [Malcolm Reading Associates](#)



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