

Leeds Bridge



Bridge End, Leeds LS1

Why is it important?

Leeds Bridge is a Grade II listed structure over the River Aire. The present cast iron road bridge was built in 1730. The medieval bridge was built at the site of a ferry across the river and was widened in 1760. The bridge was rebuilt in 1870-73 by W.H. Barlow to a design by T. Dyne Steel. It is the oldest crossing point in the town, the Aire was bridged at 5 other points between 1818 and 1870 but it was estimated (c1869) that each Saturday 4,000 vehicles and 55,000 foot passengers crossed Leeds Bridge into the town.

Description

It is constructed from a steel buckle plate deck, supported on wrought-iron internal arch ribs of compound riveted section, cast-iron fascia arch ribs and rusticated Ashlar abutments. The elevations consist of segmental arch with scrolled motif in spandrels, parapet with interlocking circles and moulded rail with the coat of arms of Leeds at centre.

Current State

The bridge is in urgent need of repainting, as the paint is in a very poor faded state. The paint has allowed water to seep into the cast iron causing staining and rusting to occur. In some areas there is severe corrosion and the iron is beginning to flake away in quite large sections. Some of cast iron parapet is beginning to spring apart at the joints where the interlocking circles are rusting. The stone work on either ends of the bridge appears to be in acceptable condition.

Current Owner

The building is currently owned by Leeds City Council.

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/1444801@N25/pool/tags/bridge/>