



**WHEEL THING:** A new footbridge over the River Ouse in York, UK, has been officially opened to pedestrians and cyclists. The US\$6 million structure and the associated river walks were designed by Whitby Bird & Partners and built by contractor C Spencer for client York Millennium Bridge Trust. The most striking feature of the structure is the slender stainless steel arch which supports the central deck span. The inclusion of radial suspension cables completes the bicycle wheel theme that was originally conceived by the designers. The inclined arch structure was intended to look like a bicycle wheel sticking out of the ground – the arch rises to a height of 8m above the deck level and is made from a 64m

radius circle inclined at an angle of 52° from the horizontal. It will be subtly lit to accentuate the many key features of the bridge. A special high-strength stainless steel – Duplex – was used to construct the arch structure, which involved the contractor developing new fabrication and erection techniques. The main span was fabricated on the river bank and launched across the river using a combination of heavy jacking equipment, craneage and floating craft. Operational restrictions on the watercourse were such that the launching process was completed within a 36 hour closure period, minimising disruption to river traffic. (Marcon Limited)