

FIRST LOOK

# Sarah Wigglesworth completes cycle hub and bridge at Kingston

7 JUNE 2021 · BY FRAN WILLIAMS



1/20 Site from carpark  
Source: Buro Happold / Craig Palmer

Sarah Wigglesworth Architects has completed a new 400-bike cycle hub and bridge for Kingston upon Thames train station

The brief called for a new public space outside Kingston upon Thames railway station to improve pedestrian and cyclist links to the riverfront and routes into the medieval town centre.

Two structures have been built along a new linear park on disused railway land connecting the station with the River Thames: a wider cycle and pedestrian bridge within the river link and a cycle hub with capacity for up to 400 bikes.

The green strip in which the cycle hub sits includes new planting designed by Dutch landscape architect Okra - aiming to guide people along this route.

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The widened cycle bridge provides improved accessibility and wayfinding.



Courtyard to hub  
Source: Buro Happold / Craig Palmer

As well as providing space for cargo bikes and commuting bicycles, the cycle hub has an open, covered colonnade at ground level with café and cycle workshop. This aims to create a meeting place and information point for bike users as well as accommodating a vending machine for cycle spares, a repair station with tools, and a water fountain.

Most of the cycle storage is on the two upper floors, accessed via stairs provided with a wheeling ramp or via a lift.

Sarah Wigglesworth Architects worked closely with Kingston Museum and Kingston University (both stakeholders in the project), looking at local references to influence the hub's design language. These included the historical industrial manufacture of lattice-like fuselages of Sopwith and Hawker Hurricane planes in Kingston and the work of photographic pioneer [Eadweard Muybridge](#).

Kingston's royal connection and interpretations of the crown motif also provided inspiration for the structural elements that wrap around the hub repetitively.

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In 2008, Sarah Wigglesworth completed a [bicycle store forming the entrance](#) to London's Bermondsey Square. It was shortlisted for AJ Small Projects in 2009.



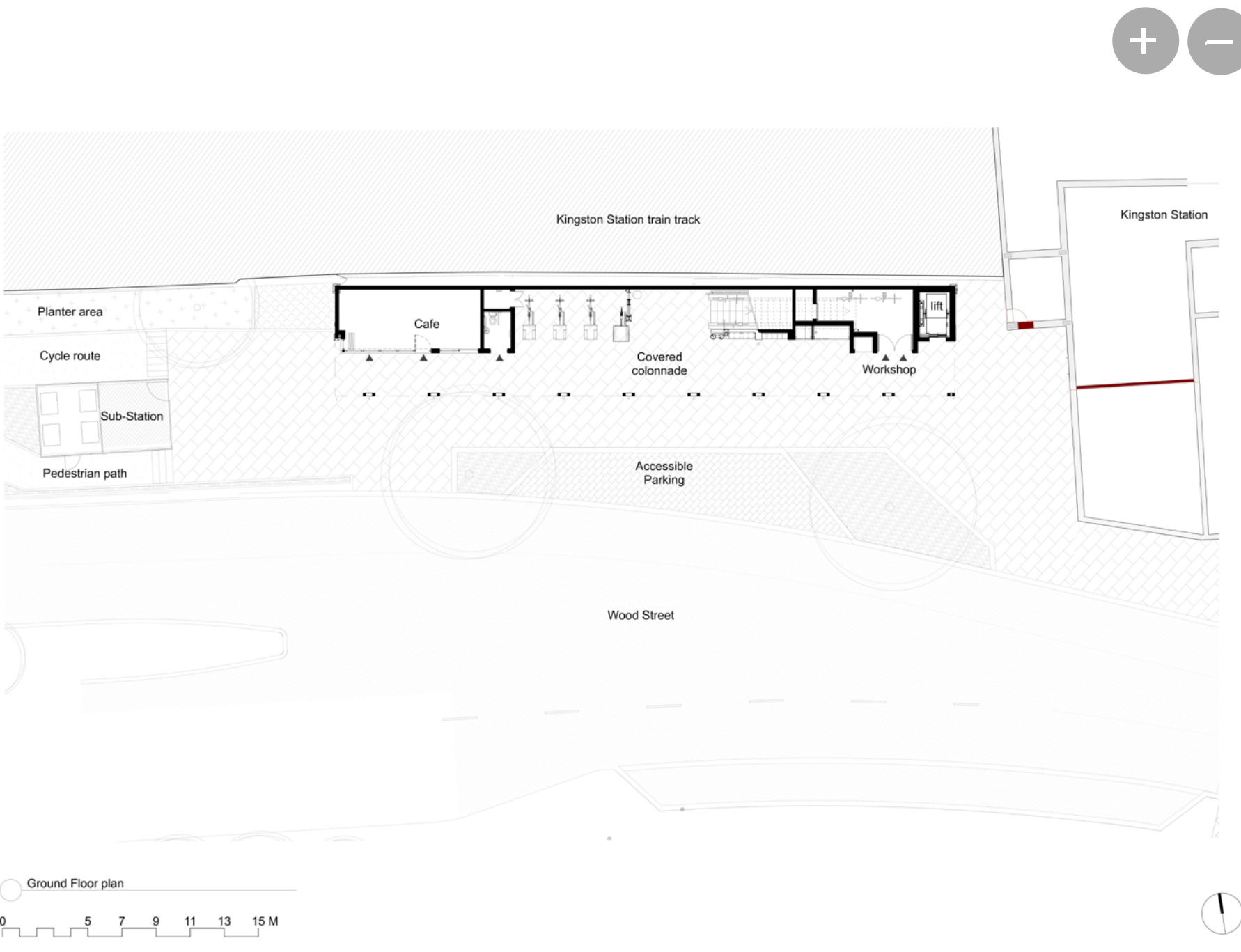
Second floor  
Source: Buro Happold / Craig Palmer

## Architect's view

The Kingston Cycle Hub and Bridge, set in a linear landscaped park, provides a vision for how civic infrastructure can be beautiful, functional and accessible. The hub is not only a storage facility with up to 400 cycle spaces but also a new landmark in Kingston's streetscape, a meeting point and a place to get your bike serviced.

The design of both structures, which is inspired by the rich local heritage of Kingston, refocuses the priority from cars to pedestrians and cyclists, paving the way for more sustainable modes of transport. These iconic structures show us that cycle provision should not be an afterthought but can be central to how we design the public realm. Its presence in the townscape signifies the raised profile of cycling as a desirable mobility option, positing a new building type that dignifies the activity and encourages healthy travel, benefitting the environment for everyone.

*Josh Molnar, project architect, Sarah Wigglesworth Architects*

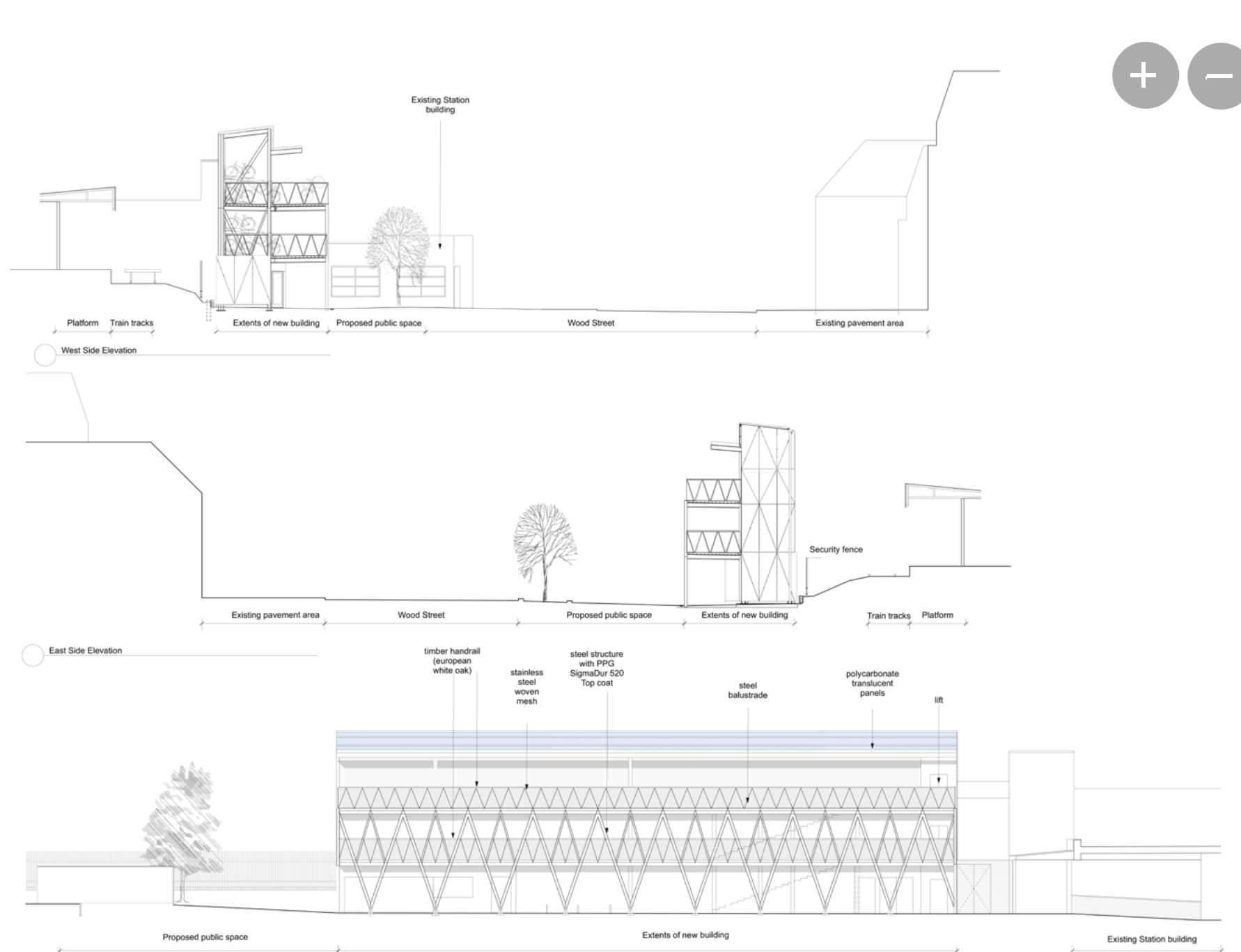


## Client's view

The Kingston Station project is one of the landmark projects for the Royal Borough of Kingston's Go Cycle programme. The project comprises a new plaza outside the station, a landscaped river link including a new pedestrian/cycle bridge, cycle hub structures and other public realm improvements. The project has transformed the area and is being recognised as an exemplar in architectural vision and functionality, setting the tone for the wider Kingston regeneration plans and developments.

Sarah Wigglesworth Architects has been able to marry its architectural vision of an elegant, modern and sustainable transport infrastructure with the quintessential royal heritage of the borough and reference the transportation movements around the cycle hub to the zoopraxiscope study of movement by Eadweard Muybridge, who was also born and lived in Kingston.

*Jean-Christophe Chassard, consultant portfolio delivery manager, Go Cycle programme, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames*



## Project data

**Start on site** April 2018

**Completion** April 2021

**Gross (internal + external) floor area** 7,800m<sup>2</sup> (including pedestrian and cycle network, cycle bridge and cycle hub), 666m<sup>2</sup> (cycle hub)

**Form of contract or procurement route** NEC3 Short Professional Services Contract

**Construction cost** £4.33 million

**Construction cost per m<sup>2</sup>** £8,400 (bridge), £2,400 (hub), £265 (public realm)

**Architect** Sarah Wigglesworth Architects

**Client** Royal Borough of Kingston

**Civil engineer** Buro Happold

**Structural engineer** Buro Happold

**Bridge engineer** Buro Happold

**M&E consultant** Buro Happold

**Quantity surveyor** RBK

**Lighting consultant** Buro Happold

**Design, communication and stakeholder engagement** Tomato

**Landscape consultant** Okra

**Project manager** RBK Go Cycle Team

**CDM co-ordinator** Buro Happold

**Approved building inspector** Royal Borough of Kingston

**Structures contractor** Walkers Construction

**Bridge contractor** Dyer & Butler

**CAD software used** Vectorworks, Revit

## Environmental performance data

**Airtightness at 50pa** Open structure so N/A

**Heating and hot water load** 24 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr

**Overall area-weighted U-value** N/A

**Embedded design life** 120 years

**Embodied / whole-life carbon** 251 kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>

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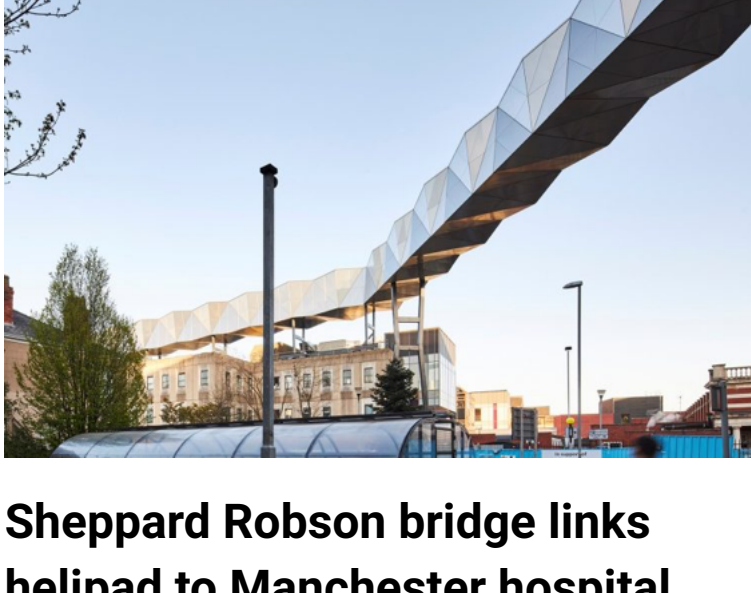
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