

# Army called in to help village

Report by Louise Auty

MEMBERS of the Army moved into the Yorkshire Dales National Park last week to replace a footpath which had been missing for 40 years.

A new Tay Bridge, over the River Ribble at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, was replaced with the help of the Royal Engineers from Ripon and sponsoring companies.

The 11-tonne steel bridge, spanning a distance of 23.5 metres, was lowered into position by the Army

using two large cranes, a technique demanded by the long span of the structure.

At a cost of around £50,000, the bridge has attracted enormous support and help.

The Royal Engineers provided the technical expertise to build the bridge

Crown Protective Coatings provided paints - as tested on Tower Bridge in London - for the job. Dry Rigg Quarry, owned by Redland, provided stone for the abutments and Horton-in-Ribblesdale

Quarry, owned by Tarmac Roadstone (North West) had already provided concrete for the abutments.

The concrete bases for the bridge abutments were built first, using 48 tonnes of concrete. The work took the Royal Engineers just four days.

For four decades villagers in Horton have lamented the absence of Tay Bridge.

It used to be an important link in a walk popular with locals. The original bridge was washed away in floods in the early 1950s and due to the high cost of building another, replacement was not possible until recently.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park approached the Royal Engineers for help through their Military Aid to the Local Community programme.

Having just returned from Bosnia, the Army agreed to help if the work would take place in May or June, since after that the soldiers were preparing for a posting to the Falkland Islands.

The Royal Engineers had their fair share of logistical problems throughout the project, not least the question of how to get several tonnes of concrete across the Ribble.

An official opening ceremony will be held in mid-July.