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BA (Hons) Leadership and Management Skills in the Workplace

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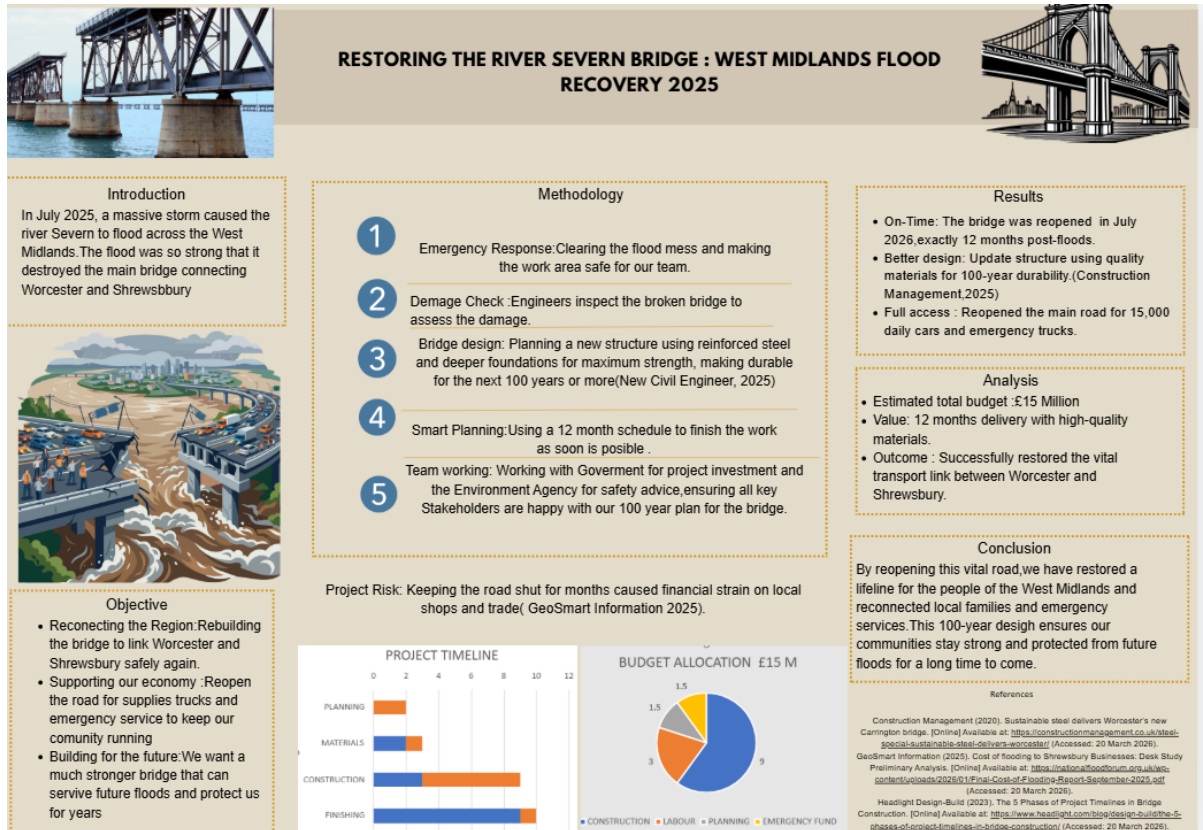
MODULE: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

MODULE CODE: LCLM5003

LECTURER NAME: REXON NTING

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: A PROJECT PORTFOLIO

Part A- Project proposal poster



Part B: Reflective report

Presenting my project proposal for the 'Restoring the River Severn Bridge' was a major learning point. To be honest, the start of this project was a huge struggle and I feel it, is important to admit that I had to do the work twice because I got the requirements wrong the first time. This happened mainly because, around that same time, I was quite ill; because of this, I couldn't focus on my assessment 100%, due to accidentally following an old assessment brief from the previous year.

Giving my full attention to the wrong instruction caused several major errors on my poster. My lecturer's feedback was very direct and honest; he pointed out that I was using a different country and title, and even the currency was incorrect for this project poster. He mentions as well that the terms like 'First Nations' are used in North America but are not part of the language we use in the UK.

This experience taught me a vital lesson about the project scope. I realise that if you don't define everything clearly and correctly right from the beginning, all the work that you done will end up as a failure. This challenge really tested my ability to keep going, but it forced me to restart with a much clearer understanding of the actual requirements.

Despite initial mistakes, the feedback on my presentation was positive; my lecturer confirmed the structure, and key points were suitable for any project. With the right logic in place, revising the poster was easy once I had correct assessment brief. This experience proved me that I already have the right project management skills and understand the rebuilding process; I just need to make sure that I am following the correct instruction from the very beginning. I used clear visuals, such as a Gantt chart for the timeline and pie chart for the budget which helped the audience quickly to interpret the data. Even though it was stressful to do the work twice, it helped me learn much more by realizing that a project document must be a precise business case fit for specific audience. By using the Gibbs 'Reflective Cycle (University of Edinburgh, 2024) resources, I evaluate my feelings turning this situation into a valuable lesson. For my final Project Management Plan, I will follow the River Severn instructions carefully, ensuring my conclusion is writing in full paragraphs, not bullets points. I will also use the Power/Interest Grid as defined by Agee (2025). This will help me categorise Environment Agency appropriately and ensure all work is carried out correctly

PART C: PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Introduction

The River Severn flooding in July 2025 was a major disaster for the West Midlands. After weeks of heavy rain, the old bridge between Worcester and Shrewsbury eventually gave way due to the massive volume of water after weeks of heavy rain.

This bridge was a vital part of local roads, so its loss meant that many people were cut off and businesses couldn't get their goods delivered. It wasn't just a traffic issue; it became a serious emergency for the whole region because even ambulances and fire trucks were forced to take long detours.

The goal of this Project Management Plan is to show how we can rebuild the River Severn Bridge properly. This report will act as a guide to make sure that the work is done safely, stays on budget, and finished on time. According to 'BBC News (2024)', in the article 'Streets flood and roads shut as Storm Bert strikes' recent storms in this area have already caused 'catastrophic' damage to roads and trains between Birmingham and Shrewsbury. Because of this, we need to move fast to fix the bridge so the local economy can start to recover.

My plan follows a 'Build Back Better idea'. This means we aren't just fixing what was there before but building a much stronger bridge that can handle future floods. I want to make sure that the new connection between Worcester and Shrewsbury is finished in 12 months and can last longer time without failing again.

1. Project description

The purpose of this project is to design and construct a modern, resilient replacement for the bridge between Worcester and Shrewsbury. Following the 'Build Back Better' framework, this new structure will be engineered using high-grade materials like reinforced steel and advanced concrete to ensure it can resist the extreme force of future River Severn floods (National Preparedness, 2022)

The project aims to restore this vital transport link within a 12-month period, focusing on a design that offers a 100-year lifespan. By improving the bridge's structural integrity, we are not just repairing a road; we are securing the local economy and ensuring that critical emergency services, will never again be forced into dangerous detours.

Scope of Work and Task Organization

The main goal of the 'Restoring the River Severn Bridge 'project is to fully repair and modernize this essential transport link in the West Midlands. After the serious damage caused by the 2025 floods, the focus is on creating a much stronger structure that is designed to last for 100 years.

According to the Association for Project Management (2026), it is important to set clear boundaries for the scope at the start. This ensures that everyone involved knows exactly what is included, which helps the project stay within a £15 million budget and 12-month timeline.

Based on the official 'Riba plan of work 2020 Overview '(Royal Institute of British Architects,2020), the main tasks are:

Stage 1: Getting started and clearing the area

This part involves removing the flood waste from the river and doing the first checks on the bridge.

Stage 2: Planning and ideas: In this stage, we make the drawings and meet with the people involved to agree on the plan.

Stage 3: Building and materials

This is the main work, where we buy the supplies that we need and physically fix the bridge.

Stage 4: Final checks and opening.

The last part is testing everything to make sure it is safe before let people use this bridge again.

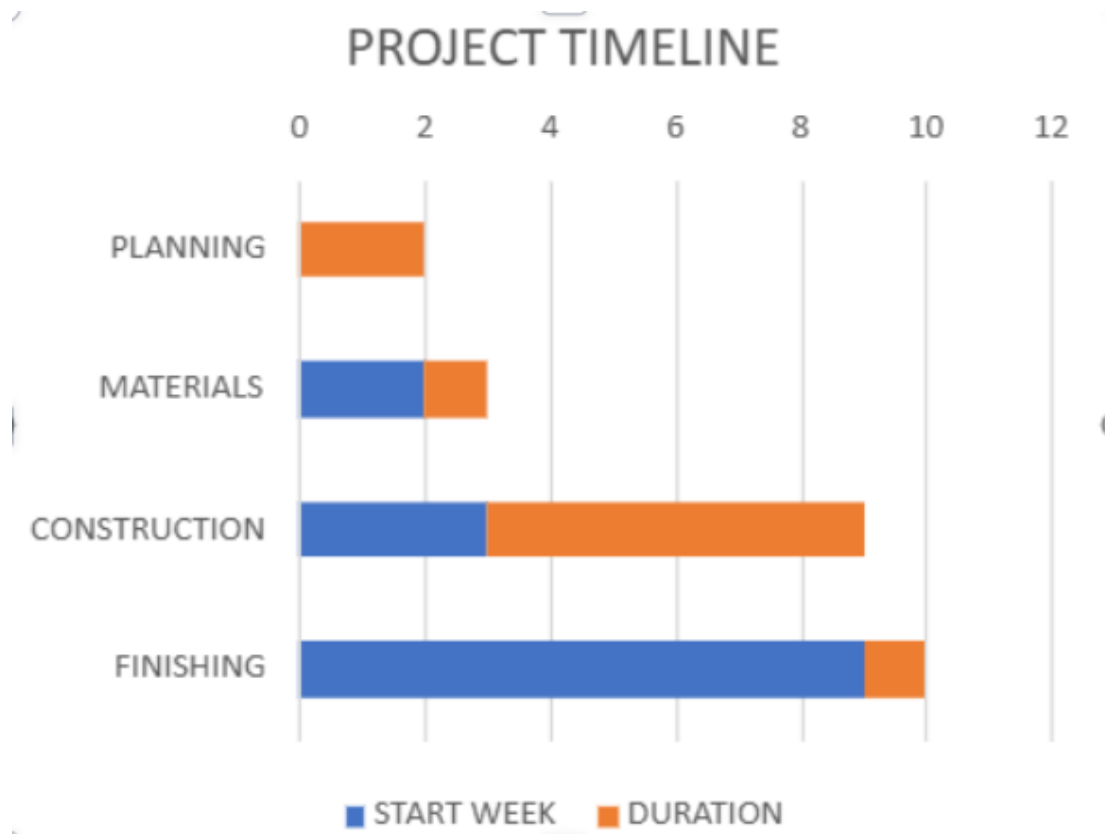
Project and Planning Tools: Gantt Chart

To manage the 'Restoring the River Severn Bridge' project and ensure it is completed within the 12-month timeline, I have used a Gantt Chart.

According to Wadhwa (2024), The Gantt Chart is a vital project management tool because it allows the manager to visualize the entire timeline, track task dependencies, and monitor progress against the original plan.

The Gantt Chart below shows how the 12-month schedule is organised. It breaks the project into four main parts:

- Planning and design: Initial surveys and safety checks in the first 2 months.
- Procurement (Materials): Sourcing high-quality steel and concrete between months 2 and 4.
- Construction: The primary physical restoration work from month 4 to month 10.
- Testing and opening: Final structural safety checks and the official reopening in the last 2 months.



Stakeholder Analysis and involvement

Identifying the people involved

In this project for fixing the River Severn bridge. I have defined stakeholders as anyone who is impacted by the £15M budget or the 12-month schedule. According to the:(Stakeholder Analysis 2026) it is not enough to just give people information; we need to involve them to make sure the project is a success.

This engagement starts with the Environment Agency, who are a critical group because they manage the flood risks and protect the river environment. By using the (Environment Agency,2026) national report as my guide, I can ensure our new bridge design handles extreme weather and meets all the legal safety rules. At the same time, I must work closely with the Local Councils who are providing the funding, and the Emergency Services who rely on this bridge as a 'lifeline' to keep the West Midlands connected.

Mapping **and** **Prioritizing**

To keep everything organised, I have used a Power Interest/ Matrix by Agee (2025) to understand exactly what each group needs from the 12-months schedule. This mapping helps me identify the importance and influence of every stakeholder, such as the Environmental Agency, so I can give them the specific technical attention they need to prevent any delays. This also makes sure that no group is overlooked, allowing me to provide the right level of communication to residents throughout the construction process.

The following table summarizes the influence and management requirements of each stakeholder to ensure project success.

Stakeholder	Power	Interest	Category (Action Required)
Environment Agency	High	High	Prioritise: Technical compliance
Local Government	High	High	Secure: Planning approvals

Residents	Low	High	Engage: Regular updates
Material Suppliers	Medium	Low	Coordinate: Reliable delivery
Commuters/Public	Low	Low	Update: Public notices

This table will serve as my primary guide for managing stakeholder interactions to ensure the project stays aligned with the 12-month schedule

Allocation of resources

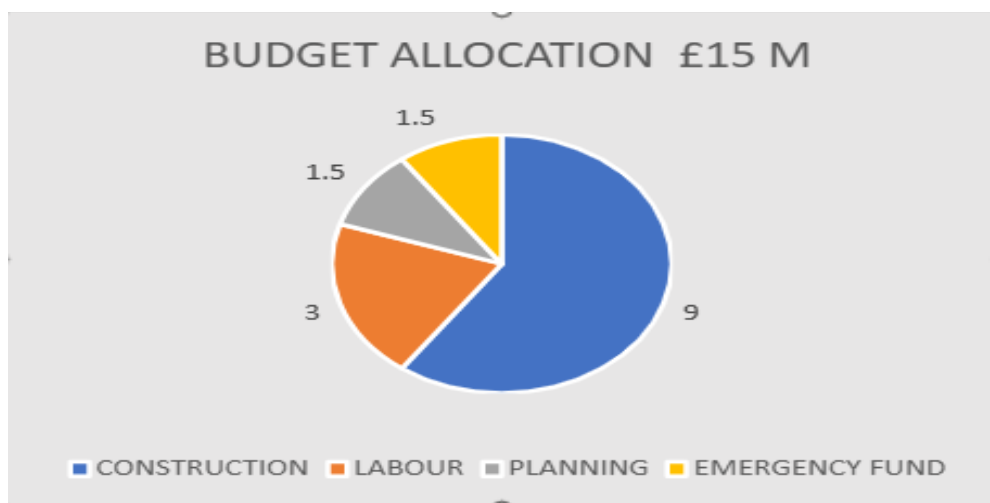
To manage the 15£M budget and make sure the bridge is finished in 12months, I have divided the funding into four main areas.

As shown in my pie chart, the biggest amount is £9M for Construction. This £9 million is allocated for purchasing the necessary materials and machine that we need to make the bridge stronger for the next 100 years.

I also divide the rest of the money for labour to pay the salary of the workers and engineers who are building every day. This £ 3M ensures that we have the right team to keep the project moving.

Then,£1.5M is for Planning, which covers the cost of all technical checks and permits we need (Kashyap,2024). Finally, the last £1.5M remaining is going to Emergency fund because unexpected things can happen, such as: an increase in the price of materials, accidentally broken machines that require replacement or fixing, and bad

weather conditions. I plan everything in this way because this method is going to help me control all the spending that is necessary by avoiding running out of funds. It also ensures that the whole project will be completed successfully using the exact money that we were allocated at the very beginning.



Risks analysis

Identifying and managing risks is one of the most important parts of my role as a project manager (Malsam, 2024). To ensure the River Severn is completed within the 12-month schedule with the £15 Million budget allocated. I must plan four critical risks areas that must be managed to maintain the project's integrity and timeline.

1. Environmental and Weather Risks. (The River Severn)
Because we are building over a major river, the weather is the biggest 'unpredictable' risk. If the River Severn flood or the water levels rise too high, it becomes impossible to work safely, by putting worker at risk and damaging the heavy machinery. To prevent this from delaying the project's progress, I will monitor the Environment Agency's flood warning daily (Karam, 2025). Most importantly, I have allocated £1.5 Million (10% of the

total budget) into an emergency fund. This money is a safety net to cover any hidden costs, such as repairing equipment or paying for extra machine rental if the work is forced to stop.

2. Health and Safety Risks
Building a large bridge involves high-risk activities, such as lifting steel structure, if an accident happens on-site, it will lead to a total shutdown of construction for a legal investigation, making it impossible to meet our 12-month target. To address this, I will ensure that every person on-site has the correct safety training and always wears their Personal Protective Equipment.

3. Material Supply and Durability Risks.
To meet the goal of 100-year durability, we must use high-quality reinforced steel and concrete. A major risk is that these materials might not arrive on time or the price might increase suddenly.

By using the (Malsam, 2024) I have prioritized the budget to make sure we never rush the work or use cheap materials just to finish fast.

To control this

, I will stay in constant contact with West Midlands suppliers to guarantee early delivery.

If prices are increased, I will use Emergency fund to cover the extra cost, like this we confirm that will always have the best materials to keep the bridge standing for a century.

4. Stakeholders and Community risks.
Since 15.000 cars use this route daily, the local community has a lot of power over the project. A major risk could be the people as well, that they could place legal and formal complaints to the council regarding the noise and the traffic, fact that we can avoid by communicating with them and give always updates with the whole process to keep their support.

Conclusions

In conclusion, the project of restoring the River Severn Bridge was a major success because we followed a clear and organized management plan. After the devastating floods of July 2025, our main goal was to reconnect Worcester and Shrewsbury by building a new bridge designed to last for at least 100 years.

To make this happen, we first used a Project Description and Scope to define exactly what needed to be done to protect the west Midlands from future environmental disasters.

A key part of our success was how we organise the workload. We used a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) to turn the massive construction project into a simple 'to-do list' of smaller, manageable tasks.

This was directly connected to our Gantt Chart, which took those specific tasks from the WBS and placed them onto a strict 12-month timeline. By matching the work tasks with the dates on the Gantt Chart, we were able to monitor our daily progress and ensure the road reopened to the public by July 2026.

We also carefully managed the 15 million budgets through our Allocation of Resources, making sure funds were spend on high-quality materials like reinforced steel.

Our Stakeholders involvement was also vital, as we worked closely with the Government and the Environment Agency to meet all safety standards. Finally, our Risk Analysis help us plan for the financial and social impact on 15.000 daily commuters and local businesses, preventing any unnecessary delays.

Overall, this project proves that using professional management techniques can restore a vital community lifeline and build a much stronger, more resilient future for the region.

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