

“Your Building - Our Reputation”



Overview...

Stone Technical Services is the only lightning conductor contractor approved to carry out projects at St Paul's Cathedral in London and has worked with the Clerk of Works for over 20 years on aspects such as maintenance and structure surveys.

Stone, which has offices throughout the UK, was appointed to install state-of-the-art safety systems to allow safe access to the difficult cornice and triforium levels of the cathedral.

This state-of-the-art safety system makes it easier and safer for any maintenance and conservation works to be carried out, increasing efficiency and saving on costs.

Design...

Stone designed the bespoke safety systems using QBM Soter safety equipment, which offers the best safety standards in the industry, for St Paul's triforium level on the West front and also for the peripheral upper cornice some 300 feet high.

Soter equipment is designed for anyone working on structures that may come into contact with horizontal life lines and QBM has a reputation spanning over 50 years in the roofing industry.

As roof substrates have changed over the years, QBM has adapted its materials to comply with all legislation and building design requirements to make them some of the best available.

Safety...

Stone's system installed at St Paul's Cathedral is both practical and compliant with stringent safety guidelines, inline with HSE legislation offering full protection against issues including corporate manslaughter. All QBM safety equipment is fully-tested to meet BSEN795 - the British Safety Standards regarding protection against falls from height- and the 'Magenta' guidelines issued by the Advisory Committee for Roofsafety.

In addition, the Soter system will allow for lower cost future roof maintenance as it provides easier access for works such as gutter cleaning, roof-light cleaning and lightning protection maintenance.



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Issues...

Before Stone started the project at St Paul's, various issues had to be taken into consideration: -

-  Roof materials
-  Access points
-  Building height
-  Rooflights
-  Use of the building

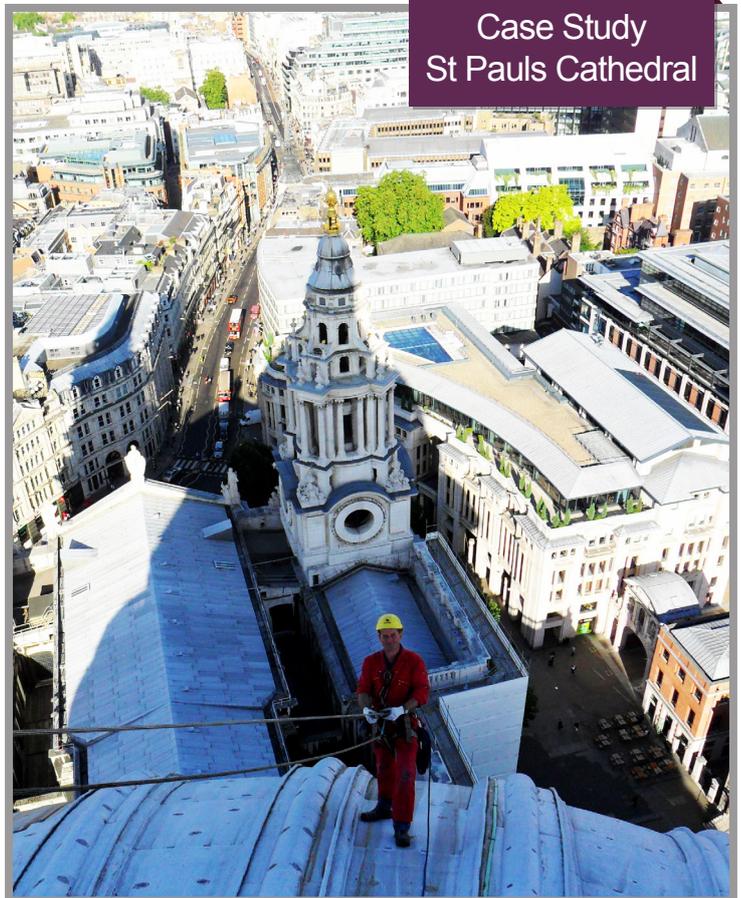
Stone never uses intrusive scaffolds on such projects and instead used rope access and restraint systems which are adaptable for awkward, high places and environments when used by highly-skilled access teams.

Over the last 30 years the roofing industry has gradually moved away from fixing rigid support posts through the roof construction back to the main structural purlins. These were typically fixed back to the structural steelwork, where 10m spacings were permissible. After years of thermal movement, the external roof seals can become compromised.

St Paul's system is a masonry fixed-anchored system, with resin-fixed terminations to masonry blocks, pulled-tested to specific calculated loads to allow the installation to comply with all safety standards.

This move away from rigid 'through fix' posts towards more flexible and more faller-friendly components has effectively ended the era of 'standard' post spacing and simplistic, uncalculated and non scientific designs.

Nowadays, modern support posts are mounted on a variety of outer skin roof substrates and thicknesses, therefore offering greater functionality and protection for anyone using it.



Summary...

Prior to the project, various issues had to be taken into consideration including roof materials, access points, building height, roof-lights and use of the building.

Stone never uses intrusive scaffolds on such projects, instead rope access and restraint systems were used to ensure the project was delivered within the timescale, with no disruption to its everyday use and within the budget available.

“Just a quick thank you for the recent works carried out. As ever, the guys have carried out the work to the highest of standards that we come to expect from the company. Once again, the project was on time and to budget for which I'm most grateful. The system is far slicker to attach to than the one removed, and of course feels far safer without constant snagging. Look forward to seeing the guys at the next lightning conductor test.”

Martin Fletcher
Clerk of the Works | St Paul's Cathedral

