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Access to Observatory Dome and Upper Structures

ROYAL OBSERVATORY GREENWICH

Complex Scaffold Design Around Historic Dome

Alltask was appointed to provide a comprehensive access solution to support refurbishment works at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, a historically significant site. The project requires full encapsulation and complex access arrangements across multiple structures, including the observatory dome and surrounding buildings.

The listed nature of the building and its prominence within a busy public setting introduced a number of constraints. Works have been carried out with minimal disruption to visitors while ensuring the protection of the historic fabric.

The geometry of the observatory, particularly the circular dome and varying roof levels, required a bespoke approach to both access and weather protection. Limited space at ground level and restricted access routes also influenced the design and sequencing of the works.

Alltask designed and installed a full perimeter scaffold incorporating a temporary roof system to provide complete encapsulation of the structure. The solution allowed refurbishment works to proceed in a controlled, weather-protected environment.

A combination of traditional tube and fitting scaffold and system components are being used to accommodate the complex building profile. Bridging sections and independent birdcage scaffolds are being used internally to provide safe access around the dome and across multiple elevations.

Access stair towers have been installed to provide safe and consistent routes throughout the structure.

The scope of works also incorporated the dismantling of the dome scaffolding, the introduction of additional scaffold lifts to provide access to the asphalt roof areas,



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PROJECT • ROYAL OBSERVATORY GREENWICH
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and the installation of a lifting beam scaffold with a Nico track and hoist to support the rebuild of the observatory's outer walls. The scaffold also enabled acess to remove, restore and reinstate the weathervane at the top of the dome and carry out works at the highest point of the structure.

All works were delivered while maintaining a high standard of health and safety, alongside a positive working relationship with the client.

Key Features

- Full perimeter encapsulation using a temporary roof system
- Complex scaffold design to accommodate circular and multi-level geometry
- Internal birdcage scaffolds to support work around the dome
- Integrated mechanical hoists for material handling
- Additional lifts to access asphalt roof areas
- Lifting beam scaffold with Nico track system
- Protected working environment for heritage refurbishment works
- Careful sequencing to maintain access and minimise disruption

The scaffolding has enabled our client, Willmott Dixon Interiors to carry out refurbishment works safely and efficiently within a fully protected environment.

Alltask's solution addressed the technical challenges associated with the structure while maintaining consideration for the building's heritage status and public interface. The project demonstrates the delivery of a tailored access solution within a constrained and high-profile setting.



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