Case Study: Norwich Railway Station

Project
Victorian platform canopies, Norwich Railway Station

Client
Network Rail

Main Contractor
May Gurney

Roofing Contractor
Briggs Amasco, Norwich

Roofing System
Adhered Sarnafil G410 12-ELF membrane in lead grey

Project Size
Approximately 3,000m²

Completion Date
Summer 2006

Sarnafil's single-ply meets Norwich Railway Station's needs threefold

When Norwich Railway Station's Victorian platform canopies required refurbishment, single ply roofing specialist Sarnafil provided the perfect solution.

Integrated support and construction services company, May Gurney, managed the project on behalf of the now defunct Railtrack and had three key considerations in seeking a roofing solution for the station: hot works were prohibited on-site due to the public's presence; the new roof needed to be long-lasting to make the most of the investment; and an appearance in-keeping with the building's Victorian aesthetics was important.

As part of the tendering process, May Gurney approached Sarnafil in the first instance to provide its specifications for the project. Sarnafil then introduced its registered roofing contractor, Briggs Amasco Limited's Norwich branch, to May Gurney to provide a budget price, from which Briggs negotiated and secured the project. May Gurney then worked in collaboration with Briggs to select the best system for the station's needs.

Having successfully secured the contract, Sarnafil's Lead Grey membrane was selected to give the canopies a traditional lead look consistent with the 1840s-built station's aesthetics, but without the additional cost, weight and installation time. "Our Lead Grey membrane fitted in perfectly with the building's aesthetics," comments Sarnafil's refurbishment surveyor, Andrew Leggett, who worked on the project for Sarnafil.

As well as being aesthetically ideal, Sarnafil's membrane also met May Gurney's remaining criteria. "Our cold-adhered technique eliminates the need for naked flames on-site, assuring the health and safety of the public," says Andrew. "And with a BBA [British Board of Agreement] certified life-expectancy in excess of 40 years*, Sarnafil certainly provides the long-lasting solution the station required. That's why Sarnafil was chosen."

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The repairs to the platform canopies formed part of a £3million contract awarded to May Gurney that also included the replacement of coping stones, tanking and platform resurfacing. Work commenced in late 2005, but minimising schedule disruptions in a busy station meant May Gurney and its contractors had to rise to the challenges of meeting health and safety obligations.

"It was a bit of a nightmare!" laughs Brendan Faye of Briggs Amasco Ltd Norwich Office. "We worked only at night and during weekends to prevent disruption, and even had men working three separate shifts over the weekends as the project neared completion."

Allowing trains and their passengers adequate access to the station throughout the project also posed a problem: "Scaffolding had to be erected to the side of the building to allow the trains in and out, so we were forever climbing up and down. The number of different trades on the roof also made it a difficult job – the first contractor stripped the original roof, then we came in to install the Sarnafil, and then there were contractors working on the rooflights and the fascias and gutters. But we were well-coordinated thanks to good project management."

Andrew adds: "There were complications as commuters were using the station throughout – as a solution, most of the work was carried out at night and we performed inspections during weekends. But it was a great project and overall it went very well."

Brendan says that Sarnafil installations account for around 70 percent of Briggs's Norwich business and believes that the positive partnership the two companies have built up as a result of these numerous installations contributed to the smooth-running of this particular project. "We have an excellent working relationship with Sarnafil," he says.

And with Sarnafil and Briggs both national businesses based in Norwich, Andrew and Brendan – who also live locally – are particularly proud of their respective contributions to their city's station. "The end result looks great," says Brendan. "It's very satisfying to be involved in a local project."

"The roof looks fantastic," Andrew concludes. "Because I'm Norwich-based, I'm particularly proud of this job and always show the images of the station canopies in my presentations."

For further information on Sarnafil Roof Refurbishment please contact Sarnafil on 01603 748 985, email roofing@sarnafil.co.uk or visit our website www.sarnafil.co.uk/refurbishment

*With planned maintenance

Sarnafil Ltd.
Robberds Way, Bowthorpe, Norwich NR5 9JF
Tel: 01603 748985, Fax: 01603 743054, www.sarnafil.co.uk

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