



Case study

The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield

Client

The Hepworth Gallery,
Wakefield, UK

Problem

Fall Protection system required
for rooftop to facilitate safe
working at height

Solution

Latchways Fall Arrest Posts

Product Details

30 Traditional ManSafe®
Fall Arrest posts.

Background

The Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield was opened in 2011 and designed by architect David Chipperfield. The structure is composed of ten blocks, each with a pitched roof, and clad with self-compacting pigmented concrete over insulation – a very unusual construction technique and the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. In 2012, The Hepworth was named ‘Regional Building of the Year’ by RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and was shortlisted for the ‘Art Fund Prize’.



Photo courtesy of Jonty Wilde

Problem

The Hepworth Gallery required access to their low pitched roofs to facilitate safe working at height when carrying out external glazing cleaning and general maintenance. The concrete design of the building resulted in a thin roof construction, so The Gallery needed to ensure that any systems installed were fit-for-purpose, fully tested and compatible. With such a prestigious and architecturally prominent building, it was imperative that the chosen system also suited the design of the building.

Solution

A full site survey was undertaken by Latchways’ registered installers, EuroSafe Solutions Ltd, and a bespoke system of 30 ManSafe® posts (approximately 240 m in length)—finished with traditional ManSafe components—was specified and installed. Due to the revolutionary thin roof construction, the end loads for the system needed to be severely restricted. In order to increase the amount of energy absorbed within the system, and therefore reduce the load back to the roof (should a fall occur), EuroSafe specified the use of a Latchways Super12 Shock Absorber per system— reducing any load down to a maximum 15 kN.

The end result was an aesthetically pleasing fall protection system that could be used by 2 individuals at a time to provide a complete fall protection solution—minimising the Work at Height risk and enabling a controlled means of access to the roof.



Photo courtesy of Jonty Wilde

“Latchways has managed to provide us with a well thought out system that allows work to be carried out on all areas of the roof. Easy to use, it gives all the various contractors who use the system a safe and effective system of work. It is unobtrusive and allows the vision of the architect to be realised without ruining the look of the building.”

**Roy Taylor,
Estates Manager,
The Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield**

Latchways plc

All around the world, people work safely at height thanks to Latchways' fall protection systems. With over 35 years of experience at the cutting edge of fall protection they set the standard for innovation, performance and quality. Latchways are trusted to ensure worker safety on a wide range of buildings and structures, as well as throughout various industries, such as aerospace, energy, utilities and telecommunications sectors.



Photo courtesy of The Hepworth Gallery



Photo courtesy of The Hepworth Gallery

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