



Built-Up Roofing

British Library, Boston Spa / Tucker & Tunstalls Ltd,



Background

While St Pancras, London, is the main site for the British Library, much of the vast collection of documents is stored across a number of other London sites and at the national document delivery operation at Boston Spa, near Wetherby in West Yorkshire. The Boston Spa site houses about 8.5 million books and serials and is the home of the Northern Reading Room, Northern Listening Service and Document Supply collection.

Challenge

The waterproofing system on the existing roof was a two layer composite / modified bitumen coating covered with chippings. Apart from poor falls in certain areas, the roof appeared to be in reasonable condition until a crack revealed that the insulation was saturated with water. A further visit to take core samples revealed that up to 60% of the roof was likely to have some form of water penetration.

Solution

IMA Contractor Tucker & Tunstalls took only three months to refurbish the 4,500m² roof, despite work being undertaken in the winter and while the building remained fully open. The team began by stripping the existing waterproofing and saturated insulation down to the vapour control layer in order to maintain waterproofing while the works were being carried out, given the valuable property contained within the building.

Icopal's Profiles Vapour Vent-XL vapour control layer was then applied over the existing layer, with the new system including Icopal's tapered Thermazone Torch-on insulation, increased in thickness to meet current Building Regulations. The waterproofing system used the Profiles Vent-XL underlay and FireSmart Profiles blue-grey capsheet, which is specially formulated to reduce the risk of fire spread and penetration into the roof.

New Roofgard drainage outlets were installed at all existing outlets to ensure a completely sealed rainwater system. In addition, an additional layer of Profiles XL brown mineral surface membrane was used to delineate and reinforce walkways, and these were also lined with Icopal's KwikGard freestanding roof safety system to complement the KwikGard parapet system and ManGard anchor and fall arrest systems around the perimeters.

Project:

British Library (Block 6), Boston Spa

Area:

4,500m²

Completion Date:

2007

System:

Profiles System

Client:

British Library

IMA Contractor:

Tucker & Tunstalls Ltd, Leeds
