PROJECT CASE STUDY

Institute of Cancer Research

Flat Roof Refurbishment with PV Panels

BACKGROUND

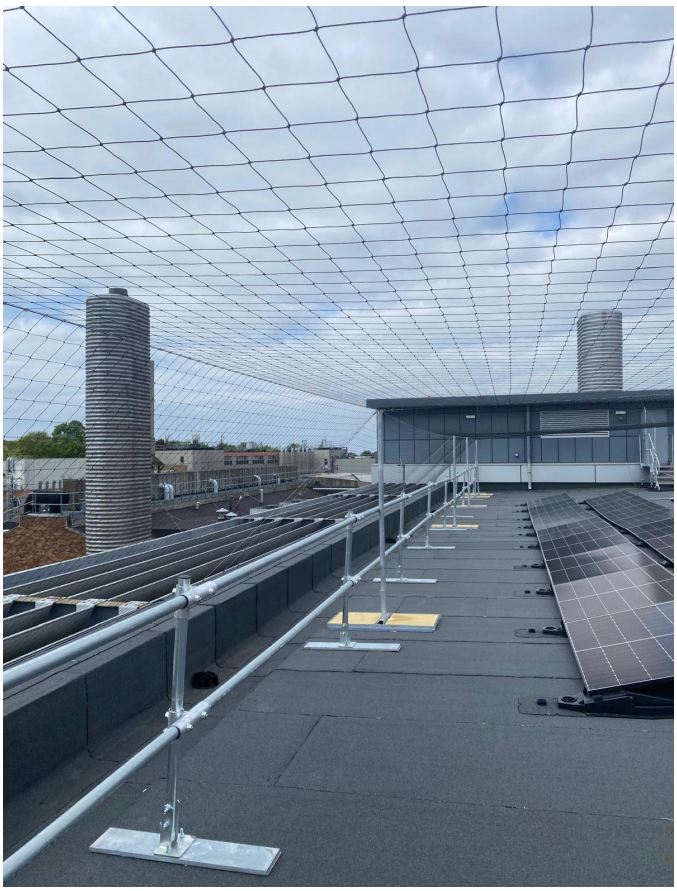
CLIENT	Institute of Cancer Research
SECTOR	Healthcare / Research
LOCATION	Sutton, London
SOLUTION	BUFR & Liquid Roofing with PV

The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in Sutton is a world-leading centre for cancer research and innovation. When the roofs of several key buildings at the site were identified as being in need of refurbishment, Inspire Contract Services were appointed as Principal Contractor to deliver the works safely and efficiently within a live, occupied research environment.

Due to the sensitive nature of the site, careful planning and coordination were essential to ensure there was no disruption to the ongoing research activities. The project also required a combination of specially selected systems, each chosen for its suitability to the building type and overall client requirement.

These included a tapered PIR insulation system with Bauder bituminous waterproofing to improve thermal efficiency and drainage performance. Elsewhere, air intakes serving laboratory areas presented specific challenges, and a low-odour liquid roofing system was specified to ensure compliance with strict internal air quality standards.

In addition, new Solar PV systems were installed on the main roof areas to help increase renewable energy generation and reducing long-term operational costs. The project also involved the installation of new bird netting, lightning protection systems, and bespoke aluminium access steps for improved safety and maintenance access.



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THE WORKS

The project included the refurbishment of multiple roof areas across the Brookes Lawley Building, the Sir Richard Doll Building, and the main reception terrace:

Brookes Lawley Building

- Removal of existing single ply roof coverings.
- Installation of new insulation, featuring both tapered and 120mm flat board PIR boards.
- Installation of new Bauder BUFR roofing system.
- Installation of new bespoke aluminium access steps for safe plant room access.
- Installation of a mounted Solar PV system, bird netting, free-standing handrail, and new lightning protection system.

Sir Richard Doll Building

- Overlay of existing single ply roof coverings with a Bauder ProThan Low-Odour liquid system.
- Installation of a fixed Solar PV system, with penetrations fully waterproofed by the Bauder liquid system.
- Installation of new bird netting & lightning protection.

Reception Terrace Roof

- Removal of existing timber decking and roof surfaces.
- Installation of Bauder liquid roofing system with trafficable walkway finish.

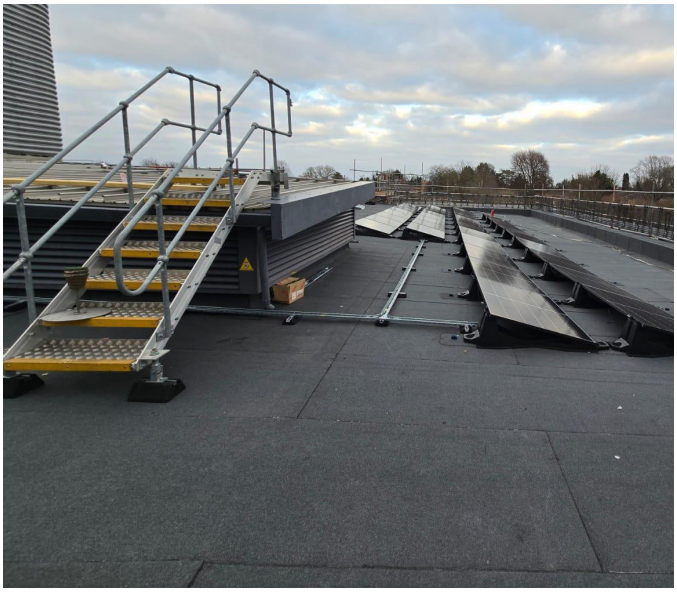
THE RESULT

Given the live nature of the research facility, Inspire implemented comprehensive health and safety controls throughout the works. Full independent access scaffolding and handrails were designed and erected to facilitate safe working at height. Additionally, mansafe netting was installed over the large atrium rooflight to provide enhanced fall protection measures.

Working in such a specialist and occupied research environment required meticulous planning and continuous liaison with the client. Strict control measures were therefore adopted to manage odours, dust, and noise, while ensuring the ongoing safety and comfort of staff within the laboratories below.

Despite the complex logistics and demanding health and safety requirements, all works were completed to an exceptionally high standard within the agreed programme. The new Bauder systems and Solar PV installations have significantly enhanced the performance, safety, and sustainability of the ICR building, ensuring long-term protection and improved energy efficiency across the facility.

The experienced Inspire team directly managed all aspects of scaffolding, site management, welfare facilities, and coordination of works. Furthermore, Inspire's dedicated and proactive approach to planning, communication, safety and site management ensured minimal disruption to the Institute's vital research operations, ultimately leading to a successful project and a very happy client.



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