

Case Study: Roof installation at Blackfriars Bridge

Blackfriars Bridge and Station Redevelopment

The new roof had to be constructed over a live railway and a working river

Prater delivered a complex roofing system at Blackfriars Bridge, London as part of a £350 million development within the wider Thameslink Programme. As a specialist external envelope contractor, Prater had the in-house expertise to make the complicated roof design a reality as well as the knowledge and experience to manage such a challenging working environment.

London Blackfriars station handles millions of passengers every year. The new landmark station provides an improved interchange between national rail and London Underground services, but also make London's Bankside and South Bank tourist areas more accessible.

1. Key challenge

In the effort to create London's first station built across the river, Prater was brought on board to provide a package of works, which included a complicated, curved, standing-seam roof system from Kalzip as well as the drop down eaves, which created part of the interior finish for the station.

2. The best practice solutions

The redevelopment of Blackfriars Bridge was a complex task to redevelop a major operational London station in a busy environment and over the river Thames. It was therefore paramount that Prater had the right people involved to make it happen and a supply chain they could rely upon.

- The teams from Prater and Kalzip worked tirelessly and in 24-hour shifts to ensure that the work on site was managed effectively around probably one of the most difficult locations Prater had faced.
- The design of the roof had no flat expanses at all and instead is made up of a series of curved and angled sections. Combine this with the location, a working railway over a working river, Prater had to overcome a huge number of restrictions.
- Over 3,500 pallets of materials were shipped up the River Thames by barge and then delivered by crane on to the bridge deck. From there they were distributed manually at the roof level. This included 9,000sqm of Kalzip aluminium standing-seam roofing.

The finished Blackfriars Station is now a landmark for the City of London and is a testament to the work by the teams involved.

Supporting video case study

<https://youtu.be/sINq2pK3nNw>





About the author

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Further information

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