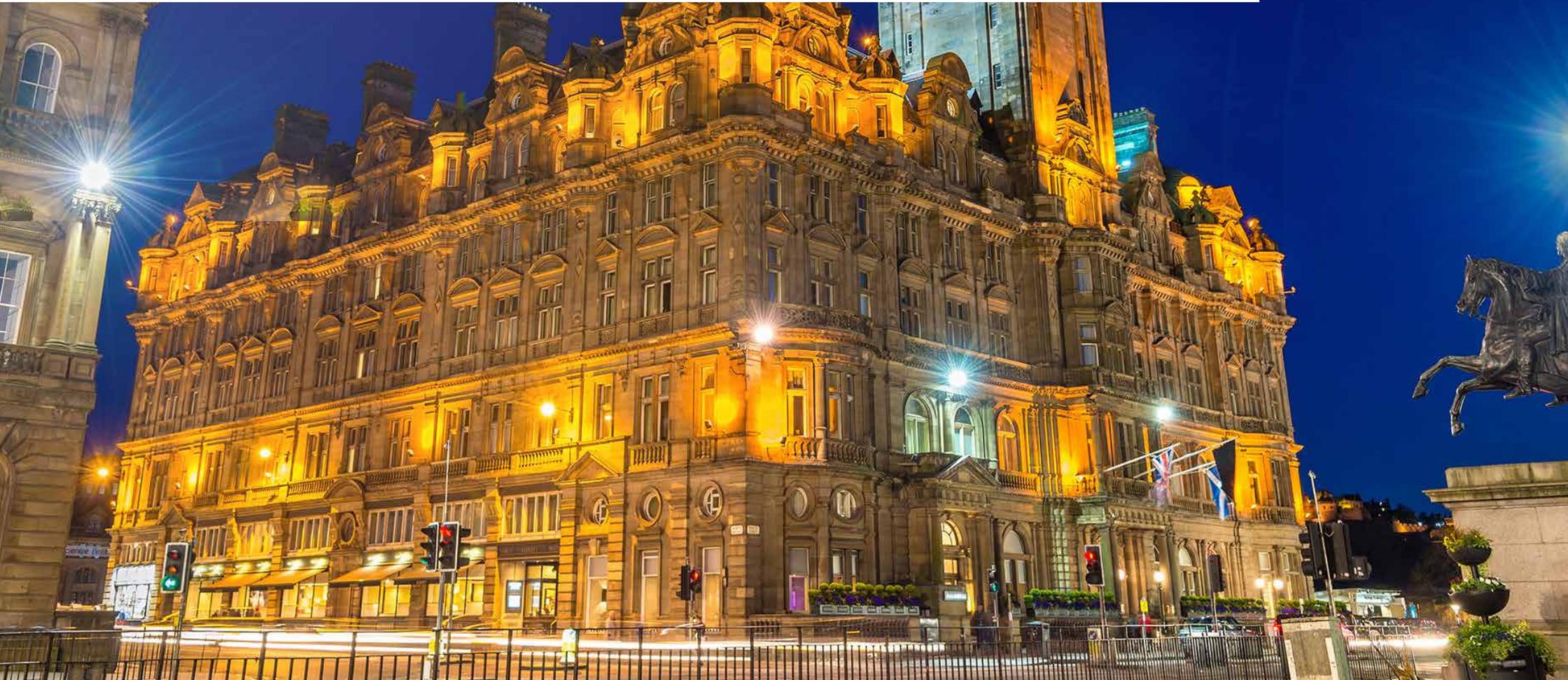




THE BALMORAL
EDINBURGH

Pendrich reaches new heights at Balmoral Hotel



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Premier Technical Services Group Plc company Pendrich Height Services Ltd rose to a significant challenge at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh, performing high-level repairs to the iconic building safely and efficiently.

The Rocco Forte-owned hotel required emergency repairs after the building was declared unsafe. The Pendrich Rope Access team quickly moved in to remove, repair and replace stonework to the elevation but the nature of the historic building means that any work at height is a complex operation.

The landmark hotel is located at the East end of Princes Street, the main shopping street beneath the North and East elevations with the West side connected to a shopping centre and the South side to the Waverley train station.

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The work initially resulted in the closure of Princes Street and Pendrich had to mobilise an eight-man rope access team. Pedestrian access was enabled by the construction of a tunnel, while overhead protection scaffolding tunnels were put in place at the north and east side of the hotel. Another issue that had to be addressed by Pendrich was the restricted access for the public to the adjacent Edinburgh Waverley Station and Waverley Mall.

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The height and location of the hotel results in wind and weather challenges when working on-site at height. Recent heavy and drifting snow – a result of the so-called ‘beast from the East’ – also had an impact on work at the site. The Pendrich team worked night shifts to lift and build the loose and dangerous stonework.

Mark Perfect, Managing Director of Pendrich Height Services Ltd, said: “The work at the Balmoral is both a challenge in terms of the historic building fabric and the technical aspects of the job. We have worked closely with stakeholders in order to minimise the disruption of the emergency repair work, our access to the building and ongoing work on site.”

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The Pendrich team has worked closely with Balmoral Hotel, Network Rail, the City of Edinburgh Council and the owners of the Waverley Mall shopping centre to ensure the impact of the work on the public and road and rail users was kept to a minimum.

Opened on October 15th 1902, the Balmoral Hotel was originally known as the North British. Acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels, it originally boasted 300 bedrooms and 52 bathrooms. It was later renamed The Balmoral — which means “majestic dwelling” in Gaelic.

Pendrich’s steeplejack and rope access teams undertake a range of high-level repair and maintenance works at many types of structure across the UK and internationally. Engineers are trained and qualified to the highest safety standards and utilise specialist steeplejack and rope access techniques to perform work on high-level and difficult to access structures.