

PTSG's versatile steeplejack specialists



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The following two projects that have recently been completed by the steeplejack division of PTSG Building Access Specialists Ltd give an insight into the challenging nature of the buildings they work on and the scope of the works they are able to deliver.

In addition to masonry repairs and paintwork, our specialists can carry out other services such as carpentry, cleaning and sandblasting – utilising the same high-level access techniques such as abseil, building maintenance units, ladders, MEWPs and scaffolding – or a combination.

Breedon Cement, Ireland

PTSG completed a challenging contract in October 2020 in the Republic of Ireland to carry out vital maintenance to a chimney for Breedon Cement.

Breedon operates two cement plants with a total capacity in excess of 2 million tonnes. Its Hope cement plant in Derbyshire is recognised as the UK's largest and has been in operation for more than 80 years. The plant at Kinnegad near Dublin commenced production in 2002 and is one of the most modern in Europe.

It appears that this was the first time the chimney had been painted by professional steeplejacks in well over a decade.

Steeplejack engineers from PTSG Building Access Specialists Ltd were on site in Kinnegad for just over a month. The project was made more challenging both by the coronavirus restrictions (the job was finished on the day Ireland went into lockdown) and by the exposed nature of the site, meaning that weather was a significant factor.

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PTSG's team had its own compound due to the coronavirus restrictions – no member was allowed to mix with anyone else on site. Despite all this, the job was completed on time and to budget, meeting the client's expectations.

Drax Power Ltd, North Yorkshire

At around the same time (October 2020) PTSG completed a specialist steeplejack services contract at Drax Power Station, England's newest coal-fired power station which is converting to biomass to become 'cleaner' for the environment.

Drax has a 2.6 GW capacity for biomass and 1.29 GW capacity for coal. Situated on the River Ouse between Selby and Goole, it provides about 6% of the UK's electricity supply. In February 2020 it was announced that Drax would stop burning coal by early 2021, in accordance with the government's 2025 deadline to ban all coal-fired electricity in the United Kingdom.

Engineers from the Steeplejack Division of PTSG Building Access Specialists Ltd were assigned to carry out an inspection of a 400-foot-high cooling tower at the power station, with subsequent repairs to its concrete shell. Access was gained via ladders and work cradles.

PTSG has carried out a large amount of work for clients in the energy sector, having recently worked with BP, Drax power station and Lynemouth power station. PTSG's engineers are able to carry out various specialist high-level works without disrupting the live environment of these high-risk sites, allowing work to be carried out safely and efficiently.



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