

Chatterton Water Tower

Client: Anglian Water

Location: Spalding, Lincolnshire

Value: £600k

Duration: 6 Months



In Brief...

As part of Anglian Water's Integrated Operational Solutions (IOS) programme Barhale restored the iconic Chatterton Water Tower in Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Located in the centre of town, the Water Tower holds up to 3.4 million litres of fresh water, providing drinking water and essential pressure to over 22,000 properties in Spalding and the surrounding rural locations.

Officially opened by The Marquess of Exeter in 1955, the structure is a local landmark within the town of Spalding and is visible for miles around. It has therefore been essential that work on this high profile structure is carried out sensitively and to the highest standards, with a view to restore the town's centre piece to its former glory.

Technical Features...

The tower was last painted over 20 years ago in 1997. As such the exterior of the structure was displaying signs of distress, with large areas of discolouration and dirt visible across the face of the tower. As part of the IOS programme, Anglian Water selected Barhale to deliver the external restoration works to the tower, which would include: deep steam cleaning and a re-paint of the 4000m² surface area.

The tower is essentially cubic in structure, standing 30m tall and 29m wide. As one might anticipate, this led to key challenges with regards access before works could commence. To safely access the full face of the tower, Barhale engaged a specialist scaffold contractor Interserve.

The Interserve team delivered a bespoke temporary works design, which was subsequently checked by Barhale's in-house design team before being approved by Anglian Water.

The 15 level design took a team of six to eight scaffolders eight weeks to install. To meet the design requirement, two 20 tonne lorries full of scaffolding were delivered to site every week for six weeks. In total, around 180 tonnes of scaffold poles and 70 tonnes of scaffold boards were used in the design.

The scaffolding was secured to the side of the tower with bolts fixed at four meter intervals. On the roof of the tower however, this was not possible, because drilling at this point would risk piercing the fresh water tanks below. The poles were therefore tied together on the roof; providing a counter balance system, which meant that opposing sides of the scaffolding were supporting one another.

Once the scaffold design was fully erected, it was encased in a durable plastic wrapping to stop dust and debris from blowing on to any areas of fresh paint work and to prevent paint from drifting during application.

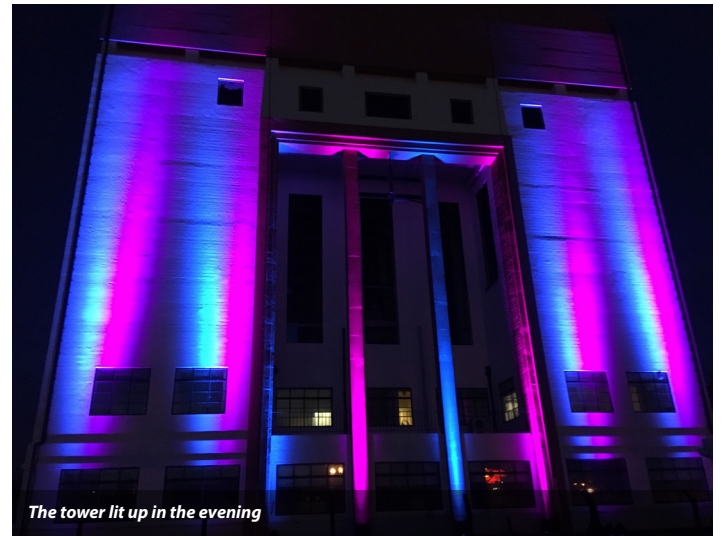


Technical Features Cont...

When all preliminary access requirements were complete the team set to work steam cleaning the entire face of the tower, in advance of the restorative painting. Following consultation with South Holland District Council it was decided that the tower would be re-painted in the same colours as before; a Terracotta and White Tulip scheme.

Painting has been completed. In total around 10,000ltrs of paint have been used in the restoration works.

Two scaffolders have remained on site throughout the works to assist the painting team with any revised access requirements, which may have occurred during the operation. Once the painting was complete, the entire scaffold team returned to site to remove the plastic wrapping and safely dismantle the scaffold design. This operation alone took a further six weeks.



Customer Benefits...

The works at Chatterton has demonstrated Barhale's ability to deliver restoration works to a prestigious building in a built up urban environment, whilst managing interfaces with specialist contractors and interested third parties.

This was a high profile project in the centre of Spalding, which has received extensive local interest and therefore required continuing interaction with the local council. The Barhale team have successfully managed the refurbishment by maintaining a visible presence on site, ensuring a member of the team was always on hand to answer any local concerns and maintain interaction with all interested parties.