



CASE STUDY

---

**“Best value” solution  
for make-over  
higher education  
facilities**



**APPROVED CONTRACTOR:**  
Roofing Contractor Cambridge Ltd



**CLIENT:**  
Northmores

## The purpose:

The Forum at historic Jesus College in Cambridge has seen many uses in its life, with its latest transformation delivering a best value solution whilst the College completes significant refurbishment plans.

Originally a garage for a local car showroom in the town centre, The Forum has most recently been a storage facility until the College began redevelopment of its kitchens in a 12th Century Grade 1 listed building. This provided improved and expanded catering facilities. During the works, the College still needed kitchen and dining facilities, prompting the re-purposing of The Forum.

Northmores Project Management Consultants were contracted by the College to manage the project, designed by Paul Vonberg Architects, to future-proof the building.

Northmores turned to Langley to devise a cost-effective solution for the roofing element of the project, instructed by principal contractor Regent Construction. An in-depth roof condition survey found that the existing felt waterproofing had blistered with age, and the bank of Georgian wired glass northlights that ran the length of the building were fragile and in need of urgent removal for safety. There was also a number of flues, plant kerbs, internal gutters and a quantity of redundant plants that needed to be addressed.



## Cost-efficient solution, avoiding waste to landfill

### Our solution:

Langley advised over-laying the existing waterproofing with its TA-20 Flat Roofing System (cold roof application), the existing northlights removed and the penetrations boarded over. Overlaying would help mitigate the cost compared to a roof replacement and also waste to landfill.

In addition, TA-20 W system has Broof(t4) classification and has Local Authority Building Control (LABC) assurance accreditation. Under MOAT 31, Langley's Parafor 30 GS (cap sheet to the TA system) achieves a 'resistance to damage' rating of R4. It has also been independently certified by the BBA to deliver a life expectancy of at least 40 years- one of the longest available in the UK.

Langley Approved Contractor - Roofing Contractor Cambridge Ltd (RCC) was tasked with delivering the upgrade safely, as The Forum is in central Cambridge, with project works undertaken during the COVID pandemic.







## The result:

Starting with the removal of the roof-mounted plant, and disposal where appropriate, RCC raised all kerbs and outlets to ensure they achieved the recommended 150mm clearance above the new roof covering. Internal gutters were made good to ensure sufficient drainage was achieved. Crash decks were fitted for Health & Safety compliance before work began removing the glass rooflights, and the penetrations boarded over with new joists were fitted where required to achieve the necessary structural support.

RCC then built up the new TA-20 system over the existing waterproofing. Areas of potential fire risk around ply, timber and kerbs were executed using SA-20 Flat Roofing Detailing System in accordance with Safe2Torch guidance, being a flame-free self-adhesive solution.





**“It was a very tricky project. Logistically, being right in central Cambridge, and during COVID, we had to ensure we were rigorous in our safe practice. Fortunately, the new internal design of the Forum meant it was easy to operate a one-way system for any internal workings making good the linings where the rooflights had been and redecorating. From a re-roofing perspective too it was complex. The team at Langley devised a practical solution and were always on hand to support us with technical advice if needed.”**

Dave Stewart, RCC  
Contracts Manager



**For more information get in touch with our specialists**

 01327 704778

 [contactus@langley.co.uk](mailto:contactus@langley.co.uk)

Langley UK Limited

Lampport Drive, Heartlands Business Park,  
Daventry, Northamptonshire,  
NN11 8YH