Fragile Roof Lights - Wigmore Hall

The Problem / Challenge

The existing fragile roof-lights in a listed concert hall building needed to be refurbished and modified whilst improving their accessibility for cleaning and lighting maintenance.

The Risks

There was potential for falls from height during construction or maintenance operations, including work on or near fragile surfaces



Outer rooflight Original crawlway New central walkway



Original Roof Space

The Solution

The hall was fully scaffolded during construction, providing a deck close to the soffit. This enabled the removal of the existing cramped crawl-ways. A new lightweight central spine walkway was installed (shown above). This new walkway provided safe access to the performance lights as well as the general hall lighting within the roof space.



Revised Roof Space

There are significant improvements in accessibility meaning that maintenance is now significantly safer as well as being more efficient. The retention and upgrading of the historic roof-light feature was achieved, with no detrimental affect on the hall acoustics or aesthetics.

Key Points

The Benefits

Buildability issues were raised at the beginning of the project through specialist consultation.

Early analysis of the structural limitations of the roof trusses and walls was carried out.

The access requirements for heating / ventilation services and lighting were established through consultation with the users and contractors.

Scott Brownrigg – For more information please post on the forum