

Reference Project

Building Maintenance

Installation of the artistic swirl on the iconic air traffic control tower at Christchurch international airport.

Location Christchurch International Airport

Date April 2018

Client Airways Corporation and Hawkins

The Christchurch Airport Air Traffic Control Tower is encapsulated by an iconic swirl or “vortex” as it was envisaged by the designer. Originally this had a chainmail-like drape suspended from, and tensioned to the framework, but this had come to the end of its life span.

Abseil Access Ltd were contracted to remove the chainmail and install vertical pickets. Rope access eliminated the need for scaffolding and so also reduced the disruption to ATC operation.

The work included:

- Rope access systems adapted to use on an overhanging structure
- Handling and operation specialist tools
- Careful installation of bespoke artistic elements

A five-man team was used to provide constant flow for the removal and installation of the picket elements. Back up and rescue systems were pre-rigged into our access solution. Abseil access assisted the engineers with a suitable clamp design to make the install quicker

