



Ian Williams  
on behalf of  
the University of Derby:  
**Devonshire Dome,  
University of Derby**

  
Looking after Buildings

# Project: Devonshire Dome, University of Derby



**Task:** External and Internal decoration to Grade II listed building including university offices and classrooms

## Products used:

Johnstone's Acrylic Eggshell

Johnstone's Matt Emulsion Gardinia

Johnstone's Trade Acrylic Durable Matt Emulsion

Johnstone's Oil Based Satinwood

Johnstone's Black Performance Coatings Smooth Metal Paint

Johnstone's Water Based White Satinwood

Black Bitumen

**Client:** University of Derby

## Background

The University of Derby gained its university status in 1992 and now provides a range of undergraduate courses to over 30,000 students. Having invested £150 million in its facilities over the past 10 years it is recognised as one of the UK's fastest growing universities.

## Project Details:

Ian Williams carried out internal and external decorations and associated repairs at the University of Derby, including the Grade II listed Devonshire Dome where we undertook external decorations of the original timber windows. Built in the 18th century the Devonshire Dome is one of Buxton's most famous landmarks with its 145ft colonnade supporting the 560-ton roof.

We also undertook external decorations of the cast iron gutters, timber doors, metal railings, timber fencing and render panels.

Internal decorations were also completed in classrooms, offices and a kitchen in the Dome using tower scaffolding. The client issued specific dates where we were able to complete the works and therefore it was essential that the programme was strictly adhered to.

## Apprentices/ Trainees:

Will Jones,  
Trainee Surveyor





## Key Challenges...

Key challenges in this project included;

- **Tight unchangeable deadline:** the main challenge was ensuring we completed works within the client's fixed schedule, including lecture timetables and university events. Works were undertaken both during and outside of term time so we had to accommodate both students and staff throughout the works. In addition, areas surrounding the Devonshire Dome are open to the public so operatives had to be mindful of visitors to the Dome ensuring safe access and egress at all times
- **Access:** the original timber windows were very large (approximately 2.8m x 1.2m). To ensure safe access whilst minimising disruption to building users, we used a combination of scaffolding and mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs)
- Throughout the project unseasonal inclement weather presented a challenge, especially as the external works to the Dome's windows were at high level (operatives were working at approximately 8 metres high). Our experienced site team had to ensure daily monitoring of the programme to ensure works remained on schedule. We liaised closely with university staff to manage the programme to ensure that where adverse weather was forecasted we undertook internal works to maximise productivity





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