



Case study

Richard Soan Roofing Services
(University of Brighton)

Client Richard Soan Roofing Services
(University of Brighton)

Problem Method for fixing solar panels to
roof which would maintain the
roof warranty.

Solution Constant Force® Solar Panel
Support Post

Product Details Supply of 55 Constant Force®
Solar Panel Support Posts
installed by HCL Safety Ltd.

Background

In 2011, the University of Brighton took the decision to invest in a solar photovoltaics (PV) installation onto the pitched roof of their Cockcroft building—with the intention being to not only reduce their carbon footprint, but also create their own power for long-term sustainability. In 2012, the University installed 132 solar panels onto the existing concrete roof.



Problem

For the installation, Richard Soan Roofing required a method of fixing for the PV panels that wouldn't invalidate the manufacturer's warranty on the roof. The roof had a felt finish, overlaid with 120mm insulation and a Sarnafil membrane—which meant they couldn't use the more traditional method of concrete counterweights due to their effect on drainage channels and also over-compression of supporting insulation. The 17 degree pitch of the roof, coastal location and height of the building—therefore reliance on good weather—all combined to mean this was potentially quite an awkward installation.

Solution

Richard Soan Roofing, used the Latchways Solar Panel Support Post to affix the panels to the membrane roof. The Solar Panel Support Post is secured to the roof using tried and tested fixing solutions derived from the Constant Force post fall protection product range and provides a base to which the PV frame can be attached. For peace-of-mind, Latchways and HCL Safety undertook further test fixings, to confirm the depth of fixing, and tested a single fixing which easily achieved 2.5 kN. The Installation has created the largest green power station in Brighton and Hove.



“Before this project we had only known of Latchways as a supplier of Fall Protection systems so were pleasantly surprised to find out they had extended their range with a complementary product such as the Solar Panel Support Post. Knowing the stringent testing procedures that Latchways put all their products through gave us the confidence that we could trust them to supply to the correct kit for the job. We also had the guarantee that, due to the fixing methods, the warranty on the roof wouldn't be jeopardised—which was another box ticked for both us and the client. The client was also happy as the Post was the best-looking solution we had found for the whole installation! Both Latchways, and their installer HCL, were good to deal with and provided us with all the information we needed for a product which was new to us.”

**Mr Anthony Donaldson,
Richard Soan Roofing Services**

Latchways plc

All around the world, people work safely at height thanks to Latchways' fall protection systems. With over 35 years of experience at the cutting edge of fall protection they set the standard for innovation, performance and quality.

Latchways are trusted to ensure worker safety on a wide range of buildings and structures, as well as throughout various industries, such as aerospace, energy, utilities and telecommunications sectors.



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FALL PROTECTION



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