



LOCATION: Richmond Terrace, Brighton
DURATION: Present (Ongoing)



A heritage-sensitive restoration delivered with precision, care, and environmental responsibility.

OVERVIEW

Richmond Terrace is a characterful historic building, and its roof lanterns play a vital role in both its appearance and natural lighting. Over time, the three existing lanterns had become severely rotten and required full replacement. Beneath them, the team identified what appeared to be original Victorian domes or rooflights, an architectural feature that needed to be protected throughout the works.

KEY CHALLENGES

This project brought together a combination of heritage, logistical, and environmental constraints:

Preserving Historic Character

Compliance with conservation and planning guidelines meant the replacement lanterns had to closely reflect the building's original aesthetic, requiring traditional timber construction. The existing lanterns were rotten, so careful removal was essential to avoid damaging the historic rooflights believed to be original to the property. We worked within all planning conditions to install new timber-framed lanterns that preserve the building's architectural character while improving long-term durability.

Working at Height & Weather Exposure

To access the roof safely and work in a controlled environment, a complex scaffold structure with a full temporary roof had to be installed. A purpose-built scaffold and weatherproof temporary roof allowed us to work safely and protect the interior spaces below, regardless of external conditions.

NESTING BIRDS PAUSING PROGRESS

During the project, active bird nests were discovered on the roof. In line with wildlife protection regulations, works had to be temporarily halted until nesting had concluded. When nesting birds were found, we paused the programme immediately and resumed only once it was safe and legally compliant to do so, demonstrating our commitment to responsible construction.

REFLECTION

The Richmond Terrace project was completed to a high standard, delivering:

- Three beautifully crafted timber roof lanterns that enhance the property's heritage aesthetic.
- Full protection of the existing Victorian domes, ensuring these historic features remain intact for years to come.
- Safe, efficient delivery thanks to the temporary roof and access solutions.
- A project executed with environmental responsibility, respecting wildlife and complying with all legislation.
- A durable and visually authentic upgrade that blends seamlessly with the character of the building.