

CHIMNEY STACK · NORTH EAST ENGLAND

Eyes at the top, feet on the ground

Close range drone inspection of a failing chimney stack capping for a national commercial roofing contractor, with no MEWP, no scaffold and nobody working at height.



Our client, a national roofing contractor working for FTSE 100 businesses and main contractors, was asked to deal with a tall, redundant brick chimney stack on a busy retail site. The capping was visibly failing, and before scoping a repair they needed to see exactly what they were dealing with.

1 THE CHALLENGE

The cap sits high above a live service yard and access road. The traditional route is a MEWP or full scaffold: cost, lead time, traffic management and operatives at height, all before anyone knows the scope. A capping in this state is a hazard in its own right, with loose material that could come down.

2 OUR APPROACH

We flew a close range visual inspection, working right round the head of the stack and down the shaft, capturing high definition stills from every angle. The focus was the capping: close enough to see individual coping units, joints and the cap covering, while also recording the brickwork, pointing and lightning conductor below. Key observations included:

- Cracked, displaced and missing coping units, with sections lifting at the edge
- Torn cap covering, with loose debris sitting on top of the stack
- Heavy lichen and open joints letting water into the head of the stack
- Weathered pointing and spalled bricks recorded down the shaft

3 THE OUTCOME

A full, clear picture of the cap from the office, so the best remedy and access could be chosen before committing to plant or scaffold.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

CLIENT

National commercial roofing contractor

ASSET

Redundant brick chimney stack on an active retail site

SERVICE

Close range drone visual inspection

FOCUS

Stack capping, plus shaft brickwork

DELIVERABLES

High definition condition imagery to scope the repair

ACCESS AVOIDED

MEWP · Scaffold · Work at height

See the problem before you scaffold it.



Site context · stack above a live yard and access road



Capping · displaced copings and torn cap covering



Close range · lichen, open joints and loose units



Shaft · pointing, brickwork and conductor tape

Nobody at height

Assessment done with feet firmly on the ground

No plant or scaffold

No MEWP, scaffold or traffic management to assess

High definition detail

Every coping and joint, close enough to price from

Faster decisions

Repair method chosen on evidence, not guesswork